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Наші Історії

The newsletter of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre

Щорічне видання Українського Центру засобів і розвитку (УЦЗР)

2020 at a glance

Resilience. Innovation. Compassion. That was the year of 2020. COVID-19’s calls for reflection on the way we live our lives, relate to the people around us, do business, and consider what is important, were ever present. 2020 started with a promise of an amazing year. However, in mid-March, the Lviv Music Academy Visiting Scholars program was interrupted, we cancelled our major events within the Canada Ukraine Model United Nations project, including a joint participation in the New York conference. The MacEwan big band could not travel to Ukraine for the Leopold Jazz festival and we postponed the Threads That Connect Ukrainian Embroidery symposium.

But teams with a foundation based on strong relationships do not stop. Teams

that believe in their projects find ways to go on. We found inspiration from each other. The Global Health Perspectives course that takes students to Ukraine every year was moved online. The Model UN virtual summer school brought together students and faculty from 11 universities in Ukraine and Canada. Signing a memorandum of understanding between the Ukrainian Foundation of College Education (UFCE) and MacEwan, as well as the appointment of the first Chair of International Health were major stepping stones for URDC. September started with initiatives on teaching, learning, research and community engagement, many of which are in progress.

We will continue creating with the hope that we can come together again soon.

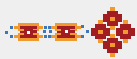


On January 6, 2021, Dr. Peter Kule, outstanding philanthropist, visionary and community builder, turned 100 years old. Together with Dr. Doris Kule, his late wife, Kule donated some \$17 million in support of post-secondary programs across Canada, recipients including MacEwan University, University of Alberta, the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, University of Toronto and the University of Ottawa.

Congratulations to Dr. Kule on celebrating 100 years of life. Многая літа! We are grateful for the incredible support provided over the years.

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

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather in Treaty Six Territory is the traditional gathering place for many Indigenous people. We honour and respect the history, languages, ceremonies and culture of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit who call this territory home.



The Chair of International Health

By Lauren McMullen

On July 1, 2020, Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto was appointed as the new Chair of International Health. Following the mandate of the Chair, Dr. Burgess-Pinto will undertake important work along with other scholars to build a strong academic community and advance International Health Research related to Ukraine. The Chair will conduct individual research as well as collaborate with others in the field to advance and spread knowledge relating to international health. The Chair also provides support for faculty members who show promise in their international scholarly endeavors and assists students with developing careers in international health. Dr. Burgess-Pinto's work as the Chair will also allow her to promote education and public interest in international health, focussing on issues in Ukraine.

Dr. Burgess-Pinto has a PhD in nursing. While completing her doctorate, she wrote her dissertation on the relationships that immigrant and refugee fathers must navigate with their daughters upon entrance and settling in Canada. She hopes that the work that she is doing as the Chair of International Health can help address global issues by fostering international and interdisciplinary partnerships.

As we know, 2020 was particularly demanding on professionals in all fields of health sciences. Between the myriad of novel challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ever-evolving situation surrounding the virus, it has no doubt become an imperative topic of study among the academic field. As such, Dr. Burgess-Pinto and the Faculty of Nursing have partnered with Ternopil National Medical University and the Catholic University of the Maule in Talca, Chile to undertake a survey on COVID-19.

The faculty also has plans in place to support students in their developing careers in health sciences. Dr. Elizabeth

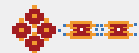


Burgess-Pinto is developing a qualitative research workshop for nursing faculty and students at TNMU in partnership with TNMU and Dr. Olenka Bilash from the University of Alberta. Similarly, MacEwan's Faculty of Nursing runs an elective course – HLST 400, Global Health Perspectives – for senior students that allows them to be immersed in new settings within their field to develop their sense of collective responsibility for global health issues. This allows them to become successful global citizens and gives them invaluable perspectives as health care professionals. The students who engage in this elective spend a week at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and two weeks in Ternopil at TNMU. This experience allows them to fully immerse themselves in the culture and language of Ukraine. This program has been in place for three years and transitioned to an online format for

2020 to accommodate the challenges of COVID-19.

In addition, Dr. Burgess-Pinto and her team have a proposal to explore the perceptions surrounding nursing in Ukraine. For this project, Dr. Burgess-Pinto will partner with Dr. Mary Asirifi and Dr. Judee Onyskiw from MacEwan's Faculty of Nursing, and Dr. Svitlana Yastremska, and faculty members from TNMU. Dr. Burgess-Pinto has commented on this project, saying that, "currently the role and scholarship of nursing are contentious issues as nurses debate whether or not they should follow a medical model or not."

2020 proved to be an eventful year for everyone, and it was particularly taxing on the health care professionals. That being said, there was some very meaningful work done by Dr. Burgess-Pinto and her team. We look forward to what's to come.



The history of the Chair of International Health

The idea of creating a Chair of International Health at MacEwan University arose in 2008 as a result of the earlier work that the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) had been doing with MacEwan’s nursing program in Ukraine since 1993. Dean of the Faculty of Health and Community

Studies, Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny, and then-URDC Director Dr. Roman Petryshyn, arranged several nursing faculty exchanges with Ternopil State Medical University. Subsequently the opportunity for faculty to do joint health research, expand to other countries and organize student exchanges became evident. However, this plan required that additional infrastructure and sustained funding be established at MacEwan.

URDC asked its community fundraising organization – the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE) – to provide leadership and they did so by donating \$100,000. UFCE also successfully approached Edmonton philanthropists Drs. Peter and Doris Kule to contribute \$100,000. Both donations were double-matched by the MacEwan University Foundation, establishing a \$600,000 endowment for the Chair of International Health in 2009.

MacEwan University and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education sign new memorandum of understanding



*Dr. Olenka Bilash,
UFCE President*

On June 30, John McGrath, former acting president of MacEwan University, and Dr. Olenka Bilash, president of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), signed a five-year memorandum of understanding (MOU), extending the long-standing relationship between the two organizations.

For more than 25 years, UFCE has supported post-secondary institutions in the province through its volunteer and fundraising efforts, including the establishment of five endowments at MacEwan University totaling approximately \$9 million. Through these endowments, UFCE and MacEwan work together to advance international scholarly and

educational activities, and to establish resources connected to Ukraine and its diaspora, which includes more than 400,000 members of the Ukrainian-Canadian community in Alberta.

“Renewing the MOU signals the importance of this partnership,” says McGrath. “We are proud of our joint accomplishments and are excited for the future of this growing and evolving relationship.”

The university’s Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC), created in 1988, acts as a hub to coordinate projects and activities with ties to Ukraine across MacEwan’s faculties and schools. Examples include nursing, sociology and community-service learning courses offered in collaboration with MacEwan’s four partner universities in Ukraine (Ternopil National Medical University, National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA), Ukrainian Catholic University and Lviv National Music Academy); mentoring and training for Ukrainian Model UN students; faculty and student exchanges; and a range of research and teaching activities.

“As a funding body, our goal is to support the spirit of community-university engagement,” says Bilash. “Providing secure and stable funding allows projects to grow, and we look forward not only to seeing students continue to engage in experiences that expand the way they look at the world, but also to supporting valuable research and the generation of new knowledge.”

As part of the new MOU, the UFCE endowments will fund two research chair positions at MacEwan – the Drs. Peter and Doris Kule Chair in Ukrainian Community and International Development and a new Chair of International Health.



MacEwan's UN Club and alumni team, after their presentation for ASAUS, Ukrainian community organization.



Canada Ukraine virtual Model UN summer school

By Sarah Jackson

In March 2019, Dr. Chaldeans Mensah, the student-led executive team of the MacEwan United Nations Club, and URDC worked together to launch the Canada-Ukraine Model UN Project. The club's goal is to promote a cohesive understanding of functions of the United Nations; enhance club members' awareness of current international topics; improve club members' capabilities in the art of diplomacy and foreign relations; develop skills such as critical thinking, negotiating, comprehensive research and writing, and oral communications including public speaking.

MacEwan students had the fantastic opportunity to network on an international level. They connected with students from the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and the National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA). After months of preparation, Canadian and Ukrainian

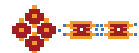
students met up in Kyiv for a one-week condensed course, delivered by the MacEwan students to their UCU and NaUKMA peers focusing on these core MacEwan UN Club beliefs. The week was a huge success and fostered a great working relationship between Canadian and Ukrainian students.

The Ukrainian students had planned to come to Edmonton in March to prepare for National Model UN New York, but unfortunately, COVID-19 forced students in Canada and Ukraine to stay home and stay safe.

With plans to return to Ukraine to teach again, the MacEwan UN Club executives made the difficult decision to cancel the trip to Ukraine due to the worsening of the global pandemic. But, when life gave them lemons, the MacEwan UN Club (with help from the URDC) came up with a unique and interactive idea: the Canada-Ukraine virtual summer school.

Derived from the content that would have been taught in person, the virtual summer school broadcast live to Ukrainian students through Zoom.

MacEwan UN Club Director-General Kiera Brown took charge of this rewarding experience. "In my role as director-general, I was tasked with creating the curriculum guidelines for the program, which consisted of a school year's worth of lessons compacted into a five-day schedule. Our team members built off of this outline. They created lessons that included lectures and peer-to-peer training activities on topics such as researching, position paper writing and giving speeches." Brown and MacEwan UN Club alumni and current members presented these lectures along with interactive experiences to engage their Ukrainian peers during lessons. "In total, we had 67 participants, which consisted of students, faculty and esteemed guest speakers," says Brown.



Other club members participated in helping with course content that was set to be delivered during the week-long intensive. “When the trip was cancelled due to COVID-19, my fellow club members and I were disappointed because of the missed opportunity to finally meet these amazing people we’d had online correspondence with for so long. I cannot stress enough how important this experience was for me and everyone I know who participated,” says Sophia Storti, a past club executive. “It was remarkable to me how we formed new connections, taught,

learned and had fun while on opposite sides of the world. I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity.”

In addition to the five-day-long intensive, students put on a mock conference over Zoom at the end of the program to practice their newly learned skills.

“On our last day, we hosted an online Model United Nations simulation to showcase the new skills that our participants had learned,” recalls Brown, who was acting as one of the chairs. “The other chairs and I were impressed with the level of sophistication

and quality of forward-thinking demonstrated in these papers, especially since they had only learned these skills a few days before. At that point, I could see that our hard work and dedication had paid off wonderfully.”

Students are currently preparing for another year of online conferences, including the Alberta National Model UN and the New York conference. Both Ukrainian and Canadian students are excited to keep their partnership and collaborative spirit going throughout the school year until they can meet in person once again.

Featuring Dr. Chaldeans Mensah

Dr. Chaldeans Mensah is an associate professor of political science at MacEwan University. He is also a graduate of the Academy for Leadership Training and Development (Chair Academy, 2001) and Academy for Advanced Leadership (Chair Academy, 2010). Mensah’s love for political science stems from a young age, beginning with his interest in listening to short-wave radio as a youngster.

“I was fascinated by the daily reports of political developments around the world, and this deepened my interest in pursuing studies in the discipline,” he says.

He taught his first political science course at MacEwan in 1989 while working on his PhD at the University of Alberta. Interestingly enough, he was MacEwan’s only full-time faculty member in political science at the time. “The university now has six full-time political scientists, a small indication of the growth of the university over the years,” says Mensah.

Mensah’s clear passion for politics has made a lasting impression on students like Isa Storti, a third-year political science student. “The passion and excitement Dr.



Mensah has for our introductory level course made me realize I wanted to major in political science,” says Storti. “His love for teaching and international relations is inspiring. I owe a lot of my personal growth to the UN Club that Dr. Mensah mentors.”

In 1993, Mensah started a class simulation of the UN General Assembly as part of his International Relations class. The experience led his students to form the MacEwan United Nations Club.

From the mid-1990s on, Mensah combined annual trips to the National Model UN (NMUN) in New York. As NMUN expanded, MacEwan sent students to NMUN international

conferences in the Galapagos Islands; Rome, Italy; Olomouc, Czech Republic; Seoul, South Korea; Xi’an, China; Banff, Canada; and Erfurt, Germany. The trips expose students to the world of international diplomacy and empower them to play the role of diplomats in international organizations as they address global challenges.

In 2005, Mensah was elected to the NMUN board in 2005, serving as treasurer from 2007 to 2018 and president from 2018 to 2020. He is currently past-president on the board.

“The Canada-Ukraine Model UN Project started with a suggestion



from a former NMUN board member from the Czech Republic on the need to focus on Ukraine as a candidate for the NMUN board scholarship, designed to bring students from countries that have never attended the NMUN New York conference,” says Mensah.

Mensah reached out to URDC and its director, Larisa Hayduk, to make the project a reality. The anticipated learning outcomes of the Canada-Ukraine project are to teach students the rules of procedures that are used in the UN and the skills of negotiations. An important objective is to help students from the two countries work collaboratively with their peers in conference settings to get a sense of the challenges real diplomats face in addressing global problems.

Through video-conferencing and peer-to-peer training by the MacEwan UN Club and a trip with four club members to Kyiv for in-person training, the Canada-Ukraine project culminated in Ukrainian students from the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and the National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) attending the NMUN Germany conference in 2019, where they participated as a joint delegation – for which they received an honorable mention.

“I am confident that this project will cement the bonds of friendships between the students of Ukraine and Canada,” says Mensah. “The two countries share significant commonalities in approaching global issues, and it is important to get young people to build on these common ties and shared perspectives through this innovative project.”

The project has been an unqualified success, bringing students from Ukraine and Canada together to share their perspectives on world affairs as well as learn the rules and processes for becoming effective participants at NMUN conferences.

“Without a doubt, the success of the project comes largely from the drive and initiative of MacEwan UN Club members,” says Mensah. “In my discussions with our Ukrainian partners, we can agree on a long-term vision to bring the NMUN international conference to Kyiv in six years or so. ‘NMUN Ukraine’ has a nice ring to it and would boost the profile of the country and its educational institutions in North America and around the world.”

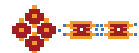
Featuring
Kateryna Podhorska, senior student (BA) “Ethics-Politics-Economics” at the Ukrainian Catholic University



In 2019, I had an incredible opportunity to join the Canada-Ukraine Model UN Project in cooperation between the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), the National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA) and MacEwan University. After several months of training, our team had a chance to participate in the National Model United Nations (NMUN) in Erfurt, Germany. We received the Honorable Mention Delegation Award. It was a wonderful experience that allowed us to gain knowledge about the work of international organizations, practice public speaking and negotiation, and make life-long friends from all over the world.

By the end of the NMUN in Germany, the fruitful Ukrainian-Canadian cooperation continued, and in July 2020, we organized the first virtual Model UN summer school. It was a unique event for several reasons. First, we, as participants of NMUN, were able to help organize the summer school and share our own experiences. Together with students from MacEwan, we did not let the pandemic stop us from making the summer school interesting, interactive and as full of useful information as possible. We used all the best opportunities for online learning (such as presentations, online games like Kahoot! and Jeopardy!, and breakout rooms during Zoom calls to allow participants to work with each other). We were able to make our training sessions highly efficient and witnessed impressive results at the end of it.

Our virtual Model UN summer school united students from several universities and different parts of Ukraine. Each had a chance to participate in the training, be a delegate at our mini-Model UN and listen to lectures from key figures in diplomatic affairs, such as Dr. Chaldeans Mensah



(past-president of the NMUN Board of Directors), Michael Eaton (executive director of the NMUN Board of Directors), Dr. Mykhailo Kirsenko (professor, History and Political Studies Departments, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy), Dr. Sergiy Korsunsky (ambassador of Ukraine to Japan), Andriy Shevchenko (ambassador of Ukraine to Canada), and Larisa Galadza (ambassador of Canada to Ukraine).

At the end of the summer school and after just a few days of training, the participating students showed impressive knowledge and skills. I am sure that this event was an incredible experience for all parties and that in the summer of 2021, we will be able to repeat this success in person.

Right now, we are working on developing the Model UN Club at UCU. We already have a great team

and a strong vision for the club. I believe that the work we started with MacEwan, NaUKMA and the Ukrainian universities that participated in the summer school will be fruitful and we will have a new generation of young Ukrainian diplomats who will participate at future NMUN international conferences, and in the future will work for the benefit of their country and the whole world.

Moving online: Nursing students “travel” to Ukraine on virtual study tour

Before COVID-19 hit, Dr. Elizabeth Burgess-Pinto and Dr. Judee Onyskiw were all set to travel to Ukraine with a group of MacEwan University nursing students for the third year in a row.

When the HLST 400: Global Health Perspectives trip was cancelled, faculty members from MacEwan and Ternopil National Medical University (TNMU) quickly shifted gears – preparing to offer the course online, and to refocus the entire experience on the global pandemic.

“We knew that some of our students would lose an entire term if they didn’t take this course,” says Burgess-Pinto. “So after discussions with the faculty at TNMU, we decided to move the course online.”

Fourteen MacEwan Bachelor of Science in Nursing students started their experience with classes on Ukrainian culture, led by Larisa Hayduk, director of MacEwan’s Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, and then spent two weeks in May connecting online with 10 students in Ternopil, Ukraine. Together, they met up for online lectures from faculty members at MacEwan and TNMU, and worked on group projects tied to COVID-19. In groups of three, they looked at how the pandemic was impacting a specific country – its cases, challenges and responses.

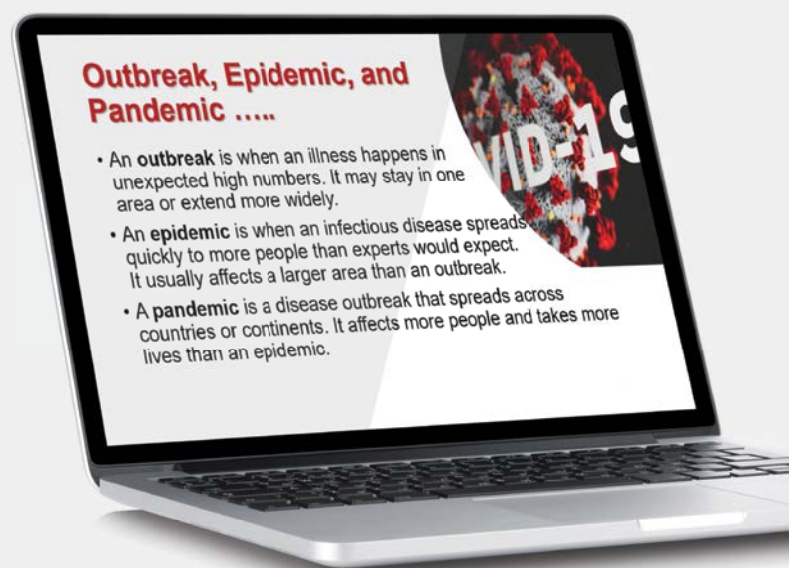
“I think it turned out to be an interesting assignment and a real eye-opener for students,” says Burgess-Pinto. “It provided the global perspectives we look for in the course and helped students see how countries approach things differently.”

Elena Kushmanova, a fourth-year Bachelor of Nursing student whose group looked at the pandemic response in Iran, agrees. The project – and the course – she says, enabled her to gain an appreciation of the variety of responses to the pandemic around the globe, gaps that exist and the importance of listening to experts and health-care professionals.

“I’ve travelled a lot, but I don’t think it matters how many times you are exposed to different countries or cultures – every new exposure will bring something new,” she says. “The project was challenging, especially because of the time difference and speaking different languages, but we worked on a team and got to learn from each other and appreciate our different perspectives.”

And while an online experience certainly can’t replicate – or replace – what students would have experienced in Ukraine, the outcome was positive.

Onyskiw says seeing faculty members and students come together was the highlight. “We knew that signing up for an international course and then getting an online experience instead must have been disappointing, but there were so many people doing their part to make this work that it ended up being a positive one.”





Ukrainian musical group, RUTA.

Spirit Bear Dialogues: Exploring Indigenous Ukrainian relations

By Lauren McMullen

Our stories define us. Our histories shape us, and our relationships connect us to each other. When Ukrainian settlers arrived in Canada, they met unimaginable hardships in their journey to make a home out of the “free land” for which Canada had become known. Now, as we look back on Canada’s past, we recognize the need to reconcile our relationship with the Indigenous Peoples who were displaced from their homes and forced onto reservations. Not all the stories are bad, however. There are also stories of friendships, intermarriages and help given to Ukrainian settlers navigating the unfamiliar landscapes into which they had entered. The Exploring Indigenous Ukrainian Relations event was held in January 2020 and was part of the Spirit Bear Dialogues, ᐱᓐᓂᓐ ᐱᓐᓂᓐ ᐱᓐᓂᓐ ᐱᓐᓂᓐ, initiative at MacEwan.

This event was an important exploration of the relationships between the Ukrainian and Indigenous communities in Canada. It aimed to create a space that encouraged sharing, understanding and acceptance between members of Ukrainian and Indigenous communities.

There had already been a speaker panel held relating to settler-Indigenous relations, but the Spirit Bear Dialogues became a chance to explore issues specifically relating to Ukrainian-Indigenous relations.

In late 2019, the XXVI Triennial Congress of Ukrainian-Canadians adopted the resolution on Truth and

Reconciliation with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada: “... the Ukrainian-Canadian Congress approach the Assembly of First Nations with the proposition to jointly explore how the Ukrainian and Indigenous communities of Canada work together to promote mutual understanding and closer cooperation.” Larisa Hayduk, director of URDC, participated in the Congress, and said, “It was another assurance that we have to talk about our joint histories, our relations and share the stories of our communities.”

The Exploring Indigenous Ukrainian Relations initiative was inspired by Shumka’s Ancestors and Elders, a dance show that combined Ukrainian and Cree traditions and focused on reconciliation, resilience and our shared stories. Darlene Auger and Anna Marie Sewell, who were involved in the creation of Ancestors and Elders, spoke at the Spirit Bear Dialogues about their experiences.

Auger, who is Cree with Ojibwa and Wolf Clan ancestry, also sang her lullabies. Her fluency in speaking and writing in Cree has given her the ability to sing, translate documents, develop curricula, and sit in with Elders during ceremony. Sewell has Mi’gmaq, Anishinaabe, and Polish heritage. She works with poetry, song, theatre and community arts, and was Edmonton’s poet laureate from 2011 to 2013.

Also featured at the event, Sandra Semchuk spoke about the photography, video and text she made in collaboration with her late husband James Nicholas, a Cree artist, writer and orator. Their dialogues focused on experiences of Canada’s lands and on human stories. Semchuk is Ukrainian-Canadian.

Dr. Olenka Bilash joined the Spirit Bear Dialogues to talk about the work she has done with Indigenous communities



Sharing experiences: Borshch and bannock preparation.

to promote Indigenous languages. Bilash is passionate about creating language opportunities for learners of all ages and building bridges between people and cultures. Bilash is a professor of second language education at the University of Alberta.

Another exciting feature of the Spirit Bear Dialogues was a performance by the Ukrainian musical group, RUTA.

The event aimed to focus on finding, building and sustaining relationships between Ukrainian and Indigenous communities. The goal was to find a common ground to stand on that welcomed love, compassion and open minds.

One of the ways that we share our cultures is through food. Dr. Rob Woznura, associate dean of MacEwan's Faculty of Arts and Science, shared a borshch recipe made by his mother, and Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack helped make bannock with a recipe by Terri Suntjens, director of Indigenous Initiatives at MacEwan. The event was a great success, and facilitator Chelsea Vowel did a fantastic job of bringing the vision of the Spirit Bear Dialogues into fruition.

"We managed to create a shared mutual space filled with stories, tears, laughter, reflections, music and hope," says Hayduk.

The Hryhoriy and Eudokia Shumka scholarship

By Lauren McMullen

Since 2017, the Hryhoriy and Eudokia Shumka Scholarship has assisted 16 Ukrainian university students in achieving their academic goals at the Ternopil National Medical University (TNMU). The scholarship helps up to four students a year overcome the financial barriers that come with pursuing a university education.

This scholarship would not exist without the generous support of Dale and Andrea

Shumka. Their family has been instrumental in the creation and continuation of this award, with the roots of their involvement going back to some of the earliest waves of Ukrainian immigration into Canada.

Dale has always had a passion for uncovering his ancestry. His father was among the first wave of Ukrainian immigrants in Canada (arriving in Halifax in April 1905), and even after years of delays in his own research, Dale remained

steadfast in his desire to uncover his family's past. It became a need he just couldn't shake, even when the research proved to be extremely difficult. Immigration officers often listed the arrivals' surnames phonetically, resulting in records riddled with mistakes and misspellings. Five years passed, and Dale had nothing to show for his efforts. Uncovering his ancestry seemed to be an insurmountable task. However, everything changed



Dale and Andrea Shumka

when his daughter-in-law, Christine Shumka, travelled to TNMU in the summer of 2017.

Christine works with MacEwan's Faculty of Health and Community Studies, and upon her return from TNMU, she shared stories with Dale about the villages she had visited while she was in Ukraine – and also the challenges that the university and its students face.

TNMU had very few resources to offer students the opportunity to seek financial aid, and questions began to form in Dale's mind: Where did the students come from? How could they afford an education? Did they need help?

Not long after, Dale and Andrea sat down with their family to discuss the possibility of setting up a fund for a scholarship at TNMU and the logistics of ensuring the longevity of the award for generations to come. The Hryhoriy and Eudokia Scholarship reflects and

honours their Ukrainian heritage and was created with the goal of providing opportunities for students with financial needs. The scholarship also honours Dale's parents' connection to Ukraine. In his words, it was a way to "bring [their] name back to Ukraine" after decades of lost ancestry.

Dale and Andrea had the opportunity to visit Ukraine before COVID-19 upended the world. There, they visited Dale's father's village, spent time at TNMU, observed the equipment that had been donated to TNMU by MacEwan, and even take a few of the TNMU faculty members and scholarship recipients out for dinner.

Recipients of the Hryhoriy and Eudokia Scholarship are selected based on multiple criteria, including grade point average, social/extracurricular activities, financial need and other special statuses. Svitlana Yastremska, the director of the Institute of Nursing, and

the Board select the recipients based on the above criteria and inform Dale and Andrea of the Board's decision.

For Dale, the most important factor in the decision is financial need. "There are a lot of real brilliant people who get the scholarships, but there are other people who are hard workers who get the job done," says Dale. "You can't leave those people behind. I'm more for the underdog." He recognizes the magnitude of financial barriers on many students in Ukraine, and it is important to him to give all types of students a chance to get an education and make a difference.

One recipient of the award was Alina Verhola from the Khmel'sytsk region. Verhola is a second-year student at TNMU. After her mother passed away and her father lost parental rights, she went to live with her aunt. Verhola is a member of some amateur talent groups, and the financial aid provided by the Hryhoriy and Eudokia Scholarship allows her to continue her studies.

Dmytro Dudnik, another scholarship recipient, used the award to assist him in completing his studies after he lost his job as an EMT in Kyiv.

Dale and Andrea have stressed how meaningful it has been to see the impact their scholarship has had on students. They hope the scholarship will create a ripple effect in which successful award recipients may pay it forward in the future.



COSL 301 students
volunteer for half-
marathon in February
2020 to raise funds
for Help Us Help.



Student reflections

In summer 2019, MacEwan students in the COSL 301: Community Service-Learning – Building Peaceful Communities course worked 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. Here, a few students reflect on the long-term impact of this educational experience.



After more than 3 years of having gone to Ukraine and teaching children who are orphans activities and life skills, such as salsa dancing and Spanish, I have realized the deep positive impact this experience has had in the way I see the world and live my life. Reflecting on how teaching children a simple skill could bring about joy and a smile on their faces for some time, regardless of the sad and hard life circumstances they were facing; has shown me that material things are not needed in order for one person to help another, but instead the small genuine act of giving a piece of yourself and your time to someone else can help improve their quality of life.

Overall, going to Ukraine and meeting the children and fellow volunteers in the camp, has forever left the passion of helping others ignited in me and has made me hopeful for a better future.

— Daniella,
Bachelor of Science, Psychology, ('19)

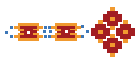


Volunteering with Help Us Help, meeting amazing and like-minded people, and learning from some amazing children and youth helped reacquaint me with who I am, the person I had lost over the years. When I returned to Canada, I was incredibly depressed. I pushed through my sadness and decided to do what I could to help the organization, the volunteers, and the children that had given me so much, asking for little in return. I partnered with The Running Room Edmonton and their Hypothermic Half Marathon Event in February of 2020 and raised close to \$3500 for the cause. Unfortunately, the COVID 19 pandemic slowly but surely took its toll on the world and my marathon was canceled. However, that has not stopped my determination to assist Help Us Help in any way I can. I joined in on the Move-A-Thon they hosted and made videos for their summer camp program. I owe a lot to this organization and deeply believe in the work that they do.

— Jillian,
Bachelor of Child and Youth Care ('20)

Spending the summer in Ukraine learning the language, immersed in the culture and connecting with the most special little souls is a time that is forever imprinted in my heart. Having heard the stories of the different traumas and pain endured by so many of the children, yet seeing how they approached each day with pure joy, unconditional love and unwavering curiosity taught me to let go of the fears, worries and stresses that cloud my mind so I could be present, for them and for myself. Not only were the kids incredible, but the organizers, camp leaders and other volunteers were awe-inspiring. Through their exemplary leadership, I learned just how big of an impact you can have in other people’s lives, simply by just showing them that you care.

— Kaitlyn,
Bachelor of Arts,
Psychology ('19)



From the Kule Chair



Dr. Svitlana (Lana) Kryś, assistant professor of English and the Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies at MacEwan University, reports the following academic activities for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020.

Dr. Kryś's productive year was marked by course offerings that featured Ukrainian content; student engagement; several Ukraine-related publications, presentations and collaborations; and community outreach.

Dr. Kryś followed the Kule Chair mandate to enrich the course offerings within her discipline at MacEwan with Ukrainian and east European material in translation. This material was featured

alongside anglophone literature, offering students an opportunity to explore familiar topics through an international perspective. In 2020, Dr. Kryś developed a 400-level seminar (ENGL 481) that focuses on the literature of eastern Europe, particularly Ukraine (within, first, the Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires, and later, as a republic in the Soviet Union). The literature presented in the course provides an example of a complex interplay among ideology, history and memory in the region. Dr. Kryś supervised two student research internships in Ukrainian studies (an editorial assistantship for *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies* (EWJUS, <http://www.ewjus.com/>) and a research assistantship for Dr. Kryś's research project on contemporary Ukrainian and east European neo-Gothic literature).

Dr. Kryś served on the Community Engaged Scholarship committee at MacEwan and on the board of directors of two academic centres at the University of Alberta – the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) and the Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS) – following the Memorandum of Understanding between MacEwan and the University of Alberta about cooperation in Ukrainian studies. Dr. Kryś maintained regular contact with students and colleagues at MacEwan and in the community who

were interested in Ukraine and eastern Europe, including giving an interview to a MacEwan journalism student about the aftermath of the crash of Ukraine International Airlines' Flight 752.

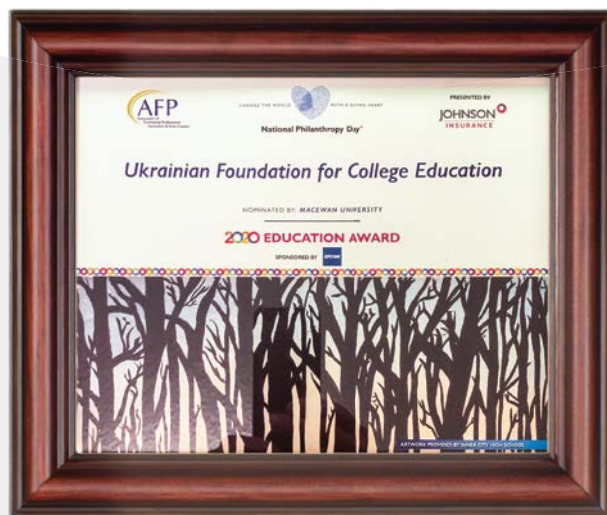
Dr. Kryś serves as the editor-in-chief of *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, an open-access, peer-reviewed academic journal sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (University of Alberta). In 2020, Dr. Kryś published two issues of EWJUS, totalling over 500 pages. Vol. 7, no. 1 (spring 2020) was a special thematic issue on Kharkiv, the second largest city in Ukraine. Vol. 7, no. 2 (fall 2020) featured a special section on trauma in social and cultural contexts (that addressed the tragic events of the 1932-33 Holodomor in Ukraine, An Gorta Mór [the Irish Famine of 1845-52], and the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster).

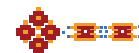
Among Dr. Kryś's recent publications is an article for *The Literary Encyclopedia* on the early 20th century Ukrainian modernist Klym Polishchuk. She is currently preparing a book manuscript titled *At the Origins of the Ukrainian Gothic*.

Dr. Kryś regrets that she had to suspend her Kule Chair in Ukrainian Studies Speaker Series this year due to COVID-19, but she hopes to relaunch the series either virtually or in person when it becomes safe to do so.

UFCE - Honorary philanthropy award

A celebration of philanthropy and the charitable spirit, National Philanthropy Day is held every year in November, and every year, MacEwan nominates people and/or organizations for an award. This year, MacEwan nominated the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), URDC's donor support organization, in the Education category. Congratulations to UFCE board members for this well-deserved honour.





Welcoming representatives from Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Music

By Sarah Jackson



*Dr. Ostap Maychyk,
Dr. Allan Gilliland and
Dr. Bohdan Dashak (L-R)*

In 2019, MacEwan University's Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications announced a partnership and collaborative relationship with the Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Music Academy (LNMA). It is one of the oldest musical institutions for higher education in Central and Eastern Europe.

LNMA's origins go as far back as the end of the XVIII century and the institutions is associated with the likes of Joseph Elsner (teacher of F. Chopin) and Franz Xaver Mozart (the younger son of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart). Their educational and social practices and activities laid the foundation for the establishment in 1853 of the Conservatory of Galician Musical Society. The Mykola Lysenko Lviv State Conservatory was created in 1939, and in 2007, the LNMA received national status. Today, the LNMA works with many students, specializing in orchestra and ensemble work. Students also work in various styles, such as opera and jazz.

In March 2020, LNMA's Dr. Ostap Maychyk, vice-rector, and Dr. Bohdan Dashak, professor paid a reciprocal visit to MacEwan to meet faculty and administration, take an in-depth look into programs that are offered to students, and make plans for further collaboration. They had the chance to explore the state-of-the-art music studios and labs in Allard Hall and met some of the current students in the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the visit was cut short on March 15. Plans remain to continue the relationship between schools, and further collaboration is expected to take place between LNMA and MacEwan.



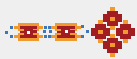
MacEwan's oral history project

Dr. Roman Petryshyn, founder and first director of URDC, was invited to participate in the Oral History Project at MacEwan.

The purpose of the initiative is to document the history of the institution through the careers and lives of alumni, faculty and staff who were involved in or directly affected by activities and events that took place between 1971 and 1999. The interviewees' testimonies can help to fill gaps in the historical record, and when used with other archival records, can provide a more complete picture of the history of MacEwan University.

In his oral history interview, Petryshyn discussed his involvement in the founding of URDC, the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE), as well as a general history of MacEwan. The interview can be accessed via the MacEwan Library online (<https://digitalexhibits.macewan.ca>).

"... It was a small institution serving hundreds of people not, thousands, so it was a very welcoming environment. I would say a rather innovative environment, very flexible, very strong relationships, and outreach with the community." – Roman Petryshyn



Threads That Connect

By Lauren McMullen

Over the course of 2021, the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) and the Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) will be collaborating to produce the Threads That Connect project. The initiative began with the Alberta branch of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, who approached ACUA and URDC with the proposition of creating a program to celebrate and explore the role of textiles in the Ukrainian-Canadian community. ACUA was founded in 1986 and has spent the last 34 years supporting Ukrainian-Canadian art in Alberta – everything from visual arts to music. Combined with the URDC’s work in facilitating relationships between communities in Ukraine and Canada, the two organizations will come together to produce a year full of learning, exploration and community connections.

The Threads That Connect project will include a variety of events, starting with the unveiling of a textile exhibition of the same name on February 14, followed by a monthly schedule of lectures and workshops, and concluding with a fashion show in the fall. The fashion show will showcase historic clothing, stage costuming, retro graduation and wedding attire, and a clothing collection curated by Ukrainian designer Olena Romanova. The programming will also include academic speakers, who will lecture and present papers; artisans, who will showcase their techniques in felting and weaving; and virtual workshops that will allow hands-on learning.

The exhibition will be curated by Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn, a third generation Ukrainian-Canadian artist who has been immersed in Ukrainian



Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn

culture and arts her entire life. Larisa has previously curated five exhibitions with ACUA, including Embroidered Memories, a travelling exhibition featuring over 750 embroidered Ukrainian-Canadian pillows. In collaboration with URDC and ACUA, Cheladyn’s goal is to celebrate diverse identities expressed through textiles and explore the threads that weave us all together. The Threads That Connect exhibition will give Larisa the opportunity to focus on textiles of the

past and present, sharing the narratives that connect the Ukrainian communities that exist in both Ukraine and Canada.

With the Threads That Connect project, URDC and ACUA have set a goal to introduce various forms of textile and related arts to a new generation, share the importance of textiles from the past and explore how they connect to the present day.

Did you know that there are approximately 28 stitch types that originated in Ukraine that are at risk of



being forgotten? Threads That Connect provides an opportunity to share these stitches with both younger generations and the wider textile art community in Canada. The events will also further an understanding of the unique history of and skills associated with various textile techniques. There is a great deal of diversity in fibre arts, which is exemplified by the many similarities and differences that can be found between Ukrainian-Canadian textile arts and those created in Ukraine. However, unique textile techniques have also brought together diverse cultures and highlighted their interconnections.

Consider, for example, the relationship between Indigenous beading techniques and the embroidery techniques of early Ukrainian-Canadian immigrants.

The Threads That Connect programming also aims to shine a light on the individual artists and curators who were involved with the creation and preservation of Ukrainian textiles. And, to a more academic end, the project will feature events that look critically at the role of Ukrainian textiles in political, social and cultural spheres.

Threads That Connect aims to foster a sense of community among MacEwan students and members of the Ukrainian-Canadian community in

Alberta. Despite the physically distanced world in which we are currently living, there will be an emphasis on community development and revitalizing the importance of community, which will be achieved with the help of digital technology and virtual connectivity. The programming will be very accessible to people of all backgrounds and people from all corners of the world. There will be something for everyone, whether you've never experienced the world of Ukrainian textiles before, or you're a master looking to expand your skillset and knowledge. No matter who you are, the Threads That Connect project will offer a meaningful exploration of the ways our lives are interwoven.

URDC Awards

URDC congratulates the 2020 award winners:

Larissa Pohoreski (Moonshine)

Ben Gorodetsky (Dolik's Clothes) | \$1,300

The Anna Pidruchney Award for Young Writers

Clayton Amero, Fabio Henao Caviedes,

Gracie Safranovich | \$1,000

The Ukrainian Millennium Foundation Award

Olga Zaitseva-Herz | \$1,000

The Roman Soltykewych Music Scholarship

Michaelene Poworoznik | \$500

The Serge Eremenko Music Award

Contributing writers

SARAH JACKSON is a third-year student in the professional communication major of the Bachelor of Communication Studies program at MacEwan University. Sarah has a passion for bringing awareness to social justice issues. She is very thankful for this opportunity to practice her writing skills.

LAUREN MCMULLEN is a third-year student in the professional communication major of the Bachelor of Communication Studies program at MacEwan University and has been writing since she was old enough to hold a pencil. She has previously written content for The Local Good in Edmonton, Alberta, and is currently working as a student marketing assistant with the School of Continuing Education at MacEwan. Lauren has lived in the Edmonton area her whole life, and she is grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to showcase both past and upcoming community events and to interact with so many amazing community members throughout the creation of this newsletter.



Artwork by Iryna Karpenko

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