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UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS UNION

“Forza Giovani” and Us

BY ANDREW WODOSLAWSKY

During the evening of Wednesday June 23, 2010, Andrew Wodoslawsky (SUSK’s director of External Affairs), Volodymyr Viguiliouk (former SUSK VP-Finance), Maryana Stasisiv (President of York Ukrainian Students Club), and Andrew Berezowsky (Ukrainian Students’ Club at Waterloo), attended “I Primi Passi”, an awards ceremony for outstanding youth in the Canadian-Italian community.

Why mention this Italian event in a Ukrainian publication? Well, after attending this event, I am convinced that the challenges and initiatives of the Italian community are similar to ours.

The Consul-General of Italy, Signor Gianni Bardini, asked the question: “What does it mean to be Italian?” Is it the tomatoes? The language? The art? The football? His speech and the next gave the impression that Italian-Canadians have just as much trouble answering these questions as Ukrainian-Canadians. Why would Italians have trouble with iden-

tity? Their ancestors ruled the Western world for almost a thousand years. The Italian city-states of the Medieval and Renaissance periods were powerful and vibrant. Italy has never been completely dominated by foreigners for any significant length of time. And yet, they ask the same question as Ukrainians here, who still have to convince people that we are distinct from Russians, and have legitimate claims to a separate identity.

Italians have been immigrating to Canada for about 150 years, about 50 years more than the first Ukrainians. Their Toronto community is made of many who immigrated after the Second World War (just like our Toronto, Montreal communities were dominated by the outspoken “Third Wave”). That immigration had almost no money, but was ready to work very hard to build a community.

There are now about 300 Italian community organizations registered with the consul. (Just like our community, I expect the vast majority of these to be dormant, dead or only moderately active.) So why form a new organization, Forza Giovani? According to the found-





er (who is the founder?), “Forza” is the only one with a mandate to encourage community activism and entrepreneurship. As part of this mandate, the organization gave out two monetary awards, one for each category (\$4000 and \$2000 respectively). The finalists had impressive records, and the entrepreneurship award was given by the very personable Anthony Lacavera, Chairman of Windmobile. Future projects of “Forza” will be to set up a membership directory, online mentorship program and question and answer forum, provide mobile access to the website, and provide a business directory.

Although the Ukrainian Professional and Business Association and the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce both have strong networking components and have membership directories available, Forza’s emphasis on entrepreneurship is not quite paralleled by our business organizations.

My thought toward the end of the night was, that we ethnic communities are in very similar circumstances, and certainly I will be tracking Forza Giovani to see what strategies of theirs work, and making suggestions to our organizations accordingly.

Congratulations to the founders of Forza Giovani for the great start in the Italian community.



New friends at “I Primi Passi”.



A familiar face, MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj, at “I Primi Passi”, an awards ceremony put on by Forza Giovani, a new Italian networking organization. Left: Volodymyr Viguiliouk, right: Andrew Wodoslawsky.





What did the May 30th protest achieve?

On May 30th, 2010, there was a protest in front of the Russian consulate. The point of the demonstration was to raise awareness or show displeasure of Russian interference in Ukrainian internal politics. Since this was a Sunday, the consulate was empty, but that was irrelevant, since officials probably wouldn't come out to address us anyway.

What did the 2 hours in the sun accomplish? True, that pictures flooded onto Facebook and sites like www.ukrcdn.com, but as usual, we are 'singing to the choir'. Using Ukrainian on placards, setting up the stage to overlook the demonstrators rather than direct the presentation to the people passing by, and inadequate coverage by the mainstream media are examples of how the event was ineffectual.

Ukrainian World Congress meets with President Viktor Yanukovich

Winnipeg, Canada -June 23, 2010- Paul Grod, National President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress commented on the first official meeting of the leadership of the Ukrainian World Congress and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich:

The meeting took place in Kyiv on June 21, with President Viktor Yanukovich, Foreign Minister Konstantyn Gryshchenko, and Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Hanna Herman. The Ukrainian World Congress was represented by President Eugene

Czoliuj and Secretary General Stefan Romaniw. "I congratulated the President and the Secretary General of the Ukrainian World Congress for taking this important first step and encouraged them to rapidly expand the dialogue and cooperation with various government ministries and non-governmental groups in Ukraine," stated UCC National President Paul Grod. "As part of this cooperation, the Government of Canada has reported that the negotiations with the Government of Ukraine to conclude a Youth Mobility Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement are moving along very well. In addition there are several senior government visits from both countries expected to take place this fall. It is the desire of the Ukrainian Canadian community to further expand a prosperous and mutually beneficial relationship between Canada and Ukraine."



At the meeting President Yanukovich said: "I wanted to meet with the leadership of the Ukrainian World Congress, which I consider a leading association of public organizations of the Ukrainian diaspora." In particular, he





indicated the need for improved cooperation with Ukrainians across the world and stressed that he sought the opinion of the Ukrainian Diaspora on the life of modern Ukraine and wished to address their questions. "I think that now it is urgent to organize cooperation with you and other leaders of the Ukrainian diaspora to promote respectful image of Ukraine in the world. It is very important. I believe it is our common task," said Viktor Yanukovich.

Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij noted the long-standing relations between Ukraine and the World Congress and stressed the need to discuss the basic principles and foundations of previous cooperation. He drew immediate attention to the four memorandums of cooperation the World Congress signed in 2009 with the ministry of foreign affairs, ministry of family, youth and sport, ministry of culture and with the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine.

"This was a critical meeting for both the government of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people," stated Paul Grod. "To the extent possible we must reinforce the channels through which we can foster mutually advantageous cooperation. Undermining meaningful engagement between the Government of Ukraine and the Diaspora brings no benefit to the interests of the Ukrainian people. We have developed a consensus that our community, together with the Government of Canada, must proactively engage Ukraine at both the government and non-government levels if we hope that Ukraine will continue developing its

democratic institutions, economic stability, civil society and national identity. There is no question that a constructive relationship with Ukraine will have a positive influence on our community and for the future of Ukraine for decades to come."

At the meeting, the World Congress conveyed to President Yanukovich a memorandum outlining the important issues concerning Ukraine and the Ukrainian Diaspora. It outlines key topics for consideration, namely: the threat of losing control of Ukraine's strategically important industries, the Black Sea Fleet agreement which extends the stay of Russia's military base in Ukraine, the importance of Ukraine joining the European Union and NATO, the introduction of de facto a second official state language in Ukraine, reports of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Ukraine, the Holodomor Famine genocide of 1932 - 1933 in Ukraine, installation of monuments to Stalin in Ukraine, violation of human and minority rights of Ukrainians in Russia, unfounded accusations against the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalist under the leadership of Stepan Bandera in a resolution of the European Parliament.

After discussing a number of the issues raised by the Ukrainian World Congress, President Viktor Yanukovich stated that he will provide an official response and agreed to continue their dialogue.

The full text of the Memorandum of important issues concerning Ukraine and the Ukrai-





nian Diaspora, can be read at UWC:UWC Memorandum 17-6-2010.

Information about this meeting can also be found on the electronic page of the President of Ukraine: President of Ukraine, including a video of the meeting at video.

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Library Adventure in Chicago

KATYA PEREYASLAVSKA

Master of Information Candidate, University of Toronto (2011), Intern at the Slavic & East European Collection, University of Chicago (June/July 2010)

Being a typically restless and neurotic “Uke,” I wasted no serious time when I heard about my admission to yet another graduate program at the University of Toronto – at the Faculty of Information. Having completed both my undergraduate and my graduate degrees in art history, reflected on them for two years and decided I needed a plan B when it came to wanting to actually earn some money, I followed in my grandmother’s foot steps and applied myself to the field of librarianship. However, what made me interested in this field was not the horrid typical librarian attire, nor the teacher-like reproachful “shushing”, but my interest and love of linguistics. So, a year ago this June, I started an Excel spreadsheet wherein I took great care to compile a list of local and international Slavic librar-

ies and librarians and their contacts. I fired off dozens of emails, attempting to secure a library internship for the summer of 2010. To my greatest surprise, I was able to secure a promising contact at a prominent university in Washington, DC. To “seal the deal”, I trekked down in the first blizzard of the historic DC winter of 2009/10 in order to meet my contacts, introduce myself and check out possible accommodations. Everything was going smoothly. My tentative dates for the internship were set to be June and July and I started filling out my US visa form (J1). On April 23, I received an email from my potential supervisor advising me that the university does NOT sponsor international interns. Was it my Ukrainian passport that scared them off, I wondered? Having lived in Canada for nearly fifteen years, I have almost forgotten that not being a citizen can cause problems. What have I done wrong? In another email, my contact advised me that I could come without a visa – a proposition that sounded dubious at best.



The incredibly green general University of Chicago campus. Katya Pereyaslavka is wearing her “lucky” sorochnka which her mom made.





In a fit of despair, I launched a formal attack on all of my contacts from the Excel sheet. Surely, if Washington was a “no-go”, there should be someone who would be willing to take on an unpaid intern?! Within 6 hours I had a promising response from the University of Chicago’s impressive Slavic & East European Collection; in 6 weeks, I found myself wandering through the gorgeous U of C campus and processing my final paperwork on-site. As I write this article, I am processing Ukrainian, Russian and other Slavic text duplicates to offer to other North American libraries as a part of a very exciting book trade program. While very few library schools actually offer formal training in Slavic Librarianship, most specialists in this field acquire the necessary knowledge through real work experience, which is what I hope to achieve here. My supervisor is a marvelous linguist who has not only introduced me to the Library of Congress transliteration tables but has challenged my language recognition with Czech, Hungarian and Polish (HELP!) Not only that, I was introduced to a variety of relevant Slavic organizations such as the Association for Women in Slavic Studies, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and joined the listserv for the Slavic Librarians Forum! I have met a number of wonderful professionals in my field and have been able to ‘schmooze’ with a few movers and shakers already!

Finding a place to lease was not too difficult and by fluke I ended up in what is known as the “Ukrainian village”. I am yet to visit the Ukrainian National Museum (<http://www.ukrainskiannationalmuseum.org/eng/index.html>) as well as the Ukrainian Institute of

Modern Art (<http://www.uima-chicago.org/index.php?cat=1>), but they are only a 15 minute walk from my front step. One of my primary objectives while here is to trawl the masses of wonderful vintage shops in a desperate search for vintage Slavic national attire pieces which I find myself wearing more and more frequently after my mother made my first and most gorgeous hand-embroidered sorochka for me this year.

Chicago is a wonderful student-friendly city, which can be as cheap as New York (if you know where to go!) Having discovered a few wonderfully “divey” local bars which charge \$1.50 for a can of PBR (what is this?), hit an awesome church sale to stock up on kitchen utensils at 10 cents apiece and perused for treasures at Sally Ann (this too), I am afraid I am reinforcing all the worst stereotypes of a cheap “Uke.”



Regestein Library, Henry Moore sculpture & a new high-storage project on the way. The library houses the Slavic Collection where Katya Pereyaslavka is working all of June & July (<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/els/slavic/>)





A walk down memory lane...

BY ADRIANA SIRSKYJ

As a child raised in a family in Ottawa, Ontario, I was extremely fortunate to have been brought up with rich traditional Ukrainian-Canadian morals and values. However, as 1995 quickly approached, my family and I packed all our belongings, with an exciting new era waiting ahead of us. As we said goodbye to the once familiar language and surroundings, a peculiar land of unfamiliar culture waited to warmly greet us at its beautiful historic gates: Vienna, Austria.

My family and I were extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to live in Vienna, Austria from 1995-1999. Having only been four years old at the time of our arrival at 47 Shindlergasse, I had no difficulties familiarizing myself with my new surroundings, and comfortably adapting to them. My beautiful new home, neighbourhood, school, and friends were soon to become the most influential components of my upbringing in Europe.

Throughout my stay in Vienna, I attended the American International School of Vienna, where I was taught what many believe to be the “harsh” German language. Slowly I began to adapt to the new language, foods and traditions of the Austrian culture, and I absolutely loved it!

I developed a strong passion for diverse cultures during my four years in Vienna, as my family and I were able to travel to over 15 countries across the world, including Germany, Italy, France, Indonesia, Greece, Egypt,

England, Hungary, Turkey, and many more. My experience of diverse cultures and friendships during my four year adventure in Austria has exposed me to endless opportunities and has eternally shaped me as the individual that I am today; and for this experience I am exceptionally grateful.

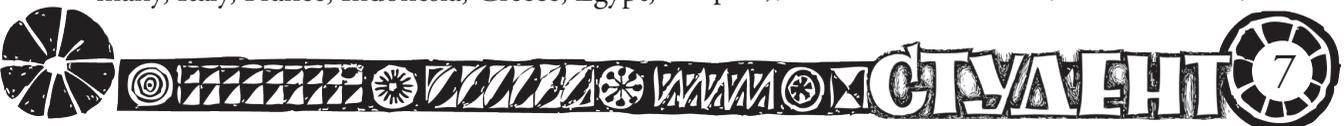
As 1999 quickly approached, we packed our belongings again and returned to our first home in Ottawa, Ontario.

Now, ten long years later, I had the opportunity to re-open the once closed chapter of my childhood. On August 23rd, 2009, I packed my bags for a life changing trip. Having waited so anxiously to return to Vienna to visit old friends, I finally pulled up my socks and did. August 23rd – September 7th 2009 was a trip I would never forget!

The moment I arrived in Vienna on August 24th, I was overcome by a feeling of anxiousness and excitement. I did not know what to expect.

Throughout my trip, I was able to reunite and stay with several old childhood friends whom were such a major part of my childhood years. I reunited with old friends, my old home, school, buildings, monuments, familiar streets, and many more. It was an experience that I will never forget!

I whole heartedly recommend to any students that Vienna be a stop on your next trip to Europe! Tourist sites such as Stephansdom (St. Stephen’s Cathedral), the Staatsoper (State Opera), Schönbrunn Palace, The Rathaus,





Naschmarkt, and shopping on Mariahilfer and Kärntner Strasse are all must-sees and dos!

As the 2nd crucial part of your trip, I strongly recommend trying some delicious authentic Austrian dishes such as Wiener Schnitzel, Knödel (dumplings), Palatschinken (sweet crepes), Apfelstrudel (hot apple strudel), Sachertorte (a rich chocolate cake), a cup of Viennese coffee, and of last but certainly not least, a pint of Austrian beer.

These were bits and pieces which made my trip back home to Vienna, an unforgettable one.

**THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES FOUNDATION
Presents the 3rd annual Civil
Liberties Opinion Editorial Award**

The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation focuses on researching and educating the Canadian public on civil liberties themes. In 1933, then Soviet leader Joseph Stalin implemented farm collectivization policies that resulted in the Famine Genocide throughout Ukraine – the Holodomor. With 2008 having marked the 75th anniversary of one of the 20th century's greatest violations of civil liberties, the Foundation established an annual award to commemorate and preserve the memory of its many victims. In so doing, the Foundation seeks to engage high school and post secondary (university, college, etc.) students in researching, writing and submitting opinion editorials to newspapers.

Value - \$1000 - The value of the award is subject to change if the opinion-editorial of more than one student is published in a major Canadian newspaper.

Conditions - The award is open to all currently enrolled high school and post-secondary students who are residents of any province or territory in Canada. The award will be presented for an English- or French-language opinion-editorial based on a Holodomor theme. The award is restricted to op-ed publication (print or online edition) in the following newspapers and no others:

- Calgary Herald
- Calgary Sun
- Edmonton Journal
- Edmonton Sun
- Globe and Mail
- Halifax Chronicle-Herald
- Kingston Whig-Standard
- Le Devoir
- Montreal Gazette
- National Post
- Ottawa Citizen
- Ottawa Sun
- Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph
- Regina Leader-Post
- Saskatoon StarPhoenix
- Toronto Star
- Toronto Sun
- Vancouver Province
- Vancouver Sun
- Victoria Times Colonist
- Winnipeg Free Press
- Winnipeg Sun





There is no limit as to the number of submissions students make, nor does it matter to how many newspapers. However, the Foundation will grant a maximum of one award per student-author.

Suggested Topics

- Students must write their opinion-editorial based on a Holodomor theme. The following are potential topics for students to consider in order to narrow down their research within this vast topic area. Students do not have to stick to these topics.
- Should the United Nations follow declarations made by various heads of state, governments, and parliaments (such as Canada's) and proclaim the Holodomor a deliberate act of genocide?
- In light of the Ukrainian Parliament's declaration that outlaws Holodomor denial, should genocide denial be considered a hate crime or is outlawing genocide denial an infringement of freedom of speech?
- New York Times columnist Walter Durranty repeatedly denied the existence of a Ukrainian famine in his 1933 articles. Is false reporting grounds for revocation of his Pulitzer Prize for journalism?

Submissions and Awarding

It is up to the student to correctly submit their opinion-editorial to the newspaper(s) of their choice. Most newspapers require contact information (address, daytime phone number, etc.) in addition to one's name. In the event that a student's opinion-editorial appears in print or online in one or more major newspapers, the student shall be responsible for

notifying the Foundation of this publishing. As such, the student must provide a hard or electronic copy of the print edition opinion-editorial or an electronic copy of the online edition opinion-editorial within five days of publication. In addition to the published piece, students must provide a completed application form (included below).

The mailing address for hard copy is as follows

Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation Award

48 Woodcrest Close SW
Calgary, Alberta T2W 3P9

The email address for either hard copy or electronic copy is as follows:

UCCLF@hotmail.com

The name of the award recipient will be made public. The Foundation reserves the right to publish the winning opinion-editorial(s) in major Ukrainian Canadian newspapers (e.g., Ukrainian News).

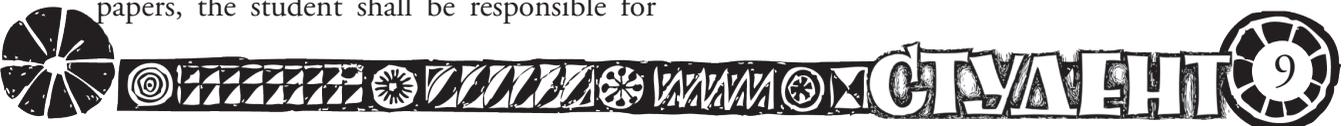
Application deadline

Submissions must appear in a given major Canadian newspaper no later than November 30, 2010.

Jimmy Oneschuk recommends:

kyivscoop.blogspot.com

The author writes analyses for Kyiv Post, but does much more in depth writing on his blog.





“A Strategy for Taking on the Kremlin” A presentation by Robert Amsterdam

BY ANDREW WODOSLAWSKY

On Wednesday, May 19, 2010, Trident Banquet Hall in Toronto hosted a televised conference with Mr. Robert Amsterdam, an international lawyer who was on the team that tried to help protect the Yukos oil company from a takeover by the Russian government. At the time of the teleconference, Mr. Amsterdam was working in a case in Thailand, so he generously sponsored the necessary equipment and technical support for a fast, stable teleconference with about a hundred viewers.

The conference was composed of an introduction by members of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, a 40 minute presentation by Mr. Amsterdam, question from the Chamber, a question from an Estonian delegate, then questions from the floor.

One message from the presentation was that Russia's corporate and political elite are basically the same people, with rampart conflicts-of-interest. Russia's policies then, are primarily centered on business interests.

The means by which governments are able to stop aggressive Russian policies is to prove that an action or policy of theirs violates an international treaty that they signed. One successful example was included.

When I asked what leverage could we actually bring to bear on the Russian government, Mr. Amsterdam replied that our Canadian government can revoke visas of Russian offi-

cial and businessmen, which is a real threat to their interests.

So what can the community do to 'stop' Russia? Do not act as one voice, through the Congress. His suggestion was that we combine with other communities, then prove to MP's that their electorate wants this issue to be addressed. With enough mail and calls, MP's will take notice.

I invite you to check out Mr. Amsterdam's blog www.robertamsterdam.com to learn more about world law and politics.

Maple Leaf Alberta Projects

WRITTEN BY MILA LUCHAK,

MEMBER OF MAPLE LEAF ALBERTA PROJECTS

Maple Leaf Alberta Projects (MLAP) is a committee in Edmonton working towards providing a sparkle of hope in the lives of teenage girls in Ukraine. Many Ukrainian Canadians have traveled to Ukraine and have witnessed the poverty, alcoholism and numerous orphanages full of children abandoned by parents with these afflictions. The directors, clergy, and social workers of these orphanages have expressed a need for a home that could provide for the young people who are no longer of age to remain in the orphanage.

Young women who leave the orphanages can become victims of Human Trafficking and sex slavery under false pretenses. It is estimated that over 500,000 women from Ukraine are victims of Human Trafficking. Maple Leaf Alberta Projects is currently renovating a struc-





ture called the Maple Leaf Safe House that would be a safe haven and provide the education needed to divert young women from Human Trafficking in a country that lacks the social support networks present in Canada.



The Maple Leaf (Klenovi Lyst) Safe House is situated in a village in Western Ukraine called Stoyaniv. Last summer volunteers from an organization in Saskatoon called Nashi (“Our Children” in Ukrainian) traveled to Stoyaniv to assist with constructing the safe house. The safe house was formerly a two-storey kindergarten purchased in 2008, and now the structure has taken the form of a three-storey school as a crew of employed workers in Ukraine continues the renovations.

Along with Maple Leaf Alberta Projects working towards completing the safe house, it has the following objectives:

1. Promote awareness of Human Trafficking in Canada and worldwide;
2. Network with local city churches, service clubs, media, police, and individuals (ie. Youth Emergency Services Society and WIN House).

Private donations gifted by both Albertans and Canadians across the country are the largest source of funds for the Maple Leaf Safe House outside of international grants. To help MLAP reach its goal of completing the safe house and establishing programs for its residents, a fundraising dinner of Ukrainian cuisine will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at the Youth Unity Complex. Professor Benjamin Perrin from the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law and a Faculty Fellow at the Liu Institute for Global Issues will be speaking about his crusade against Human Trafficking. At this event Professor Perrin will also be launching his new book *Invisible Chains: Canada’s Underground World of Human Trafficking*, which exposes cases of human trafficking worldwide and even locally here in Canada.





Although Human Trafficking is an issue that is overwhelming to many, the work of even a handful of individuals makes a world of difference. Maple Leaf Alberta Projects invites you to take part in its fundraising event to increase your awareness and support a cause indebted to helping youth in Ukraine.

To learn more about the safe house,
contact Mila at mluchak@ualberta.ca

Mark Your Calendars!

XXIII Congress of Ukrainian Canadians

70th Anniversary of the UCC

November 5-7, 2010

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

*Have something to say?
Have something to prove?
We want to hear it!
Submit to student@susk.ca*

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