



President's Message

Welcome readers to the special Congress edition of Student for the 2015-2016 year! This year's SUSK Congress takes place in Saskatoon – the Paris of the Prairies. The entire National SUSK Executive is so excited for everything that has been building up for this year's SUSKatoon Congress. In this issue you will find many of our Ukrainian Student Organizations describe what their club has done over the past 12 months. It is incredible to see all of the events, fundraisers, protests, fashion shows, and more that SUSK's member organizations put on!

Our National Executive worked on many different projects throughout the year, including researching our alumni, digitizing and labeling past "Student" issues, and uploading a SUSK produced vinyl from the 1970's, "Banned in the USSR". SUSK was also vocal on a variety of issues in Ukraine and we supported whatever we could – petitions, campaigns, and a variety of different causes. The fall of 2015 also brought the launch of our Project Fund for our member organizations and the launch of our brand new digital newsletter service. We also launched an Instagram page so we can be #blessed to be able to have a great time in #SUSKatoon.

I want to thank everyone who was part of the 2015-2016 National SUSK Executive. Without your hard and dedicated work, we would not be anywhere close to where we are now! Always remember that you now join a proud group of SUSK alumni, and that no matter where you go, or what Ukrainian event you attend, there will very likely be someone there who remembers being somehow connected to SUSK – be it Congress, "Student", or just the incredible social events.

Cheers,

Cassian Soltykeych – SUSK President





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University of Alberta - Year Wrap Up

The Ukrainian Student Society at the University of Alberta is growing and flourishing! We brought back many annual events and even introduced a few new ones to keep things fresh such as Vus-opad – Movember with a Ukrainian twist (idea from UofS), the screening of the documentary ‘Winter on Fire’, and participating in a cultural fashion show during International Week on campus! We started the year with our annual Clubs Fair set up. With the use of Ukrainian candies, chocolates and shots of Zhyvchyk, we had both new and returning students sign up to join our club. From there, we kept ourselves and our members busy with the following events:

- **Welcome Back BBQ** - With hamburgers in hand we held our AGM, elected our First-Year Rep, and celebrated afterwards with our first bar night of the year
- **Global Village Booth** - the International Student’s Club set up a mini Cultural Mosaic festival in which we held a booth and sold makivnyk (poppy seed cake) by donation, with the proceeds going towards the Ukrainian army
- **Winter on Fire - Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom Screening** - this emotional event brought together a group of all ages and ended with a patriotic singing of the national anthem that could be heard across campus
- **Semi-annual Perogy BBQs**- During our fall BBQ we sold out of supplies at a record pace, and in our winter BBQ we came better prepared for the new crowds and set record sales! (I think this is proof that our campus needs a permanent Perogy food establishment)





- **Cultural Fashion Show** - A few members of our club strutted their finest Ukrainian costumes down the cat walk during International Week at the UofA
- **Vus-opad** - Our **FIRST** ever Mo'vember with a Ukrainian twist! We adopted this idea from the University of Saskatchewan and raised over \$300 towards men's health and had a Mo'vember Perogy Mo-down to celebrate this event's success.
- **Intramural Sports** - we placed teams for hockey, futsal, volleyball, and basketball to keep our Perogy-eating club members active
- **Commemorating the 82nd anniversary of Holodomor** - Along with placing a wreath at the Holodomor Commemoration downtown, we placed a definition of the Holodomor attached to bundles of wheat around our entire campus
- **Chasing Malanka** - A bar night dedicated to ringing in the new year featuring a live band and every blue and yellow decoration you could think of. Euphoria had the dance floor packed as the whole bar polka-ed the night away
- **Ski Trip to Fernie, BC** - With unusually warm temperatures, we were treated to rain at the bottom of the hill and snow at the top...nothing a rain poncho over a winter coat can't fix
- **Free Savchenko Rally** - Nadia Savchenko is a Ukrainian pilot and politician who was captured by the Russian forces and convicted of a crime she did not commit. She has become an icon of Ukraine's strength and perseverance. Huge thank you to Olia Hyzha who organized this rally.



- **PPP (Paska, Pysanka, Perogy) Night** - With over 40 attendees, this event continues to be a club favorite!



- **Lunch with Austin O'Brien Grade 12 Students** – a few of our Executive members met with Grade 12 students visiting our campus to spread the word about all the great Ukrainian programs, courses, and clubs we have here of the UofA.

And to wrap up the year we held our AGM and elections, and said good-bye to the 2 term president Mila Dacko. It was a tough presidential race, but Ivanka Soletsky beat out Donald Trump and is our new USS President!



До Зустрічі,
Andrea Dacko
USS VP

University of Saskatchewan A Year in Review from USUSA

Our 2015/2016 academic year was exciting for many reasons. It was something of a “transition” year for us in Saskatchewan - we had equal numbers of returning executive members as brand new, fresh faces! Although there was a potential for a level of disorganization with such an executive make-up, we are pleased to report that each of us immediately recognized the importance of our collective work, and there was no downtime in pulling together a successful new executive, and we want to thank each and every person who was involved for all their effort and ideas!





As a kickoff event in October, we hosted our first “Perogy Wasted” event: we carted off everyone interested to a local church which hosted an all-you-can-eat-vareshnyky night where we *indulged*.

We were proud to host a screening of *Winter on Fire*, shortly after its release. It was wildly successful and drew a far bigger crowd than anticipated - showing the necessity for Ukrainian activity in Saskatoon.

With Holodomor Awareness Week taking place annually in November, we again co-hosted a vigil on campus. Additionally, we brought in acclaimed journalist Andrea Chalupa as a keynote speaker, where she gave free public talks and book readings from her book, *Orwell and the Refugees*. She was a very unique feature to campus and we were proud to host her!

We once again hosted our Vusopad fundraiser - a Ukrainian Movember event featuring a vusa (moustache) judging panel with proceeds going toward prostate cancer research. The event, which hosted over 80 students, had four categories: Best Cossack-style, Best Regular, Best Effort and Best Fake Moustaches (for the ladies).

January, of course, was when we offered Christmas carols (as a fundraiser) to our Saskatoon community - our three days were *so* successful that we plan to perform for a full week next year! Our Networking Series event with the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association was also held in January.

February meant the month of our largest charity fundraiser event: we hosted a *Zabava* once again, which enticed over 100 people to donate over \$2000. A pysanka workshop was held in March for an at-capacity crowd! One of our executive members also hosted a free *kolach* workshop through a local church.





We are SO excited to be hosting you all for SUSKatoon this year!!! Truly, our anticipation knows no bounds when it comes to all the reunions and new friendships that this weekend surely holds. We think the prairies are a pretty great place to be, and we intend to show you all we have to offer!

University of Guelph Ukrainian Students' Club

Composed of 48 members, the University of Guelph (UOG) Students' Club aims to implement the knowledge of Ukrainian culture, to students of every nationality, as a non-profitable organization. The club established its roots in Guelph, a city located slightly north of Toronto. A thriving Ukrainian community, welcomes both new members and alumni. Throughout the years the club has incorporated activities to involve members and the public, increasing awareness of Ukrainian politics, social reforms and cultural traditions.

Over the last year, UOG Ukrainian Students' Club created events by the executive team members, composed of nine current students. The first event that was successfully put together incorporated Ukrainian food, music and games. This event allowed new members to meet each other, and form new friendships. Called Ukrainian Perogie night, by word of mouth students came together to support the newly revived club.

The next event was the screening of "Winter on Fire" at the University of Guelph. As the ongoing conflict continued in Ukraine, the event was held to bring awareness to students and the public by an up-roaring documentary from a Western perspective. The intention of the event was to raise money for the soldiers in Ukraine.

To conclude the year, a fun event was created at the University of Guelph's campus pub, Brass Taps. This allowed all our members to get together before the conclusion of the semester. Trivia Night, gave our members the opportunity to split into teams, strengthening relationships with one another. A successful event, which resulted in excitement for the upcoming fall semester.

Oksana Kaczala

Olena Kasiuk





MacEwan University Ukrainian Students Club Continues To Grow

It has been another successful year for the MacEwan University Ukrainian Students Club. In our third year of operation, our club continues to grow.

One primary focus of our club this year was to donate to the Toronto-based charity, Help Us Help the Children. This is a non-profit organization which is dedicated to improving the lives of children living in Ukraine's orphanages. We incorporated this charity into every event by having a donation jar which event goers could contribute to. Our total donations amounted to \$1,300! Thank you to all who supported this! Throughout the year we had an information session, bake sale and clothing drive to support this initiative. Thank you to Dr. Skakun of the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education for your support. A huge thank-you to Dr. Svitlana Krysz and Larisa Hayduk for all your help and dedication in aiding us to support this cause.

Our year began with two movie nights. One in conjunction with the University of Alberta's Ukrainian Students Society to watch "Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom" (a must see!) and another movie night and discussion watching "Shtol'nia: A Ukrainian Horror Film".

In January, we had our club's most anticipated event of the year, Malanka! We were very excited to have Millenia join us in providing some awesome music for the night. This took place at The Ranch Roadhouse, a country bar in Edmonton. The event was a huge success and proceeds raised from ticket sales were donated to Help Us Help the Children.

In February, our club participated in MacEwan University's Global Awareness week by participating in a Pysanka making demonstration and a film screening and discussion of "Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom".

Our final big event this year was MacEwan's first ever Pyrohy lunch! The smell of onions and butter floated through the cafeteria drawing students and staff for a delicious lunchtime snack. The event was a success and we are hoping to have more of these lunches in future years.

We had a great year as a club and we are looking forward to many more events and continued growth in the upcoming year!

Kelsey Andreychuk





MUSA Hamilton

Over the course of the past eight months, MUSA Hamilton has organized many successful events and activities for its members. The year started off with the Annual General Meeting where this year's president, Marta Mackiw, welcomed the club to a new semester, members had a chance to mingle and indulge in free pizza. Some of the first year members were elected into the executive council and were able to become more involved in the planning process of the year's events. In October, MUSA held its annual Bowling Night at University Lanes, where the player with the highest score won a bottle of Zirkova vodka! Attendees consisted of MUSA members, friends and members of the Buduchnist Credit Union and Ukrainian Credit Union branches in Hamilton. Later on in November, MUSA revived one of its older social gatherings, a Taras Bulba night. Members and friends gathered at one of the past president's house in Hamilton and spent the night watching Taras Bulba while eating homemade varenyky.

In the winter semester, the executive council was kept busy preparing for the Annual MUSA Volleyball Tournament and Zabava. Teams gathered from Montreal, Ottawa and various USO's within the Greater Toronto Area. This year's tournament had approximately 140 participants, the most number of players in the history of the tournament! In addition to this, a new competition was introduced: The Kolbasa Serve. Members from each team had a chance to serve the ball over the net to a marker on the opposite side and whoever came closest won a nice kolbasa snack! The tournament was held at Cathedral High School and the Zabava was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Hamilton. Guests danced the night away while the amazing Zapovid band entertained. The club and executive team would like to thank all those who came out to support the event, we hope to see you all next year!

The year concluded with a few more meetings amongst the executive team and the election of new presidents. This year, Laryssa Wynnyckyj and Natalia Ogrodnik will be co-presidents for MUSA Hamilton! We wish them all the best and can't wait to see what's in store for the coming year!

Alexandra Kobylecky
Past President





Concordia Ukrainian Students' Union - CUSU

As students at Concordia University, we are hoping to further develop the Concordia Ukrainian Students' Union. This year, our efforts include the following cultural events:



Ukrainian Festival:

In September, we had the pleasure to participate at the Montreal's annual Ukrainian Festival. During these three days, we held our own booth in order to promote our club by inviting fellow Ukrainian students to come and visit us at Concordia University. Furthermore, we took the opportunity to invite everyone to our Conference.

UFA Conference:

The Conference, "Ukraine For You", was held on the following week. This conference was organized in order to sensitize and inform people about the events occurring in Ukraine since the Maidan that begun in February 2014. Six guest speakers were invited to discuss the events and to give their personal and educated perspectives.





Cultural Food Fairs:

We hosted two cultural food fairs at Concordia University where we prepared various traditional Ukrainian dishes. This allowed us to share one of the best parts of our culture with fellow Concordia students. Moreover, we hosted multiple friendly and social gatherings that provided an atmosphere in which we were able to share our rich Ukrainian Culture with other communities, such as evenings filled with festivities for Halloween and Christmas.



Pre-Malanka and Malanka:

Moreover, we hosted the "Pre-Malanka" evening and the "Malanka" Dance workshop. The "Pre-Malanka" is the night before the Orthodox old New Year, and a Christmas caroling event. The "Malanka" is the Orthodox Old New Year. Our "Pre-Malanka" event was a great success. We had guests who came all the way from Ottawa and Toronto to celebrate with us. Finally, in order to ensure that our guests got the most out of our "Malanka" events, we organized a workshop on Ukrainian traditional dance where we had a lot of University students, Ukrainian and not, participate and learn a little something about us Ukrainians.



Sincerely,
Oleksiy Byelov, President
Valeria Shkuratova, Executive VP





MUSA - McGill Ukrainian Students' Association

A challenge of many ethnic student clubs has often been combining ardent dedication to their cultural identity while also maintaining the diversity of initiatives that would open doors to new members. This year at MUSA we made it our goal to keep a collective eye on both.

We combined the vital awareness about all-things Ukrainian during our Trivia Night with restless fun and games during the Eastern European Pub Crawl, also making our voices heard at the demonstration organized to support Nadiya Savchenko in early March. The Trivia Night had an educational touch to it, too—not only did we reinforce meaningful bonds with other Eastern European student clubs, but also dissolved some beliefs and misconceptions about Ukraine's culture, politics, and society.

Later in the year we found it crucial to revisit the events of the 2013 Euromaidan with a campus movie screening of "Winter On Fire." In an emotional and insightful self-reflection, the attendees had another chance to express solidarity with Ukraine in such hard times for the country.

The highlight of the year, however, was McGill Ukrainian Student Association's (MUSA) attempt to bring Montreal's eclectic Ukrainian community together for a night of fun and fashion, crafted by the Ukrainian Canadian designer DYDA. The fashion evening did not leave attendees unimpressed. "I have not been to anything like this before," was the feedback we received from a prominent member of the Montreal Ukrainian Community.

As a proud member of Montreal's larger Ukrainian Canadian community, MUSA volunteered at the Brunch Fundraiser for the Ukrainian Catholic University in mid-November. We were also happy to partake in the establishment of the two new cultural clubs at McGill University, the Polish and the Romanian associations.

Not only were we able to engage more members of the McGill student community and the larger Montreal Ukrainian Canadian community in Ukraine-related events this year, but we have also felt strong support and solidarity from other student clubs, Montreal Ukrainian organizations, and Ukraine enthusiasts. It is this feeling of unity and common identity that we will continue to promote in our future endeavours to represent Ukrainians in Montreal and McGill.



Звіт Голови Української Студентської Спілки у м.Калгарі

This year has been a great year for USS Calgary. With all the hard work of our executive team, we more than doubled our membership number from the previous year! Our membership has never been more involved, and our executive continuously cooperated and worked hard. We truly grew as a club and as an executive team. Of course we hosted a lot of events, and represented USS well at greater community events. Some of our events include:

Fall Semester:

Started with a Ukrainian lunch - A HUGE success

Clubs Week in Macewan Student Centre



Co-host for the UofC Eurocup

- This year we made it to the Semi-finals and beat our rivals, the Polish Student Association!!



Teamed up with Medical Mercy Canada for a 'Ukraine Relief Fund'



Holodomor Awareness week – Set up large displays in the hub of the University.

Pub night

Winter on Fire movie showing

Pyrohy night and Pyrohy eating contest

USS President was the emcee for UCC Holodomor Commemoration

Represented USS at the Calgary Ukrainian Carol Festival

Winter Semester:

Joint Ski Trip with USS Alberta to Fernie

Another Ukrainian Lunch

Clubs week in Macewan Student Centre and Foothills Hospital Campus

Co-hosted UofC Beer Pong Tournament – Another huge success



Helped organize a rally for the Nadia Savchenko and participated in #freesavchenko

Partook in the Annual UCC Taras Shevchenko Concert

Cuisine night

USS President was emcee for the Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada's visit in

Calgary

Supported Pysanky writing workshop hosted by CYM Calgary



Plans for the next few weeks:

We are planning a USS Camping trip in the mountains

Holding a meet and greet for the guests of the Conference of the Canadian Association of Slavists being held at UCalgary

On behalf of USS Calgary, we congratulate all the USO on successfully completing another full year of events and other successes. We hope all USO continue their great work in the next year. And remember: “Україна починається з тебе” -В. Чорновіль

Danylo Moussienko

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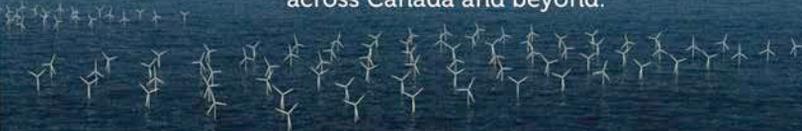
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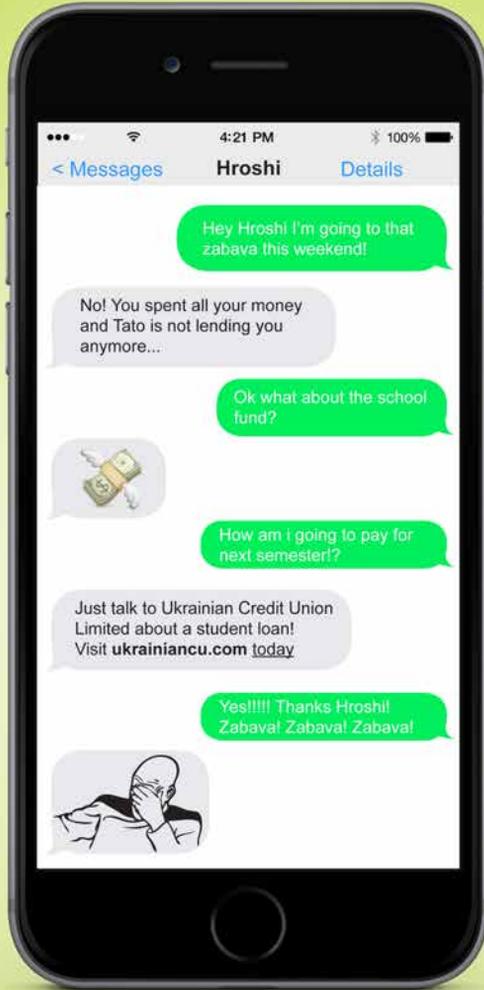
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