

FALL ISSUE 2009



UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS UNION

## President's Message

On behalf of the SUSK Executive and Ukrainian Students in Canada I am pleased to greet you as well as the rest of the Ukrainian community in Canada and around the world as Ukraine marks its 18th year of independence. In the past 18 years Ukraine has achieved very much and continues to grow and prosper. We as student's of Ukrainian origin are very fortunate that Ukrainian Independence was won within our generation; however that comes with responsibility to continue to support its struggle in developing its political and economic integrity and comes with the responsibility not to let it revert to anything less. Congratulations to Ukraine on its 18th birthday, you can now legally drink in your own country, now you just have to move out of mother Russia's home.

In opinion, the coming year looks promising, with SUSK making significant progress since its revival in 2007. The apparent resurgence of strength in the local and national Ukrainian student organizations is particularly encouraging. The group of individuals who form this year's National SUSK Executive have the qualities and energy to make the endless potential of a great upcoming year, a reality.

From my experiences working in University of Alberta's Ukrainian Student's Society, a good year is always aided by a fully active SUSK executive.

There have been many misconceptions about SUSK and what it actually does, which can create challenges for the organization. This misunderstanding should not become an excuse that leads to a lack of support for SUSK activities, but more information must be put out about SUSK's objectives and actions. This lack of information about SUSK has been felt by many generations of Ukrainians in Canada.

SUSK's main objectives are to provide wide support for each individual club's activities in various Canadian universities, promote co-operation between clubs and mobilize Ukrainian students in Canada when major issues arise. SUSK works in the general interest of the entire community and therefore deserves community support. Regardless if you are Orthodox or Catholic, a Plastun or Cymivets, a Canadian born Ukrainian or Ukrainian immigrant, everyone from this community at one point or another was, is or will be a student. Activities

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*From left to right: Paul Grod (UCC President), H.E. Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union President Marco Jacuta, Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij*

in the past have included, lobbying the federal government to formulate and develop multicultural policy, actions to encourage multilingual broadcasting, pushing for bilingual English-Ukrainian language programs in elementary schools, as well as pushing for various Ukrainian courses at post-secondary institutions across Canada.

Historically, students have always been the proponents of change, as each new generation critically re-evaluates the previous generation's faults and successes. Each generation faces new challenges. The causes may not be as palpable as for previous generations, for Ukraine is now an independent country, but that does not mean it is much less vulnerable than before. We must still work to keep it free and independent. There are other causes that are also important for Ukrainian students of today. Commemorating the past from the Holodomor to Ukrainians being interned in Canada during WWI is integral, as well as facing current issues such as the AIDS epidemic and the prevalence of human trafficking occurring in Ukraine. SUSK wants to mobilize Ukrainian-Canadian students in Canada and keep them involved.

This year the National Executive hopes to continue SUSK's activities in establishing and maintaining contact among member organizations

of SUSK and establishing new or reviving previous student organizations. We need to come up with refreshing ideas so as not to disintegrate due to lack of rejuvenation. This year there will be emphasis on SUSK's development to achieve long-term continuity, but it can't do that without the help and commitment of its member organizations. Ukrainian Student Organizations need to understand that involvement in SUSK is mutually beneficial and critical to the longevity and success of all parties involved. The success will be measured not in the number of Ukrainian student organizations involved, but rather the quality of what each local member is producing and I am confident that this year's National Executive will be able to help SUSK achieve this. There will also be emphasis on developing our contacts nationally in aims to raise the national profile of SUSK. In this respect, it was great to see over 60 registered delegates from across Canada at the National SUSK congress in Toronto.

For the 52nd National SUSK Congress, the National Executive has set the date for the weekend of February 12-14, 2010 in Edmonton to be hosted by the Ukrainian Student's Society at the University of Alberta. Much of the discussion will be on the activities of SUSK member organizations and highlights of the congress include a banquet, zabava and SUSK Alumni reunion on Saturday night. The congress will be followed by a ski trip with accommodations in the Canadian Rockies. I hope the individual members of each Ukrainian Student Organization find the prospects of the congress interesting enough that they will be able to come to Edmonton for the weekend and stay to "Kickin' it in the Kanadian Karpaty".

Davay, Stavay i Ne Zabuvay!

Marco Jacuta  
President – Ukrainian Canadian Student's Union  
(SUSK)



# the all mighty Grod

in Grod we trust



On behalf of The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union the National CYCK Executive would like to acknowledge and extend our sincere appreciation to Pavlo Grod for his continued support of CYCK.



## Lost baggage?

**Michael Ignatieff makes a feeble attempt to reconcile with the Toronto's Ukrainian Canadian community.** |By Volodymyr Vigiuliouk|

On May 8 recently minted leader of the Liberal party of Canada and the leader of the opposition, Michael Ignatieff, met with representatives and leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian community in Toronto. The event was organized by the office of Borys Wrzesnewskyj, MP for Etobicoke Centre, and was held at the Trident Banquet Hall. The meeting itself was met with mixed feelings and plenty of disapproval due to the strained relations caused by Mr. Ignatieff's depiction of Ukrainians within his book *Blood and Belonging*. The motive for such a meeting appeared quite clear to many, with a Conservative minority and the economy in turmoil, an opportunity to capture some political brownie points was at hand.

In his remarks to those in attendance, Mr. Ignatieff expressed his 'support' for Ukraine's territorial integrity, NATO membership, and support for civil society within Ukraine. There was mention of opening a visa office in Lviv, however, no promises were explicitly stated. The highlight of the meeting was supposed to be an apology made by Mr. Ignatieff for offending Ukrainians and depicting them the way he did within his book. Though this did not happen, Mr. Ignatieff instead arrogantly apologized for Ukrainians being offended and not for his offensive views. Although this sort of behaviour and arrogance did not surprise many people, it did however reveal another poor call by Borys Wrzesnewskyj. It appears as though what was to be a smooth and all serving reconciliation turned out quite messy for all parties involved.

However, at the end of the day it was just another example of political posturing and an attempt to remove political baggage in order to gain power. With nothing tangible being offered to the Ukrainian community and with no real promises made, does Mr. Ignatieff really think he can get rid of his Ukrainian problem so easily?

*"Ukrainian independence conjures up images of embroidered peasant shirts, the nasal whine of ethnic instruments, phoney cossacks in cloaks and boots, nasty anti-Semites."*

*- Blood and Belonging (1995) excerpt*



# Home with a Heart Campaign

## A Night at the Copacabana: Ukrainian Edition

[By Julia Drozdowsky]

Barry Manilow once sang that the Copacabana was the hottest spot north of Havana, but on May 22nd, 2009, the Copacabana was the hottest spot north of the 407. A Night at the Copacabana was held as a fundraiser for the Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre in Etobicoke, Ontario, and its many residents. The Home with a Heart Campaign, spearheaded by Ian Ihnatowycz

and Viktor Lischyna, began raising money for the addition, and renovation, of the 4th floor of the Care Centre, and the general upkeep of the residence.

Upon arriving, guests were personally greeted by event co-chairs Donna Ihnatowycz and Myrocia Diakyn, and were instantly transported to the days of vodka martinis, cloudy cigar rooms and sequin covered showgirls. Waiters served the evening's signature drinks and delicious hors d'oeuvres, while guests caught up with old friends and took in the Copacabana atmosphere. Feather-filled martini glass centerpieces towered over each table and the sounds of Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra filled the air. The impersonators, and their harem of Copa girls, were flown in from Las Vegas especially for the gala and kept the 500 party-goers on their feet all night.

The main success of the evening, however, rested in the message of the fundraiser's campaign. The importance of caring for our seniors was expressed several times

throughout the night, and it seemed as though, by attending the gala, each guest had promised to take care of future generations of elders in any way that they could. A Night at the Copacabana bridged three generations of Ukrainians in an effort to preserve the Ukrainian culture and to provide the quality care and attention that our seniors deserve. For one evening, young volunteers, their parents and their parents' parents all joined together to celebrate the exciting future of the Ukrainian Canadian Care Centre.

After Dean and Frank returned to Vegas and after the last gala guests put away their dancing shoes, the Home with a Heart Foundation had collected over \$150,000 for the Care Centre. Music and passion were definitely the fashion that evening. A great night for a great cause produced a great result for our very deserving senior residents.





## Community Leader

### Luba Zaraska – A Little Bit About Our Grass-roots Philanthropist |By Krystina Roman|

Philanthropist, President, CFO, VP, grassroots volunteer, mother of 3, and grandmother of 6, are just a few words used to describe Luba Zaraska. This mother and grandmother is renowned not only for her larger than life personality but more importantly her philanthropy and charity volunteering work.



Working fulltime for her entire life as a non paid employee or volunteer, as well as chair or board member of several organizations Zaraska says that, “Either you have it or you don’t,” when asked about the psyche of philanthropy. When asked to define the word philanthropy, the larger than life philanthropist herself becomes humble, modest and has to take a moment to think about it,

“I’ve never looked it up in the dictionary” is the first comment she says. This philanthropist or grass roots volunteer as she continually corrects me, just acts, does, and because of this is seen as a leader through her actions. When asked again what philanthropy means to her, Zaraska replies again very simply, “Philanthropy, to me, means helping others by any means possible.”

Citing her parents as an inspiration for her deep involvement in the community not only through funding organizations but participating and helping to enable them, she also references the Ukrainian community itself as an inspirational source. As a child she remembers that Ukrainians constantly gave, no matter how much or how little they had. This made her aware, proud of her nationality and inspired her to do the same thing. Zaraska never gives up, she’s infamous for her resiliency, never-ending positive energy, and her “Never, ever

stop” attitude. Asked where she got the inspiration for her drive Zaraska replies that a quote about perseverance told by her uncle stuck with her, “If you can’t climb - go underneath, if you can’t go up – go around. If not blast it and start all over.” If anyone has had the honour of spending 5 minutes with her they would understand she embodies and pushes the quote to new levels.

Her work kicked off when she became a part of the Parents Committee of the Ukrainian Canadian School Board over 40 years ago. While her children were attending Ukrainian school themselves Zaraska became a part of the Ukrainian Canadian School Board. This national organization aimed at uniting, creating, operating all Ukrainian school programs across the country, whether in day school, evenings or weekends and ranging from programs for JK, SK to high school was in need of new guidance, and modernization. During the late 1960’s Zaraska became the PTA president as soon as she began to become involved. By taking an active role and with goals to update funds, equipment, skills as well as awareness she quickly moved up through the ranks of the organization to become the president of the entire organization. By expanding the school base, Zaraska had a major influence on the shape of the organization today. Starting with approximately less than 10 schools nationwide, there are now 33 Ukrainian Canadian designated schools in Ontario alone (with 19 located in the Toronto area), and even more programs than ever before. As a graduate of the program she helped to rebuild and strengthen, it was an honour to meet such an inspirational philanthropist.

Although she impacted the school board greatly this was just one of the many roles she played throughout her philanthropy career. At any given moment in her life Zaraska is associated with a minimum of 3 organizations, all the while not being simply an active or enthusiastic participant but a president, founder, executive, board member, volunteer as well as an important contributor. Zaraska and her husband are large supporters of the arts and helped to shape and found includes the Ukrainian Millennium Foundation. Created in 1986 by Zaraska and other philanthropists, this organization was created to help



unify the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches, celebrate the millennia of Ukrainian Christianity as well as create an arm for funding art, cultural and musical projects. Although based on awareness and education, this cultural Foundation began in Toronto and currently has branches in Edmonton, Chicago, New York, California and even England. Most recently, as the VP of Sponsorship she raised \$2 million for the new Bortniansky Project, whose goal it was to teach the pronunciation and articulation of the Church Slavonic language to non-Ukrainian speakers. Donating both her time and available funds, again she succeeded in creating another lasting organization for the Ukrainian community not only in Canada this time, but globally as well.

After starting to become involved in the community Zaraska started to realize that money is not the only thing required by many organizations, but her time and expertise. She likes to be referred to as a grassroots philanthropist because, "A little goes a long way. All the things really touch people on an elementary level. It's about the real action – blend of time, money and resources that really helps the community the most." Through all these accomplishments Zaraska shows no signs of slowing down, as she is still an active member of several organizations, continues her Tuesday Community Days and overall is a shining example of a community believer who lead through her actions. When asked what keeps her going, she responds, "The results tend to inspire me. You make one person's life different and then you can never stop." Her efforts to make Canadian citizens of Ukrainian nationality proud, aware, knowledgeable and united have been truly remarkable. Her ultimate goal of instilling the wisdom to "Give back to your community, you live in it," will continue to reverberate throughout Ukrainian Canadian history.

*\* To meet and network with community leaders such as Luba, register to take part in the Great lakes SUSK Regional Congress.*

*Visit **SUSK.CA** to register and for more details.*

2009

## SUSK REGIONAL CONFERENCE

### Great Lakes - Toronto

**date** September 26, 2009

**place** **KUMF Gallery**  
2118-A Bloor St.W. suite 204  
Toronto, ON M6S 1M8

**time** 12:30-5:30

#### **Program Includes:**

Network fellow executives from all over southern Ontario

Organize your energies during our planning session for all clubs.

Meet and learn from experienced community leaders during workshops.



## Aspiring Artist

**Local Artist Shows Us What We've Lost** | by  
Matthew Cherkas

The visual arts have always been a way to convey concepts, and the art of printmaking has democratized that communication. Oksana Hawrylak's work keeps in step with this framework, and often conveys a clear nature oriented message that can be related to in these times of big environmental choices faced by governments and individuals alike.



*Oksana printing one of the many layers using lithography*

Hawrylak is a student at the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) and is majoring in Printmaking. At the time of printing, Hawrylak's work was on display in the Whippersnapper Gallery, as part of a group exhibition of printmaking students at OCAD. The show displays their lithograph work, a printing process that uses limestone and various chemicals to produce quality images. It is also from where the modern process of offset lithography that is used by all publications evolved. Trees are a notable theme throughout her work, but they represent more than just a tree.

In her piece, "To be continued..." which is based on the paneled comic book style, a tree is shown, and it exclaims a lonely "Hello?" In the next panel, a tree stump is shown with the classic comic sign of frustration, "?@#!" In the background of this panel is a polluted city sky line. The message is clear that we have lost our ability to communicate with nature, and the urban sprawl that destroys woodlands will not stop anytime soon. "The title and the art work together to make my message clear and simple," Hawrylak says. However, one can read into it further and find other subjective ideas.

Hawrylak's series "Lost & Found" is made of twelve prints that would not have nearly as much meaning if presented individually. She says the images in it are, "Things that I own, or things that I want to own, that are all made by hand or are analogue technology." Six of the prints are these objects and they are all found among trees. The other six are made up of the words "the trees", "the sky", and "the fox" on various colours. In this piece, Hawrylak is saying that we have largely lost the art of crafting things by hand, due to the industrialization of society. The words are indicating that the pure image of these things has faded away from nature and our minds because of life in the city, and all that remains is the abstract idea represented by the word.

The final piece is a triptych, which are three separate prints that come together to make a dynamic message. The three prints are very similar at first glance, but a closer look reveals very different images. The first print is a view of a forest with various trees. The second is a view of a magical forest, with doors in the trees and orbs of light floating about. The third image is unnerving and carries the most weight, depicting a city that has sprawled uncontrollably into the forest, the remaining evidence of it being tree stumps. The message here is that the urban development we experience today has replaced the imagination of the ancients when they lived in harmony with nature. The first two represent things to which the majority of western civilization cannot relate. "You can walk in a forest, but chances are you don't live in a forest," Hawrylak says, "I am not against cutting down a tree to make some things, but it should be done responsibly." The triptych adds to the whole message that with our desire for money and material success, we have forgotten about nature and the harmony, peacefulness, and imagination it can bring to one's life.

Overall, the set of work up in the gallery transmits an overarching message of the schism between humanity and nature because of the industrialization and digitalization of society, and Hawrylak's desire to reconnect with what has been lost.

*\* continue next page for images of prints*



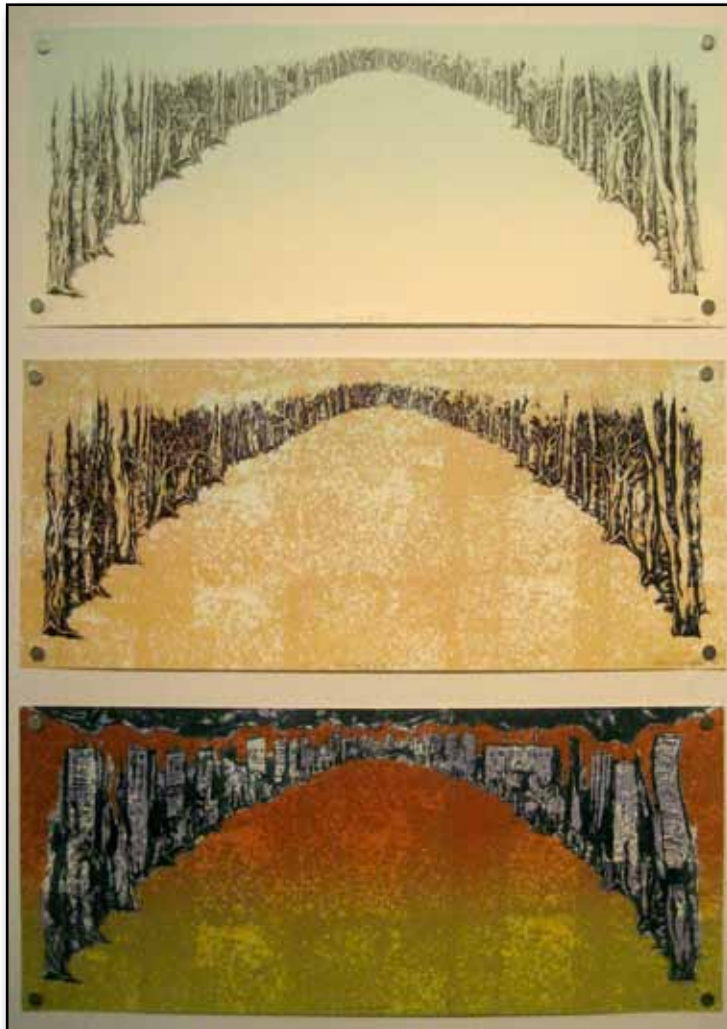




*Left: To be continued...Part I, and To be continued...Part II*

*Bottom left: This is a Forest, This is a Magical Forest, This is No Longer a Forest, Triptic, Lithographs 2009*

*Bottom right: close up detail of the print "This is a Forest"*



*"I am not against cutting down a tree to make some things, but it should be done responsibly."  
- Oksana Hawrylak*



# Родинне Дерево - Дарунок для Майбутніх Поколінь

Пригоди землі на Закерзонні | Андрій Водославський |

Чи ви коли цікавилися бабиними і дідовими оповіданнями? Напевно багато з нас любили слухати про їхні пригоди, і страшилися їхнім нещастям, але на жаль, мало хто з нас у дитинстві записував ті розповіді, та пам'ять наших родичів незадовго попаде в темноту загубленої історії.

Але є надія! Ще не за пізно почати записувати свою родинну історію!

Від початку, це може здаватися велетенським вивозом, бо незнається де то почати, і як то назбирати інформацію легко. Від свого досвіду у ці справі (що у нашій родині вже сягає до 1844 року), даю такі поради щоб відразу олекшити працю:

1) Треба собі поставити межі. Це не реалістично досліджувати про "усіх" в родині. Добрий початок, це може буди фокус на один 'ланцюг' походження. На приклад: я, мама, мамині батьки, їхні батьки, ітд.

2) Розпитати серед родини, чи може хтось вже має якусь інформацію записану.

3) Розпитати по родичах хто має знімки (підписані) і документи (на приклад: паспорт), що можете обсканувати до вашої книжки.

4) Готуйте собі схеми зв'язків кожної малої родини, тобто батьків і дітей, бо повних схем ("дерев") часом тяжко вмістити на одну сторінку.

Наступня фаза, це збирати інтерв'ю. Відвідайте бабу та діда, та питаєте про їхніх родичів, чим займалися коли були молодими, як пережили Голодомор, війни, Акцію Вісла, і так далі. Часом старші не будуть хотіти говорити по деяких темах, але не піддавайтесь!

Щоб собі полекшити інтерв'ю,

можете користуватися digital audio recorder, або як маєте компютер з мікрофоном, то можна собі зняти з інтернету такі програми як Audacity, що вам дадуть вмільсть записувати розмови на пізнішу аналізу.

Після кілька сесій інтерв'ю, та з кількома знімками, вже є гарний початок книжки родинної історії. Щоб святкувати, виберіте одне місце, що вашій родині дуже важливе; тая поїдьте там відвідати. Нема такого, щоб стояти на тих самих стежках де баба і дідо ходили, і зберегти їхню пам'ять для наступного покоління.

Бажаю вам щастя і великого успіху!

Андрій Водославський  
УСК – Торонто



*"Андрій цього літа відвідав свої предківські землі на Закерзонні, та і знайшов гроби деяких своїх бабів і дідів. На знімці, Андрій клякає біля гробу своєї пра-пра-бабці, 1834-1944, поставивши нові свічки і квітки."*



## UCC meets with Michael Ignatieff

**Primary issue advanced on behalf of SUSK was youth mobility regimes.** |By Danylo Korbabicz|

This past month, SUSK was given the distinct opportunity to engage with this nation's political leadership. As part of a small delegation headed by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, our External Relations Director, Danylo Korbabicz, joined other representatives for a two-hour meeting with Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Official Opposition and Liberal Party of Canada. The meeting took place in Toronto at Campbell House on July 31st. The meeting began with Ignatieff speaking to some of the controversies stemming from his book and documentary *Blood and Belonging*. He started by highlighting his family ties to Ukraine as well as his frequent visits there. In response to past criticisms, he stated unequivocally that "there exist derogatory terms, with which I wish to disassociate myself...I believe that the Ukrainian people are a great nation and support the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine." After this statement the discussions centred on issues of importance to the Ukrainian Community. Collectively community representatives addressed Ukrainian social, economic, and democratic development, the prospect of NATO integration, the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, Ukrainian Internment, and the recent cutting of funds to Ukrainian programming at Radio Canada International. Of special note was the conversation Danylo advanced regarding a proposed Canada-Ukraine Youth Mobility Agreement. SUSK has been a strong proponent of lessening Canadian visa regimes for Ukrainian youth, and more specifically, university students. Canada currently has active Youth Mobility Agreements with several East European states, including Poland. The creation of these agreements has resulted in more than 22,000 young



Canadians choosing to travel and work abroad in approximately 40 countries each year, and 36,000 foreign youth working and travelling in Canada. SUSK believes that strengthening these type of diplomatic ties with Ukraine will help advance a broad range of goals relating to democratization, economic advancement, and social integration. Danylo noted that programs such as the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Internship Program need to be advanced more aggressively, in order to expose Ukrainian youth to Western models of civic engagement, free markets, and free media. The endeavours also help strengthen ties between the Diaspora and Ukraine. Furthermore, Youth Mobility Agreements are also typically seen as enablers of lesser visa restrictions more broadly, if they are proven to be successful. At the end of the meeting both the Ukrainian Canada Congress and Ignatieff's office released concurrently a press release which highlighted some of these policy discussions. SUSK will continue to advance Youth Mobility at future meetings with other parliamentarians.







FEBRUARY 12-17, 2010

WATCH WWW.SUSK.CA FOR DETAILS.  
"KICKIN' IT IN THE KANADIAN KARPATY"  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

OUTLINE  
OF  
CONGRESS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Registration  
Hospitality Suite  
Horilka Hoedown

SATURDAY FEB 13

Opening Ceremonies  
SUSK Executive Elections  
Professional Development Seminars  
Zabava

SUNDAY FEB 14

SUSK Seminars  
Resolutions

MONDAY FEB 15

TO  
WEDNESDAY FEB 17

Kickin' it in the Kanadian Karpaty Ski Trip  
Accommodation in the Canadian Rockies  
Featuring Bar Night and Varta  
and a visit to the Hot Springs

Hosted by the Ukrainian Students' Society  
watch [www.susk.ca](http://www.susk.ca) for details and registration info.

To submit articles for future issues of **STUDENT**, email the SUSK Media director at [n.kalimin@gmail.com](mailto:n.kalimin@gmail.com). Submit articles, news, reviews, opinions, jokes, bios, fan mail, student journey stories, art, poetry, success stories and so on. Everything is accepted.



**Special thank you** to the Ukrainian Credit Union for their donation to print this issue of STUDENT.



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**УСУУКС**

