



President's Message

Olena Kit, McMaster University

I am about to finish my fourth and final year of my undergraduate degree at McMaster University, where I have accomplished my most impressive academic work, written dozens of essays and exams, involved myself in a variety of extracurricular activities, and also rediscovered my Ukrainian identity by joining the Ukrainian students' organization on campus.

We all have our own unique medley of capability and incapability. We won't all be straight A students, star athletes, or club presidents. But what we can be is a group of people at post secondary institutions across Canada that is passionate about being Ukrainian regardless of whether we are Catholic or Orthodox; CYM, CYMK, MUNO or Plast; born in Eastern Europe or North America.

Passion. The one emotion you should not live without while being a Ukrainian student in Canada. Be passionate about your Ukrainian roots, history, language, and traditions, and these years as a student will

not only be complete with challenges and memories, it will also help you preserve and promote our vibrant Ukrainian Canadian culture.

Olena Kit, SUSK President
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A Case of Equivocated Democracy, Ukraine's Bitter Trial

Kateryna Ivanchenko, University of Ottawa

On October 11th a Kyiv court sentenced Ukraine's most prominent leader of opposition, who is also the country's former Prime Minister, to seven years in jail. A sentence that is only recognized as illegitimate and politically motivated in the rest of the democratic world, accuses Tymoshenko for exceeding her authority in spearheading a natural gas deal with Russia. This verdict is the final shot in the face of democracy that has never truly manifested itself. The consequences are dire – the country's only chance that took nearly twenty-one years to ascend, the "Association Agreement" with the European Union, is





fleeing. While EU leverage can tip the domestic political balance in favour of liberal democracy, Ukraine will witness the pendulum swing further in the opposite direction.

Unsurprisingly, upon imprisonment of Tymoshenko, Yanukovych's visit to Brussels to further the "Association Agreement" has been called off. Ukraine is forced to seek a revival of its relations with Russia, to survive economically and satisfy its hunger for much necessary resources Russia holds in abundance.



With open arms Russia will accept Ukraine's further descent into economic dependence in exchange for a discount on gas prices, with a modest condition to set aside the idea of European integration, and join the newly proposed Moscow-led trade block.

A step in either direction will have its costs and consequences. Freeing Tymoshenko and reinforcing relations with the EU will pave

Ukraine's way to democratic consolidation. Without a doubt, the release of Tymoshenko is a step in the right direction, but are the consequences of spoiling an already hostile relation, with Ukraine's primary trade partner in pursuit of European accession, too dire? An undeniable link ties Ukraine and Russia through time and space. But has this relationship always been a positive one for Ukraine? Evidently not. It is not necessary to bring up Holodomor, to get the point across, but it is the most drastic of examples of the extent to which this relationship disproportionately disadvantages Ukraine. Drawing from the recent past, consider this: cutting off heat in the midst of winter in millions of homes to simply get a point across. Evidently a portrayal of a stable and reciprocally beneficial relationship at its best...

Dwelling on that and the prospect of a further derailment to dark and dire authoritarianism, let's consider the standpoint of an average Ukrainian. Let's put ourselves in the shoes of those who decisively took a stand in defense of democracy seven years ago. Tens of thousands of people who resisted injustice on Khreschatyk saw Ukraine rise from its knees and hoped to see it takeoff, leaving behind post-Soviet pathologies once and for all. At what point



did we lose the hope? Why did we let go of the momentum of that newfound freedom? The Orange Revolution was supposed to have been a proud chapter of our history. It was supposed to have marked the ending of our totalitarian past and paved the way to our democratic future.



Seven years later, we see our values and democracy on trial once again. We are seduced by Russia's promises of stability and frightened by European Union's lack thereof. In the meantime in Ukraine, corruption is absurd, freedom is silenced and people are hopeless. Yet, we are not where we have started seven years ago. "Association and Free Trade Agreement" between Ukraine and the European Union is within our reach, thereby a hope to solidify our independence and democracy for good. Let not the light of compromise shed the prospect of the fight for what is right. Decisively, collectively we are to take a stance, to embrace freedom and

independence, accept the temporary setback it prescribes, and manifest a brighter future for tomorrow. Ukraine's citizens cannot afford to see the sunset over freedom, dignity and greatness, and for decades retrieve into the familiar darkness of authoritarianism. For all the reasons that united us seven years ago, are all there still. "What seems to us as bitter trials are often blessings in disguise" (Oscar Wilde).

- Kateryna Ivanchenko

A Showcase of SUSK History: "Student" Digitizing Project

Mila Luchak, University of Alberta

Flipping through old and slightly tattered "Student/СТУДЕНТ" magazine issues dating back several decades is certainly eye opening. You will find articles on topics that vary from being strongly political to purely light-hearted, such as documenting the protests that student groups held over the imprisonment of Soviet dissident and human rights activist Valentyn Moroz to notices regarding the "Garlic Recipe Contest". Page after page, one can see the rich history SUSK has held since 1953, and the passion for being Ukrainian Canadian is evident in every issue.



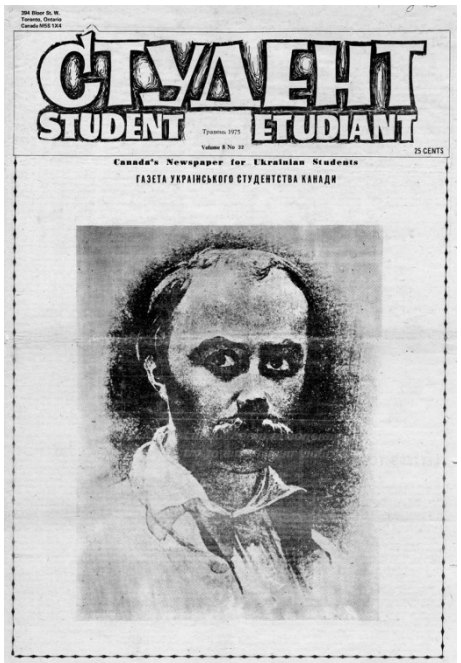
“Student” has been the primary publication and means of communication among student groups in the Ukrainian Canadian Students’ Union (SUSK). Although the more recent publications have been digitized and are available on the SUSK website, decades of issues remain in hard copy form. There runs a risk that many of these issues could be damaged or lost, losing the rich and thorough documentation of SUSK history.

During the 53rd National SUSK Congress in Ottawa a resolution was carried emphasizing the importance “to preserve materials that were published and were substantial to the success of “Student” and that the incoming Executive continue with the “Student” digitization project.

Therefore, issues of “Student” are currently being digitized at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. The goal is to have every issue accessible and archived online for students and alumni to search and read.

Digitizing “Student” will not only preserve hard copy issues that are deteriorating in quality but will also serve as a resource for current SUSK executive and members. Searching the issues online will enable quick access to read on particular people and

historical events pertaining directly to SUSK or beyond, with Canada Ukraine relations. Furthermore, alumni will have the opportunity to read on various opinion



pieces and reminisce their SUSK days.

However, such a project involves a significant amount of time in order to carefully scan each issue and archive the publications in an organized fashion. SUSK would like to extend a sincere thank you to Jars Balan (a former SUSK president) for providing his collection of issues and to Peter Holloway (Peter and Doris Kule Centre for



Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore, University of Alberta) for his assistance with technological logistics. The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta has also provided immense support from the initial stages of the project.

Currently, 2011-2012 SUSK executive members Stephan Bociurkiw (VP Finance) and Mila Luchak (VP Western Region) are compiling and scanning "Student" issues. If you have any suggestions to offer regarding the project, please feel free to contact SUSK.

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Life After Undergrad; Finding Meaning in the Workplace

Olenka Reshitnyk, University of Ottawa

My name is Olenka Reshitnyk. I am 22 years old. I come from a culturally strong Ukrainian family of five and I am the youngest of three sisters. I am a recent graduate of the University of Ottawa's Communications program, with a minor in Business.

As a Ukrainian Ottawa Native, I was an active member of the Ukrainian Scouting

Organization, PLAST. I have been, and continue to be, an active member of the Ukrainian-Canadian community across Canada by participating in SUSK Congresses, attending Ukrainian "Zabavas" (dances/galas), Ukrainian festivals and taking part in the University of Ottawa Students' Club activities. I also had previously lived in Kyiv, Ukraine in 2009 and worked at the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine.

I have always been proud of my Ukrainian roots and now more than ever I have the ability to have an impact in the Ukrainian Canadian community. I graduated from the University of Ottawa this past spring (2011) and, at the time, I had a Government job awaiting me. However, due to a lack of practice in my French language, I was unable to attain the position and lost the job. At the time, I felt completely lost. I did not want to start off my new adult life without a job.

Then the unthinkable happened. In May of this past spring, I attended the SUSK Congress here in Ottawa. I met Taras Zalusky, the Executive Director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). He had given a seminar on UCC and spoke about a position they were opening up for a graduate student to work for them. Soon after he spoke, I introduced myself and I knew right then and there, I wanted that job.

I began my summer by moving to Jonquière, Quebec to take French at the Cégep. I





thought this would help get back that Government job I had so easily lost by two marks in the French testing. Between learning French and enjoying my summer off, I met with Taras and we spoke about the option of me working for UCC. And once August came around, I was hired.

I joined the UCC Ottawa office as Coordinator of Stakeholder relations. As Coordinator of Stakeholder Relations, I provide Administrative support for the Board and Executive Committee, assist with written public communications, and help with event planning and implementing the current fundraising plan. This fall, I have worked on following events, *Ukrainian Day on the Hill* (in Ottawa) to commemorate 120 years of Ukrainian settlement in Canada and *The Stephen Harper Tribute* (in Toronto) where the Prime Minister of Canada, the Hon. Stephen Harper, was given the highest award in the Ukrainian-Canadian community, The Taras Shevchenko Medallion. Through these experiences, I have had the honour of meeting so many wonderful people from the House of Commons and individuals in our Ukrainian community in Canada.

I could have never gotten to where I am today if it wasn't for organizations like SUSK and UCC that bring various Ukrainian Canadian organizations together as one. They have helped me get involved and meet individuals who have helped me further my goals and aspirations. I have not only been

able to improve my own work experience and skills, but I've been able to give back to the Ukrainian Canadian community that has had, and continues to have an impact on my life and has helped me become the individual I am today.

- Olenka Reshitnyk



The Forum of Ukrainian Youth in the Diaspora in Kyiv

Olena Kit, McMaster University

Ukrainian youth leaders from around the world travelled to Kyiv at the end of August for the Forum of Ukrainian Youth in the Diaspora. The forum is the first of its kind since Ukraine gained its independence twenty years ago. It brought together 50 representatives from 30 countries from Asia,



Australia, Europe, and North America. Organizers of the forum included the “Conference of Ukrainian Youth Organizations (KUMO)” of the Ukrainian World Congress, and “Young People’s Movement”, a youth organization based in Ukraine.

The forum was comprised of several conference meetings, workshops on fundraising, project management, and public relations, as well as excursions to Kaniy, Chyhyryn, and through Kyiv. During the forum, delegates met with prominent political and social figures of Ukraine such as Mykola Tomenko, Deputy of Ukraine of Verkhovna Rada; Borys Tarasyuk, Chairmen of the Committee on European Integration of Verkhovna Rada; and Oleh Tyahnybok, leader of All Ukrainian Union “Freedom”.

state with a transparent government. Many of the delegates expressed their protest against the political reappraisal against Yulia Tymoshenko and other representatives of the opposition. Youth in the diaspora are encouraged to follow such events in Ukraine, recognize them as a violation of human rights, and to actively defend the national interests of Ukraine, which are to preserve its national identity.

The Forum of Ukrainian Youth in the Diaspora analyzed a variety of problems and adopted various projects such as creating a cooperation between the Conference of Ukrainian Youth Organizations (KUMO) and relevant ministries in Ukraine and creating a networking tool using new technologies to develop a data base for contacts and various communication capabilities. This database would also be used to inform Ukrainians in Ukraine and in the diaspora about events occurring worldwide. Further, delegates of the Forum of Ukrainian Youth in the Diaspora agreed that holding annual forums, conferences, and meetings for Ukrainian youth will strengthen our community and allow for the implementation of joint projects between



All the delegates of the Forum of Ukrainian Youth in the Diaspora

For many in the young diaspora the priority is to establish Ukraine as a democratic nation



youth organization in the diaspora and in Ukraine.

The forum itself was rich and acted as a great environment for desires, dreams, and future achievements on cooperation of youth organizations in the Ukrainian diaspora. Now we must develop cooperation in other areas, mainly between the youth organizations of the diaspora and with organizations in Ukraine. And fortunately for the younger generation, the modern world provides all the resources; we just need to use them.

The Ukrainian diaspora is becoming one of the largest communities in the world. They are the Ukrainians who remain Ukrainian at heart, who are willing towards a better Ukraine, yet they do not ask for anything in return. However, a large problem is that Ukrainians living in Ukraine are not informed much about Ukrainians in the diaspora.

Throughout the week long forum, identity

preservation problems in the diaspora were uncovered. The assimilation of identities and the loss of Ukrainian identity are more prevalent amongst newly emigrated Ukrainians. Unfortunately, many of these Ukrainians prefer to forget or not advertise their Ukrainian nationality. This problem commands attention as the reduction of Ukrainian national pride can be foreseen as a serious concern and affects all Ukrainians regardless of when they migrated.

The role of the Ukrainian youth in the diaspora is of great importance with regards to preserving the culture of the Ukrainian community for future generations. It is inspiring for many closer to Ukraine to see young individuals who are fourth generation abroad know the Ukrainian history, language, songs, and traditions. As Ukrainian students in Canada, I believe we should make every effort not to lose the Ukrainian language and culture. In doing so, Ukrainian students can promote ties and consolidate efforts to unify young Ukrainians into one cohesive powerful entity.



Canadian Delegates at the Forum with Dr. Hawrylyshn. (Left to Right: Adriana Sirskyj of Ottawa(PLAST), Natalie Witiuk of Toronto(MUNO), Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, Olena Kit of Hamilton(SUSK), Kristin Glover of Toronto(MUNO))

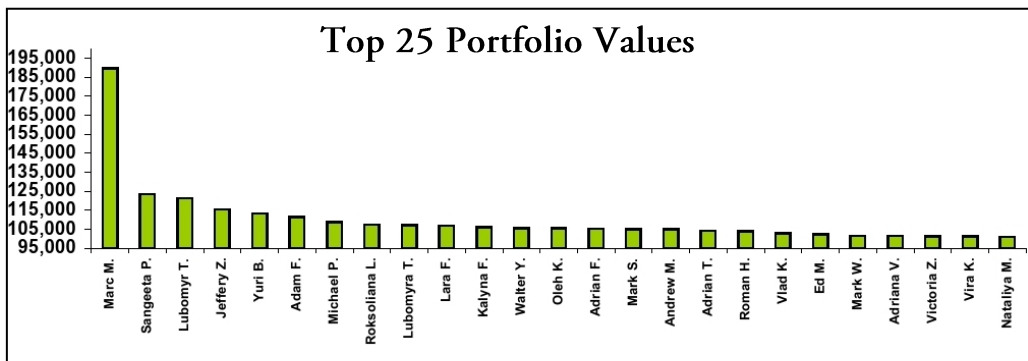


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UCU **УКС**

**INVESTMENT
CHALLENGE**
UPDATE

We officially kicked off the UCU Investment Challenge on October 27th with 49 participants of which almost 30% are students at various Canadian universities!



This chart shows the top 25 portfolios as of November 4th. Marc M. is the runaway leader so far, so the other contestants will have to base their strategies on making some smart trades on November 17th if they want to claim the \$1,000 first prize. Otherwise it will be a battle for second place among the 48 contests who are trailing Marc. But there is still a chance though, Marc's portfolio is actually down from its peak value so don't give up hope! Visit our website to see more recent status charts.



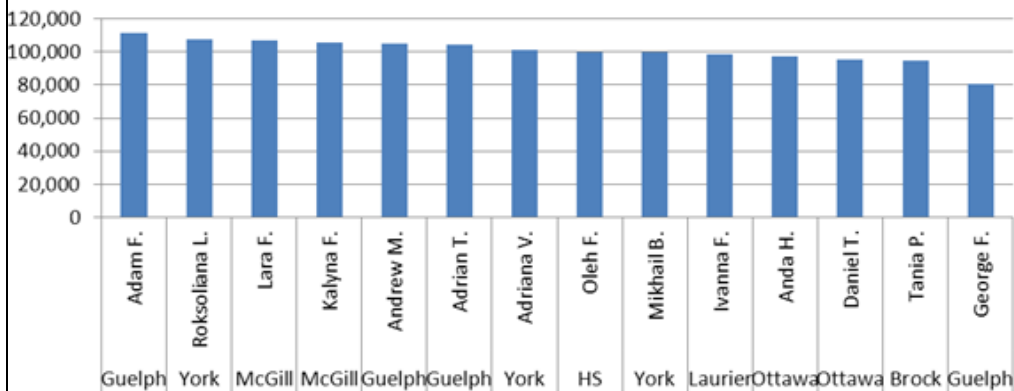
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УСУ **УКС**

**INVESTMENT
CHALLENGE**
UPDATE

Among the students participating Adam F. is out front, followed closely by Roksoliana L. and Lara F. Guelph has the most participants so far (4 – Go Guelph)

Student Portfolio Values



We are very happy to have SUSK and some of the local Ukrainian Student Clubs involved in this challenge to help us raise awareness about it. In fact, there has been so much interest that we are going to hold a second contest starting on January 13th, 2012.

You can read more about the contest on our website (www.ukrainiancu.com) and follow regular commentary on our blog <http://ucu-building-community.blogspot.com> by Mike Zienchuk, Manager Wealth Strategies Group. If you want to sign up to the second round ahead of time, send Mike an email at mzienchuk@ukrainiancu.com or call him at 416-705-3634.



Small Town Musings

Gregory Cholkan, Queens University

Being a Torontonion, and having been a member of the Ukrainian Clubs at both McGill University and the University of Ottawa, I have seen firsthand the advantages of running a club in cities with, relatively speaking, large Ukrainian communities. Most of these advantages have to do with the ability to generate revenue through fundraising activities. But there are other advantages. For example, when people bring a guest lecturer to Ottawa, they can generally count on their fantastic Ukrainian community for support- especially when it comes to attendance. They are less likely, though not immune, to experience the awkward situation of bringing a guest speaker to an empty room. In a city like Kingston, however, there is no such luxury. At times we have been timid to stage events precisely because of attendance concerns. It may be argued that this has more to do with our ability to advertise our events to the Queen's community at large- and, maybe, this is true to a certain degree. On the other hand, from my experiences in Montreal and Ottawa, no matter how many members a club has, generally speaking only 10-15 of these people regularly show up to non-social drinking events. Without having

community members who aren't students present at such events, we run the risk of embarrassing the speakers who have taken their valuable time to come lecture. Financially speaking, it may not be worth the time or money to bring a speaker from Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal to Kingston when we run the risk of having only ten people show up. And realistically, most of our speakers need to be from other cities- there just aren't enough professors here that can lecture on Ukrainian topics. Certainly, idealistic readers will pipe up and say: "Do it anyways! You're just making excuses! It's worth the time and money even if 5 people show up!"

And so we get to the real problem- money. Many clubs generate revenue in the following prototypical ways: Koliada, Zabavas, selling Varenyky, general donations. Right off the bat, our club at Queen's is disadvantaged. Koliada here is essentially impossible, at least as a means of raising money. Similarly, we cannot expect too much from general donations, at least on a local level (we have some support, but we neither can't nor shouldn't always rely on the same generous donors). It is a HUGE risk to throw a zabava here - the costs of bringing in a band from Toronto are high, and we would have to hope that somehow we could





entice a large amount of non-Ukrainians to pay \$5 or, more likely, \$10 to attend such an event. Moreover, we have very little cash to begin with, so we'd likely have to go into debt, meaning that we'd probably need to use some of the club members' own money, to have that kind of event- which is totally fine if SUSK is cool with bailouts. This is a shame because precisely those kinds of events draw people to join Ukrainian clubs- especially those who have never had an opportunity to be part of a Ukrainian organization or community. I'm not arguing that all of this is impossible, especially if such an effort was made with the assistance of other clubs, *a la* the very successful Eastern Bloc Parties in Ottawa- nevertheless, it's a big challenge. Selling varenyky, as people from other clubs know, is easy in some places, and difficult in others- this all depends on a school's particular policy regarding the selling of food. It may be the most viable option for us- perhaps something we'll try in the future. We've also had some success, due to some financial help from donors, selling our club t-shirts (sigma, omega, tryzub!).

Here's where SUSK comes in. As I've understood it, SUSK is meant to help individual clubs for the most part, and not vice versa. Otherwise, why would a

particular club want to be a part of SUSK? Obviously, there needs to be reciprocity between individual clubs and SUSK- we are asked to write articles, for instance, and I'm certainly not suggesting that there should be no such requirements. In fact, I'm all for them. But how will SUSK help us? With no disrespect intended, SUSK will not help us by giving us new ideas or insights- the intentions behind such ideas are good, but, as Ned Flanders pointed out so aptly: you can't feed your family on good intentions. Rather, SUSK can help us by giving us- you guessed it- cold, hard cash.

I'm not advocating a no strings attached, here's \$400 no questions asked kind of system. Rather, SUSK could implement a system whereby clubs can send in proposals to ask for certain amounts of money for certain projects- a we want to bring Professor X from city Y on date Z kind of system. If such proposals are approved, SUSK can provide some money on the condition that the club return a transparent expense report, any leftover money, and maybe even a picture or two from the actual event to prove that it did in fact take place. We can get really funky with the conditions of the grants - I'm not against that - it's SUSK's money and ultimately it should decide how the money is used. But perhaps with this kind of





system clubs will recognize that there are tangible benefits to being part of SUSK. Just an idea.

Note: I was going to look at SUSK's financial statements from last year and argue, in the event that there is a moderate to substantial amount of cash currently in the organization, that the cash should be spent rather than sat on. Large charitable organizations, for instance, like to keep their net income low because a high net income suggests that the organization actually has more money than it needs- and so potential donors may think that their money is not really needed. However, I did not have my SUSK congress booklet with me and could not find the financial statements anywhere else. I would suggest to SUSK that it is in its best interest to make these statements readily available and more accessible. Not only do donors and potential donors like to see how cash is spent, so too should clubs be able to ascertain SUSK's financial state, as they pay membership fees to be part of the organization.

- Gregory Cholkan

Ukrainian Students Society at the University of Alberta: Update 2011 *Adrian Warchola, University of Alberta*

The Ukrainian Students Society 2011-2012 year is off to a fantastic start! The USS executive spent the first few days of U of A's Week of Welcome festivities rounding up new members, and welcoming back others. Our club was even mentioned in an article in the Edmonton Journal-a local newspaper, promoting our club as open to all who are interested in Ukrainian culture!



The "Lemka Vatra" Free Member Welcome BBQ and AGM officially started off the year on a high note with members winning ski trips, gift cards, and more! In October, Lucky 13 Dance Pub was where all the Ukrainians were having fun at the "Get Lucky with Ukrainian's" night, which featured Ukrainian DJ Supersky, and free shot glass giveaways courtesy of Souvenir



Vodka, and the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce.

Ukrainians at the U of A will be commemorating and spreading awareness on campus about the Holodomor Famine-Genocide with a two-week exhibit set up in Cameron Library, and a showing of the award winning film, Genocide Revealed.

Cassian Soltykevych, Khrystyna Pikh, Nazar Poritski, Meagan Diduck, and Rebecca Kuchmak. We will continue spreading Ukrainian pride on campus, and supporting all things Ukrainian!

Adrian Warchola
2011-2012 President
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Of course, the aroma of kubasa, pyrohy, and fried onions will continue to hit campus throughout this year as we fire up the good ol' "BaBaQ." Plans for the rest of the year include more pub nights, cultural activities, and a wicked ski-trip to Canada's own Karpaty!

I look forward to sharing the memories this year with the 2011-2012 USS executive; Amy Yaremcio, Zenon Bihun, Sasha Vorotilenko, Nick Podilsky, Sabina Proctor, Dillon Gara, Kirk Winnick, Jonathon Hlus,

Update from the UWO
Ana Ostapchuk, University of Western Ontario

This year, the UWO Ukrainian Students' Club has reached record membership numbers of 59 members, compared to 35 last year! And this number continues to grow as the year goes on. This significant increase is the result of the growing presence of the Ukrainian Club on campus and within the London Ukrainian Community. Through word of mouth non Ukrainians are joining the club! The exec this year is comprised of: President Anastasia Ostapchuk, VP Finance Danylo Kostruba, VP Social/Communications Lyuba Lytvyn, VP London Community Relations Aleksa Dzyubak, VP Creative Bridget Collings, Vice President Diana Stepczuk, and First Year Rep Tanya Hussar.

The club has already hosted its first Perogie Night potluck of the year with the highest



turn out of the club's existence. Members were taught how to make authentic Ukrainian varenyky, which were then served with sour cream of the highest fat content we could possibly find. Club members also showcased their Ukrainian cooking skills by bringing other traditional Ukrainian foods to the potluck. Throughout the evening many shots of Slava Vodka were had, accompanied by toasts of "бУДЬМО." Club members left Perogie Night completely full and satisfied, and excited about upcoming events.

Aside from Perogie Night the club has begun the year with greater involvement within the London Ukrainian Community. UWO Students were welcomed to a lunch gathering celebrating 120 years of Ukrainian settlement in Canada, filled with great food, dancing and theatrical performances.

A number of events are planned for the remainder of the semester, including a Holodomor Awareness Day in the University Community Centre, which will feature a poster exhibit, and where Western students will have the opportunity to get further information from the exec; a Holodomor Exhibit in the University's main library which will showcase information for the last two weeks of November; and a Pub Night at the beginning of December.

- Ana Ostapchuk

Toronto Ukrainian Festival

Larissa Schieven, Carleton University

As night falls on Toronto's Bloor West Village the music of guitars, drums and accordions echoes through the streets. The crowded beer patio fills with people of all ages. Hundreds clap and sing along to a lively Ukrainian polka. Men twirl their partners across the dance floor, high heels clicking in time with the music. University students bump into their parents. Old friends and distant cousins reunite on the dance floor. Shouts of "I haven't seen you in so long, how are you?" abound. Cousins, aunts, and uncles exchange family news. Recent graduates update their old dance instructors, Ukrainian school teachers and camp counsellors on their adult lives. Friends lean over the fence and wave to passerby, summoning others to join them inside.

The narrow beer patio, stretching nearly one block in each direction, is crowded and warm, sheltered from the chilly evening air. From the food table, the scent of fresh, buttery perogies and garlic sausages wafts through the covered area. The crowded tables, narrow walkway and undersized dance floor leave little room for personal space. Young men carry plastic cups of Ukrainian beer above their heads, trying not to spill on oncoming traffic. Occasional spills and mishaps are forgiven with good-natured laughter. No one seems to mind the sticky floor.



Outside the beer patio, a cool September breeze whistles through the streets. Thousands of visitors meander through the neighbourhood at the annual Toronto Ukrainian Festival. The length of the road, closed to vehicular traffic for the weekend, is transformed by vigorous music, vibrant colours, and traditional costumes. Vendors sell embroidered blouses, flowered wreaths, rich food and contemporary Ukrainian music.

At the outdoor stage, a Ukrainian dance ensemble rushes back for an encore performance, still flushed and out of breath. The young men's vibrant Cossack pants billow in the air when they jump to do the splits. With rosy cheeks and crimson smiles, the young ladies grab hold of the men to be spun in the air in an elaborate formation. Their hair ribbons trail behind in a flurry of colour. When their red boots touch down on solid ground, their skirts settle, once again concealing their embroidered slips. As the music infiltrates the crowd, spectators begin to clap and dance along. After a final bow, the dancers file off stage while the crowd buzzes with excitement. The main attraction, a rock group from Ukraine, is preparing to steal the show. There is an exodus from the beer patio towards the main stage. The band emerges, met with cheers of awe and delight.

The lead singer, a tall, 30-something bald man, wears his sunglasses at night in true rock-star fashion. He addresses the crowd in Ukrainian before beginning his set. While

fans sing along, arms outstretched in the air, the band plays a unique blend of modern rock, punk, reggae, and traditional folk music. The keyboardist taps his feet to the beat. The young tambourine player shimmies to the beat, wearing red leather boots, jeans and a fur vest – a modern take on traditional Ukrainian fashion. When the band finally finishes, close to midnight, the crowds slowly disperse, some heading to local pubs for late-night snacks, others home to rest before another night of festivities.

- Larissa Schieven

A Taste of Ukrainian Culture

Bridget Collings, University of Western Ontario

On September 17th I was given the opportunity to attend the Bloor Street West Ukrainian Festival thanks to the UWO Ukrainian Club. As a non-Ukrainian, I was excited to see and learn about the Ukrainian culture at this event, and I was not disappointed. The festival was all I could have hoped for and more; it was entertaining, delicious and informative. I have never attended an event where people were so eager to meet you or share their stories. I spent the day soaking in the activities around me. I watched the different styles of dance, admired the beautiful traditional dress that many people were wearing, and ate some of the best perogies (or should I say varenyky) I have ever had. The entire atmosphere at the festival was



incredible. The thing that really stood out to me most at this event was the sense of community; everyone seemed to know everyone. It felt like it was one big family reunion. However, even though everyone appeared to know everyone, this did not stop them from welcoming newcomers into their group. Everyone was super friendly and eager to get to know you as well as share with you their pride for their culture. To me, this sense of openness and pride was represented perfectly in one action. At the end of the night in the beer tent, after having polka danced our hearts, everyone gathered in a group to form a circle and began to sing. This, as a non-Ukrainian, was something I have never experienced before. It was such a lovely sight to see everyone just link arms and sing. Even though I had no idea what songs they were singing, I was welcomed into the group without feeling that this experience was not open to me. I have to admit that this sense of camaraderie made me a little bit jealous that I wasn't of Ukrainian descent. This ultimate display of community was such a lovely end to my first true experience of Ukrainian culture, a culture that I wish to learn more about in the future.

- Bridget Collings

Applied History

Ryan Kologinski, Carleton University

This past summer I made the decision to undergo a project that was quite a prominent

aspect for Ukrainian immigrants settling in Western Canada 120 years ago. I decided to make a traditional Ukrainian clay oven also known as a peech (піч). These clay ovens were one of the first structures that our ancestors built upon arriving in Western Canada, with the other main structure being a place to live. These clay ovens were a very important factor in everyday life, as this was how their daily bread and meals were cooked. Essentially the peech was a life line for the early newly immigrated Ukrainian people.

The first thing you do when building a peech is the foundation. In today's world that would be cement, back 120 years ago, either a wooden foundation was built or the peech was directly built on the ground.

After laying the cement foundation of approximately 5 feet wide by 6 feet long, and 5 inches thick, you give the peech height by building it off the ground with an elevated platform of about 2.5 feet. Next you fill this platform in with clay completely. The most important thing about the clay is that it has to be 100% clay. There cannot be any stones or sand present in the clay, as this will cause the finished oven to break apart when cooking.

Next is the actual oven part. After building a curved frame from plywood, a mixture of clay, flax straw, horse manure, and water are applied to the curved frame, creating the



oven look and shape. After applying coats of this clay mixture, allowing for sufficient drying time for each layer, your peech will be approximately 5 to 6 inches thick. Finally, you take out the plywood frame, and you have yourself a genuine Ukrainian clay oven.

That is the basic procedure that I followed and applied this past summer. There are a few more details I omitted, but what I stated above is the general idea.



Undergoing this project was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences that I had to date. In one month of work along with the help of my father, mother, uncles, and gido, we were almost able to complete the clay oven in its entirety. There are countless resources out there for people interested in doing this, I having worked in Dauphin, Manitoba in past summer, was able to get firsthand accounts on how to build a proper peech, which I am extremely grateful for. Now all I have left to do is to

put the finishing touches on my peech, and then this next summer I be cooking kobasa, bread, and holubtsi like no tomorrow.

- Ryan Kologinski

*Have something to say?
Have something to prove?
We want to hear it!*

Submit directly to the editor
Anda Hirceaga at student@susk.ca

Thank you to Ukrainian Credit Union Limited for sponsoring this issue of "Student"!

