

**President's Message**

*Olena Kit, McMaster University*

While local Ukrainian Students' Organization (USO) Executive elections may be over for some post-secondary institutions, the race for office is not quite finished yet. The elections of the SUSK National Executive still remain. Together, the National President, Executive VP, VP Finances, three Regional VPs (Western, Central, Eastern), Secretary, External and Internal Relations Director, Media Director, Project Director, and Alumni Director create the SUSK National Executive. Together, the National Executive has vast responsibilities within the organization and to post-secondary students across Canada. Together, this team of twelve individuals is volunteering for a yearlong term, governing the operations of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK).

Each one of the National Executive positions is an enriching opportunity. To apply and run for any of these positions, you need not form a team or run a campaign. You must, however, attend the 54<sup>th</sup> National SUSK Congress from May 10–13 in Hamilton, Ontario. If you are

interested in running, you will be nominated for the position. The election process gives each candidate the opportunity to speak to his or her qualifications and then the Congress delegates will have the ability to question the nominees before the election takes place. If you think you are the right person for the job, check out the full job descriptions in the SUSK Constitution (<http://susk.ca/about/susk-constitution/>) and join us in Hamilton for the National Congress.



**SUSK Executive 2011-2012**

The Annual SUSK National Congress is also the time and place to share your thoughts for the future of SUSK. You are encouraged to submit your ideas as well. If you are interested in submitting a proposal or have any questions, please do not hesitate



to contact any member of the current SUSK National Executive, or feel free to e-mail me at [president@susk.ca](mailto:president@susk.ca)

I believe we can create something amazing if we all successfully execute our role in the Ukrainian Canadian community. Help forge a new course for Ukrainian students in Canada. Be part of SUSK

- Olena Kit  
[president@susk.ca](mailto:president@susk.ca)

## Picturesque Years of Undergrad

*Kateryna Ivanchenko, University of Ottawa*

Hurried, on my way to class one morning, I overheard a girl telling her mom: "this is it." Immediately, I was taken back in time, to an occasion I had, five years ago, to visit University of Ottawa's campus for the very first time. I thought I had my mind made up, leaving campus. A year later, however, when the occasion came to solidify my decision, I was hardly so certain. Eventually, after carefully weighing my options, I made up my mind, to only attempt to recall the confirmation of accepting Ottawa's offer, a few weeks down the road...

Fortunately for me, my phone call to the University of Ottawa did not go through and a few months down the road, I was

packing my bags.

For the next several months, nothing made me more anxious than my pondering on the infamous "what if." Eventually, the contemplation seized to occupy my mind and in retrospect of my entire undergraduate career, with certainty I can now say that I wouldn't have had it any other way.



The last four years were the most extraordinary and exciting years of my life. I've learned to stand my ground, defend my point of view, while respecting that of others. I've been exposed to a multicentricity of opinions and had my principals challenged. I've learned to forgive and let go, perfected the art of negotiating and persuading. Had my perspectives enlightened and contested, while spending a semester abroad in Amsterdam.

Being a part of the Ukrainian Students' Club at the University of Ottawa was a

unique experience that did not only help me maintain my identity, but confide in a bigger community. I have grown to be very passionate about issues concerning the part of the world that I come from, and will enthusiastically continue expanding my horizons, completing a Master's degree at Carleton's Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies.



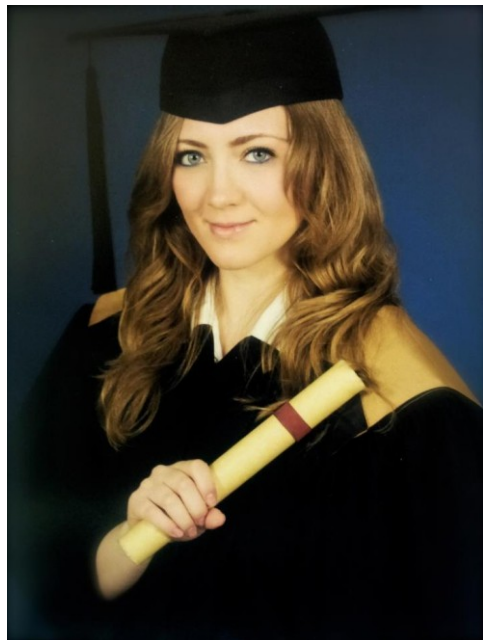
Yet another decision that was hardly left to fate, facilitated by a highly esteemed professor of mine, who became much like a mentor. A particularity of my undergraduate degree, for which I am forever grateful – the multiple sources of inspiration I came across. Had it not been

for those professors willing to go out of their way to invest the necessary knowledge and confidence in their students, had it not been for their passion and enthusiasm, I am not sure I'd be the same person today.

Last, but not least, the certainty of “this is it,” in respect to Canada's capital as, really, the place, for me. The university experience that affirmed this was – rowing. Eagerly I await the start of a new season and catching more picturesque sunrises above Parliament Hill.

Nothing makes me happier than the satisfaction of knowing that the last four years of my life exceeded my expectations in every way. Every finish line marks the start of a new race and with anticipation and enthusiasm I await everything that comes with it. Even if it means starting from the very bottom once again and overcoming the uncertainty of walking into that new classroom for the first time.

At the very least, I am much more certain of this decision, than of the one I made four years ago. Although, I am just as anxious and I can only hope that several more years down the road I can look back to my upcoming endeavor with the same sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.



But any achievement in itself, paints an incomplete picture. For it's not about what's waiting on the other side, it's the climb that matters!

- Kateryna Ivanchenko  
[kate.ivanchenko@gmail.com](mailto:kate.ivanchenko@gmail.com)

*Kateryna Ivanchenko is a fourth year Political Science Major at the University of Ottawa.*

*Upon completing field research in Berlin this August, she will be continuing her studies at the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University.*

## Young Ukrainian Canadians Converge in Ottawa for the “Ukraine at the Crossroads” Conference

*Zenon Ciz, University of Toronto Alumni*

There is no question that the conference, “Ukraine at the Crossroads” and parliamentary hearings on the status of human rights in Ukraine – all of which took place in Ottawa from March 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> – left an impression on those attending. The inclusion of world-renowned academics and historians, as well as the heartfelt cooperation of the Canadian government, showed that the world is deeply concerned about Ukraine’s well-being - a comforting thought for those who live in the Ukrainian diaspora, and long for their homeland’s economic and political freedom. Though many express this sentiment, it is perhaps the most refreshing to know that young people in the Ukrainian community stand ready not only to learn about the tribulations of their homeland, but to share the heavy burden of eradicating them.



With financial sponsorship from the BCU Foundation, young Ukrainian students and professionals from across Canada were able



to attend the conference and hearings in Ottawa, and witness firsthand the efforts of the Canadian government on the issue of Ukraine. Below are the humble thoughts of some of these young members of the Ukrainian community from their experiences at these events.

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*At the conference, "Ukraine at the Crossroads," much emphasis was placed on the*

*Canadian government's potential role in helping ensure fair and legitimate elections in Ukraine. As many of the speakers suggested, this is a long term enterprise, with a long term goal in mind. The most resoundingly logical way of accomplishing this, in my mind, is to engage the civil society in Ukraine, as many of the testifiers from Ukraine had underscored. The typical Ukrainian citizen is wary of challenging the established administration - a right some take for granted in Canada - for*



Some of the BCU Foundation Youth Leadership Delegation at the Hearings on Ukraine in Parliament

(From left): Zenon Ciz, Andrijko Semaniuk, Olena Kit, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko (Past Director of the SBU and Chair of the Political Council "Our Ukraine"), Yuri Broda, Olyana Grod, Andrea Kardasz



*fear of the repercussions. The result of challenging the authority of the Yanukovich government is plainly evident, with the imprisonment of high-profile opposition leaders like Lutsenko and Tymoshenko acting as the most prominent examples. Speakers at the conference, most notably Valentyn Nalivaychenko and Ihor Kozak, called upon the Canadian government to facilitate cooperation between Canadian and Ukrainian NGOs. Candid recommendations by the government of Canada to Ukraine have been ostensibly successful and well received over the past two years; yet, they have resulted in nothing more than lip service paid by the Yanukovich administration. In Ukraine itself, the deliberate targeting of the intelligentsia appears unnervingly similar to the same kind of persecution by the Soviet regime in Ukraine in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The method is different today, but the intent is the same – to suppress the voice of any opinion contrary to that of the administration. The solution to the problem in Ukraine, therefore, must be bottom up, and not top down.*

*Musings aside, I eagerly await the resolutions of the Canadian government that will stem from this conference. With the 2012 Parliamentary elections in Ukraine fast approaching, and given the Canadian government's earnest commitments to seeing a democratic and prosperous Ukraine, I hope the*

*Canadian approach to Ukraine in the near future will be unequivocal and proactive.*

Zenon Ciz  
Youth Coordinator, League of Ukrainian  
Canadians National Executive  
Toronto

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*I was delighted to attend the “Ukraine at the Crossroads” conference and banquet. The speakers and session moderators were world class. To witness academics from Chatham House, the Council of Foreign Relations, the Peterson Institute, as well as the Russian Academy of Sciences in the same room was a great privilege. Typically, the Ukrainian diaspora is culpable of groupthink. This is especially so as it relates to issues pertaining to Ukraine. As such, the conference was instructive.*

*I was pleased to see experts testify on such matters as energy independence, European integration, and economic development - all vital to Ukraine's growth and evolution. The exercise also challenged many of my personal assumptions. This was particularly refreshing. In tandem, we also witnessed the participation of many senior policy and decision makers. Ideally, this conference will reinforce the need for continued monitoring of the situation in Ukraine by the Canadian government. Obviously, the upcoming parliamentary elections will be crucial. Additionally, perhaps the conference presented the case for new and*





*innovative policy options. This is certainly my hope.*

Danylo Korbabicz  
Immediate Past President, Ukrainian  
Canadian Students' Union (SUSK)  
Ottawa

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*As a youth leader in the Ukrainian community in Ottawa, attending the banquet and conference "Ukraine at the Crossroads" was a particularly unique and enlightening experience.*

*As a central focus of the conference, help was called out to the Ukrainian community in Canada; in particular, in hopes of reaching out and addressing the corruption and injustices currently occurring in Ukraine, as well as ensuring a democratic election process in the upcoming parliamentary elections. As a graduating criminology student at the University of Ottawa, the injustices taking place within the criminal justice system in Ukraine is beyond evident; a primary example being the unlawful imprisonment of opposition leaders like Lutsenko and Tymoshenko.*

*Danylo Bilak, one of the distinguished speakers of Session I, entitled "Democratic Governance, Rule of Law, Human Rights and Media Freedom" addressed a particularly relevant concept as he proposed that the rule of law can be used in a strategic manner to either*

*legitimize or abuse forms of power. This very clearly reflects the current political state in Ukraine as the rule of law continues to be used by the Yanukovich government to abuse its power, resulting in innocent Ukrainians falling victims to lawlessness in Ukraine.*

*The amalgamation of various distinguished international speakers throughout this conference has served to loudly voice the concern for the future political direction of Ukraine. An initial step towards addressing the corruption and injustices currently occurring begins with a strong Canadian election observer presence in Ukraine this upcoming October. As a youth leader in my Ukrainian community and graduating criminology student who is passionate about the advocacy of a legitimate and impartial criminal justice system, I am exceptionally eager to travel to Ukraine as an observer for the 2012 parliamentary elections.*

*As an important iconic figure, Lady Justice, a woman depicted as blindfolded, holding a set of scales, and a double-edged sword has historically served to represent the importance of impartiality and truth in the court room. It remains questionable but apparent that regarding the current political situation in Ukraine, Lady Justice can be depicted as a woman without a blindfold, holding an*





*unbalanced set of scales, with a one edged sword. When will justice be served?*

Adriana Sirskyj  
President, University of Ottawa Ukrainian  
Students' Club  
Ottawa

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*The conference "Ukraine at the Crossroads" brought together a panel of diverse speakers from all over the world, resulting in an informative and captivating day. I found the perspectives of the speakers and moderators*

*who were neither from Ukraine nor members of the Ukrainian Diaspora to be especially interesting. As a Ukrainian Canadian, this was a rare and refreshing opportunity to hear the frank views on Ukraine from experts whose opinions are not influenced by an emotional or ancestral connection to Ukraine.*

*In my opinion, it would have been beneficial if more young adults- university students and young professionals- had attended the conference. Although it is imperative for the government of Canada to assist Ukraine in*



The youth delegation at the conference, sponsored by the BCU Foundation.

(From left): Andrijo Semaniuk, Christine Czoli, Adriana Sirskyj, Zenon Ciz, Olenka Choly, Nadia Gereliouk, Danylo Kostruba, Tamara McColl, Ulanna Wityk, Danylo Korbabcz, Olena Kit, Paul Cremona, Andrea Kardasz, Yuri Broda, Olyana Grod, Marko Diaczun, Ariadna Dlugosh





conducting the upcoming 2012 Parliamentary Elections fairly and with integrity, this assistance will be insufficient in the long term. Canada must remain committed to supporting Ukraine in her pursuit of a legitimate democracy and lasting fundamental institutional reforms. It is the Ukrainian Canadian youth who will be charged with the responsibility of making decisions regarding this continual support. Youth must be educated and engaged in the present to understand why it is important to continue to help Ukraine reclaim control of her political and economic future. The "Ukraine at the

Crossroads" provided one such opportunity to educate and engage youth. These future decision-makers of Canada must first be equipped with knowledge before they can be committed to helping Ukraine make strides in the right direction, away from the crossroads.

Ariadna Dlugosh  
Youth Councilor, Ukrainian Youth  
Association of Canada – Winnipeg Branch  
Winnipeg

In past visits to Ottawa and meetings with Members of Parliament, I have been witness to



The youth delegation at the conference banquet. The event launched on March 7 with a banquet and a panel discussion moderated by Chrystia Freeland, Global Editor-at-Large at Reuters, and featuring current and former government officials.



*the challenges of ensuring a community's voice is heard by the powers that be. The conference "Ukraine at the Crossroads" opened my eyes to the results of these efforts. I heard many positive statements from high-ranking officials regarding recommendations on Canada's foreign policy towards Ukraine and its current government. Other interesting political figures from Ukraine and the surrounding areas also gave insight into the current political and economic environments in Eastern Europe. The sessions have led to a stronger interest in the political well-being of the land my grandparents called home. I hope the Canadian Government responds to the recommendations stemming from this conference, leading to a more focused effort on strengthening democratic principles in Ukraine.*

Danylo Kostruba  
Executive Vice-President, Ukrainian  
Canadian Students' Union (SUSK)  
London

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*The "Ukraine at the Crossroads" conference brought together a high-calibre group of individuals interested in Ukrainian issues, including experts in fields such as geopolitics, human rights, security and economics, as well as former and current politicians, businessmen, and community leaders. The participants'*

*multitude of perspectives and expertise distinguished the conference by allowing for the discussion and exchange of ideas across a variety of issues, each incredibly important to understanding not only Ukraine's current position at a crossroads, but its various options for future development as well. It is my hope that all conference participants will be mindful of the many valuable lessons they have taken away with them, and apply them in whatever capacity possible to ensure a future for Ukraine that is free, stable, just and prosperous. Its people, after all, deserve no less.*

Christine Czoli  
Board Member, League of Ukrainian  
Canadian Women National Executive  
Waterloo

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*The "Ukraine at the Crossroads" Conference featured an impressive array of experts, professionals and government leaders informed about and invested in the current situation in Ukraine. Danylo Bilak, CMS Cameron McKenna, Kyiv, spoke of addressing the causes rather than only focusing on the effects of the problems in Ukraine; if your coffee mug is overflowing, you must first stop pouring and only then mop the floor.*

*Change can only occur if the system itself is revolutionized, which is a long, grueling, and painstakingly slow process. The banal bureaucracy that survives the change in leadership must change. This 'system*





*revolution' must address the integrity of the most fundamental aspects of society: law enforcement, the judicial system, mass media, academia, etc... Without the renewal of these fundamental institutions, any political victory can be quickly and easily retarded, even reverted by those who occupy these positions that would implement well-intentioned political efforts.*

*While how to initiate or support this kind of revolution of the system has no easy answer, many speakers offered specific suggestions relating to their respective fields of expertise. I hope that the conference's wide-ranging consideration of the problems impressed the importance of supporting Ukraine, and that the proposed solutions informed how to best support Ukraine throughout the various avenues explored.*

Olenka Choly  
Youth Councilor, Ukrainian Youth  
Association of Canada – Ottawa Branch  
Ottawa

*What can we do as youth? Ukrainian Canadian youth must be vigilant and protective of the homeland of our ancestors as several issues are flourishing. Educational institutions in Canada are founded on the notion of free speech and thus we must embrace this freedom and start discussion,*

*provoke debate, and educate and communicate with others of our concerns to help manifest a brighter future for Ukraine.*

Olena Kit  
President, Ukrainian Canadian Students'  
Union (SUSK)  
Hamilton



*I found the conference to be an eye-opener regarding the current situation in Ukraine. It was good to hear from prestigious academics and professionals that had a great wealth of knowledge to share. I particularly found the discussions of Dr. Anders Åslund and Zenon Potoczny regarding the economic situation in Ukraine to be quite relevant and informative. Thanks to the BCU foundation, a delegation of youth was sponsored to attend this high-profile event, and I think it speaks volumes about what the Foundation stands for. It is the youth that will be driving the changes of tomorrow, both in Canada and in Ukraine. Engaging youth now will help to continue and*



*evolve the initiatives for a democratic Ukraine in the future.*

Paul Cremona  
Treasurer, Ukrainian Youth Association of  
Canada, Etobicoke Branch  
Toronto

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*The "Ukraine at the Crossroads" conference reinforced the notion that it is well outside the bounds of the Ukrainian diaspora community that there is genuine interest in the well-being of Ukraine as an "independent" country. Individuals from various present and past governments positions, national and international research groups, and community leaders recognize and show concern regarding the condition the Ukrainian government has allowed its country to slip into. The speakers portrayed fascinating presentations beset with a superb caliber of knowledge - an absolute pleasure to listen to and learn from! From this, came inspiration and great encouragement in helping Ukraine choose the correct path at its position of being at the crossroads.*

Ulanna Wityk,  
Youth Councilor, Ukrainian Youth  
Association of Canada – Hamilton Branch  
Waterloo

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*Preceding the Conference "Ukraine at the Crossroads", the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development held 2 days of Parliamentary Hearings on the situation in Ukraine in the House of Commons. Witnesses were brought in from Ukraine and the European Union to testify and shed light on how human rights, the rule of law and democracy are in jeopardy in Ukraine. One of the key messages was that international election observers are needed for the upcoming Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine in October of 2012. The way in which the Parliamentary elections are conducted will dictate the future sovereignty of Ukraine thus it is imperative that the elections be transparent, free and fair. As a former CANADEM election observer and youth intern who lived in Ukraine, I understand and have seen how Canada and the free world can positively affect Ukrainian civil society to unite and stand up for their rights and freedom; a sentiment that was reiterated by witnesses during the hearings. I was particularly pleased to hear our members of parliament advocate for Ukraine – its statehood and its people, and provide assurance that the Canadian government will continue to be a friend of Ukraine and will stand in solidarity as it struggles to maintain its independence and fight the corruption that plagues it. Witnessing first hand our current*



*government take interest, show concern and offer support to a country that desperately needs guidance and leadership made me tremendously proud to be a Canadian.*

Olyana Grod  
President, Ukrainian Youth Association of  
Canada National Executive  
Toronto

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*As a Political Science student I had never imagined I would meet the professors and authors of the works I have often quoted in my essays, professors such as Anders Aslund, Mykola Riabchuk, James Sherr and Serhiy Kudelia. I had thought that meeting Ukrainian political figures who are so often*

*talked about and have almost become legends in the Ukrainian struggle for independence and democracy was beyond my reach. Having a chance to meet, speak with and listen to professors, politicians and community leaders was truly inspiring. Most importantly, the "Ukraine at the Crossroads" Conference was stimulating and thought provoking and not only outlined the issues of today's democratic situation in Ukraine, but provided practical alternatives which can unite progressive democratic organization and inspire and empower the people in Ukraine. The two days spend in Ottawa have completely altered my views on the paradigm regarding Ukraine's economic future, drainage of locally-generated money, and the power of students in the sphere*





*of politics. The conference was a successful international initiative on building Ukrainian democracy “of the people, by the people and for the people.”*

Nadia Gereliouk  
Vice-President, Ukrainian Students' Club at  
the University of Toronto  
Toronto



*It was an honour to be present at such an important event. I feel at the conference real progress was made at addressing Ukraine's problems, and that there is a will in Ukraine as well as abroad to turn the country around into the modern, democratic nation it is meant to be.*

Marko Diaczun  
Treasurer, Canadian Ukrainian Art  
Foundation (KUMF)  
Toronto

*“Ukraine at the Crossroads” was unlike any conference I had ever previously attended. I found the entire experience captivating: from the moment the Parliamentary hearings began to the closing remarks, every speaker had something interesting and perceptive to share with those in attendance.*

*What I most enjoyed about the conference was the scope of speakers and moderators we heard from throughout both the opening banquet and conference itself. These individuals, who were from all over North America and Europe, came from a diverse set of backgrounds—politicians, professors, activists, and simply people trying to make a difference, to name a few. Listening to each speaker share their experiences and insights provided an excellent basis upon which I was able to form my own opinions.*



*Most importantly, however, I learned a great deal about the current situation in Ukraine.*



*Though I was already aware of much of what was going on, the presenters provided detailed information as to how the situation came to be, and where exactly Ukraine may be headed if the current Yanukovich regime continues on its path away from democracy and toward totalitarianism. It was also interesting to hear such a diverse set of individuals share similar ideas as to how to improve Ukraine's current situation.*

*Some pointed to the need to engage civil society in Ukraine to become more politically active, and many others stressed the need for Canada (and other countries) to send as many observers as possible to Ukraine for the upcoming Parliamentary elections, to ensure they are free, fair, and truly democratic.*

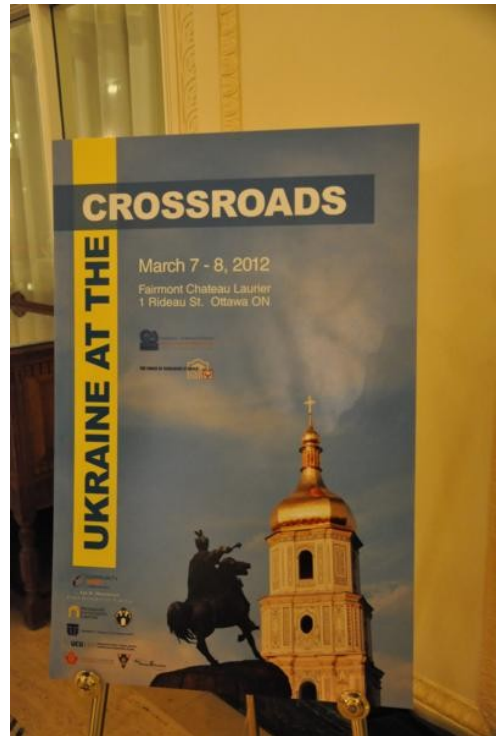
*I am looking forward to the concrete action which will arise out of the conference and the Parliamentary hearings. Canada, as a country, is in a strong position to be able to help Ukraine move towards becoming a nation which holds democracy and human rights as two key values, and from the "Ukraine at the Crossroads" conference, I took away a spirited optimism that Canada may just do its part.*

Andriyko Semaniuk  
Board Member, Ukrainian Youth  
Association of Canada National Executive  
Winnipeg

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With a renewed appreciation of Ukrainian-Canadian relations, our young activists stand better poised to lead the Ukrainian community through the future. Though their opinions and feelings may vary, their resolve and conviction breathes new hope into the efforts of the Ukrainian community.

- Compiled by Zenon Ciz





Join us in Hamilton for the 54th National SUSK Congress,  
"SUSK is the New Steel" from May 10 - 13, 2012!

Hosted by McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association in the beautiful city of steel and waterfalls! This is an incredible opportunity to connect with Ukrainian students from across Canada and take part in various beneficial professional development seminars and workshops. The SUSK executive looks forward to welcoming you in Hamilton this spring! Registration is now open.

**LIV** May 10-13  
Hamilton, Ontario  
**SUSK CONGRESS**

**THURSDAY, MAY 10**

- REGISTRATION
- HOSPITALITY SUITE
- WELCOME RECEPTION

**FRIDAY, MAY 11**

- OPENING CEREMONIES
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS
- PUB CRAWL

**SATURDAY, MAY 12**

- ROSEWOOD WINERY TOUR
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS
- SUSK EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS
- SUSK CONGRESS BANQUET/ZABAVA & ALUMNI REUNION

**SUNDAY, MAY 13**

- RESOLUTIONS & STRATEGIC PLANNING
- CLOSING CEREMONIES

54<sup>th</sup> Congress Hosted By:   
McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association

Details and Registration Info: [www.susk.ca](http://www.susk.ca)

 UKRAINIAN CANADIAN STUDENTS' UNION  
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО СТУДЕНТСТВА КАНАДИ  
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UCSU YKC

Don't forget to check us out at the SUSK congress this May!

Visit our table at the congress for exclusive offers\* and gifts!



\*Valid only to students at SUSK congress from May 10th - 13th 2012.





## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 - Registration begins

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Member Organization Application Due, Member Organization Membership Per Head Dues & Membership List Due

April 6<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – Deadline for Early Delegate Registration

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Guestroom Release cut off date for Accommodations

May 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – Dates of Congress

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More information at [www.suskcongress.ca](http://www.suskcongress.ca)

### Congress Contacts:

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## Whither Ukraine?

*Danylo Korbabicz, Carleton University Alumni*

It was 1993. Though I was a largely ignorant child, I knew our family's first trip to Ukraine was a big deal. It made an impression. After the overwhelming wait was over, difficulties were had. My father sprung into action and dutifully passed along a wad of American dollars which expedited not only the wait while our documents were *verified*, but also the additional difficulties ascertaining the extent of our health insurance coverage. This of course required some grotesque and unjustified administrative fee. It was explained to me at the time that this was the way things are, but eventually this will change. Countless trips later (*some 22 rendezvous*), I am always struck with how little has changed. The buildings became nicer, the streets are much shinier and cleaner, and people have certainly become marginally better-off.

Yet, the pervasive cancers that are corruption, nepotism, and cronyism largely remain. In fact, in many cases these are seen as legitimate. I often hear from highly educated and globally mobile Ukrainians that they have no choice. This is the way things are. Really? Still?

Ukraine has had a long history of outward migration. Clearly, this was justified. History has been harsh and Ukrainians find themselves in every corner of the world. Small and large communities have thrived in every corner of the globe, from Australia to Argentina, and increasingly in past decades, places like Portugal and Italy. Unfortunately, this trend continues. Distressingly, many of the best and brightest seek to make better lives elsewhere. To this point, I am always unsettled after a small cluster of those best and brightest make their way to Ottawa to participate in the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Internship Program. The program is extremely worthwhile and places Ukrainian university students in various offices on Parliament Hill. This exposes them to the Canadian values and democratic norms envied the world over. However, it's unnerving how many of them do not intend to return to Ukraine (*if they can avoid it*).

Though I'm distressed, I do find humour in the fact that many of us continue to lecture them. I realize I too am culpable. After all, we are all products of outward migration. It's quite rich for us to lecture them regarding the sins back home from our comfortable surroundings in the West.





Perhaps let's put an end to the homily and instead do something more constructive?

Market forces have been largely ineffective in bringing about substantive and sustained democratic change or an appropriate improvement in areas such as human rights. There exists a state bureaucracy that is not merit based, and a political culture that inculcates the virtues of the improper use of power, rather than the opposite.



In fact it actively rewards negative behaviour. On the heels of the recent international policy conference *Ukraine at the Crossroads* held last month in Ottawa, my view is that former chief of staff to President Victor Yushchenko and deputy Prime Minister for European Integration Oleh Rybachuk, is largely right. We must focus our efforts on civil society. By this I mean the grassroots. Trade and investment flows can only serve a good purpose when coupled with the rule of law and regulatory

regimes that are viewed by both citizens and outsiders as equitable and transparent.

Next to the Jewish lobby, Ukrainian Canadians probably enjoy more influence with Canadian authorities than any other ethnic group. They have and will continue to wield such influence. Action in Canada is needed and welcome. Ukrainian Canadians will also continue to preserve their rich cultural heritage by participating and supporting the infinite cultural programs that currently exist (*read way too many*). Perhaps, however, it's time to rethink our strategy. Rather than focus on dance-groups, art shows, choirs, ensembles, and dare I say organized protests in front of the Russian Embassy, we endeavour to try something different. If we really want to help Ukraine develop (*and I trust that's what we all want*), we could incentivize and even reward those Ukrainian Canadians who go back to Ukraine and contribute to non-governmental organizations, political parties, an independent media, and other worthwhile educational initiatives. Why not an organized year abroad for our sons and daughters that enables them not only to pad their resumes with foreign experience (*in a working world that is ever more globalized*) but to impart those democratic values on others, that which we often take for



granted? I think that is a most noble endeavour, and more effective in bringing about real change than any charitable donation, dance-trip, or scouting exercise can bring. Let's pool our resources and get more bang for our buck.

Those aforementioned traditional Ukrainian Canadian "activities" are not irrelevant things. I do not want to imply they are worthless. I only point out that in the context of finite resources, perhaps a rethink of how we wish to achieve our long term objectives could bring about more tangible results.

- Danylo Korbabicz

*Danylo Korbabicz is Immediate Past President of SUSK and works with Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP's Public Policy and Government Relations Group based in Ottawa.*

### **The English Surgeon, a film by Geoffrey Smith**

*A Review by Nadia Demko, McGill University*

“Enthralling, astonishing...agonizingly human.” – The New York Times

“Would you want to lose your personality, or your intellect, or your ability

to think – because that's the sort of thing we're talking about...” Faced with the obstacles and pressures of his profession, Dr. Henry Marsh, one of London's foremost brain surgeons and the protagonist of this documentary film “The English Surgeon”, is frustrated by his own human limitations and continually worries himself sick about the damage he can inflict on his patients.



As an undergraduate neuroscience student and aspiring doctor, it was inspiring to watch this film and hear about Henry's passionate story and healthcare work during the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association's (MUSA) screening of “The English Surgeon” held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Henry first visited Kyiv in 1992 and upon witnessing a rather medieval brain surgery there, was drawn to come back often ever since in a heart-rendering attempt to improve Ukraine's medical situation and ultimately save lives. “But what is it like to try and save a life, and yet to fail?” Beyond



highlighting the amazing humanitarian work that Henry does, this film also follows his own personal confrontation with the dilemmas of the doctor patient relationship and the difficulties of accepting your own humanity.

Despite his own harsh critique, we get a much better understanding of the impact of his work from all the other characters around him. Viewed as the “great saviour from the West”, there is a huge line up of people desperately waiting for him as he comes in to the hospital. His Ukrainian neurosurgeon colleague, Igor Kurilets, holds him in high regards as a guru, and he is continually learning from and inspired by Henry.

The film's final scene, takes place in the cemetery where Tanya, a young girl whom he had operated on and had passed away shortly after his surgery, is buried. With a poetic winter's day setting and only the wind in the background, Henry comes to terms with his ultimate struggle and confronts what it means to fail – but ultimately leaves the viewer feeling redeemed because of his ongoing willingness to try and help others where he can. “What are we if we don't try to help others? We're nothing – nothing at all...”

Beyond this extremely close personal journey, the film also leads the viewer to think about the broader medical situation in Ukraine. Despite the central success story, the viewer is overwhelmingly presented with many failures and many frustrating medical situations. Within the line-up of patients there to see Henry, he breaks to many of them that there is nothing he can do – although revealing to the viewer that it would be different if he were in London where he has access to the necessary equipment and trained supporting staff. A grandmother's eyes well up in tears as she is told that she will outlive her grandchild; a young and beautiful 23 year old girl with dreams of a long life ahead learns that it will be unjustly cut short because of encephalitis...

But overlying all of these sad stories is Marian's success story. Although Marian has been told that his tumour is inoperable in Ukraine, Henry believes that he will be able to save him. However, to do so Marian must be awake throughout the entire operation, and this surreal set of circumstances give rise to a dramatic, humorous and unforgettable 15 minute scene filmed with three cameras inside the operating theatre. By the end of the surgery, Marian is brought back to life and with



him, a hope for the improvement of Ukraine's current medical situation.

Igor compares a neurosurgery to a Cossack battle, and ultimately, neurosurgeons to Cossacks themselves who bravely defend their country and its people. "I've been coming to Ukraine now for 15 years, and in many ways, I've come to love this country as much as my own," admits Henry.

Although he is only one person, who therefore can't save everyone and sometimes makes mistakes too, Henry brings hope to the affected people of these neurological conditions, their families, other doctors trying to do the same kind of work in Ukraine, and ultimately the entire health care system in Ukraine. And as Henry so brilliantly puts, "hope is more important than anything else in life."

- Nadia Demko

## Camp Spirit Lake Inauguration Ceremony Available on YouTube

*Artem Luhovy, McGill University*

La Ferme/UCC QPC, Quebec:

The historic inauguration ceremony of Camp Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Centre at La Ferme, Quebec, the first such internment interpretive centre opened in Canada, is now available for viewing to the

general public. The official ceremony, which took place on November 24, 2011 was headed by James Slobodian, chairperson, along with the entire board of directors and volunteers. It was filmed and edited by Montreal filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy, with Volodymyr Hayduk as soundman, and has been **released in seven parts on YouTube.**



**Part one** covers the presentation of Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, as well as the opening remarks by James Slobodian, chairperson of Camp Spirit Lake Corporation. **Part two** includes the speech by Hon. James Bezan, M.P. Selkirk-Interlake, Manitoba. The **third part** addresses the presentation by Hon. Christine Moore representing Abitibi – Témiscaminque, with **part four** presenting remarks by Andrew Hladyshevsky Q.C., president of the Shevchenko Foundation which administers the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund. **Part five** includes commentaries by Jacques



Riopelle, prefect MRC Abitibi, as well as the special award presentation for Yuriy Luhovy and Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova for their work over many years on the internment issue. The **sixth part** conveys the message delivered by Bishop Gilles Lemay of the Dioceses of Amos, and **part seven** presents the religious ceremony by representatives of the Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox churches in memory of those buried at the Spirit Lake internment cemetery.

The seven-part coverage is interspersed with selected articles by various individuals published in Canadian and Ukrainian-Canadian newspapers which brought awareness of Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 to the general public and constituted part of the ongoing campaign for recognition of the unjust internment by the Canadian government of so called "enemy aliens" – the overwhelming majority of which were innocent Ukrainian immigrants. The series also includes a selection of archival photos depicting the Spirit Lake internment site from 1915 to 1917 and other internment camps across Canada, as well as Spirit Lake excerpts from the documentary films

*Freedom Had A Price and Ukrainians in Quebec 1891-1945.*

The filmed segments will serve as a permanent record of the proceedings of the by-invitation-only inauguration ceremony, and will help provide a fuller picture of the efforts to establish the interpretive centre. They will also remind viewers of the Ukrainian Canadian community's determination, over many years, to ensure that the internment story does not become a forgotten part of Canadian history but is etched in mainstream consciousness.

The coverage will be included in the interactive display booths as part of the permanent exhibit at the interpretive centre. Visitors and students participating in the ongoing school tours will be able to access desired parts of the ceremony at a touch of a button. The seven-part internment interpretive centre inauguration film is available through [www.yluhovy.com](http://www.yluhovy.com) with a link on YouTube.

For further information about the Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Centre see: [campspiritlake@cableamos.com](mailto:campspiritlake@cableamos.com)

- Artem Luhovy



## Life after SUSK

*Roman Storoschuk, University of Calgary*

The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union was created in December of 1953 during the first Congress of Ukrainian Students in Winnipeg. 59 years have passed since its creation and SUSK continues to be an active and prominent organization in the Ukrainian Canadian community today.

Over those 59 years a great number of students have in some way or another been involved with the organization. However, due to the fact that SUSK is a student based organization most members end their involvement with SUSK upon completing their post-secondary studies. I am here to tell you that this does not necessarily have to be the case.

Although the role of the alumni in SUSK may be substantially different than that of the student, it is important to note that such a role does exist and is actually quite significant. Alumni have experience; they have gone through the process and acquired valuable knowledge about its workings which they can pass on to current and future SUSK members. It is important that alumni play the role of mentor and assist students in any way possible. This can be achieved via simple idea and information sharing. It can also be achieved by tangible

donations both financial and other useful materials. They're professional experience can be used as a networking tool for prospective students. Even the mere presence of alumni at club events helps support SUSK. These are but a few of the ways to remain involved with SUSK. The influence of alumni on students can be very positive and immensely useful.

It is important to remember that SUSK alumni are not only those that were involved with SUSK in decades past but also those who have only just recently concluded they're post-secondary experience.





The transition from student to graduate tends to be accompanied with a great deal of change in one's life. New roles and responsibilities consume a great deal of time for the new graduate. Forging a new life in the working world can leave little time for involvement in organizations such as SUSK. I strongly encourage all of these newly-graduated alumni to try and remain connected with the world of SUSK even if only minimally. Join the SUSK alumni mailing list or attend even one local club event per year. Any involvement helps keep SUSK strong and united.

I encourage any and all alumni to remain connected to SUSK in some way. Join our alumni email list to receive alumni newsletters and updates on the latest developments in the world of SUSK. Stay informed by reading the newest issues of 'Student'. Join the SUSK Alumni LinkedIn or Facebook groups. Connect with your local club and take part in events. Attend the SUSK Congress Banquet and Alumni Reunion. There are many avenues through which this can be achieved. Help us keep SUSK strong for years to come!

- Roman Storoshchuk  
Alumni Director – SUSK  
[alumni@susk.ca](mailto:alumni@susk.ca)

## MUSA's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Volleyball Tournament & Zabava a Huge Success!

*Pavel Waszur, McMaster University*

The McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association kicked off its second semester by hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Horseshoe Volleyball Tournament & Zabava on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Hamilton, Ontario. This year the tournament had over 100 competitors in two categories of competition.



**Team WUSA**  
**Waterloo Ukrainian Students' Association**

The winners of the tournament included Adams (St. Joseph's) in the recreational division and team Kachka in the competitive division. Following the tournament, competitors and supporters attended an awards reception and zabava getting a chance to dance the night away to the music of Скопа & Заповідь.



MUSA would like to thank the United Ukrainian Credit Union (UUCU), Buduchnist Credit Union, Ukrainian Credit Union Limited (UCU), Rosewood Estates Winery and Multiculture Bevco for their generosity and sponsorship. Your donations helped make the tournament & zabava a huge success!

We look forward to seeing everyone back again for MUSA's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Horseshoe Volleyball Tournament in February 2013!

- Pavel Waszur

## My New Beginnings

*Borys Bilaniuk, Université de Montréal*

Moving to a new city away from my parents and my siblings was a major milestone in my life. Having spent my whole life in Ottawa, I knew very little about Montreal, and had a lot of things to learn about the people, places, and the city itself. I still do. This was also the beginning of my first year in university. Although at the very beginning the material being covered seemed like a review of what I saw in high school, I was soon confronted with the realities of university, namely a lot of work and very little time for anything else.

For my extracurricular activities, I started volunteering at the General Jewish Hospital, but I also wanted to get involved with other students and therefore wanted to join a

student club. Because there was no Ukrainian Students' Club at Université de Montréal, I joined the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association (MUSA). I started going to many of their meetings and to events that they were organizing. By the end of the term, I had my mind set on creating a students' club at my University. I had no idea where to start. I found a how-to guide on the SUSK website, and started to follow its advice.

First, I had to find a way of achieving official status within the university. I soon learned that there are two major student bodies at my university. The first dealt with university governance, while the second was an umbrella for many smaller student groups. Next I needed to file the paperwork required by the student body and the university. A lot of work was saved by modifying another club's constitution to suit the needs of our club. Two problems became obvious. The university has a policy of only accepting associations who count more than 10 members, but at the outset I didn't have that many candidates. I had to write a letter of intent stating that the club was going to recruit sufficient additional members before the end of the year. Also, I needed to submit a document listing the people on the executive board; therefore it was urgent to at the very least find enough people to fill those positions.

Not knowing anyone who was Ukrainian or of Ukrainian heritage at my university, I



had to ask around at the student clubs in McGill and Concordia. At the beginning of the second term, I meet Eugénie Lysenko-Chicoine, the second member of the student club. We had a very short constitutional meeting, where we assigned each other roles in the club. We applied for official status in the middle of January, and were approved and made official on January 25th 2012.

All of this brought me to writing my first article for "Student". I am reminded of the following quote from Zorianna Luhovy, the wife and collaborator of Ukrainian Canadian documentary filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy: "If it isn't written down, it never happened".

One more thing: If you are a student at l'Université de Montréal, and would like to join us, you can do so by going to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/aeuudm](http://www.facebook.com/groups/aeuudm) or sending us an email at the following address: [aeuudm@gmail.com](mailto:aeuudm@gmail.com)

- Borys Bilaniuk

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



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

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Submit directly to the editor  
Anda Hirceaga at [student@susk.ca](mailto:student@susk.ca)

