

*Happy Easter!*  
Христос воскрес!



**Note: Above picture was taken in Ukraine and is made of 15,000 wooden Pysanky**



## President's Message

*Dear readers,*



Welcome to the April 2017 issue of Student - and congratulations to all students for finishing another academic year! I would like to invite all of you to attend this year's SUSK Congress taking place in Ottawa, Ontario from May 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with the sesquicentennial of Canadian Federation. The Congress will feature a variety of speakers on the topics of organizational development, fundraising, volunteer management, and marketing. As with every Congress, there will be fantastic opportunities for delegates to meet new friends from across the country, develop new and bold plans for the upcoming academic year, and socialize for four days and three nights.

Back in 2009, I had my first taste of a SUSK Congress when I was asked to take photos at a few of the events. Having not graduated high school yet, it was an eye opening experience to see what students from across the country were up to. A short time later, I myself was a registered delegate at the 2012 SUSK Congress in Hamilton, and was elected to the position of Media Director.

Five years on the Executive, hundreds of new friends made, and thousands of miles flown later, I look back and am incredibly thankful for what this organization has given me. SUSK has grown year over year since its revival in 2007 and I hope to see it continue on that trajectory for decades to come. More and more in our Ukrainian Canadian community we are hearing how groups need to engage students and youth. I wholeheartedly agree, but would also remind our community to keep this momentum going in perpetuity. There will always be Ukrainian students waiting to be engaged, and bringing them in will pay dividends to all of our community organizations for decades to come.

До зустрічі в Оттаві!

Cassian Soltykevych

SUSK President





## (Fun) Facts about Ukrainian Language

Back in November our USO has organized a tremendously successful **Ukrainian Language Awareness Week**. We put together a Ukrainian Speed Learning event at the student pub, teaching both native speakers and beginners to converse on basic topics (food, appearance, traveling, music, etc.). We also got together for the Evening of Ukrainian Poetry Reading, where each of us chose a poem and shared it with the audience. Many insightful discussions took place at both events.

During the week, we have also shared, on social media, many useful resources for learning and improving one's language. One of these resources was an infographic of fun facts about the Ukrainian language, which I have prepared after some research online. Little did I know that the infographic will be the most popular item on our Facebook page, reaching over 267,000 viewers, gaining 8664 likes and 2125 shares. I was very happy (and proud!) because our awareness campaign was working.

However, something was not right and I could not stop feeling that this is not fair. It was not fair because I have hand-picked fun and pleasant facts that would not upset or disturb the audience. While reading and researching on the Ukrainian language I have rediscovered so many sad pages of our history. And after the post became very popular it felt unjust to paint a pretty picture and omit the whole truth. I know fully well that if I were to make a truthful infographic, with facts about language bans and persecutions, it would not get nearly as much attention, it would not get shared 2000 times. So, I went with our awareness week, carrying this internal struggle with me.

Finally, I have decided that as a student community we should know the true facts about our language, whether or not they are pleasant. So, I have put together another infographic, which contains less fun, but nonetheless important facts about Ukrainian language. You will notice that the second infographic has more text, because, as it often happens, truth takes more words and calls for more context.





**Ukrainian is...**  
an official state language of Ukraine!

Written Ukrainian uses a variant of the **Cyrillic script**

Ukrainian is the **2<sup>nd</sup> most melodic** language in the world after Italian

Ukrainian is rich in synonyms. For example, the word *horizon* has 12 synonyms!

**256,000 words** in the dictionary

There are **33 letters** in the alphabet

**45M speakers** around the world

Ukrainian is part of a Slavic Language group and is most similar to:

84% Belarusian	70% Polish
68% Serbian	60% Russian

The origin of Ukrainian language is traced to XI - XII century, but Ukrainian language was only recognized as the **official language of the state in 1989**

At different points in history, the territory of modern Ukraine has been under the ruling of (or part of):

- Russian Empire
- Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
- Romanian Kingdom
- Ottoman Empire
- Poland
- Austro-Hungarian Empire
- USSR

In Ukraine **22 languages** are currently spoken

Throughout the history, there were **60 PROHIBITIONS** on the Ukrainian language. Up to 25.7% of population of Ukraine uses **Surzhyk** a mix of Ukrainian and Russian

*Disclaimer: I am not an expert on language or history. I have prepared both infographics based on my own research on the internet and I acknowledge that I might have missed or misinterpreted some facts. I hope you find it interesting and educational nonetheless.*

Darya Naumova

McGill Ukrainian Students' Association (MUSA)

**The Future of Ukrainian Studies – The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference**

This past October, I attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies on behalf of the University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association and the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union. The theme of the conference was "Reflecting on the Past, Embracing the Present, Envisioning the Future." The conference was very educational and a great opportunity for me, a young scholar, to see the work being undertaken in my field of studies, and to network with leading scholars in the field. However, I would be





lying if I said I did not feel disappointed in my experience at the conference. While the past and present of Ukrainian Studies was well represented at the conference, I felt that the people who represent the future of Ukrainian Studies were not represented and were not given a voice. There were only a few students present, and I was the only undergraduate in the room. I talked to other students in the room, and they too felt like they were excluded from the discussions.

During the entire conference, I felt like the future of Ukrainian Studies was being decided on without any discussion with students about what we wanted the future to be. Following each panel discussion, students were given the first opportunity to speak, but every time they called for students no one stood up to speak. Finally I had enough of hoping someone would bring up my concern, and so I stood up and asked what I knew others were thinking. I said:

We've heard lots of wonderful ideas for the future of Ukrainian-Canadian and Ukrainian Studies. I was wondering if you could comment on one more suggestion. Students are underrepresented at this conference and in discussions at this conference, and I would like to suggest that more students be engaged in discussions and decisions surrounding the future of Ukrainian Studies, as students are arguably the future of Ukrainian Studies.

When I looked around the room of the conference, the majority of people were grey haired and either retired or near-to retirement. The panel discussions were dominated by a certain demographic, and did not include anyone with a Masters or PhD candidacy. The panels, which discussed the future of Ukrainian Studies, were full of suggestions for how to get more students to take classes and where the future of Ukrainian Studies was headed. It seems foolish to me not to include students in these discussions because *students* are the ones either taking (or not taking) the classes, and *students* represent the future of Ukrainian Studies. The people making the decisions are making them for themselves and not thinking about the generation that is coming next. They are creating the Ukrainian Studies that they want and completely disregarding the entire up-and-coming generation of scholars.

My comment was met with responses full of anger. They were upset that I would comment on the unintentional exclusion of students at the conference. They



claimed that they had made an effort to reach out to students, and that it was *the students that weren't making an effort*. Sure, they had allowed graduate and PhD candidates to put posters on the wall to showcase their work, but what effort had they really made to make sure that students were being heard? I was the only undergraduate in attendance, and the only reason I was there was because my host institution made the assumption that I was attending. Then, when they found out that I was not attending or even aware that it was happening, they supported me and encouraged me to attend. I am on the SUSK National executive and the president of my USO, and neither organization had been informed that this conference was happening. When I checked with my friends living and studying in Edmonton, even they did not know the conference was being held. I am not sure what organizers consider as concerted effort to encourage students to attend, but whatever it is, obviously it was not enough.

While I was disappointed in the conference and wish that more was being done to include students in the discussions surrounding the future of Ukrainian Studies, I am glad that I attended the conference. It gave me an opportunity to learn about the past and present of Ukrainian Studies, so that I can be better informed to help shape the future of Ukrainian Studies. It also gave me the opportunity to stand and speak up for Ukrainian Studies students across Canada; to point out the flaws that were going unnoticed. At the very least, I think that I have made scholars aware that students want to be heard and included, and hopefully this has started discussions surrounding student inclusion. Moving forward, I hope that the Ukrainian research centres and programs for Ukrainian Studies will make more of an effort to include, encourage, and listen to the voices of students because they are the voices for the future of Ukrainian Studies.

Ashley Halko-Addley

USUSA Co-President





# Вітаємо!

## Choose the Choice Reward credit card that's right for you!

### Earn points on every purchase & redeem for prizes or cash back!\*



Limited time offer\*\*  
**SUSK Special!**  
+5,000  
Choice Rewards® cash  
back points  
with this ad

Visit us today!

[ukrainiancu.com](http://ukrainiancu.com) • [facebook.com/ucuykc](https://facebook.com/ucuykc)



**ucuykc** UKRAINIAN CREDIT UNION LIMITED  
УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КРЕДИТОВА СПІЛКА

\*\* Offer valid till June 30, 2017. May be withdrawn at any time at the sole discretion of Ukrainian Credit Union Limited. Regular terms and conditions apply.

\* Certain restrictions may apply. For more information on our credit cards, see the complete brochures available at your branch or visit [ukrainiancu.com](http://ukrainiancu.com) for details.



## Congress Fever

With the 2014 National SUSK Congress quickly approaching, I feel myself beginning to catch congress fever. It's a sort of excitement felt by Ukrainian Students as they anticipate the countless networking opportunities, the inspirational speakers, and of course the zabava! I think back to my first SUSK congress in 2012, which took place in Hamilton. I was unsure of what to expect from this weekend. All I knew was what many SUSK veterans had told myself and other students countless times. They told me SUSK congress was something I did not want to miss. They also threw in a word of advice; don't expect any sleep for four days. Although I enjoy my sleep, I decided it sounded like a beneficial congress. At the time, I had no idea what it was this congress would truly provide me with. After that first congress I had grown my network, and met so many incredible people. The weekend was so motivating, and I left with newfound knowledge and a new perspective on Ukrainian Canadian topics of discussion.

SUSK has an incredible way of bringing together students and inspiring them to do better for their respective USO's as well as Ukraine as a whole. There was no question whether or not I was attending last year's congress in Edmonton. Somewhere between wine tasting in Hamilton, running around Edmonton participating in the Amazing race, and folk dancing right off of Whyte Avenue, I had gained some of the most valuable experiences. SUSK provides students incredible opportunities and I am proud to be a part of this organization. With the 2014 SUSK Congress quickly approaching in Toronto I am now telling those students who have never attended congress what an incredible experience this will be for them. I look forward to the events planned and of course another sleepless four days. But four days I would not trade for the world.

Christina Chumak

USS Calgary

From April 2014 Student







## Bitter Realization

Like many students across Canada, I have spent the month of February in anticipation of the *Bitter Harvest* screening. I have heard about the plot of the movie and seen the excitement expressed by the members of the Ukrainian community all over Canada. I also recognized that, as the first movie about Holodomor of this scale, *Bitter Harvest* has a very important role in bringing the long-ignored story to the attention of the international audience.



Against all my expectations, I did not enjoy the movie. I could not understand why the story did not seem real to me, why I did not relate to the characters and the narrative. What I did not realize at the time of the screening was that I did not identify with the movie. The screening left me feeling like an outsider in the history of the country I came from.

I have lived in Ukraine for 17 years. All my childhood and teenage experiences have been shaped by the context of modern, post-Soviet Ukraine. For me, that was speaking Russian as well as Ukrainian, joining the Victory Parades on May 9<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the New Year over Christmas and never questioning the history you are taught at school. It was moving away to Canada and having to constantly answer questions like “So where are you from?” “What is Ukraine like?”, “What language do you speak?” that led me to explore the culture and history of the country I came from. I think many will agree that Ukraine is currently going through a large-scale self-identification, accompanied by a renewed effort to speak more Ukrainian and celebrate Ukrainian traditions. For me, the process of self-identification as a Ukrainian began when I moved to Canada. So I wondered, why does my experience not fit into the plot of *Bitter Harvest*?

The film left me wondering how the Ukrainians who did not die during Holodomor, or escaped the regime, fit into the story? What about those who stayed and accommodated to a new life after Holodomor, the life during the Soviet Union? What is their story and what has happened to them over the past 85 years? Have



they not suffered the repercussions of the tragic 1930s starvation policy? And what about many more policies that came after? It seems like the destiny of those who survived the Holodomor, but stayed in Ukraine and adjusted to a new way of life was not as important, because they were not able to preserve their culture and traditions, and instead changed and developed with their surroundings, learning to speak Russian and celebrate the New Years.

Surprisingly, the answer came to me when attending another screening. A few weeks later, I went to see *The Babushkas of Chernobyl*, a documentary by Holly Morris and Anne Bogart. The documentary follows a group of women who have returned to their homes in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and have lived there for decades. One scene struck me the most. At some point, the narrator explained that mushrooms were the best at absorbing and accumulating radioactivity from the soil, which made them the worst product to consume. Shortly after, one of the main heroines in the film was peeling a bucket-full of these mushrooms. She said: "I am not scared of radioactivity, I am scared of hunger". It felt as if the scene screamed at me: '*Look, the Holodomor was such a horrific experience that next to it eating mushrooms from the area affected by one of the worst nuclear disasters in human history is an acceptable everyday experience*'. That scene was very powerful at telling the story of Holodomor and its consequences in present-day Ukraine. It hinted at a difficult path that this woman, and many others in Ukraine, has gone through—the enforced famine in the 1930s, multiple land occupations during World War II, the nuclear disaster in 1986. And now the war in the East. I realized that while *Bitter Harvest* was an important tool for getting the story of Holodomor to the world, for me it did not answer all the questions. It made me feel like the story of the struggling Ukraine ends there, while I believe that the horrific history continues, and my country, my family, and friends, continue to live the aftermath of the horrible events.

I now understand that it is okay to not identify with the *Bitter Harvest* characters. It is okay, because if Yuri and Natalka escaped the 'evil soldiers', others have stayed behind and learned to live with them, whatever it took. For me the story is not over, and things in Ukraine are still not black and white.

Darya Naumova

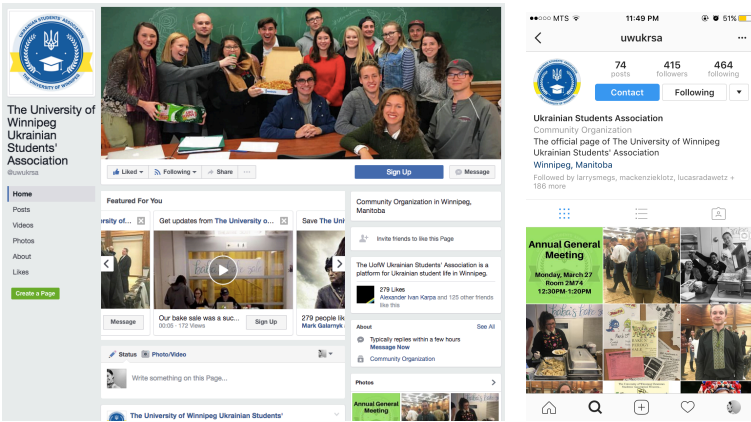




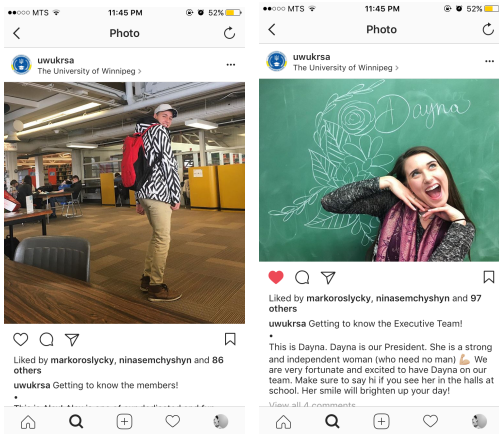
## Instagram, Facebook and More

How social media plays an integral role in the UWUKRSA's success.

It is no secret that the University of Winnipeg Ukrainian Students' Association's (UWUKRSA) social media presence has been both capturing and unique since its beginning in October of 2016. Keeping its club members up to date with various activities and community events through Instagram and Facebook has significantly increased the club's popularity and interest, extending beyond Winnipeg's Ukrainian student demographic.



Social media is the most popular and efficient way to communicate to students. When asked how he likes to be kept informed about the student group's news and upcoming events, Alexander Hryndzio, an active member of the UWUKRSA prefers Instagram. This form of media "is a great way to visually share information" says Hryndzio, "it definitely keeps students up to date with various events." It is also important to reflect the club's member dynamic through its social media platforms. Keeping its Instagram and Facebook posts fun and informal represents the students who make up the club. Creating various segments such as "Getting to Know the Executive Team" and "Getting to Know the Members," highlights the students and their unique contributions to the club's community. Having its members contribute to and feel connected through social media plays an integral role in the group's success.



Along with showcasing its members through social media, various educational aspects are also displayed through these platforms. Hryndzio particularly finds the story features important because “it keeps you informed on important Ukrainian historic events.” For the month of November, social media played a big role in educating its members on the Holodomor, the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-33 through its segment called “Memorial Monday”. Each week a new video interview was posted, sharing survivors’ stories from the Holodomor. This integrated the use of both Instagram and Facebook, which had the students refer to both medias for the complete story.





Engaging students in a digital form of camaraderie keeps the club's social media fun, informational and educational. Remember to like the UWUKRSA's Facebook page and follow it on Instagram at @uwukrsa to keep up with its upcoming events and various story features.

Orycia Karpa

Do you want to be heard? Do you have something you want to share? Submit it to [student@susk.ca](mailto:student@susk.ca) today!

