



Ukrainian Studies Newsletter

At the University of Washington



Issue 4, Jan 2013

Summing Up 2012

It has been a memorable year for the Ukrainian Studies Program at the University of Washington. First, the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee (USEC) resumed the publication of the electronic Newsletter and we are now proud to present you with its fourth issue. Second, our fundraising efforts have considerably intensified, especially in the second half of the year, raising close to \$10,000 within just a short period of five months. Third, with the assistance of the Ukrainian Association of Washington State we held for the very first time a live auction benefiting the UW Ukrainian Studies on Nov. 25, which was a great success. Finally, we are particularly delighted to welcome Tania Bardyn, Director of Health Sciences Libraries and Associate Dean of University Libraries, to join our Committee this fall; and we look forward to our fruitful cooperation. Most importantly, however, thanks to all these efforts, the Slavic Department is offering two new Ukrainian literature and culture courses beginning in Winter 2013. To ensure continuation of future course offerings, we need and count on your continuous support. Without your active involvement, we will not be able to convince the university administration that a permanent presence of Ukrainian Studies at the UW will significantly enhance its thriving programs in International Studies, which are considered among the best in the nation. To find out how you can help, please contact Co-Chairs, Prof. James West of the UW Slavic Dept. (jdwest@uw.edu; tel. 206-543-4829) or Dr. Maria Rewakowicz of the UW Slavic Dept. (mrewakow@uw.edu; tel. 206-985-9415). You can also contact the UW Slavic Department at 206-543-6848 or visit the Endowment web page at: <http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/endow/Ukrainian-eng/>

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Funding Ukrainian Studies at the University of Washington

Last August, I learned that Prof. Katarzyna Dziwirek (Professor of Polish and the new Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures) was keen to support the regularizing of Ukrainian Studies in the Department. She announced that, were the Ukrainian Hromada to raise \$7,000 by mid-October, a course in literature could be offered as early as January 2013. A good showing of enrollees over several quarters might provide the kind of data that would encourage administrators to consider making Ukrainian language and literature part of the Department's curriculum.

This made me decide to write a personal appeal (via good old surface mail) to three-dozen or so in the Ukrainian Community who had earlier been (or who could be persuaded to be) supportive of our efforts to establish Ukrainian Studies at the UW. First to respond was a dear East Coast friend of 65 years: Bohuslaw Zhabko-Potapovych Bass. Next were the Oppfeldts: Richard and Olga. She is President of the Ukrainian Women's Guild of Washington. Not long after came the contribution of Gary and Cheryl Lundgren—who apologized for not being able to give more (!).

I note that these are retirees, who nevertheless have made wider knowledge of their Ukrainian heritage a part of their legacy to generations yet unborn. However, members of the younger generation (also from the East Coast) joined the cause: Timish and Anya Hnateyko and Nestor Voronka and Lidia Mykytyn-Voronka (who herself contacted scores of people to support the effort). Others who enabled us to reach the goal were Orest and Natalia Holubec and the Krynytzky Family. Matching funds from Boeing and Microsoft for two of the contributors (company employees) added variety by way of corporate support.

Special thanks should go to Professor James West, himself of no Ukrainian background whatsoever but a faculty member of the Department and current Co-chair of the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund, who donated one-seventh of the amount needed! Finally, putting us over the top was a grant from the Ukrainian American Association of Washington State.

Despite this significant achievement, our work is not done. So as to fulfill the goal of the opening paragraph, please consider joining the list of contributors by making a tax-deductible donation to solidify the progress already made. Write at the lower left of you check/cheque (for our friends in Canada) "Ukrainian Courses" if you want to specifically support instruction of Ukrainian subjects. Refer to the information on page 6 how to make your donation a reality.

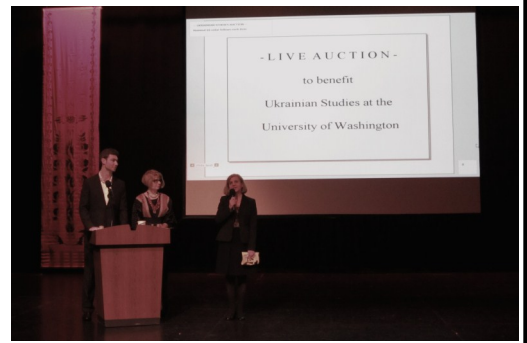
Eugene E. Lemcio, Ph.D.

Live Auction Benefiting the Ukrainian Studies Program

On Nov. 25, 2012, the USEC held its first ever live auction, organized jointly with the Ukrainian Association of Washington State and held as an accompanying event during the Gala Concert of the Folk Ensemble "Barvinok" and Chorus "Serpanok" at Kirkland Performance Center. We auctioned eight items, among them three art works, embroidered table cloth and blouse, two sets of Microsoft Windows 8 Pro, and a gift certificate from Vakker Portraits Photo Studio. All items were sold, raising \$1,475 and together with additional donations, the total funds raised at this event amounted to \$2,000. We are especially grateful to people who donated and/or procured the auctioned items: Anonymous, Anya & Timish Hnateyko, Luba Kihichak, Marta Korduba, Maria Rewakowicz, Vitaliy Sad, Nestor & Lida Mykytyn-Voronka, and Vakker Portraits, but are no less grateful to those who bought the items: Ruslana Zbagerska, Petro & Valya Drohomiretskiy, Anatoliy Nazarchuk, Iulian Paraschiv, and Robert & Marianna Nielsen.

This event was successful in large part thanks to help of a number of individuals. I would like to personally thank: Valya & Petro Drohomiretskiy, Lida Mykytyn-Voronka & Nestor Voronka, Anya & Timish Hnateyko, Eugene Lemcio, Laada Bilaniuk, James West, Krystyna Untersteiner, Svitlana Khutka, Nazar Stetsiuk, and Vlad Polikhun.

Maria G. Rewakowicz

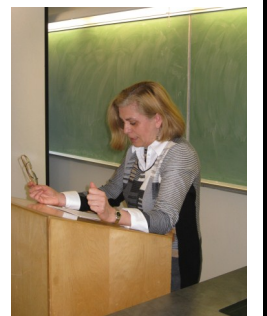


Ukrainian Studies Workshop in Victoria, BC

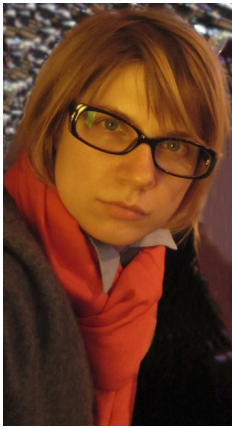


On Saturday, December 1, 2012, the University of Victoria Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies hosted a workshop on "Teaching Ukrainian Studies in North America," bringing together scholars from the US and Canada to discuss issues and innovations in Ukrainian Studies pedagogy. Keynote speaker Dr. Alla Nedashkivska (U of Alberta) presented her innovative online Business Ukrainian textbook. Other topics included the use of contemporary media, including television programs and films, in the teaching of Ukrainian language, culture, and history. From the University of Washington, Dr. Maria Rewakowicz discussed the challenges and rewards of teaching Ukrainian Literature in translation, and Dr. Laada Bilaniuk examined the politics inherent in teaching "high" and "low" aspects of Ukrainian culture.

Laada Bilaniuk



Dr. Svitlana Khutka's Talk at the UW Ellison Center



Dr. Khutka is a Carnegie Research Fellow at the UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies and visiting scholar from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine, where she is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology. She received a Ph.D. in sociology from the National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv in 2010 and the same year was awarded the Great Silver Medal on behalf of Natalya Panina "For Honor, Dignity, Professionalism" and the title of "Best Young Sociologist of the Year in Ukraine" by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Her previous research on social mobility and life-coping practices in those regions of Ukraine that were incorporated into USSR in 1939 and 1940 as well as contemporary self-perceptions of national identity of Ukrainians, life satisfaction/happiness, human agency, and social inequality structure, turned her attention to the role of human agency, social capital and social networks under conditions of radical social change, including the issues of social memory and national identity (re)construction, and differences of political and economical values. For the past two years, Prof. Khutka has also been working as an associate researcher at the Laboratory for Comparative Social Studies under the academic supervision of influential political scientist Ronald Inglehart at the University of Michigan.

On Nov. 26, 2012, as part of the Ellison Center Brown Bag Series, Dr. Khutka presented a public lecture on **Human Agency and Subjective Well-being in Transition vs. Non-transition Countries**. Her talk analyzed the cross-cultural relationship between life satisfaction, happiness and feeling of freedom (on the basis of 83 countries from World Values Survey data) in mostly post-socialist (transition) countries compared to non-transition countries. She examined individual- and country-level differences of institutional settings as drivers of human development in relation to the level of economic development, quality of life, and democratization, and concluded that that kind of research is important to Ukraine as it attempts to develop public policy solutions in the sphere of "national accounts of well-being." Dr. Khutka's presentation was followed by a lively discussion.

ELLISON CENTER BROWN BAG SERIES



SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING AND HUMAN AGENCY IN TRANSITION VS. NON-TRANSITION COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF UKRAINE

SVITLANA KHUTKA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SOCIOLOGY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF KYIV-MOHYLA ACADEMY

NOVEMBER 26, 12:30 PM, THOMSON 317



For more information visit: jais.washington.edu/ellison, call (206) 543-4852 or email reecass@u.washington.edu. To request disability accommodations contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at (206) 543-6450/V, (206) 543-6452/TTY, (206) 685-7264 (Fax), or ds@u.washington.edu.



The Henry M. Jackson
School of International Studies
University of Washington

Letter/Appeal from the former President of UW Ukrainian Students United

Dear Friends,

The Ukrainian community is often involved in culturally significant Ukrainian celebrations throughout the year. Days like "Den' Nezalezhnosti" (Independence Day) or the day celebrating Taras Shevchenko are held close to the heart among the community. The recent Ukrainian Gala, however, a concert celebrating our Ukrainian community, was a first. The show proved to be really amazing! I wanted to personally thank all the people in charge for their diligence and inspiring persistence in making it happen. Complementing the show was the auction aimed at raising funds for the teaching of Ukrainian subjects during 2013.

I wanted to mention something about the UW course that's being offered, for which the money is being raised. During my studies at UW, I stumbled upon and decided to take this very course out of sheer curiosity. The course proved to be fantastic: not only do you meet people who have a similar interest in Ukrainian culture as yourself (AND who are not yet aware of the Ukrainian community), but you also get exposed to a variety of provocative and significant ideas in the material that Professor Rewakowicz personally selects for the course. The course is really exposing a side of Ukraine we do not yet know about. Hopefully it's a full course!

On another note also, I wanted to tell you about my recent travels to Ukraine. During my last year at the UW, I was involved with the international club called FIUTS. As so often happens, there were a few students from Ukraine with whom I managed to strike a close friendship with (and even entice a few to join our dance ensemble). When it came time for them to return, I got invited to participate in a program to teach Ukrainian kids English in a small Odesa kindergarten called "Ostrovok". Not getting very many opportunities to travel to Ukraine for free, I immediately jumped aboard on what seemed like a challenging yet rewarding opportunity. My intuition proved to be true: the long hours, demanding work environment, and the very energetic children proved to be a tough combination. Yet, in this intensive one-month English course, the children learned the equivalent of one year's worth of language study appropriate to their 3.5 - 6 year old range. At my side was an innovative new tool that the directors of the kindergarten, Pavel Kogan and Elena Bogoliubova, were, and still are, in the process of developing. This new program merged the latest language learning techniques with technology so that most of the learning was done on an interactive animated computer program, with the child in the commanding seat.

My task was to oversee the development of the program, i.e., to write and record audio material complementing the visual animations, to lead daily lessons planned around the themes of the program, to listen to and grade recorded homework tasks that the children submitted after a given lesson, to give feedback on those tasks to each child individually, and to update parents as to where their child was in process of learning. At the end of the month, I put the kids through a stress-free exam, which gave them the chance to answer questions, show their understanding, sing songs, play games, and even to begin to converse, all in English of course.

Overall, it was a great experience. But I do not want it to end there. After I came back to the US I realized that this program needs to be accessible in all kindergartens and households throughout Ukraine if the future Ukrainian generation is to be anywhere near English-competency as the rest of Western Europe is. Today's Ukrainian school structure is often outdated: plagued with the old and closed-minded hierarchy of the past Soviet regime, underfunded, and uninterested. It is too little, too late. I believe that Ukrainian kids deserve more; if we can help them get access to a dependable source of English learning, one that provides adequate and proven language-learning techniques, then this is a start to a more modern and global Ukraine. English is the language of opportunity, and Ukrainians need to have command of it if we are ever to succeed in the global sense. My questions are as follows, how can I begin to spread word/interest about this program? I am always open to holding a demonstration of the software being developed. To whom can I go to for possible funding/investment opportunities aimed at continuing development of the software? Please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions and suggestions or requests for demonstrations of the program. My email address is

anton.shadyrya@gmail.com

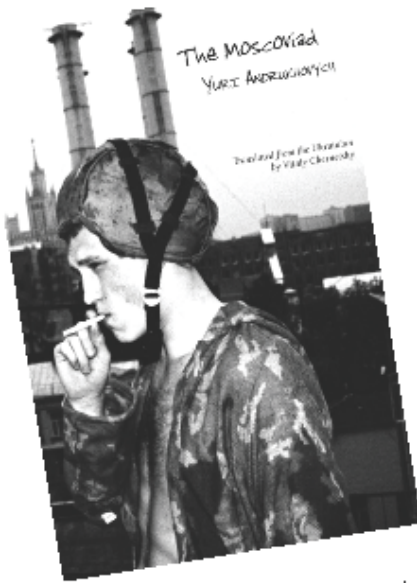
Regards,

Anton Shadyrya

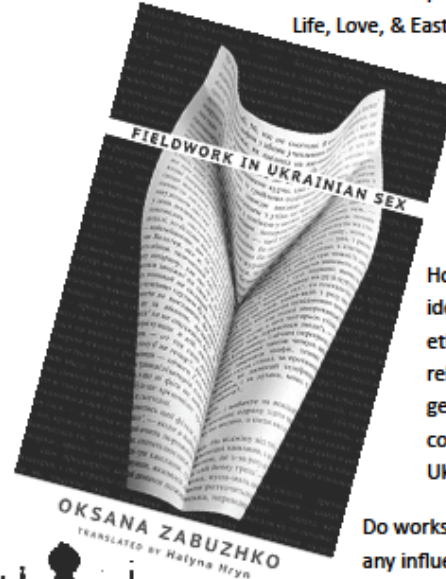
UKR 420: Literature, Language, & Identity in Post-Soviet Ukraine

May be of interest to students in...

Slavic Languages & Literatures
Comparative Literature
International Studies
History
Political Science
Anthropology
Life, Love, & Eastern Europe!



**DEATH AND
THE PENGUIN**
ANDREY KURKOV
TRANSLATED BY GEORGE BIRD



How are various identities (national, ethnic, territorial, religious, class and gender) reflected in contemporary Ukrainian literature?

Do works of literature exert any influence on forming these identities in the post-Soviet reality?

This course will address issues of cultural hybridity, bilingualism, and the decentralization of the literary process since the fall of the Soviet empire in 1991.

WINTER 2013
TuTh 1:30-3:20
with Dr. Maria Rewakowicz

5 VLPA Credits!

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the UW USE, here is how you can do it:

1. Donate online by going to the Slavic Department website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/slavweb/>

Click on "Make a Gift". You will then be directed to various Slavic Dept. Funds, including two Ukrainian Studies Funds. You can select either **Endowed Fund for Ukrainian Studies**, created to endow a Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the UW, or, **Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund**, which supports ongoing activities in Ukrainian Studies such as a lectures series or language and culture instruction.

2. If you prefer, you can mail your contribution (payable to: **UW FUSF** if you want to support the **Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund** or payable to: **UW USE** if you want to support the **Endowment Fund**) to:

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
M253 Smith Hall, Box 353580
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3580

Please indicate on your check to which Fund you would like to donate, Endowed Fund for Ukrainian Studies, or Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund.

Pursuant to RCW 19.09, the University of Washington is registered as a charitable organization with the Secretary of State, State of Washington. For information, call the Office of the Secretary of State, 1-800-332-4483.