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## Ukrainian Studies Newsletter At The University of Washington



Issue 1, June 2009

This newsletter reaches out to you from the Ukrainian Studies Endowment at the University of Washington, whose mission is to promote the study of all aspects of Ukraine including but not confined to language and culture. The Endowment has its focus in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the interdisciplinarily Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program in the Jackson School of International Studies. The members of its organizing committee are Prof. James West of the UW Slavic Department (jdwest@u.washington.edu, tel: 206-543-4829), Prof. Gene Lemcio of Seattle Pacific University (elemcio@spu.edu, tel: 206-281-2208) and Dr. Maria Rewakowicz of the UW Slavic Department (mrewakow@u.washington.edu, tel: 206-543-2605). Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have questions.

### **March Event: Ukrainian Studies Seminar**

On Monday, 2 March, 2009, a Ukrainian Studies Seminar was held at the University of Washington, Seattle, entitled "The Cultures of Postcommunism in Ukraine: Perspectives on the Creation of New Identities".

#### **The program for this event was:**

Alexandra Hrycak, Reed College: "Ukrainian Feminisms."

Maria Rewakowicz, UW: "Geography Matters: Regionalism and Identities in Contemporary Ukrainian Prose."

Serhy Yekelchuk, University of Victoria: "What is Ukrainian about Ukraine's Pop Culture? The Strange Case of Verka Serdiuchka,"

#### **About the panelists:**

Alexandra Hrycak is Associate Professor of Sociology at Reed College. She has authored numerous articles dealing with feminism and women's movements in Ukraine and other East European countries.

Maria G. Rewakowicz is Visiting Lecturer and Shevchenko Society Fellow in the Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the UW. She is co-editor of *Contemporary Ukraine on the Cultural Map of Europe*, forthcoming from M.E. Sharpe in April 2009.

Serhy Yekelchuk is Associate Professor of History and Culture, and Chair of the Dept. of Germanic and Slavic Studies, at the University of Victoria. He is the author of two books: *Stalin's Empire of Memory: Russian-Ukrainian Relations in the Soviet Historical Imagination* (2004), and *Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation* (2007) as well as numerous articles dealing with culture and identities in Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

For further information on events like this and on Ukrainian Studies at the University of Washington, please call the

University of Washington's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at 206-543-6848.

## Visit of Ukrainian Ambassador, April 2007

During his first visit to the Pacific Northwest, on April 2, 2007, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Dr. Oleh Shamshur, delivered a presentation in Parrington Hall on the subject of current U.S.-Ukraine relations. Present at the seminar were faculty, students, and leaders of the Ukrainian American community. The occasion was hosted by Prof. James West, Co-Chair of the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund (USEF). Michael Biggins, Head of the Slavic and East European Section, led a tour of the Library's extensive collection of books, periodicals, and maps related to Ukraine. At a



meeting in the Faculty Club with the Co-Chairs of USEF, Chris Landman (Director of Development for the Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences), and Consul General Mykola Tochytskyi (of the Ukrainian Consulate in San Francisco), Dr. Shamshur spoke about the significance of Ukrainian Studies in general and about the Ukrainian Endowment at the UW in particular, promising to give his full support to the project.

Co-Chair of USEF Prof. Eugene Lemcio had earlier arranged for a breakfast meeting with Senior Leadership and Chiefs of Staff at the Children's Hospital followed by a tour and lunch with Boeing Executives at the Commercial Airplane Company Headquarters in Tukwila. During the meal, Dr. Shamshur received word that President Viktor Yushchenko had dissolved Parliament, thereby cutting short his two-day visit. This meant canceling breakfast with the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle and noontime meetings in Olympia with Gov. Christine Gregoire, Secretary of State Sam Reed, and Lieutenant-Governor Brad Owen. A discussion at Microsoft about intellectual property rights had been scheduled in Redmond, to be followed by a first-time meeting with the Ukrainian American Community of Greater Seattle.

However, before returning to Washington, D.C., His Excellency fulfilled the day's schedule by attending a dinner in his honor at "The Ruins", hosted by the Development Office of the UW College of Arts and Sciences. Joining him were Consul General Mykola Tochytskyi; Susan Jeffords, Vice Provost for Global Affairs; Gael Tarleton, Special Assistant for Global Strategies in the Office of the Vice Provost for Global Affairs; Ellen Kaisse, Divisional Dean for Arts and Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences; Chris Landman (aforementioned); Dr. Laada Bilaniuk, of the UW Anthropology Department; and the USEF Co-Chairs.

Representing Ukrainian-American cultural and business organizations were Petro Drohomiretsky, owner of Allon Development and President of the Ukrainian American Club of WA; Timothy Hnateyko, Senior Attorney at Microsoft's Mobile Communications Division; Oleksandr Moskal, Manager for the Portland Branch of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union of Rochester, NY; and Alexander Aginsky, Managing Director of the Aginsky Consulting Group of Portland. Also present was Ms. Carol Kessler, Director of the Center for Global Security at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

## Holodomor Event, May 2008

The Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund at the University of Washington (USEF) and the Ukrainian American Club of Washington (UACW) co-sponsored the first Stateside stop of the "Eternal Flame", a torch originating from Australia and most recently borne throughout Canada.

In the auditorium of Kane Hall, a solemn public ceremony in the afternoon of May 4, 2008 commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the "Holodomor", a famine engineered by the Soviet regime, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 6-9 million people during 1932-33, most of whom perished in the territory of Ukraine. The itinerary of the flame traversing several states and many nations had been planned in order to call attention to this under-reported, and thus little-known tragedy, which Ukrainians (and an increasing number of governments) regard as genocidal.

The program, planned by the UACW and the scouting organization Plast, was set in a context of national and ethnic symbols. Music and recitations were interspersed with greetings and presentations from representatives of several educational, cultural, civic, and diplomatic bodies. Petro Drohomiretsky, President of the UACW, and Prof. Eugene

Lemcio, Co-Chair of the USEF, welcomed both participants and the audience.

The flame's official transfer from our Northern Neighbor was introduced by remarks from Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, his Excellency Ihor Ostash, and by Pavlo Hrod, President of the Congress of Ukrainians in Canada. The torch was received and its significance expounded by His Excellency, Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U. S. Continuing in this vein was Mykhajlo Sawkiw, Jr., President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Speaking from his own experience was Stepan Horlatsch, himself a survivor of the Famine. Also present in the audience were the Hon. Mykola Tochytskyi, Consul General of Ukraine in San Francisco, and Her Excellency Tetyana Izhevs'ka, Ambassador of Ukraine to the Vatican.

Dr. Stephen Hanson, Herbert J. Ellison Professor of Political Science and Director of the Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (REECAS), provided a succinct account of the Holodomor within the larger framework of Soviet political and economic policies. His academic reflections were accompanied by more anecdotal and personal ones by the Hon. Jim McDermott, U. S. Representative (D-7th District). Confessing that he had known little about Ukraine's Famine until recently, the Congressman drew parallels with the Irish Famine, which his ancestors had experienced.

After the program, participants assembled in Red Square around a circle of lighted candles. Earlier, they had taken the form of a Tryzub ("Trident"), the national symbol. Here, they flickered in honor of those who had perished during the Famine. The Torch was then passed from the Canadian representatives to the American ones—who transferred it to Plast members and from them to everyone present.

### **Lecture by Mykola Riabchuk, March 2008**

The faculty and students at the UW had a rare opportunity to hear a presentation by a leading Ukrainian intellectual Mykola Riabchuk, who at the time was a visiting scholar at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. His lecture titled "Climbing Up or Just Muddling Through? Democratic Transition in Ukraine" focused on Ukraine's post-Soviet development, featuring its cultural and historical peculiarities within a framework of the path-dependence theory. He argued that internal divisions and social ambivalence hamper the national mobilization needed for radical reforms, but, at the same time, they create "pluralism by default" and preclude any consolidation of authoritarianism, forcing major political players to negotiate and compromise. The event was organized by the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee, sponsored by the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies, and generously supported by the Ukrainian American Club of Washington. The lecture ended with a lively discussion.

Mykola Riabchuk is a senior research associate at the Ukrainian Centre for Cultural Studies in Kyiv and author of five books as well as numerous articles on civil society, state/nation building, nationalism, national identity, and post-communist transition in the post-Soviet countries, primarily in Ukraine. His books have been translated from Ukrainian into other languages, e.g.: Polish (*Dwie Ukrainy*, 2004, 2006), Serbian (*Od Malorusije do Ukrajine*, 2003), French (*De la 'Petite Russie' à l'Ukraine*, 2003), and German (*Die reale und die imaginierte Ukraine*, 2006). He has lectured in a number of Polish, Canadian, and American universities.

### **Ukrainian Studies at the UW**

During the 2007-08 academic year Ukrainian Studies at the University of Washington became considerably more visible thanks to the Shevchenko Society Postdoctoral Fellowship which allowed its recipient, Dr. Maria G. Rewakowicz, to teach three courses on Ukrainian subjects in the Slavic Department. These courses were: *Literature, Language, and Identities in Post-Soviet Ukraine*; *Catastrophe and Culture: Chornobyl as Text*; and *Twentieth-Century Ukrainian Poets in English Translation*. The Shevchenko Society Postdoctoral Fellowship was extended for the current year and that has enabled Dr. Rewakowicz to offer additional courses, namely: *The Other in Ukrainian Literature: Female Characters and Authors*; *The Ukrainian Tutorial (as an Independent Study)*; and again: *Literature, Language, and Identities in Post-Soviet Ukraine*. The cumulative number of all students enrolled in these courses as of today is 45.

Maria Rewakowicz holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto and has taught Ukrainian language and literature at Rutgers, Harvard, and Columbia universities. She is the author of four books of poetry in Ukrainian and editor of *Pivstolittia napivtyshi* (2005, an anthology of the Poetry of the New York Group of Ukrainian Poets). In 2003-04 she was

a Research Scholar at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Washington, DC, studying the connection between literary production and national identity construction in post-Soviet Ukraine and is now working on a book on Literature and Identities in Ukraine since 1991. She has co-edited a collection of essays titled "Contemporary Ukraine on the Cultural Map of Europe" forthcoming from M.E. Sharpe in 2009.

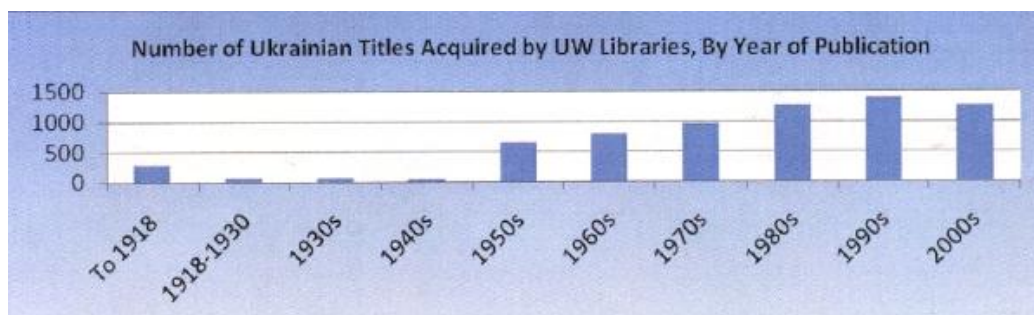
### Learn Ukrainian This Summer!

The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures is offering an intensive nine-week course of Ukrainian from June 22 to August 21, 2009 as a complete year of language credits in a single summer. This course is for students with no previous knowledge of Ukrainian and is designed to facilitate the acquisition of basic vocabulary and grammar through practice in comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Listening comprehension and conversational skills will be practiced through audio sessions during the regular class hours. Students will also learn about Ukrainian culture and ethnic heritage. The First-Year Ukrainian classes are held M-F from 1:10PM-4:30PM. Registration starts on April 22, 2009, and it is important to register by June 5. For more information, contact the UW Slavic Department at 206-543-6848.

## Ukrainian Materials at the University of Washington Libraries

Although the University of Washington can lay claim to the strongest Ukrainian studies library collection in the Pacific Northwest, when viewed from a nationwide perspective, UW's holdings of some 7,000 bound volumes and microfilm units are still quite modest. Harvard Library, supporting the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, is North America's leader in Ukrainian materials with upwards of 60,000 volumes, outstripping even the Library of Congress in the extent of its holdings. Yale, the University of Illinois at Urbana and – on the West Coast – Stanford occupy second through fourth place for strong Ukrainian library collections, which they continue to develop at a dynamic rate. Throughout the U.S. and Canada, still other institutions with long-active Ukrainian studies programs, such as the University of Alberta, University of Toronto, Duke University, Columbia, and the University of Kansas support extensive collections of materials for Ukrainian studies.

In contrast with these other institutions, UW has not yet had Ukrainian studies as part of its permanent curriculum, or a Ukrainian scholar on the permanent faculty; consequently, the UW Libraries has never had an actual mandate to develop outstanding, research-level collections, as we have for many other parts of the Slavic and East European world, including Poland, the Czech Republic, the former Yugoslavia, the Baltics and, of course, Russia. However, Ukraine has by no means gone untended in the Libraries. Since the UW's Slavic collections were first established in the 1950s, the growth rate for Ukrainian materials has moved steadily upward, as the chart below indicates:



The upward arc of collection development from the 1970s through 1990s netted many important journals and editions of the complete works of leading Ukrainian authors published during those decades, from the classics of Shevchenko, Franko, Kotliarevskyi and Kotsiubinskyi to the works of more modern authors Pavlo Tychyna, Olena Teliha, Oles' Honchar, Lesia Ukrainka, Ol'ha Kobylianska and many dozens of others. Major works in Ukrainian history, music and art history, published both in Ukraine and in North American emigration, were also acquired during these decades, all of which taken together produced a very adequate, if not outstanding foundation for Ukrainian studies.

As the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century draws to a close, the UW Library appears to be holding even with the momentum in Ukrainian acquisitions developed over the past few decades. This is very fortunate. Since Ukraine gained its independence in 1991, the new freedoms that publishers enjoy have resulted in a far greater array of informative, creative and scholarly

publications to choose from than in the Soviet period, not to mention the fact that Ukraine's publishing output has more than doubled over this period. Where Soviet Ukraine produced 7,046 book titles in 1990, by 2005 annual publishing output was approaching 15,000. Ukraine's growth of more than 100% over two decades, compared with the far more moderate two-decade growth rates of around 30% in Western Europe, is nothing short of explosive, and it poses real challenges to libraries like UW's, which aspire to capture that literature.

Over the past two years, UW has been particularly fortunate to have a Ukrainian scholar of Maria Rewakowicz's stature here as a visiting lecturer. Dr. Rewakowicz has generously lent her time and advice to the UW Libraries to help us identify the most important new publications coming out of Ukraine and make sure UW acquires them. And although UW's Ukrainian collection may not (yet) boast the numbers of a Harvard, a Stanford, or even a Kansas, we are confident that the new material we are getting is of high quality and long-term significance.

Aside from purchasing materials directly from Ukraine, gifts in kind are an important way that we continue to develop the UW Libraries' Slavic collections. If you have Ukrainian books or journals that you no longer need, but would like to place in a good home, please contact us at [slavinfo@u.washington.edu](mailto:slavinfo@u.washington.edu) or [mbiggins@u.washington.edu](mailto:mbiggins@u.washington.edu)

For an overview of our current and recent Ukrainian acquisitions, visit the UW Libraries' web pages for Slavic and East European Studies at Click on "monthly new book lists" to be directed to regularly updated lists of our new Ukrainian and other Slavic materials. To examine our current journal subscriptions, click on "Current Slavic Periodicals" farther down on the main page, and then select "Ukraine" from the left-hand sidebar. And should you visit Suzzallo Library in person, we encourage you to browse the Ukrainian collections in the open book stacks, particularly call number ranges DK 508 (Ukrainian history) and PG 3800 and 3900 (Ukrainian literature and linguistics).

Michael Biggins  
Head, Slavic and East European Section  
University of Washington Libraries, Seattle

## **Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund**

If you wish to help secure a permanent place for Ukrainian Studies at the University of Washington (and along the west coast of North America), please visit the [Ukrainian Studies Endowment Fund](#) website for details.