



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

# PCUH FOCUS

Newsletter of the Prairie Centre  
for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage

Новини Центру Дослідження  
Української Спадщини

## *PCUH – Supporting Ukrainian Heritage Through Higher Education*

Created in 1998, the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) is an academic unit of St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan. As an anchor for Ukrainian Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, PCUH supports course offerings in this area while engaging in research and projects that promote a wider understanding and appreciation of the Ukrainian experience in Canada and abroad.

Conceived as a community-university partnership and supported by endowed funds, the Centre is seen as an important link between the University and the Ukrainian-Canadian community.

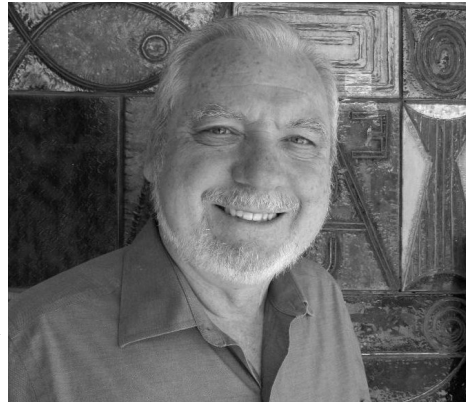
### *STM Associate Dean's Address*

For those who have been at St. Thomas More College or have driven by recently, it is obvious that some things are changing. The major building expansion is well underway and is on schedule to be completed by Christmas 2013. Other changes are less obvious but will have major consequences for our programs and our students. One such development is the Minor in Ukrainian Studies, which is the product of the vision and efforts a number of people. These people realized the importance to offer a program of studies that introduces students to Ukraine, its history, culture, language and some of the social, political and economic challenges it faces for the future.

The Ukrainian Studies Minor is one of three minors at STM and adds to our distinctive programming. It includes: all Ukrainian language courses, courses on Ukraine and Eastern Europe offered by Anthropology, and selected Political Studies, Economics, History, and Religious Studies courses. In

other words, it is an interdisciplinary program. Every academic program at the U of S needs an academic “home,” and we are thankful to the Department of Political Studies (College of Arts and Science) for becoming such a place for the Minor. We owe a big debt of thanks to our previous Associate Dean, Dr. Patti McDougall (now Vice-Provost of Teaching and Learning, U of S), for doing the background work to have an appropriate academic home as “sponsor” of the Ukrainian Studies Minor.

I am also happy to report that, together with STM's President Terry Downey, Dean Carl Still signed a new agreement with Ternopil National Pedagogical University (TNPU) to participate in a language-based study abroad program at TNPU. This officially renews the partnership agreement with the Ukrainian university to resume summer study abroad in



STM Associate Dean, Dr. Darrell McLaughlin

Ukraine.

Let me conclude by thanking all those who continue to make PCUH possible, most especially Ms. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen and Dr. Bohdan Kordan. The Centre's work contributes to opportunities for our students to become better local and global citizens and to become actively engaged in creating a more just world, one only imagined by earlier generations. I invite you to take a closer look through the following pages, which showcase such valuable academic and community contributions.

### Spring 2013

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## PCUH in 2012/13: A message from the Director



*Dr. Khanenko-Friesen speaks about the "Oral History of 20th Street" project to filmmakers, April 2013.*

For those involved in the work of our Centre, the past academic year has been marked by a number of developments, many stemming from the Centre's own initiatives, some due to the changing environment in which we work, and some simply rooted in the natural cycle of life. In an ever-globalizing world, our initiatives, however local they may seem, certainly speak to and are driven by larger-than-local circumstances. As a Ukrainian studies research Centre, we see ourselves building and disseminating knowledge about Ukrainian culture in Canada as well as about Ukraine, the country that informed and continues to inform the life and agency of Ukrainian Canadians. In the past year, we hosted guests and events focusing on the challenges of building museums and conducting archival work in Ukraine, and on the recent parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The Centre has been preparing an exhibit on the monetary history of Ukraine, we have initiated the renewal of the Agreement for Cooperation between the U of S, STM and Ternopil National Pedagogical University, our long-term partner. We also support Canadian studies as they develop in Ukraine, by providing the opportunity for graduate students to contribute to the delivery of a Canadian studies program on the campus of a leading Ukrainian university, i.e. Chernivtsi National University.

As a research Centre with a home-base in a College, that has been steadily gaining the reputation of a leading Catholic College on one of the most vibrant campuses in Canada, we embrace the opportunity to contribute to the mission of our home institution and to explore the productive intersections of spiritual and intellectual traditions in scholarship, research, teaching and community service.

Our most recent Mohyla Lecture presenter was invited with this understanding in mind. Dr. Swyrypa spoke to a full-capacity audience about the lasting legacy of Ukrainian Churches on the Canadian prairies and shared research findings from the Eastern Christian *Sanctuary* documentation project, coordinated by the U of Alberta. We also support this project, both financially and by assigning graduate students enrolled at the U of S to participate in field research. Our Centre's reputation attracts students interested in the study of Eastern Christianity in Canada, and one such student is currently writing his Master's thesis on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

An institution's global presence cannot be fully realized as such without becoming firmly grounded in the immediate social world and its local networks. PCUH is no exception. Our Centre's mission is to serve our students by providing them with the framework and opportunity to pursue their quest for knowledge about Ukrainian history, culture and heritage in Canada. Over the last few years including the past year, the relationship between PCUH and the U of S Ukrainian Student Association on campus has strengthened. PCUH is proud to support the activities of the Association, both financially and in kind. I invite you to read further about what has been happening in the Association over the last year. Our mandate is also to attend to the development of Ukrainian studies on our campus. The faculty members of PCUH have

seen record enrolments in the Ukrainian language courses this past year. We added a new course on Ukrainian studies to the curriculum of the recently launched *Ukrainian Studies Minor* in the College of Arts and Science. We are also proud to collaborate with the Saskatoon-based headquarters of the *Ukrainian Museum of Canada*, that soon will host the exhibit on the currency of Ukraine. And of course, our ongoing programming at the Centre is always directed at the community at large, because we understand that serving the campus community cannot be pursued independently from engaging with the community outside of the University. Our events would not have been successful at all if not for the generous support of many organizations and individuals working in our city and the province.

And while we have been happy to welcome many new individuals to our events, we have also lost some of our most committed supporters. Just weeks ago, we bid farewell to Dr. Victor Buyniak, one of the most generous donors of our Centre, who passed away this spring. Dr. Buyniak's intellect, positive energy and joyful presence will be greatly missed by all of us at the Centre.

As another cyclical development, my term of being the Director of the Centre is coming to an end this summer. I am pleased to report that Dr. Bohdan Kordan, the founder of PCUH and its first Director, will assume the leadership of the Centre as of July 1, 2013.

I invite you to read further about our various activities and I am looking forward to reconnecting with many of you during our events next academic year.

Sincerely,

*- Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen*

***PCUH would like to extend sincere, warm thanks to the following individuals for their generous donations over the past year:***

Mr. John Didula

Dr. Michael and Mrs. Marie Krochak

Mr. William and Mrs. Pauline Semenuik

Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Jeralyn Seniuk

Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen

## MOHYLA LECTURE 2013

Dr. Frances Swyripa

The Mohyla Lecture Series is a series of annual public lectures devoted to a discussion of Ukrainian heritage and contemporary affairs. **Dr. Frances Swyripa**, professor of history at the University of Alberta, delivered this year's Mohyla Lecture at STM College on February 14th, 2013.

In her presentation "From Building to Burning: The Legacy of Ukrainian Churches on the Rural Prairies," Dr. Swyripa discussed the historical circumstances and current state of the surviving Ukrainian churches that grace the prairie landscape. At their peak, over a thousand Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox churches dotted the prairie countryside and loomed over nearby towns and villages. Today that number has shrunk, the product of a combination of changing demographics, rural out-migration, increasing secularization, a perennial shortage of priests, and maintenance costs. Some superfluous churches were burned or demolished and buried. Others were sold and converted to new purposes. Yet others were closed and gradually abandoned to become ruins. A privileged few became museums, as part of various heritage initiatives. Dr. Swyripa examined these phenomena, using examples drawn from the *Sanctuary: Spiritual Heritage Documentation Project*, of which she is one of three principal investigators (with John-Paul Himka and Natalie Kononenko) at the University of Alberta.

The Mohyla Lecture took place at STM College and was well-received by the very large and engaged crowd present. The Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage would like express its gratitude to the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress for supporting this event.



## ON-CAMPUS NEWS

The interdisciplinary **Minor in Ukrainian Studies** is now an approved and full-fledged academic program coordinated by the faculty in Ukrainian studies at St. Thomas More College, but available to all students in the College of Arts and Science, as well as other colleges. This past academic year, the Minor's core course **INTS 202.3 Ukrainian History and Culture: An Introduction** was offered for the first time. Taught by our Centre's director, Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen, this course serves as a fundamental part of the new Minor (along with the Ukrainian language courses) and is open to all U of S students. INTS 202.3 offers a multidisciplinary introduction to Ukraine, its history, culture, and peoples from historical, cultural, political and anthropological perspectives. Along with an overview of major developments in Ukrainian history, culture and nation building, the course also focuses on the outcomes and meanings of these developments to contemporary Ukrainians, their neighbours, and the Ukrainian diaspora. The work of this course became integrated with other activities in the area of Ukrainian Studies, for example a movie night was co-hosted by the course and the U of S Ukrainian Students Association. The **Minor Faculty Advisory Committee**, chaired by Dr. Khanenko-Friesen, was struck and is now officially responsible for coordinating this program on campus. Students are invited to consult the webpage of the Minor, where information on this program and courses available in it are profiled. The process to take this Minor is easy - simply enroll in the courses, accumulate the credits and declare the Minor as a part of your academic study.

## UKRAINIAN STUDIES AT THE U OF S



USUSA President Jenna Sakowsky welcomes everyone to the jointly sponsored movie night, screening the historical epic, "With Fire and Sword."

We at St. Thomas More College are pleased to announce that the University of Saskatchewan and Ternopil National Pedagogical University (Ternopil, Ukraine) have renewed the Agreement for Cooperation for the next five years, which will allow us to renew the **Spring Session in Ukraine** study-abroad program during the next academic year. The renewed agreement came on the heels of Dr. Olena Huzar, program coordinator in Ternopil, visiting our College this past November. This program allows Canadian students to obtain U of S credits by studying Ukrainian language courses during the spring semester at the Ternopil National Pedagogical University (courses may be audited, as well). The unique aspect of this particular study-abroad program in Ukraine is that rather than staying in university residence, students are placed with local Ukrainian families, which allows them to truly experience daily life and local culture. We are excited to see this program continue and look forward to a renewed partnership with our colleagues in Ternopil.



Our Ukrainian language courses, taught by Prof. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk at St. Thomas More College were, once again, well received, with many positive comments from the students. Enrollment in these courses continues to steadily

improve, with a whopping 39 students in the fall semester Beginner Ukrainian course. Most notably, several students at both the 100 and 200 levels cooperated with Judy-Anne Chabun of the Vesna Festival board of directors to help set-up and research the materials included in the displays of the Festival's Cultural Room. These students conducted archival research on various aspects of the Festival's 40 year history, which then had a dual purpose: those who participated wrote about these topics for their Cultural Research Projects (a regular component of the curriculum) and secondly, their research was then adapted and used for display purposes in the Cultural Room at the Festival. Furthermore, students from the language classes and the U of S Ukrainian Students Association volunteered to assist with the arduous task of Festival set-up. The building of these types of bridges between generations and the university and cultural communities is vital to the contin-

uation of such events, and we hope that cooperation between the U of S Ukrainian students and Vesna Festival continues next year!

PCUH wishes to heartily congratulate the past year's Ukrainian scholarship recipients, who will be formally acknowledged at the annual Ukrainian Studies Reception in the fall:

**The Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association/TYC – Steppe Branch Ukrainian Language Awards** – Marissa Evans, Olivia Pawluk, Michelle Skoretz, Jordan van Driel, Jordan Welbourne, Ashley Yagelniski

**The Rose Semko Hrynychuk Scholarship** - Connor Moen

Left: UKR 117 student Jessie Halabura sorts through 40 years of Vesna archives. (Photo credit: Judy-Anne Chabun)

Below: Photo collages and displays celebrating the many aspects of the Festival throughout the years. (Photo credit: Scott Prokop)



## UKRAINIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION



Members of the USUSA Executive at their free campus-wide pysanka workshop. From left to right: Jenna Sakowsky, Jocelyn Collie, Sabina Proctor, Krista Kuzma.

The University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association (USUSA) organized a great year of events. In November, we hosted our first movie night, where we premiered the documentary "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide," in honour of National Holodomor Awareness Week. The film proved to be quite impactful, and an inspiring discussion followed after the showing. Thank you, again, to the nearly 80 individuals who came out and supported this endeavour---we were honoured by the support of the Ukrainian and University communities, and hope to make this an annual event.

In February, we co-hosted our second movie night, showing "With Fire and Sword," an epic story about the Ukrainian Kozak uprising against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 17th Century. Again, we were humbled by the support of those in attendance, and were pleased that we were able to offer the opportunity to share this historical epic with everyone.

Activities in March focused around Easter: we hosted a pyrohy sale in the Arts tunnel (which sold out--twice!), and a campus-wide, free pysanka workshop. Both events were well received, but we are hoping to get even more students, staff, and faculty out for the pysanka workshop next year!

On behalf of the USUSA, I would like to once again thank all who have supported us this year, including our faculty advisor, Prof. Foty-Oneschuk. This club would not be in existence if it were not for all of you! Keep an eye out for our events during the 2013-2014 school year!

- Jenna Sakowsky, President

## L'VIV MUSEUM DIRECTOR ROMAN ZABILIY VISITS PCUH

On Wednesday, October 10th, PCUH was fortunate to host a free public presentation by Mr. Roman Zabilyi, entitled "The Contemporary State of Archives, Museums, and Academic Freedom in Ukraine." Director of the National Memorial Museum "Lonsky St. Prison" in L'viv, an institution dedicated to the victims of occupation regimes in Ukraine, Mr. Zabilyi addressed a gathering of current and former U of S faculty, students, and interested community individuals.

In 2010, Mr. Zabilyj was detained by the SBU (Ukrainian Secret Police) after he made archival documents from the Second World War available to the public. The event received international news exposure, but the threat of criminal investigation still hangs over the museum's staff. Mr. Zabilyi candidly spoke about the challenges he and his colleagues currently face, with the help of the event's translator, graduate student Yuriy Kirushok. We are grateful for this rare and unique opportunity to hear directly from someone, who works tirelessly to promote and make accessible the truths of 20th century history in Ukraine.



Mr. Roman Zabilyi passionately discusses the recent events he experienced, after having made World War II archival documents publicly accessible in L'viv.

## PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ROUNDTABLE - UKRAINE 2012

On November 28, 2012, PCUH hosted a free public event, entitled "Ukraine 2012 Parliamentary Elections: Observing Democracy in Action?" - a roundtable discussion regarding the (then) recent elections in Ukraine. The invited panel of discussants were engaging and eager to share stories of their time as election observers, complete with election ephemera rarely seen abroad. The panel was comprised of our own **Dr. Natalia Khanenko-Friesen** (short-term observer), former NDP Saskatchewan MLA for Nutana-Saskatoon **Pat Atkinson** (short-term observer), **David Prokopchuk** (long-term observer), and **Lara Zaluski** (long-term observer) - all, who were sent as part of the official CANADEM mission.

The stories, impressions, and candor shared during this discussion were enlightening and educational for all those in attendance. Thank you to our participants and guests!



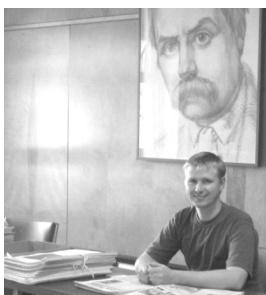
Roundtable participants, who served as election observers in Ukraine: (L to R) David Prokopchuk, Pat Atkinson, and Lara Zaluski.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

In August 2012, **Maria Melenchuk** defended her Master's thesis on the history of the "third wave" of Ukrainian immigration to Canada. In particular, on the basis of oral history interviews, she explored the history of Ostarbeiters, civilian labourers who were forcibly recruited to work for the Nazi economy during the war and who migrated to Canada after the war, together with other Ukrainian Displaced Persons. From September to December 2012, Maria had the great opportunity to teach an anthropology class at St. Thomas More College on society and culture in Eastern and Central Europe, in its transition from socialist pasts to a post-socialist present. This lecturer position was her first full-fledged teaching experience. Also, with great pleasure, Maria continues to cooperate with PCUH, by helping with different research projects.

Our returning graduate student, **Yuriy Kirushok**, has continued work on his research concerning changing identities within the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. Yuriy is looking at new trends in the development of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in Canada, using the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Saskatoon as a case study.

In addition to his research, Yuriy, as a recipient of the *St. Thomas More College Graduate Teaching Fellowship*, has assisted in various PCUH activities and projects.



He was involved with *Oral History Program* as well as public events organized by PCUH. Yuriy also assisted Dr. Khanenko-Friesen in the course *An Introduction to Ukrainian History and Culture*. Recently, Yuriy received the 2012 *Roman and Sonia Stratyshuk Graduate Scholarship* (University of Saskatchewan).

Finally, **Sarah Shoker**, a University of Saskatchewan graduate, was selected as the 2013 U of S Graduate Intern at the Hnatyshyn Canadian Studies Centre, Chernivtsi National University. Administered by PCUH, the program places a graduate student at the Hnatyshyn Centre (March 1-June 1, 2013). The student is required to teach in the area of Canadian Studies, as well as assist in curriculum development in the field. Ms Shoker, who recently received her M.A. in Political Studies from the University of Saskatchewan, taught a senior seminar course in Canadian Politics.

What follows is an excerpt from a recent report about her experience in Chernivtsi:

*My student group was enthusiastic and positive, though some voiced their hesitance at having opinions about Canadian politics when they, themselves, were not Canadian. After I assured them that I would not take offence if they disagreed with the content of my lecture (and that Canadians had no problem having opinions about other countries), they became more eager to engage in discussion.*



*Much has been made about how people living in European countries believe that "multiculturalism has failed." While there are tensions regarding immigration and multiculturalism in many European countries, my personal experience in Ukraine was actually quite positive. Many of my students seemed very enthusiastic about Canada's multicultural model and spoke of Canadian diversity as a positive trait. I do not want to understate my surprise at their reaction, especially as Ukrainian racial tensions were highlighted across the world when the country hosted the 2012 Euro Cup. However, when I lectured on Canada's Aboriginal peoples and self-governance, many thought that the Canadian government had not fulfilled its treaty obligations and that Aboriginal self-governance was a positive development. In my personal experience, there is a sizeable student population in Ukraine that cares about issues of fairness and equality.*

*Overall, the most rewarding part of my internship was interacting with the students in my course. They were well-humoured, insightful, and curious. If I was to give small words of advice to future interns, it would be that even though your responsibilities include teaching others about Canada, you will also be a student, so embrace it.*

## Members' News:

In late October 2012, Professor Natalia Khanenko-Friesen was invited to join the *Canada Mission: Ukraine Election 2012* to observe the parliamentary elections. She was deployed to the Odessa region, where she observed the pre-electoral and electoral processes. On November 10, 2012, Dr. Khanenko-Friesen was a guest speaker at the Basilian Father's Museum of Mundare (Alberta), as a part of the book launch for her monograph, *Canadian Ukrainianness in Action* (2011). In

### BOHDAN KORDAN

Professor Bohdan Kordan has been invited to curate an exhibition of antique maps of Ukraine from the O. Talpash and C. Dmytruk collections at the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, University of Alberta. The collections were recent donations to the University of Alberta. The exhibition entitled "Shared Treasures: Antiquarian Maps of Ukraine" draws on selected items from the two collections. The exhibit will be held in conjunction with CARTO 2013 (June 11-14), a joint conference of the Association of Canadian Map Librarians and the Canadian

Professor Nadya Foty-Oneschuk continued her teaching and research work during the 2012-13 academic year. Once again, Prof. Foty-Oneschuk taught all beginner and intermediate Ukrainian language courses, surpassing the enrollments in both courses over previous years. Also, she received a second nomination for the STM Teaching Excellence Award. Among the many achievements in her classes, Prof. Foty-Oneschuk included an interactive component into this year's curriculum, whereby students were to pro-

duce YouTube videos based on course content, which could take the shape of a dialogue, music video, news report, etc. The students went beyond all expectations, and in some cases even produced animations! A proud teaching moment, to be sure.

In her capacity as a PCUH Affiliate, Nadya was invited to give two presentations this past year: one to the local Steppe Branch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Men's Association (IYC) about PCUH activities and the Ukrainian language courses on campus; the

Cartographic Association.

The travelling exhibit "Money, Sovereignty and Power: The Paper Currency of Ukraine, 1917-1920" will open at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada in Saskatoon on September 10, 2013. The exhibit organized by PCUH is curated by Professor Bohdan Kordan. The exhibit focuses on the paper currency released by successive governments of Ukraine – the Republic, Hetmanate and Directory – and documents how the concept of Ukrainian sovereignty was symbolically represented by each. A catalogue published by the Herit-

age Press will accompany the exhibit. The exhibit will run to December 14, 2013 and then travel to the Oseredok Gallery and Museum in Winnipeg.

Professor Bohdan Kordan has been working steadily on a book-length manuscript documenting and assessing the WWI enemy alien experience in Canada. The study, tentatively titled "No Free Man: Canada, Enemy Aliens, and the Great War," is expected to be completed by July 2013.

### NATALIA KHANENKO-FRIESEN

Studies (U Alberta). In April, she traveled to New York to present her research on the vernacular creative writing of Ukrainian migrants in southern Europe at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities at Columbia University. Over the course of the year, she wrote three academic essays soon to be published in Canada and Ukraine, concerning recent labour migration creative writing and immigrant letter writing.

### NADYA FOTY-ONESCHUK

second to local choir *Holosy* on the topic of Ukrainian wedding traditions.

On the research front, Nadya continues to assume administrative duties with PCUH and work with the *Oral History Program*. She will be actively working on completing her dissertation on oral history methodology in the Ukrainian Canadian context in the next several months, for which she was awarded the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (University of Alberta) *Helen Darovich Memorial Doctoral Fellowship* last summer.

## Projects Update:

### ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

In addition to the projects mentioned in the Member updates above, the Oral History Program at PCUH continues to receive donations of correspondence from individuals across Canada. **Yuriy Kirushok** has been working most recently with this collection, especially during his travels to Ukraine last summer. He located 91 letters (54 originals and 37 scanned copies) for the *Old Country Correspondence Project*. They were combined into the *Volyn Letters Collection*. This correspondence was collected from 10 donors living in the villages in the area of Berezne in Rivne Oblast' - Prysluch, Mokvyn, Khotyn, Bystrychi, and Sosnove, and one village in the Korets' area in Rivne Oblast' - Velyki Mezhyrychi. Collected correspondence consists of the letters sent to the above-mentioned villages from Canada (Toronto; Shelburne, ON), Israel (Ben-Yam), Poland (Gliwice), Russia (Nizhneudinsk), Argentina (Bowen, Mendoza), and the United States (Bridgeton, NJ).

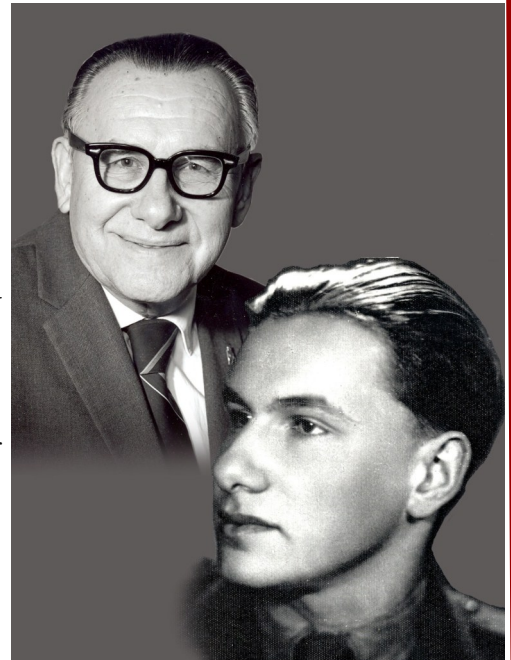
In addition to these letters, PCUH has received additional correspondence donations from Pauline Semenuik and the late Dr. Victor Buyniak and Ol'ha Buyniak, bringing the collection total to just over 1200 letters.

*In memoriam...***VICTOR OREST  
BUYNIAK****OCTOBER 12, 1925 - MARCH 29, 2013**

*It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our Centre's long-term supporter and major donor, Dr. Victor Buyniak. Among his numerous achievements, Dr. Buyniak was instrumental in the academic life of the Ukrainian community in Saskatchewan. He joined the staff of the University of Saskatchewan, Department of Slavic Studies in 1958, where he was employed for 35 years, and retired in 1993 as Professor Emeritus. During this time, Victor occupied a number of teaching and administrative positions. He was active in various local, national and international learned, cultural, ethnic and professional organizations and held positions on their executives. In 1965-1966, he was president of the Canadian Association of Slavists, serving as a founding editor of the Canadian Association of Slavists' Newsletter in 1960, which is still in publication today. Dr. Buyniak tried to instill in his students the appreciation of Slavic languages, literatures and culture, and was especially interested in the promotion of Ukrainian studies. Thus, in 1999, he donated funds towards the establishment of the future Lesya Ukrainka Chair for Ukrainian Studies at St. Thomas More College, a long-term initiative that is being currently realized through the work of PCUH. He also helped finance the placement of the statue of this most prominent Ukrainian female author in a special garden dedicated to her in front of the Main Library Building on the U of S campus (the ceremony, which is set to take place this August). His presence is and will continue to be profoundly missed.*

*Вічна Память нам'ямь!*

*(What follows is the eulogy delivered at Dr. Buyniak's funeral by close friend and PCUH supporter, Rodney Antonichuk)*



Victor Orest Buyniak was a man who bridged two very different worlds. From a life in a small village in Poland to eventually instilling knowledge in many young eager minds, he certainly made his mark on the world in which we live today.

Victor was born to Julia and Frank Buyniak on October 12, 1925 in Wysokienice, Poland. They were in that village because the Polish government was trying to make the area that it controlled at the time less Ukrainian, so it moved many of the Ukrainian-speaking inhabitants further into Poland in an attempt to Polonize them. Life was hard at that time, but it was hard for most people. With the invasion of Poland by German forces, life changed for Victor and his family. At first life was peaceful, but soon the effects of war began as the population was thinned out and eventually Victor and many of his age group fled into the forest, never to see their parents again. From 1943 – 1948, Victor served and fought for a great cause, which he soon came to realize was, in fact, not that great. While in the army, Victor was fortunate enough to eventually use his incredible gift of knowing many languages and in 1948, was able to emigrate to Canada and start a new life in a country where “there was sausage and milk to be had for only \$0.10, and because we never had such luxuries for so many years, I felt that I had come to nirvana!”

Working on the railway, he soon found enough money to allow him to continue the education that he had started before the war began. He was able to put himself through both undergraduate and graduate school through scholarships that he obtained. In 1958, Victor accepted a job in Saskatoon teaching at the University of Saskatchewan in the Department of Slavic Studies. Victor took great pride and enthusiasm in his role as a professor and spent many happy years participating in a growing department, nurturing the minds of many young students. He was so proud of all of his students and often times after he had retired, he would see former students at local events and they would often approach him to talk about the many topics that interested him. He remembered almost all of his students by name and would often relay a story or two about their time in his classroom.

He truly was a gifted man, who had the ability to learn so many languages - it was a marvel to watch him interact with those, who he could share a language with. One day during our lunch, he heard two individuals speaking Italian at the table beside his, and he proceeded to have a conversation with them in Italian for quite some time. He certainly had a smile on his face after lunch that day, knowing that he was able to spend some time using one of the eight languages that, I am aware, he could speak.

Victor was also a philanthropist and an individual, who was concerned with the Ukrainian language and community, both in Ukraine and very much here in Canada. Even on his final night on God's great earth, Victor was expressing his concern about the dwindling lack of opportunities for the study of Ukrainian language and culture at the University of Saskatchewan. A true teacher to the end, some of his last words were to relay a fable about a Ukrainian prince who was kidnapped away from the steppes of Ukraine, only to be drawn back years later after smelling the fragrance of the magical *yershan* herb. Victor passed away at his home on Friday March 29, 2013, and while he may be gone, the man and his influence will be long remembered.

So many stories, so little time to tell them all.

- Rodney Antonichuk



## SUPPORT PCUH

In our work, we count on the financial support of many individuals and organizations. The interest (accrued from PCUH endowments) goes to fund all our academic initiatives, including research, conferences, publications, and student scholarships.

As educators, academics, researchers, we at PCUH strive to develop a sustainable Ukrainian studies program at the University of Saskatchewan. We believe that embracing one's culture, heritage and identity is the first important step towards building a vibrant and strong community, which nurtures and cherishes diversity in itself and beyond. That is why we believe in our students, of whatever background they are, and in their desire to learn about themselves, others, and the world beyond. Investing in knowledge, research, and in our students is investing in our future.

We are grateful to all our donors for their continuing recognition of the importance of our work.

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 1</b>	<i>Lesya Ukrainka</i> statue unveiling, Murray Library, U of S campus (time TBA)
<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10</b>	"Money, Sovereignty and Power: The Paper Currency of Ukraine, 1917-1920" Exhibit by Prof. Bohdan Kordan, Ukrainian Museum of Canada (Saskatoon)
<b>OCTOBER 2013</b>	Ukrainian Studies Reception, STM College (time and date TBA)
<b>FEBRUARY 13, 2014</b>	Mohyla Lecture, STM College Guest speaker: Dr. Roman Serbyn (Professor emeritus, University of Quebec) 7pm

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