



# PCUH FOCUS

Newsletter of the Prairie Centre for the Study  
of Ukrainian Heritage

Новини Центру Дослідження  
Української Спащини

ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN CULTURE AND 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, the mission of the PCUH is to support undergraduate teaching, graduate supervision and student activities while engaging in research programs and projects that help promote a wider understanding and appreciation of the Ukrainian experience in Canada and abroad. Conceived as a community-university partnership and supported by operational funds as well as internal and external grants, the Centre is seen as an important link between the University of Saskatchewan as a major public post-secondary institution in the country and the Ukrainian-Canadian community.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) at St. Thomas More College (STM) had a very busy year in 2021 – 2022, especially during the past few months with the war in Ukraine. PCUH faculty Dr. Oksana Dudko (Petro Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow), Dr. Bohdan Kordan (Professor Emeritus) and Interim Director Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk have provided expert analysis to the media on the horrific events that are taking place in Ukraine, and they have participated in a number of events such as *The Stand with Ukraine* rally that took place in February. STM said a reluctant good-bye to Dr. Kordan last June as he retired from his faculty position in the Department of Political Studies. Bohdan was one of the founding members of PCUH and we sincerely thank him for all his years of service to the Centre. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Spring Session in Ukraine study abroad program

yet again this year, with the past two years being due to COVID and this year because of the war. Our hearts go out to our colleagues at Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University (TNPU) and we sincerely hope to resume the SSU program in the near future.

We have also had reason to celebrate this year. After many years of work by a number of individuals, the minor in Ukrainian Studies has transitioned into the degree level certificate in Ukrainian Studies, with students being able to register for the new certificate this month. As well, the inaugural Jacyk Postdoctoral Fellowship in Ukrainian Studies has also been a great success. PhD candidate Oksana Dudko has been a wonderful addition to PCUH, as well as our Department of History, and we wish her all the best as she completes her dissertation on Ukrainian history. PCUH's annual Mohyla Lecture took

place in February over Zoom. Dr. Adrian Ivakhiv gave a very interesting presentation on the impact the Chernobyl event has had on the ecosystem and the region's geology.

After 24 years, PCUH continues to provide important support for events like the Mohyla Lecture, for research, and for students interested in pursuing Ukrainian studies. The College sincerely appreciates the key role that PCUH plays in connecting STM, and the University of Saskatchewan, to the Ukrainian community. We look forward to celebrating PCUH's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. On behalf of STM, I express my thanks to Dr. Foty-Oneschuk for her leadership this year as Interim Director of PCUH and to all those who contribute to Ukrainian studies at STM.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ukrainian community,

*Tammy Marche, Dean*  
St. Thomas More College

## Spring/Summer 2022

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Chernobyl nuclear explosion. Little did we imagine that just days later, Russian propaganda and the pivotal role of media would once again become a daily topic of conversation and concern amid truly dreadful circumstances.

This has been an unprecedented year for the PCUH, one which made stepping into the shoes of PCUH Directors past challenging in unexpected ways.

Change can be both bitter-sweet and full of anticipation, uncertain and hopeful, difficult and rewarding. The 2021-22 academic year was indeed full of change. When I accepted the position of Interim Director of the PCUH in the summer of 2021, some lingering COVID-related challenges were expected, but it was hoped that the worst was behind us. The fall term continued to see restrictions and remote delivery until a return to a more familiar environment in 2022, when most classes resumed in-person at the beginning of February. As the PCUH, we returned to more normal programming with the 2022 Mohyla Lecture delivered remotely by the incomparable Dr. Adrian Ivakhiv. Much of his lecture happened to discuss media and propaganda vis-à-vis the

February 24<sup>th</sup> changed everything. I am sure I speak for many when I say that as much as the Russian threat has been looming since time immemorial, it seemed impossible that a full-scale invasion, so brazen and horrific, would occur for all of the world to see in real time. In those first few days and weeks, checking on relatives, friends, and colleagues became a daily occurrence, while balancing countless requests for commentary and information. However, what was entirely unexpected was the depth of student reaction that was soon apparent. Whether the student had travelled to Ukraine and had loved ones there, or was learning about things Ukrainian for the first time - all were profoundly impacted. Students found themselves trying to navigate feeling pain and despair and connection to a place many had never even been to before – who in some cases, were generations removed from Ukraine. To bear witness to this unexpected change in what

Ukraine and what being Ukrainian meant to them, and to attempt to assist in navigating these new powerful dynamics in a classroom setting was simultaneously humbling and healing.

I am proud to say that we galvanized meaningful support for Ukraine on the U of S campus through a poignant rally organized by our students and several events through the PCUH highlighted in the subsequent pages of this newsletter, not the least of which is the remarkable work of our Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow in Ukrainian Studies, Dr. Oksana Dudko. These last months have also made abundantly clear how important our work is at the PCUH. This is a moment in time for what we do here to take on an even greater significance. We must remain steadfast in our mission to promote the advanced study of Ukrainian heritage, culture, and life, as this war is another chapter in the attempted extermination of our people. Our work is part of the cultural resistance, and we know this work well, for generations of Ukrainian Canadians before us have persevered and practiced, ploughing a trail literally and figuratively with the intent of preserving, remembering, and passing on. We will continue to do this fervently, with prayers that the war will soon see its end. Despite the pain and uncertainty, we must be inspired by our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and keep our eyes to the future.

Growing up as a “campus kid” whose family life revolved around things Ukrainian at the U of S, I know that witnessing generations of student activism and enthusiasm, a constant stream of faculty events and activities, and an engaged relationship with the Ukrainian community beyond these walls informed so much of how I approach this position today. As we near our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023 amid these truly extraordinary circumstances, there are recent accomplishments that have been years in the making that we must be proud of. If we have been reminded of anything these last several months, it is that our collective pride and resilience is a powerful force. The role of the Ukrainian community is central to our mission and its success, and we look forward to engaging in and building these relationships in new and exciting ways.

As the adage goes, we cannot know where we are going unless we know where we have been. May we be reminded of our rich history both inside and beyond these campus walls, as we move forward in our work as a community. We have a proud and unique legacy of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, and I like to think, an even brighter future.

Вічна пам'ять загинлим!

Слава Україні!

*Nadya Foty-Oneschuk*

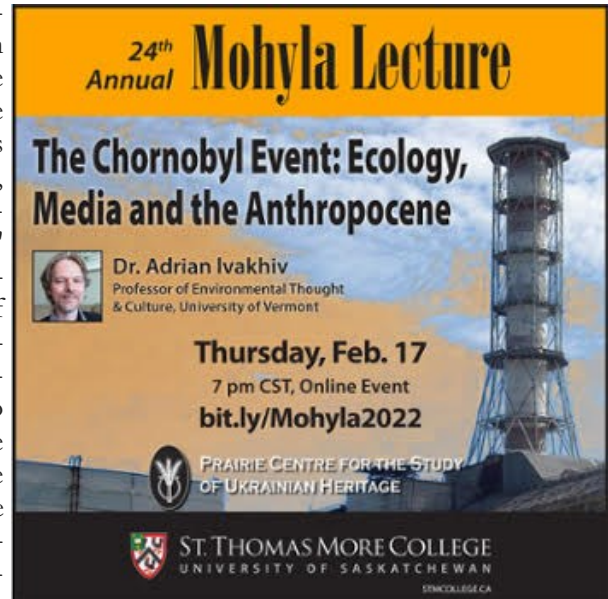
*Interim Director*



## Centre News

### Mohyla Lecture Links Chernobyl Nuclear Catastrophe to Current Crisis in Ukraine

The 24th annual Mohyla Lecture took place via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022. This year's presentation featured Dr. Adrian Ivakhiv, Professor of Environmental Thought & Culture from the University of Vermont, who delivered the lecture entitled "The Chernobyl Event: Ecology, Media and the Anthropocene." It has been 36 years since the catastrophic nuclear explosion, and today, the plant, the nearby towns of Prypiat and Chernobyl and the surrounding land, make up a 2,600-square-kilometer "exclusion zone," which is restricted to nearly everyone except for scientists and government officials. Dr. Ivakhiv's lecture connected the events of 1986 with subsequent political changes in the world, including major changes within the former Soviet Union, influences on the evolution of present-day Russia and Ukraine, and even the preamble to the current war, which began less than a week after this lecture. He argued that changes needed by society, such as dealing with the climate crisis, are often precipitated by 'hyper-events' like the Chernobyl explosion, which reshape the possibilities for perception and action. We thank Dr. Ivakhiv for his interesting and insightful lecture, and thank all of our supporters who tuned in remotely. The full lecture can be seen [HERE](#) on YouTube.



### Retirement of Dr. Bohdan Kordan

We bid a fond farewell to PCUH founding and long-time director Dr. Bohdan Kordan in July 2021. Dr. Kordan spent 28 of his 41 years in post-secondary teaching at STM College, had been at the director's helm of the PCUH for 16 of its 24 years, and has published numerous books, articles, and exhibition catalogues. To say that Bohdan has been a prolific leader in our Centre and community would be an understatement, and if his first few months of "retirement" are any indication, he will continue to play an important and active role among us for years to come. Our best wishes, congratulations, and gratitude!



### PCUH Faculty and the War in Ukraine

Following the full-scale Russian invasion on February 24th, the PCUH was inundated with a variety of media and speak requests to help shed light on this part of the world, its history and culture, and the conflict in particular. Drs. Oksana Dudko, Bohdan Kordan, and Nadya Foty-Oneschuk fielded a variety of print, radio, and tv media requests, in addition to invitations to speak at the Saskatoon demonstrations in support of Ukraine organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. More information can be found under the "Latest News" tab at [pcuh.stmcollege.ca](http://pcuh.stmcollege.ca)

### PCUH Advisory Board Announcement

We are pleased to announce that after many years of discussion, the PCUH Advisory Board has come to fruition. The intention for the Board is to assist in steering the PCUH as it embarks on its next 25 years, so that it may grow and strengthen long into the future. We are grateful to inaugural Board members: Mr. Andrew Hladyshevsky Q.C., Mr. Rodney Antonichuk, Mr. Danylo Puderak, and Professor Emeritus Dr. Bohdan Kordan, for accepting our invitation to cooperate in this meaningful capacity.



## Unite for Ukraine Luncheon

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, President Carl Still, Dean Tammy Marche, and Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk were invited by U of S President Peter Stoicheff to attend the Unite for Ukraine Luncheon, hosted by a group spear-headed by the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce at TCU Place. Over 400 people gathered to fundraise for humanitarian aid, representing the local and provincial business community. Money raised specifically went to Saskatoon’s twin city of Chernivtsi, which has seen an increase of its population by over 50% since the beginning of the war. As over



*Dean Tammy Marche, Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk and President Carl Still at Unite for Ukraine Luncheon*

150,000 internally displaced Ukrainians take refuge in Chernivtsi, the local authorities asked for urgent assistance to be able to provide food, shelter, and medical care. Over \$250,000 was raised to help with these unexpected circumstances, as well as additional supplies for first responders, provided by the International Association of Firefighters Local 80.

Prior to our two cities being twinned in 1991, our two universities enjoyed a long-standing relationship. The Chernivtsi Student and Faculty Exchange began in 1977, and provided a unique opportunity for U of S students to visit Ukraine and study behind the Iron Curtain. Lasting into the 1990s, the Exchange was followed by the PCUH Chernivtsi Graduate Internship Program which began in 2006. The program places the chosen student from the field of Canadian Studies at the Hnatyshyn Centre for Canadian Studies at Chernivtsi National University for one semester, to teach a course in Canadian Studies that is specifically related to their research area.

## Insider Voices: A Presentation from the Front Lines

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the PCUH hosted an online presentation entitled “Insider Voices: The Current War in Ukraine,” featuring anthropologists Dr. Julia Buyskykh and Dr. Tina Polek of the Kyiv-based Centre for Applied Anthropology. If anthropology is the study of humanity, then there is great value in focusing the anthropological lens on human behavior in times of war, in order to better understand what the human spirit is truly capable of. As has been evident in the reporting of the war in Ukraine, it is the personal stories – the human element itself – that truly connects us to this place and its people. Documenting this experienced becomes an invaluable resource for the benefit of scholars and students to learn from, long into the future. Dr. Buyskykh spoke about being “Within the War: ‘Everyday’ life on the Home Front in Kyiv and Khmel’nytskyi,” looking at the concept of how “routine” takes on a whole new significance in the midst of war. Dr. Polek spoke about “Online reflections of the Russian invasion of Ukraine,” looking at facets of online communication shard and consumed by much of the world. The PCUH is awestruck by the remarkable resilience of our two presenters, and commends them for their reflective capacity for research during a horrific time.



### Insider Voices: The Current War in Ukraine



**Dr. Julia Buyskykh**  
Historian and socio-cultural anthropologist affiliated with the Institute of History of Ukraine and the Kyiv-based Centre for Applied Anthropology. She spent 2019-2020 at Prairie State University as a Fulbright scholar. Research interests include lived religion in post-Soviet space, inter-confessional relationships, memory and border studies, and Polish-Ukrainian shared history.

**Wed. March 30**  
10:30 am CST  
Online event  
[bit.ly/InsiderVoices](https://bit.ly/InsiderVoices)



**Online reflections of the Russian invasion of Ukraine**  
Dr. Tina Polek  
Member of the European Association of Social Anthropologists and a co-founder of the NGO “Centre for Applied Anthropology.” For the last four years, she worked as an applied anthropologist in non-commercial projects and as a business anthropologist for Ukrainian companies.

Two anthropologists living in Ukraine reflect on life in the crosshairs of war; how Ukrainians cope, connect and even manage to laugh amid the horror





## Searching for Words to Describe Russian Aggression in Ukraine

War between Russia and Ukraine was already far from an academic exercise for Dr. Oksana Dudko. The historian from Lviv, Ukraine, like her fellow citizens, has been grappling since 2014 with the reality of war with Russia in the Donbas region in the east of the country, and its annexation of Crimea in the south. All the while, she has been working on her doctoral dissertation and further studies in Canada that led her to accept the Petro Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellowship at St.

*War?: Searching for a New Vocabulary to Define the Current War.* “It was uncertain until very recently if it would go ahead at all, given that Dr. Oksana Dudko, our Petro Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow in Ukrainian Studies, and this event’s organizer, travelled back to Ukraine only a few short weeks ago,” said Foty-Oneschuk. “We are infinitely grateful for her safety, and also for her perseverance in forging ahead with this event despite the circumstances she now finds herself in.”



Taking part in the round table were Moderator Dr. Marta Dyczok (Western University), Dr. Oxana Shevel (Tufts University), Dr. Serhy Yekelchik (University of Victoria), and Dr. Bohdan Kordan, Professor Emeritus, STM College. Dudko said the inspiration for the roundtable initially came much earlier. Her doctoral dissertation when she was still studying in Ukraine was dedicated to the so-called Ukrainian Question in international politics at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

Thomas More College. At the end of February, her world was turned upside down. She was forced to return home amid the full-scale Russian invasion of her country, where she saw first-hand the pain and terror of war. “My friend’s daughter was so traumatized by the war that she refused to talk for days. My other friend’s kids had mental breakdowns, because of the constant sirens and shelling,” Dudko shared from her home in Lviv. She was seeing hundreds of thousands of refugees flee from the fighting as they transited through Lviv to neighbouring countries. “People keep shaking, even after they arrive in safe places in Warsaw or other cities, because of what they have experienced,” she said. “It will take decades to recover.”

She said the focus of the roundtable changed drastically with Russian President Vladimir Putin’s assertion on Feb. 21, 2022 – the eve of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine - that the question of Ukraine’s history and nationhood must finally be solved by making Ukraine a part of the Russian world. “Putin’s imperial drive to solve the ‘Ukrainian Question’ is not a new one,” Dudko said. “It has been on-going since 2014 with the annexation of Crimea by Russia, and the subsequent war in the Donbas region.” “That’s why I decided to organize this roundtable. However, I hope that challenging Putin’s old-school framing of Russia’s invasion as a solution will help us to understand Russia’s new imperial glossary. And I hope that it will also explore a wider vocabulary of words which are used by politicians and the media, and in Ukraine and in the West, to refer to the war in Ukraine.” The full round table discussion is available to watch [HERE](#).

Despite all that, Dudko continued with her academic work, pushing ahead with an already planned roundtable on Ukraine, as part of her fellowship work at STM. Hosted by Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, Interim Director, of the PCUH, the online roundtable took place on March 22, titled ‘Ukrainian Question’ or Russia’s

## Ukrainian Studies News

### Ukrainian Studies Reception 2022

After a hiatus in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, the PCUH was glad to once again co-host the annual Ukrainian Studies Reception with the STM Dean's Office, albeit in a virtual manner. On November 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, faculty, guests, and most importantly students tuned in to the virtual reception to learn about the variety of Ukrainian Studies opportunities on campus.

Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk welcomed everyone to the virtual program, underscoring the importance of connecting with one another, especially in light of remote delivery and still-restricted campus activity at that point of the academic year. She also spoke about the role of the PCUH as the anchor of Ukrainian Studies on the U of S campus and in supporting student activities. Dr. Tammy Marche brought greetings from the STM Dean's Office, encouraging students to get involved in the new and developing opportunities in this area of study. Dr. Oksana Dudko, the Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow in Ukrainian Studies, spoke to students about the two new history courses she is teaching this academic year, opening up a long overdue option of studying Ukraine in this discipline. This was followed with more course information from Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, who let students know about the other Ukrainian course offerings for the 2021-22 academic year, as well as the new Certificate in Ukrainian Studies beginning in May 2022. Caitlin Ward, Manager of the Engaged and Experiential Learning Office at STM, spoke briefly about the tentative plans for the 2022 *Spring Session in Ukraine* study abroad program, and encouraged students to consider this unique and immersive educational opportunity. Dean Schmidt, Student Academic Services Specialist at STM, reviewed the variety of scholarships in Ukrainian Studies that are available to students enrolled in our classes. To wrap up the reception, Jensen Beaudoin, president of the U of S Ukrainian Students' Association briefly introduced the club and its activities, encouraging those new to campus to join.

### University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association "Rally for Ukraine"



*USUSA executive members, Marta Krueger and Jensen Beaudoin, at rally in support of Ukraine*

As with many groups on campus, the USUSA had a slower start to the semester, with most classes staying remote during the fall term. Even with this setback, the USUSA still managed to have a successful year with a small, but mighty group. When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we felt strongly about trying to find a way to help the people of Ukraine. On Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the USUSA held a rally in support of Ukraine, a week after the full-scale Russian invasion began. Meeting at the Lesia Ukrainka Garden, over 100 people were in attendance to hear remarks from Jensen Beaudoin (USUSA President), Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, (Interim PCUH Director and USUSA Faculty Advisor), Marta Krueger on behalf of Professor Emeritus Dr. Bohdan Kordan, and Father Andre Lalach. Various news sources covered the event, which helped spread awareness to a wider audience in those early days of the war. We initiated a collection among those present and hundreds of dollars were donated toward humanitarian aid in Ukraine. For us, the most heartwarming part of this event was how many students and campus-goers were in

attendance to show their support and solidarity with Ukraine. We strongly believe that it is our job as young Ukrainians in Canada to never stop talking about the war, the people of Ukraine, and its rich culture

### Spring Session in Ukraine Funding

For the third year in a row, the SSU study abroad program with the Ternopil National Pedagogical University was cancelled. Though an attempt was made to adjust the program for online delivery due to the war in Ukraine, conducive circumstances did not come together for a new iteration of our program for this year.

However, we did receive wonderful news that the SSU program was awarded \$165,000 over four years from the Universities Canada *Global Skills Opportunity* program. This funding will assist in helping to grow our program and promote it to a wider community of students. We look forward to being able to make use of this funding next spring in a peaceful Ukraine, and continue to pray for the safety of our colleagues in Ternopil

## New Certificate in Ukrainian Studies



Culminating more than two years of work, the new Certificate in Ukrainian Studies is now live. As opposed to the previous Minor in Ukrainian Studies, the Certificate streamlines Ukrainian Studies offerings, includes new courses, and is available to students of all colleges and programs on campus. We encourage all our supporters to spread the word!

### THREE NEW COURSES IN UKRAINIAN STUDIES 2021-22

HIST 238.3 – Modern Ukrainian and the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

HIST 248.3 – The Soviet Union

UKR 398.3 – Folklore and Ethnic Identity

## Local Artist Donates Artwork to PCUH

Local artist Carolyn Buckles reached out to the PCUH with a donation of a meaningful piece of art she created at the beginning of the Russian invasion. Entitled “Seeking Peace, Understanding and Prosperity: Inspired by Tymofiy Boychuk’s ‘Around the Apple Tree,’” the artist felt inspired to recreate Boychuk’s well-known piece from 1919. Buckles believes that it “captures humanity...and the notion that the future is brighter, more prosperous,” and wanted to share this with the Ukrainian Studies community on campus. The piece will hang in the PCUH wing of STM College.



*Artist Carolyn Buckles with her artwork*

### UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*The following 2021 scholarships were awarded to students for academic excellence in Ukrainian Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.*

#### **Ukrainian Self Reliance Association**

##### **Steppe Branch Ukrainian Language Awards:**

Joel Baschuk - 117

Mikayla Burghardt - 117

Jessica Cook - 114

Savannah Hagen – 114

Dena Lamb - 117

Kyra Mack – 114

#### **USask Ukrainian Awards Administered by STM**

##### **Joseph Zlacky Scholarship**

Azaria Antosh

Natalya Shevchuk

##### **Bayda-Vyshnevetsky Kozaks' Prize in Ukrainian Studies**

Berit Johnson

#### **The Ludwig, Olga & Constance Kay Ukrainian Orthodox Millennium Scholarship**

Elliot Dillabough

##### **Kirstiuk Bursary, Steven and Katherine**

Mykan Zlipko

##### **Mohylianky Society Scholarship**

Natalya Shevchuk

##### **Palynchuk Scholarship, Annie**

Berit Johnson

##### **Porayko Scholarship, Stephen J.**

Berit Johnson

##### **Rudewsky Scholarship, Professor and Mrs. J.**

Marta Krueger

##### **Sytnick Scholarship, Michael**

Berit Johnson

## Researching the War in Ukraine during the full-scale Russian Invasion

I spent the 2021–2022 academic year as a Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow in Ukrainian Studies at the PCUH. This year proved to be very rewarding, but it was also one of the most challenging years not only of my academic career, but also of my life. As a PCUH Petro Jacyk Fellow, I was responsible for teaching courses about Ukraine and the region, pursuing my research on Ukrainian history, and contributing to the vibrant academic and community life of PCUH and STM College. After a prolonged period of COVID-19 lockdowns, closed campuses, and online work, I arrived at STM eager to meet my new colleagues and start teaching.

In-person teaching was one of the most valuable experiences of my fellowship. During the fall semester, I had an enthusiastic group of students in my Soviet Union course. Together, we analyzed the history of the Soviet Union as a transnational state, paying special attention to the political, social, cultural, and gender history of various Soviet republics. Although we didn't know it at the time, our class discussions of how ideology and violence manifested and spread across totalitarian and authoritarian societies would end up being pertinent to the current Russian invasion of Ukraine.

However, it was the course I taught in the winter term, about the history of Ukraine and contested Ukrainian–Russian relations, that turned out to be even more topical. For the course, I had invited a few guest speakers from Ukraine to explain various aspects of Ukrainian history, such as the 1944 deportation of Crimean Tatars and the Donbas war. As Russia launched its full-scale invasion of the country, these Ukrainian experts also became grassroots voices for explaining the war in Ukraine to U of S students. One of the invited guests, theatre director Pavlo Yurov, discussed his experiences as a hostage in a Russian-led separatist prison in his home region of Donbas in 2014 and his current work with international journalists in Ukraine, including his visit to the Bucha massacre site.

When I received news about the invasion in February, I rushed to Ukraine to assist vulnerable family members. Terrified by the level of destruction and suffering but also inspired by Ukrainian resilience and international solidarity, I relayed my first-hand experiences of the war in Ukraine to my students and used examples from the war to show how history can be misused and instrumentalized for war. I also collaborated with theatre and university friends from Kharkiv and Lviv to launch a grassroots volunteer initiative to help civilians in Kharkiv and Lviv access critical medicine.

I am very grateful to PCUH and STM College, which provided a safe, stimulating, and welcoming intellectual space that allowed me to continue my research during such a challenging time. During my fellowship, I pursued my research about Galician Ukrainian soldiers and their experiences of prolonged violence during the First World War and the Ukrainian Revolution. As a historian of violence and war, I envisioned explaining the destruction and horror of previous wars with the hope that it would advance understanding of the importance of demilitarization and peaceful conflict resolution. Before the invasion, however, I never expected that I would be researching the history of war and also simultaneously experiencing and witnessing it on such a large scale in my home country. Russia's invasion of Ukraine raises many questions for me as a historian on how to study the history of the region, to explain the Russian invasion, and both Ukrainian and international responses to it. Rethinking Russian imperialism and the critical studies of war crimes and mass violence in local and global contexts seem to be the most pressing topics to examine in my current research.

In addition to conducting research, a significant part of my fellowship was to organize a roundtable about the “Ukrainian question” in international politics during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Like my courses and research, this topic had to be revised to include the role of Ukraine in international politics before and during Russia's invasion. Together with PCUH colleagues, I also participated in several academic discussions, public talks, and media events to inform others about the war in Ukraine and explain the complex history of Ukrainian–Russian relations to a wider academic community and general audience. As I look back on this challenging year, I am very thankful for the opportunity that the Petro Jacyk Fellowship at PCUH gave me. The vibrant academic environment and supportive PCUH and STM College community allowed me to pursue my research, teach, and conduct volunteer work in Ukraine.

*Dr. Oksana Dudko Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow in Ukrainian Studies*



*Oksana Dudko and Olha Kovalchuk, a Ukrainian-language instructor, buying medical supplies for civilians in Kharkiv. Lviv, May 22, 2022.*



## PCUH and the Community

### Permanent Eaton Internment Display Official Opening

On June 4, the PCUH was proud to partner with the Saskatchewan Railway Museum, the Saskatchewan German Council, and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Saskatchewan Provincial Council to witness the realization of a permanent exhibit located within the Saskatchewan Railway Museum about the Eaton Internment Camp. The painful consequences of war have once again become a reality, and over a century later Ukrainians are being forced into camps. These facts make this exhibit even more necessary, as a tangible reminder of the cost of war and its impact on innocent civilian lives. Our sincere congratulations to our founding director and leading internment scholar, Professor Emeritus Dr. Bohdan Kordan, for his years of work and passion dedicated to researching and writing about Internment in Canada during the First World War. It is in great part thanks to him that we at the PCUH remain committed to creating awareness about this tragic chapter in Canadian history. Kordan finished his speech with the following address. “As we open this permanent exhibit at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum, we reflect on the trials of those who were brought here. We also remember the many thousands interned elsewhere, who would return to their families and homes, picking up the pieces of their broken lives, pondering over the experience and the failed promise of Canada. We remember their pain, suffering, and misery. The goal, however, is not to engage in recrimination or blame, nor stoke the fires of resentment. Rather through this exhibit we invoke the memory of these past events as an act of reconciliation, declaring openly that a wrong was committed and an injustice had taken place here. Today, we launch this permanent exhibit as an act of political faith, stating unequivocally that history shall not be repeated and to alert future generations of the responsibility and obligation that we owe each other – to be tolerant, understanding, and caring. But we also open this museum display today as the culmination of a partnership between various communities – Ukrainian and German – as well as organizations – the Saskatchewan Railway Museum and the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage at St. Thomas More College – who have come together to create this legacy, so that future generations may remember the importance of preserving rights and liberties. Most importantly, however, through your attendance here and participation in this ceremony you demonstrate your commitment to this enterprise. In doing so, you are reaching into the future, standing in solidarity with your children and your children’s children; knowing that when they come here to learn and reflect, they will grow to be more aware citizens, making Canada truly ‘strong and free.’”



*Partners of the Eaton Internment Camp Permanent Exhibit cut the “barbed wire” ribbon at the opening ceremony on June 4 at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum.*

*(L to R: Cal Sexsmith (Saskatchewan Railway Museum, President); Adrian Boyko (Shevchenko Foundation board member); Dr. Bohdan Kordan (Emeritus Professor and PCUH Affiliate); Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk (PCUH, Interim Director), Patricia Mialkowski (daughter of Internment survivor); Elena Krueger (UCC-SPC, President); Mervin Weiss (Saskatchewan German Council, President).*

“As we open this permanent exhibit at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum, we reflect on the trials of those who were brought here. We also remember the many thousands interned elsewhere, who would return to their families and homes, picking up the pieces of their broken lives, pondering over the experience and the failed promise of Canada. We remember their pain, suffering, and misery. The goal, however, is not to engage in recrimination or blame, nor stoke the fires of resentment. Rather through this exhibit we invoke the memory of these past events as an act of reconciliation, declaring openly that a wrong was committed and an injustice had taken place here. Today, we launch this permanent exhibit as an act of political faith, stating unequivocally that history shall not be repeated and to alert future generations of the responsibility and obligation that we owe each other – to be tolerant, understanding, and caring. But we also open this museum display today as the culmination of a partnership between various communities – Ukrainian and German – as well as organizations – the Saskatchewan Railway Museum and the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage at St. Thomas More College – who have come together to create this legacy, so that future generations may remember the importance of preserving rights and liberties. Most importantly, however, through your attendance here and participation in this ceremony you demonstrate your commitment to this enterprise. In doing so, you are reaching into the future, standing in solidarity with your children and your children’s children; knowing that when they come here to learn and reflect, they will grow to be more aware citizens, making Canada truly ‘strong and free.’”

### A Celebration of Ivana Kupala at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada

For Ukrainians around the world, July 6<sup>th</sup> marks the midsummer festival of Ivana Kupala. PCUH Interim Director Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk was invited to give a presentation about the history of the festival and its many intriguing traditions for event participants and museum visitors. As the inaugural event of the Museum’s new staff under the capable and energetic leadership of Executive Director Dr. Jen Budney, the Kupala celebration brought together long-time Museum supporters with a unexpectedly large crowd of newly-arrived Ukrainians, creating an atmosphere of true community through cultural appreciation. We look forward to many more opportunities for cooperation with this dynamic team!





## Faculty Profiles

### OKSANA DUDKO

Dr. Dudko delivered several public talks about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the current situation in Ukraine, and the impact of the war on the historian’s craft. Her interviews and articles were also published in *Korydor*, *STM Spring News*, and *980 CJME* (In addition, Dr. Dudko was a guest editor and contributor for the article “Chy Ukraina maie revolutsiuu? [Does Ukraine Have a Revolution?]” *Ukraina Moderna* 29 (2020), a special issue of the *Ukraina Moderna* journal about the Ukrainian Revolution, 1914–1923. She will also be co-editing and contributing to a collective volume titled *The Multiplicity of Exits from the War: The Experience of the Eastern Front Cities*. For her teaching, Dr. Dudko received an Honourable Mention for St. Thomas More College’s Teaching Excellence Award (2022).



### NADYA FOTY-ONESCHUK



Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk was asked by several news outlets to comment on the historical connection between Ukrainian *kbustky* and Indigenous *kokum* scarves in the wake of the war in Ukraine. She is preparing an exhibit based on her PhD dissertation “Saving Heritage’: Stakeholders, Successes and Project SUCH,” and looks forward to re-engaging with this key community fieldwork project in a new way, giving it life for new generations of Ukrainian Canadians. Dr. Foty-Oneschuk was asked to consult on a local oral history project entitled “Our History is Our Foundation,” initiated by the Ukrainian Orthodox Senior Citizens’ Society. She was also nominated for the STM Teaching Excellence award for the sixth time.

### BOHDAN KORDAN

Dr. Bohdan Kordan continued to actively publish this past year on the topic of Ukrainian internment in Canada, with an article in the journal *Ontario History* (“Enemy Alien Internment in Ontario’s Northland,” 113:1, Spring 2021) and chapter in the book *World War I and Its Internments: Local, National and Global Perspective* entitled “‘Enemies of Our Country’: Internment in Canada’s Rocky Mountains National Park, 1915-1917.” (Cornell University Press, 2022). Prof. Kordan was also a featured guest on the podcast *Beyond the Ridge*, sponsored by the Vimy Foundation (March 31, 2022 <https://vimyfoundation.ca/learn/beyond-the-ridge>).



#### On Faculty

PCUH Faculty members coordinate and manage PCUH’s programs and projects. Tenured and non-tenured faculty at St. Thomas More College and the University of Saskatchewan participate in the work of the Centre on the basis of research interests and proposals that fall within the mandate of the PCUH.

## SUPPORT PCUH

The Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage relies on the financial support of our committed friends. Over the years, countless individuals and organizations have contributed financially to the mission and success of the PCUH, and through the generosity of donors like you, their vision and legacy will live on.

You can make a difference in the lives of our students and you can help ensure that PCUH continues to offer creative programs and activities through higher learning.

By choosing to donate now, you are supporting the PCUH mission, and you are helping build a strong, sustainable community that celebrates Ukrainian heritage.

### Annual Donations

*PCUH extends sincere, warm thanks to the following individuals for their generous donations over the past year.*

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Marie Krochak

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**We thank you for your support!**

**Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage**

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