



PCUH FOCUS

25th Anniversary Issue

Newsletter of the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage
Новини Центру Дослідження Української Спадщини

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.

The Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) at St. Thomas More College had another busy and successful year in 2022 – 2023. In addition to continuing to field several media requests due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, PCUH was especially busy this year given that 2023 marked PCUH's 25th anniversary. The Centre sponsored, participated in, and/or hosted numerous events throughout the year, such as the University of Saskatchewan's "Stand with Ukraine" rally, the annual Holodomor Awareness Week events, the Ukrainian Museum of Canada's exhibit entitled "Doors: Through the Horror of War," the "Unissued Diplomas" exhibit, together with the USUSA, and the Prairie Ukrainian Film Festival in cooperation with the Ukrainian Museum of Canada and the Remai Modern.

PCUH also hosted the annual Mohyla lecture, with esteemed guest lecturer Dr. Mykhailo Wynnyckyj of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine.

Dr. Wynnyckyj gave a wonderful presentation entitled "Three Revolutions and a War: Learned Resilience and What it Means for Post-War Ukraine," in which he spoke about his experiences and observations of living in Kyiv for 25 years. The Jacyk fellowship in Ukrainian Studies, held by Oksana Dudko, was renewed for an unprecedented second year, which provided students with the opportunity to take a History course on mass killing and genocide and one on modern Ukraine, and the fellowship also provided many from around the world the opportunity to attend a workshop on decolonizing European and Soviet history curricula. As part of this workshop, Dr. Mayhill Fowler of Stetson University delivered a public lecture at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada entitled "Resisting Empire: Theatre in Ukraine in the 19th to 21st centuries."

As is obvious with the list of events and activities, after 25 years, PCUH continues to play an essential role in connecting STM, and the University of Saskatchewan, to the Ukrainian community. 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 support the important work being done by the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage.

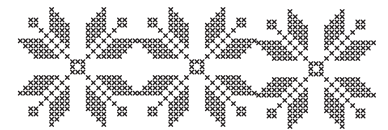
Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Ukrainian community,

Tammy Marche, Dean
St. Thomas More College



Inside this issue:

Message from the Dean	p. 1
From the Director's Desk	p. 2
Centre News	p. 3
Petro Jacyk Fellow	p. 7
Ukr. Studies News	p. 9
Student Life	p. 10
PCUH & Community	p. 12
Faculty Profiles	p. 16
Support PCUH	p. 17



Contributing Writers:
Nadya Foty-Oneschuk
Paul Sinkewicz
Oksana Dudko
Marta Krueger
Natalya Shevchuk

Text Editing:
Nadya Foty-Oneschuk
Natalya Shevchuk

Layout and Design:
Natalya Shevchuk



From the Director's Desk

2023 marks our 25th anniversary at the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage. For 25 years, we have been stewards of Ukrainian Studies on campus, not only providing a home base for our students and faculty, but also working to create an awareness of this region and its Canadian diaspora - their history, politics, and culture - both through our research and through our community outreach events. We have done so with great passion, commitment, and responsibility.

Our silver anniversary happens to come at a time when our ancestral homeland, which is so much a part of our teaching and research, continues to be under brutal attack. We know that our work is more important than ever before, and that we must be diligent in our support of Ukraine and Ukrainian studies. We approach everything we do with the knowledge that we are the voice of many, not just on this campus, but in the community beyond its walls, too. As academic programs focused on this region of the world continue to discuss and explore paths of decolonization that are so long overdue, we are grateful to be part of this scholarly discourse and are eager to see this growth and progress come to fruition. As you will see in the pages of this anniversary-edition Focus, we have curated a wide variety of events this last year, which speak to the dynamic nature of who we have become over the last quarter century. We continue to ask the scholarly questions that are at the core of who we are, especially in this new world - one, where Ukraine is no longer relegated to being simply an ill-understood post-Soviet space; and one, in which Ukrainians all over the world are proudly re-examining who they are in relation to the place that their people came from. We simultaneously seek to engage with both our campus community and the public in new ways, to encourage curiosity, awareness, and affinity for the plethora of Ukrainian topics that is simply unknown to most people. So much is possible, and the time is now.



While the PCUH marks its 25th anniversary, we simultaneously celebrate the milestone of 80 years since the first post-secondary Ukrainian course in all of North America was offered here by Dr. Toma Pavlychenko. A whopping eight decades of passion, commitment, and responsibility to educate those around us about Ukraine, its history, its literary legacy, its quest for nationhood, its linguistic and cultural resilience. I believe firmly that we are standing on the shoulders of the giants that selflessly dedicated themselves to this work, and I know that with your support, we will be able to continue this great legacy into the future.

A serious reality of this momentous year is that we have one term position left in Ukrainian Studies at this university, despite our program being the only one of its kind at the post-secondary level in Saskatchewan. In addition to being committed to offering a course load that is both inspiring and engaging, we are dedicating all of our efforts to galvanizing support, both from our dedicated students and our invested community, to ensure that we can continue to grow and establish stability for the future. We know that this is what the many benefactors of Ukrainian Studies at the U of S over the years believed in so deeply. We know that this is the time, if ever there was one, to see true commitment materialize both on and off campus in support of this worthwhile program. The alternative is just not an option. Those faculty members that came before us showed great resilience and belief, as shall we.

We humbly thank you for supporting our work over the last 25 years. Without your support, we would not be here today. Alas, the bittersweet nature of this year - milestone celebrations against the backdrop of continued war - becomes a source of continued strength and fortitude for the future. We will show perseverance and resilience in the face of uncertainty, and we assure you - our passion, commitment, and sense of responsibility are unwavering.

May the spirit of the holiday season bring warmth, comfort, abundant good health, and peace to your home, and may there be peaceful skies over our beloved Ukraine!

Зі святами!

Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, Interim Director



Centre News

Dr. Kordan at the UCC Triennial Congress

Prof. Bohdan Kordan, Professor Emeritus and PCUH Associate, was invited to speak at the XXVII Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians held in Winnipeg, October 28-30, 2022. The Triennial Congress is the policy forum where the priorities for the Ukrainian Canadian community are discussed and decided. Prof. Kordan delivered the Opening Address to the congress, identifying the priorities and challenges facing the community as a result of Russia's war in Ukraine while also identifying opportunities.



In addition, on November 18, Prof. Kordan spoke at the Galt Museum in Lethbridge, Alberta, delivering the 2022 Alex Johnston Memorial Lecture, the title of which was "Enemies of Our Country: Internment in Canada's Rocky Mountains National Park, 1915-1917. Sponsored by the University of Lethbridge (Faculty of Arts and Sciences) and the Lethbridge Historical Society, the Dr. Alex Johnston Lecture Series focuses on regional history and issues.

PCUH welcomes new research affiliate, Lesia Maruschak

Lesia Maruschak is an Ottawa-based Ukrainian, Canadian artist, curator, and bookmaker specializing in photography. Her research-based projects examine the links between histories of colonization, geopolitics, genocide, exile, and photography.

Maruschak has exhibited at 65 institutions worldwide. The National Holodomor Genocide Museum, Kyiv named her mobile memorial *Project MARIA* as the most important exhibition on the Soviet Ukraine famine-genocide. Her monograph *Maria* won the Kyiv International Book Festival Grand Prix Award and the Experimental Book Award and was shortlisted for the 2019 Rencontres de Arles Book Award and the Athens Photography Festival Book Award. Maruschak's highly coveted limited edition art books are held in numerous private and public collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Boston Athenaeum and the Library of Congress.

Maruschak's work is supported by the Canada Council of the Arts, the Ukrainian World Congress, the Canada First World War Internment Recognition Endowment Council and numerous private foundations. Maruschak is the recipient of the General of Canada Silver Medal Award and Caring Canadian Award, Ukrainian Canadian Congress Saskatchewan National Builder's Award, and the Ottawa Woman of Inspiration Award.

Maruschak (b. 1961) currently lives/works between Ottawa, ON, and Alvena, SK. She graduated University of Saskatchewan (MA), University of Ottawa (MBA) and completed fine art studies in the United States and Romania.



Mohyla Lecture 2023 with Dr. Mychailo Wynnyckyj

by Paul Sinkewicz

The future of Ukraine will be shaped by its recent history of identity-defining revolutions, and an unwanted war with Russia that has been raging since 2016, according to one of the leading experts in the field of Ukraine studies. Dr. Mychailo Wynnyckyj visited Saskatoon to deliver the 24th annual Mohyla Lecture on April 19. He is currently a Research Fellow at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and teaches in the Sociology Department and the Business School at the National University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” where he was recently appointed Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. Dr. Wynnyckyj is a fellow Ukrainian Canadian who has been living and working in the heart of Kyiv for over two decades, thus having a front-row seat to the very events he will be speaking about, said Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, Interim Director of the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH). His lecture was titled “Three Revolutions and a War: Learned Resilience and What it Means for Post-War Ukraine.” Dr. Wynnyckyj’s observations, especially in this last year, have provided countless supporters of Ukraine around the world with a reliable, insightful touchstone during a turbulent time. We could not have asked for a better, more timely voice to share with our community for the 2023 Mohyla Lecture,” said Dr. Foty-Oneschuk. Originally from Kitchener Ontario, Dr. Wynnyckyj has lived permanently in Kyiv for over two decades, and is a regular commentator for English-language media outlets (CNN, FoxNews, Al Jazeera, BBC, CBC, CTV, KyivPost, and others), and provides analysis on current events in his "Thoughts from Kyiv" blog. His book *Ukraine’s Maidan, Russia’s War: A Chronicle and Analysis of the Revolution of Dignity* was published in English in 2019, and in Ukrainian translation in 2021.



L to R: Dr.Oksana Dudko, Dr. Mykhailo Wynnyckyj, Dr. Nadya -Oneschuk



EU Ambassador to Canada visits the University

On May 17th, the Ukrainian Studies program at St. Thomas More College was honored to host a private audience with Her Excellency Dr. Melita Gabric, European Union Ambassador to Canada. Ambassador Gabric was in Saskatchewan for three days to visit the Provincial Government Ministries and learn more about the province. As part of the visit, the Ambassador spent some time on the University of Saskatchewan campus, meeting with senior leaders and faculty to better understand the scope of research the university is involved in and how our partnerships with EU countries may continue to grow. As part of this visit, Ambassador Gabric made a special request to meet with representatives of our program – Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, Dr. Oksana Dudko, and members of the U of S Ukrainian Students’ Association executive Marta Krueger, Natalya Shevchuk, and Isabelle Steppan. Also invited to participate in the meeting were Dean Tammy Marche, Associate Dean Gerry Farthing, and Jacquie Berg. Dr. Foty-Oneschuk shared the 80-year long history of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and the activities of the Prairie Centre of the Study of



Ukrainian Heritage, while the students spoke about their interest and enthusiasm for this field of study, and shared about some of the club’s initiatives. We were very proud to present Dr. Gabric with a vyshyvanka (Ukrainian embroidered blouse), as it was the eve of World Vyshyvanka Day, which celebrates this sacred cultural expression against the backdrop of the genocidal war in Ukraine.

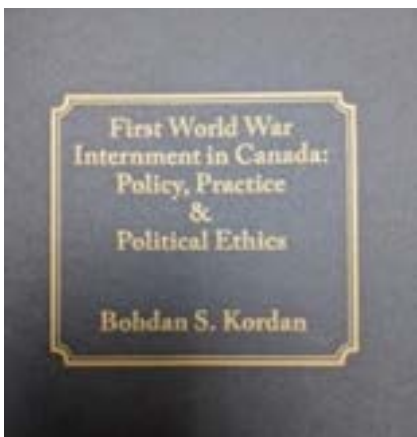
Mr. Volodymyr Ladyka visits Saskatoon

On May 23rd, Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk and representatives of the USUSA were invited to meet with Mr. Volodymyr Ladyka, Rector (President) of the Sumy National Agrarian University in Ukraine. Mr. Ladyka was visiting western Canadian universities and our campus to develop partnerships with programs in Agriculture and other relevant areas, to anticipate the creation of new opportunities for returning veterans of the current war in Ukraine. Mr. Ladyka was interested in the history of Ukrainian Studies on our campus and was keen to learn more about our programs and activities.



Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk and co president Natalya Shevchuk with Dr. Ladyka and Ukrainian graduate students

New title from Heritage Press by Dr. Bohdan Kordan



Heritage Press, the publishing arm of the PCUH, announces the release of its most recent publication *First World War Internment in Canada: Policy, Practice and Political Ethics* by PCUH Research Associate and Professor Emeritus, Bohdan Kordan.

The publication is a short treatise on First World War internment in Canada, which utilizes political ethics as a lens to assess the rationale behind the decision to intern and its consequences. The author notes that just as internment was a policy-political choice, it was also a moral choice, as revealed in the way that the practice of internment unfolded and even understood by some at the time. Prof. Kordan argues that viewing internment through a political-ethical lens not only helps guide us today in understanding the historical significance of internment but also its relevance for contemporary politics.

Prairie Workshop: Decolonizing European and Soviet History Curricula

On May 11–13, 2023, Oksana Dudko, Petro Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH), organized the “Prairie Workshop: Decolonizing European and Soviet History Curricula” so that scholars could discuss new approaches to teaching (eastern) European history after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The invasion has sparked academic debate about transforming European, Soviet, and Russian studies to better represent Russia’s politics, Ukrainian resistance, and their global impact. The workshop explored whether the concept of decolonization could be an effective analytical tool with which to foster new ways of thinking about and teaching the history of (eastern) Europe, Ukraine, Russia, and the Soviet Union. The workshop was a hybrid event, with both in-person and online attendees from various academic disciplines



(e.g., history, sociology, political science, musicology, folklore, and museum studies). Scholars participated from universities around the world (e.g., Canada, Chile, England, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Scotland, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States). Over three days, the participants discussed ways to incorporate new voices, sources, and themes within course syllabi in order to challenge epistemological frameworks and power hierarchies in the field. They also reflected on the spatial dimension of knowledge production and distribution in academia, particularly how academic institutions perceived to be on the “periphery” could lead discussions about decolonization and epistemic hierarchies. The event concluded with a round-table discussion, entitled “Decolonization: Towards a New Teaching of European and Soviet History?” Moderated by Oksana Dudko, the round table featured Mayhill Fowler from Stetson University, Ian MacMillen from Yale University, Botakoz Kassymbekova from the University of Basel, and Lynne Viola from the University of Toronto.

During the workshop, in-person attendees were given a guided tour of the University of Saskatchewan campus by the PCUH Interim Director, Nadya Foty-Oneschuk. This included a visit to the Lesia Ukrainka monument and an introduction to the university’s decolonization and indigenization strategies. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the Remai Modern exhibit, “*Storied Objects: Métis Art In Relation*,” which explored decolonization from an artistic and curatorial perspective. Jen Budney, Director of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada in Saskatoon, gave a tour of the museum and explained their new approach to curating exhibits, which emphasizes the importance of not only decolonization, but also the relationship between Ukrainians and Indigenous peoples in Canada. The workshop also featured a public lecture by one of its participants, Mayhill Fowler (Stetson University), entitled “*Resisting Empire: Theatre in Ukraine, 19th–21st centuries*.”

Workshop participants’ feedback:

“For me, participating in the workshop was a great opportunity to listen and learn about some innovative proposals on the study of Eastern Europe. For Latin Americans, that area of the world has not been much addressed in our academy. A suggestion for future editions: inviting Latin American students and scholars could help to find common themes and create a network of people interested in studying and sharing experiences between both regions.”

Manuel Ferez (Alberto Hurtado University)

“I really enjoyed the workshop and thought it was tremendous [that Oksana] reached out and invited me. [...] [Oksana] organized a brilliant, innovative, and deeply learning moment. I only wish I could have come in person....”

Anna Hájková (University of Warwick)





Petro Jacyk Post Doctoral Fellowship in Ukrainian Studies

Researching and Teaching Ukrainian History Amidst the Largest Military Conflict in Europe Since the Second World War

by *Oksana Dudko*

I completed my second and final year as the Petro Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow in Ukrainian Studies at the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) during the 2022–2023 academic year, a year that was marked by the persistence of Russia’s unprovoked attack on Ukraine and Ukrainians’ remarkable resistance and resilience. Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the largest military conflict in Europe since the Second World War, has proven the importance of studying and understanding Ukraine more than ever before. Throughout the year, in my research and teaching, I was committed to raising awareness about Ukrainian history, culture, and politics. I also aimed to help those in Saskatoon and the wider Canadian public understand the current war and its global impact.



As a fellow, I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to focus on my research and writing. My research during the year was centred on Galician Ukrainian soldiers during the First World War, the Ukrainian Revolution, and the subsequent conflicts and violence in Ukraine. I focused on two key topics: 1) the impact of the severe typhus epidemic of 1919 on the Ukrainian Galician Army and 2) the role and response of Galician Ukrainian soldiers to the violence against the civilian population of Ukraine, particularly the anti-Jewish pogroms in 1919. With generous financial support from the PCUH and the Distinctive Areas Research Award (DARA), I conducted research in various archives during the summer and fall of 2022, including the Ukrainian Museum Archives in Cleveland, the archive of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in New York, and the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago.

I presented my research findings at multiple international conferences and research workshops: the international conference “The Global History of War and Empire” (University of Amsterdam, November 2022); the 54th East European and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention (ASEEES) (Chicago, November 2022); the international workshop “Transnational Mobilities in an Age of Civil Wars: Europe, 1917–1949” (University College Dublin, March 2023); and the Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS) Annual Conference (Toronto, May 2023).

I also published three articles in peer-reviewed academic journals in Canada and the US: “A Conceptual Limbo of Genocide: Russian Rhetoric, Mass Atrocities in Ukraine, and the Current Definition’s Limits,” in *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 64 (2–3), 2023; “Teaching Ukrainian History in Canada,” in *Ab Imperio* 1, 2023; and “Gate-Crashing ‘European’ and ‘Slavic’ Area Studies: Can Ukrainian Studies Transform the Fields?,” in *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 65 (2), 2023.

Teaching has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my fellowship. I had the opportunity to teach two courses: “Mass Killing and Genocide in the 20th Century” and “Modern Ukrainian History and Russian-Ukrainian Conflict,” both of which had enthusiastic and engaged students who were willing to tackle difficult topics of violence, war, and mass destruction in Ukraine and globally. Additionally, I enjoyed teaching a Ukrainian history course to a group of curious attendees at the Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning Program.



For my Ukrainian history class, I followed the tradition of inviting Ukrainian scholars and experts to share their experiences with the students. This year, students had an opportunity to talk via Zoom with a Ukrainian renowned film director (Kateryna Gornostai); Ukrainian film critic and journalist (Daria Badior); Ukrainian investigative journalist and drone operator (Dmytro Bondar); and Kherson professor and sociologist (Mykola Homaniuk, who lived through the Russian occupation). I believe that providing space for voices to speak from inside Ukraine is one of the most beneficial aspects of learning Ukrainian history, offering the productive possibility to decolonize (eastern) European, Ukrainian, Soviet, and Russian studies that have been shaped by the Russian imperial perspective for decades.

Additionally, I organized a three-day international workshop called “The Prairie Workshop: Decolonizing European and Soviet History Curricula.” The workshop brought together more than twenty in-person and online attendees, who discussed how we, as educators, could create a more inclusive classroom to equip students with a nuanced understanding of Ukrainian, Soviet, and (eastern) European history.

As a scholar, I believe in promoting public scholarship and engaging with the wider community through open lectures, talks, and cultural projects. Although research and teaching are my primary scholarly activities, I have also taken the initiative to organize various events to help raise awareness about Ukrainian history and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. In addition to giving a series of online and in-person talks and interviews, I have made appearances in various media outlets to discuss these important topics. One highlight of my fellowship was the opportunity to organize and curate the Prairie Ukrainian Film Festival (PUFF) with the generous support of the PCUH and its Interim Director, Nadya Foty-Oneschuk. The festival was held in partnership with the Ukrainian Museum of Canada and Remai Modern, and it showcased six award-winning Ukrainian feature and documentary films.

I am thankful to the PCUH and Petro Jacyk Foundation not only for giving me the chance to work with a group of brilliant scholars and community members, but also for providing a platform to further promote Ukrainian history and culture.



Ukrainian Studies News

Livestream with President Zelensky at the University

On June 22, 2022, the Ukrainian Studies program at STM was proud to have both student and faculty representatives present at the special livestream with President Volodymyr Zelensky. The U of S was one of several Canadian universities selected to participate in the livestream, where President Zelensky spoke and answered questions from Canadian students.



Needless to say, sharing in an invited audience with the President of Ukraine is a remarkable opportunity, especially in the midst of a war. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that our students and faculty will not soon forget.

Ukrainian Studies Reception 2022



It was standing room only at this year's Ukrainian Studies Reception held on October 25th in the STM Chelsea Lounge. The many students gathered were enthusiastic to learn about Ukrainian Studies programming on campus, and were treated to a light reception. Co-hosted annually by the PCUH and the Dean's Office, the Reception featured greetings from the College by Dean Tammy Marche, a description of the PCUH and the new Certificate in Ukrainian Studies by Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, an additional description of the new Ukrainian history courses by Dr. Oksana Dudko, the potential of study abroad options for Ukrainian Studies students by Caitlin Ward, Manager of Engaged Learning, and a pitch for extra-curricular student Involvement by Jensen Beaudoin, President of the University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students Association. Attendees also learned about the several scholarships and awards available to students enrolled in Ukrainian Studies courses. We thank our students and the STM Dean's Office for the continued collaboration on this important annual event!

Ukrainian Students' Association on Campus

by: Natalya Shevchuk - USUSA Co-president 2022/23

This year our small but mighty group continued to grow. With a new co-president turn over in the fall, the club began to interact with the community like it had done in pre-COVID times. In November we had a week of memorial events for Holodomor Awareness Week. We began with a rally in support of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Midweek we hosted a vigil for the victims of the Holodomor in the STM Chapel and finished off the week with a showing of the movie Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones tells the story of a Welsh reported who wanted to tell the truth about the man-made famine in Ukraine during a time of concealment by both the USSR and Western news outlets. To end 2022, the USUSA was a main organizer in the Ukrainian National Hockey team's game against our Huskies. It was a great night for Ukrainian culture. For the start of the new year, our members went out carolling for the first time since the pandemic. We entertained many houses and nursing homes, giving the club a great fundraising opportunity, but also a time to bond as a club. In the spring we partnered with PCUH to tell a story with the exhibit "Unissued Diplomas". For a week in March, the STM gallery held 36 unissued diplomas of students who died as a result of Russian aggression. For the ending of our year, we held a pysanka workshop and a petrykivka paint night, both having record breaking attendance for the club. Both events were such a great way for our club to increase awareness in the university community but also to spread the culture that we so greatly want and need to protect in times like these.





Student Life on Campus





Undergraduate Awards for Academic Excellence

The following 2022 scholarships were awarded to students for academic excellence in Ukrainian Studies at the University of Saskatchewan

Rose Semko Hrynychuk Scholarship
Marta Krueger

Steven and Katherine Kirstiuk Bursary
Naomi Wirsta

Ukrainian Self-Reliance Association/TYC - Steppe Branch Ukrainian Language Award

- Alex Kildaw – 114
- Elina Schwarz– 114
- Lesia Thachuk – 114
- Wil Kushniryk – 117
- Katherina Siomin – 117
- Isabelle Steppan – 117

Annie Palynchuk Scholarship
Naomi Wirsta

Stephen J. Porayko Scholarship
Wil Kushniryk

Michael Sytnick Scholarship
Wil Kushniryk

Connections - Honours Art Show

Marta Krueger is a 2023 Graduate from the UoFS Bachelors of Fine Arts Honours Program. Through her time at the UoFS, Marta was an active member of the UoFS Ukrainian Students Association, with her final year being Co-President. Marta was also a St. Thomas More student, spending much time studying and attending classes in the STM building. For a month at the end of April and beginning of May, Marta had her Honours Art Show, entitled *Connections*, on display in the STM Art Gallery. *Connections* is a body of work that focuses on expressing the visual elements that define what it means to her to be Ukrainian. Through her Artist statement, Marta explained that when brainstorming ideas for the pieces in her show, she was trying to identify one key concept that could be determined as the root of her Ukrainian identity. What she quickly discovered was that there is not one specific element that expresses this, but a vast collection of things that combine together to create who she is as a Ukrainian-Canadian. So, instead of picking one subject, she decided to try and express them all together. Images from this body of work can be found on Marta’s Instagram page @martas_portfolio_



PCUH Accepts Book Donation from the Lozinsky Family



We are appreciative of former Ukrainian Studies student, John Lozinsky, for reaching out with a book donation from his father’s personal library. Dr. Joseph Lozinsky obtained a PhD from the Ukrainian Free University in Munich in the late 1980s, curating a fine collection of publications on Ukrainian topics. Many of these are no longer in print, and as such, we are grateful for the donation, which will become a valuable resource to students in our Ukrainian culture classes. Дякуємо!

PCUH Interim Director wins Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk was awarded the *STM Teaching Excellence Award* in the spring, with the following being shared about her teaching career at STM College:
“Nadya is well known to teaching award adjudication committees here on campus, having won the USSU Teaching Award twice (in 2011 and 2017) and having been nominated for the STM Teaching Excellence Award six times in the past decade for her work in teaching Ukrainian Studies and Anthropology courses. In her 13 years of teaching at STM and the USask, she has taught a variety of courses and her students emphasize the great thought and care that she puts into teaching and evaluation, particularly in her language classes. She has also contributed to pedagogical enrichment at the College by serving as Programme Coordinator for the Spring Session in Ukraine and Chair of the Ukrainian Studies Minor Advisory Committee.”
(MOREnews, Spring/Summer 2023)





PCUH and the Community

“On Guard for Thee”

by Paul Sinkewicz

An art exhibit featuring the drawings of war artist Richard Johnson is drawing attention to Canada’s military contribution to the defence of Ukraine and raising money to repair wounds suffered in the conflict. “On Guard for Thee” is a remarkable exhibition of prints representing Canada’s Operation Unifier training mission in Ukraine, which began in 2015. The show was mounted by STM Gallery curator Linda Stark, in partnership with the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH). “Since Feb. 24, our community has focused on our connections with our ancestral homeland in a whole new way,” said Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, interim director of PCUH, at the opening of the exhibit. “Standing



L to R: Dr. Bohdan Kordan, Linda Stark, Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk

shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, Ukrainians all over the world, including those of us here in Saskatchewan, are working to raise awareness about the genocidal war happening in Ukraine, and to help raise funds to ensure that humanitarian aid will get to those who so desperately need it.” “The PCUH is proud of our founding director, Professor Emeritus Dr. Bohdan Kordan, who curated this exhibit and who initiated the work to bring the partnership with Linda Stark and the STM Gallery to fruition,” she said. “Not only does this exhibit speak for itself in terms of the profound artistic talent being showcased, but it also serves as a fundraiser for this very important cause.” “These drawings give us a glimpse into the realities of military training when the threat is real, and the stakes are high. They remind us that the defence of Ukraine did not begin earlier this year, but has been going on for several years now. And they give us a tangible opportunity to support humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine.”

“Doors: Through the Horror of War”

The PCUH was proud to co-sponsor this exhibit’s appearance in Saskatoon, together with the Ukrainian Museum of Canada. At the exhibit’s opening on March 23, 2023, PCUH affiliate Dr. Bohdan Kordan gave remarks about the poignant nature of this installment. Ruslan Kurt is a Ukrainian artist based in Toronto. His installation “Doors: Through the Horror of War” has eight actual doors – some damaged and burned – from in and around Ukraine since the war began. “On February 24, 2022, the war knocked on the door of every Ukrainian,” Kurt explains. His installation tells the stories of millions of Ukrainians who were forced to cross the doors of their homes to escape the war and terror brought by Russian soldiers. Many of them died without being able to get out. The doors come from Ukrainian homes, theatres, hospitals, kindergartens, and other everyday buildings. They speak to the transience of life and how, in war, everything we count on can change in a single heartbeat. “Doors” has been touring to cities across Canada since October 2022. The doors for the exhibition were brought to Canada from Ukraine by the Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival.



Ruslan Kurt with one of his door displays

Unissued Diplomas

by Paul Sinkewicz

“Don’t let the world forget about us.”

Those are the words Marta Krueger thinks about when she looks at the faces of 36 young Ukrainians killed since Feb. 24 of 2022. The photos and stories are part of an exhibit that is being shown at the STM Gallery and sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students’ Association (USUSA) and the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH). Titled Unissued Diplomas, the exhibit is being installed at universities across Canada in conjunction with the one-year anniversary of the most recent attack on Ukraine by Russia.



“This exhibit is in memory of 36 Ukrainian students whose lives were brutally taken by Russian aggression before they were able to receive their educational diplomas and degrees,” Krueger said. “These students are the same ages as many of the students here at STM College. So it’s important for us to bring the realization that this is happening to real people.” Krueger, who is the co-president of USUSA, said working hard to get an education is something she and her peers are all familiar with, so having it taken away from you so quickly and easily is horrifying.

Ivanna Obadzinka was a 19-year-old mother of twins balancing her studies at Polissia National University with raising a family when when two Russian bombs killed her and her two young children. Hennadiy Havrashenko was 18 when Russian soldiers shot up the car in which he was riding. He loved fishing and wanted to become a mechanic, like his father.

“Reading each of these stories about where they were, what they were interested in and what happened when they were killed, brings a moment of intense sadness,” said Krueger. “One of the biggest things that our friends and family in Ukraine routinely tell us when we ask what we can do to help, is ‘Don’t let the world forget about us.’ So, it’s important for us to continue being a voice for them so that we can continue to find ways to help support and motivate our government to support Ukraine. Because without this external help it’s never going to end.” “And without the reoccurring reminders through social media, through exhibits like this, people will forget and then that’s when we lose. And quite honestly, we can’t afford to lose, because it affects too many innocent lives.”



Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk, professor of Ukrainian Studies and Interim Director of PCUH, said the exhibit is a way to make the war in Ukraine feel real for those of us living half a world away. She said with the inevitable fatigue that comes with seeing similar headlines day after day, this is one way to keep awareness of the suffering at the forefront. “I think seeing these faces and reading a little bit about how they lived their lives, and then how their lives were taken, is a very powerful thing. Unissued Diplomas was on display at the STM Gallery until Sunday, April 2, and is also available on the St. Thomas More College website as a slideshow for those who were not able to attend in person.

Krueger said it’s important to honour the memories of the thousands of Ukrainian victims of war represented by the 36 students featured in the exhibit. And to realize more names are still being added to the list of dead. “People are still losing their lives, every single day.”



Dr. Mayhill Fowler Delivers Public Lecture

On May 13th, the PCUH was happy to host a public lecture by Dr. Mayhill Fowler of Stetson University at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada. Entitled “Resisting Empire: Theatre in Ukraine, 19th to 21st centuries,” Dr. Fowler explored how theatre in Ukraine has always resisted empire – from itinerant troupes performing under the Tsars to today’s artists making art in a time of war. The lecture talk explores three stories of theatrical resistance: the first professional Ukrainian-language theater and its star, Maria Zankovetska, who created successful careers in the Russian Empire and a counter-narrative to imperial culture. Second, Les Kurbas and his Berezil theater used cultural connections with Europe to create a theater that was Soviet, but that was also Ukrainian. Finally, after the Revolution of Dignity new laws –and a new generation - ended the Soviet legacy in the arts, creating theater for a democratic Ukraine. These artists are still creating theater today, in war.



Ultimately, Dr. Fowler’s lecture attempted to counter many ideas about “Russian” culture, showing how important it is to decolonize our thinking, to reconstruct center and periphery, and to explore the texture of place more fully to capture artistic creativity.

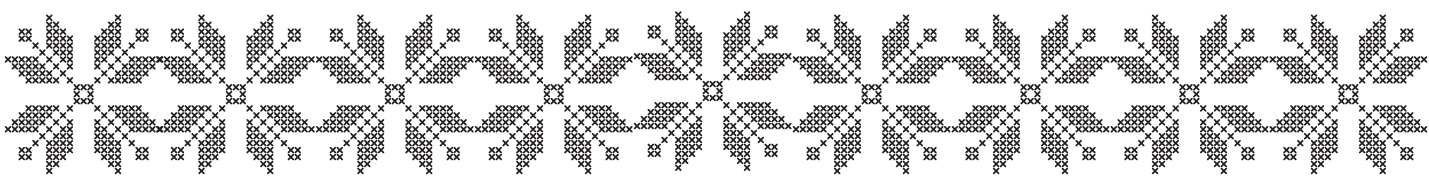
Dr. Mayhill C. Fowler is an associate professor in the Department of History at Stetson University. She has published widely on culture in Ukraine, including her book *Beau Monde on Empire’s Edge: State and Stage in Soviet Ukraine* (Toronto, 2017). She is currently finishing a book on women in theater in Ukraine across the long 20th century and re-thinking a project on Soviet military theater. She has held fellowships at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, the University of Toronto, and she was a Fulbright scholar to Ukraine 2019-2020. She is an affiliated researcher with the Center for Urban History in Lviv and affiliated faculty in the Program in Theater Studies at Ivan Franko National University. She is also a former actress.

Prairie Ukrainian Film Festival (PUFF)

On June 15–18, 2023, Saskatoon’s newest film festival, PUFF debuted, thanks to a wonderful joint partnership between the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage, The Ukrainian Museum of Canada, and Remai Modern. This year’s festival showcased six acclaimed contemporary Ukrainian films over the course of the four days at Remai Modern. Inspiring and gripping, these six Ukrainian films explored many aspects of Ukraine’s past and present and told challenging stories of resilience and fragility, bravery and tenderness, determination and affliction, and love and friendship.



The festival curator was our Petro Jacyk Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Oksana Dudko, who sought to introduce a new event in our community that could go on annually into the future. As there was no charge to take in the films for those interested, we were able to host many over the course of the festival, which included not only those who are familiar with PCUH events, but also many newcomers from Ukraine, and patrons of the Remai Modern, as well. The award-winning films represented a variety of genres and included the following: *My Thoughts are Silent* (2019), *Pamfir* (2022), *We Will Not Fade Away* (2023), *Stop-Zemlia* (2021), *Homeward* (2019), and *Klondike* (2022), all shown with English subtitles. Stay tuned to the PCUH Facebook page and our website for information regarding PUFF 2024!



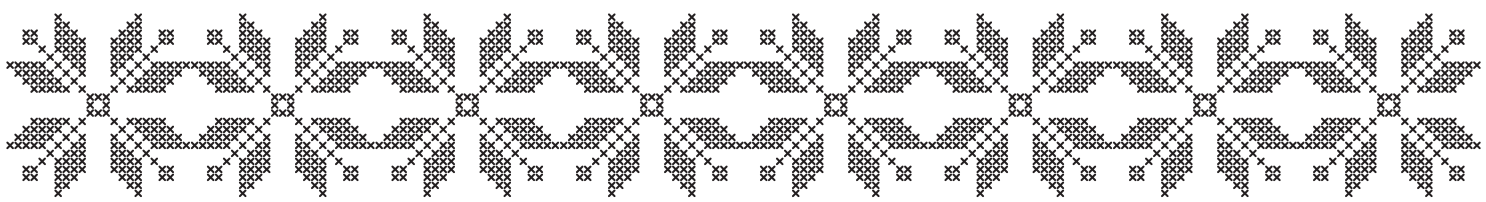
Dr. Brian Cherwick - “Sounds You’ve Never Heard Before”



In culmination of its 25th anniversary celebrations, the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH) hosted ethnomusicologist and folklorist Dr. Brian Cherwick for a lecture-presentation entitled “Sounds You’ve Never Seen Before,” featuring 40 Ukrainian folk instruments on Tuesday, October 3rd. The main gallery of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada was filled with an enthusiastic and awed audience for this wonderful event, which informed everyone not only about the mechanics and musical qualities of the instruments themselves, but about the relevant ethnographic and historical context of each. Dr. Cherwick is the leading scholar in this area in North America, and has a gift in making such topics accessible and entertaining for his audience. The relevance of the many distant historical themes discussed were not lost on the audience, as Ukraine nears 600 days since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale invasion into its territory. The historical ballads performed from the 1500s about fighting for Ukraine’s independence ring eerily true today. We could not have asked for a more poignant way to wrap up our 25th anniversary events. Our gratitude to Dr. Cherwick for his expertise, to the UMC for their beautiful space and cooperation, and to both our dedicated supporters and the many new faces that were present that evening.

PCUH Interim Director gives public lecture at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada

On October 17th, the front gallery of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada was full of interested individuals, who came to listen to Dr. Nadya Foty-Oneschuk deliver a presentation entitled: “Beliefs and Being: The role of nature in the formation of traditional Ukrainian worldview.” Dr. Foty-Oneschuk guided the audience through the notion that since time immemorial, a rich belief system has existed for those living on the territory of present-day Ukraine. A reliance on and reverence of nature made perfect sense for an agrarian civilization. These ancient Ukrainians were polytheistic, believing in many powers tied to nature that helped guide and protect their families. and livelihoods. Likewise, they created ways of understanding threatening forces in their environment and developed ways of taking precautions to ensure that all would be kept safe. Those gathered were reminded that it was from these humble beginnings that many of the beloved Ukrainian traditions that are still practiced today find their roots. As always, thank you to UMC Director, Dr. Jen Budney, and her tireless staff, for the invitation.



Faculty Profiles

Alan Anderson

Dr. Alan Anderson has been a long-time affiliate of the PCUH and despite being retired, he continues to contribute to the community in meaningful ways as a scholar. Dr. Anderson is in the finishing stages of completing his forthcoming book for UCC-Saskatchewan, *Hromada: The Changing Ukrainian Community in Saskatchewan*.

Nadya Foty-Oneschuk

Dr. Foty-Oneschuk continues her work in the realm of oral history and Ukrainian Canadian studies by collaborating with the Ukrainian Museum of Canada on an upcoming exhibit involving her PhD dissertation, which focused on the 1971-72 federally-funded project, *Save Ukrainian Canadians' Heritage*. She also presented at the Prairie Workshop, and delivered a paper entitled "Decolonization beyond the Classroom: A brief history of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage."

Bohdan Kordan

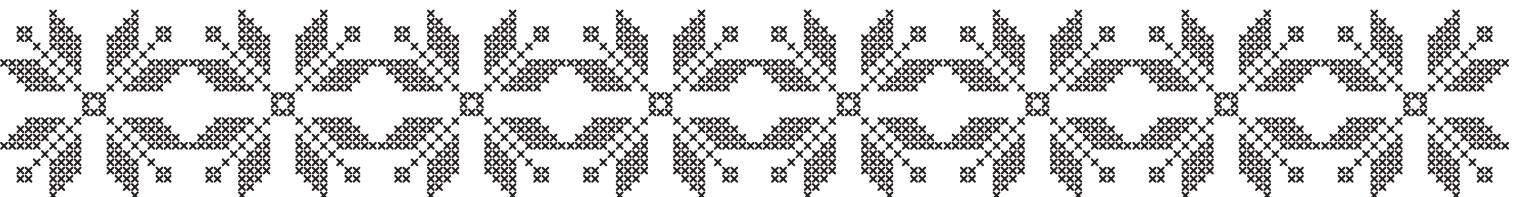
Though officially retired, Dr. Bohdan Kordan has continued to be very busy. Since fall 2022, he has published the article "Russia's war against Ukraine: historical narratives, geopolitics, and peace," in *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, and the book *First World War Internment in Canada: Policy, Practice and Political Ethics*. He has appeared on a variety of podcasts discussing Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and has delivered several addresses in the local community and beyond.

Lesia Maruschak

As a PCUH research affiliate Maruschak will focus on the creation of a corpus of images creating a History of Ukrainian Settlement through a machine learning programme generating images from textual data derived from oral histories gathered on the prairies. Lesia is also currently continuing work on her project *Our Riukzak (Our Backpack)*, creating an "exhibit in a box," which focus on the child's experience, both through the lens of the Holodomor and through the lens of the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children in the Russo-Ukrainian war.

Nadia Prokopchuk

As an Affiliate of PCUH, Nadia is able to support Ukrainian language education (methodology, instruction, assessment) at all levels through various projects, presentations, and publications. Nadia has written several courses for language education and these courses have been enriched by PCUH initiatives such as the *Ukrainian Language Assessment* project. Her most recent publication is an open educational text titled *Language Learning in K-12 Schools: Theories, Methodologies, and Best Practices* (2022).





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: Paul Kyba, John Didula and Bohdan Baran

PCUH Flashback

“A dream we dream alone is only a dream. A dream we dream together makes us all winners. So let us dream and work together to add something of value to this great country of ours, Canada. I believe this centre will be looked upon as a well-deserved ‘thank you’ to those who have done before and sacrificed so much to make our lives better” Honorable Dr. Stephen Worobetz, O.C., S.O.M., Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, 1970-1976, Founder, Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (From PCUH Inaugural Address, 1999)



Dr. Worobetz was amongst the first to recognize the importance of the proposed establishment of the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage. When questioned why he had decided to support had decided to support PCUH, Dr. Worobetz said: “Western Canada has proven that multiculturalism can enrich a country in many ways. This is why I feel strongly that we should support the objectives of the Prairie Centre and encourage Canadians of other backgrounds to record their history and their legacy as completely as they can.”

PLEASE DONATE

Please give generously to the PCUH.

Your donation is tax deductible. You will receive an official receipt.

Please make cheques payable to

St. Thomas More College

and address to:

PCUH Donation

St. Thomas More College 1437 College Drive Saskatoon, SK
S7N 0W6

For electronic donations visit our secure site (click the button below and choose Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage from the drop-down menu under “Designation”)

For further information on how you might support the PCUH or any of its programs and initiatives, please feel free to contact us by telephone at (306) 966 -8918 (Kari Sinkewicz, Manager of Development and Alumni Relations, St. Thomas More College) or email ksinkewicz@stmcollege.ca.

We thank you for your support!