

СПУДЕНТ



Letter from the Editor

As summer is finally coming to light, and the disappointment of expectations not being met has died down, take a moment to appreciate how far we've come this year, through the good and the bad. Now, think of those who weren't able to take their summers to relax and enjoy themselves. They were busy advocating for human rights, promoting the Ukrainian culture, and fundraising for good causes. This seems like something



members of SUSK would do. If that's what came to mind, then you're on the right track.

You are about to be launched into the past and uncover the true history of Student and SUSK, so get ready to immerse yourself in the most exclusive publication of Student yet! This edition of Student will feature Alumni memoirs and guidance through the themes of the Ukrainian Arts, Culture, and Community which are dated back

to the 60's. It will also include a scoop of what SUSK is up to nowadays, as well as anecdotes from our Regional USOs about their best events of last year.

Every Student publication is unique from its predecessor, but this one should really hit home. I am thrilled and honored to have worked on this project last summer and I hope that everyone can find something dear to

them.

Thank you for tuning in, we wouldn't be here without you. Now, please continue on to the rollercoaster of nostalgia and inspiration.

Yours truly, Anastasiya Gorodnicha

Special Thanks

Andrew Gregorovich

Donald Sadoway

Marco Levytsky

Bohdana Dutka

Michael Bociurkiw

Anhelina Ostapyk

Devon Sereda Goldie

Sophie Shields

Nazariy Demkowicz

Oleksandr Shvets

Ryerson USO

Marc Darmohraj

Sofia Turchyn

Stephania Nedoshytko

Cassian Soltykevich

Olena Uvarenko

Pavlo Kucher

Student Archives

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All SUSK Presidents

♦ Vera Zarowski	♦ Andrij Makuch	♦ Volodymyr Boychuk
♦ Leo Wynnyckyj	♦ James Dmytro Jacuta	♦ Gena Slawuta
♦ Roman Osadchuk	♦ Mykhailo Maryn	♦ Lubko Belej
♦ George Borys	♦ George Samoil	♦ Mike Ilynky
♦ Andrew Gregorovich	♦ Mykhailo Bociurkw	♦ Paul Horbal
♦ Lubomyr Zyla	♦ Chrystyna Chudczak	♦ Artem Luhovy
♦ Roman Serbyn	♦ Danylo Dzikewicz	♦ Tamara Mischena
♦ Bohdan Kravchenko	♦ Zirka Kudla	♦ Marco Jacuta
♦ Marusia Kucharyshyn	♦ Danylo Dzvonyk	♦ Danylo Korbabicz
♦ Marko Bojcun	♦ Greg Blynsniuk	♦ Olena Kit
♦ Andrij Semotiuk	♦ Bill Pawlowsky	♦ Christine Czoli
♦ Yuri Dashko	♦ Dan Puderak	♦ Cassian Soltkeyevych
♦ Myron Spolsky	♦ Mike Stepaniuk	♦ Stephanie Nedoshytko
♦ Sheila Slobodzian	♦ Paul Grod	♦ Roman Grod
♦ Marijka Hurko	♦ Jon Tomas	

Andrew Gregorovich – Feb 8 2019 Interview with Cassian Soltkeyevych

C - Thank you for speaking with us today. Firstly, we wanted to ask you when it was that you were elected president of SUSK, and where you were studying at the time?

A - *I was elected president of SUSK in 1965 at the SUSK Congress in Toronto. I did my undergraduate studies at McMaster University in Hamilton and then my graduate studies at the University of Toronto.*

C - Was there a local Ukrainian Students club at both schools at that time?

A - *Yes, there was a local Toronto one and a local Hamilton one.*

C - What kind of events would the clubs put on?

A - *We did have a Ukrainian Day at the university: usually we were active with some varenyky. I had also mounted an exhibit at the University of Toronto of rare Ukrainian maps. That was held at the library of the University of Toronto. There was even an opportunity to bring in a horse and parade with the horse because he was representing the Cossack element of our history.*

C - What got you inspired to get involved?

A - *Well, I guess it was because of my family, my father had been so active, and it was a natural thing for me to go and join the organization at McMaster.*

C - What were some of the bigger projects that you worked on while with SUSK?

A - *During my term as president, SUSK published a booklet about Michael Hrushevsky's 1903 article "The*

traditional scheme of 'Russian' history and the problem of a rational organization of the history of the East Slavs". This item is a very valuable piece of Ukrainian history as it establishes Ukraine as a separate entity from Russia. I was responsible for editing the booklet. So, as a result of our activities, we were able to publish something and put our name on it. The credit on the back of the title page states, "Ukrainian Canadian University Students' Union, 83-85 Christie Street, Toronto, Ontario". The booklet was published for the Ukrainian Canadian Student's Union by the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences.

A - *Additionally, SUSK held an academic conference at McMaster University in Hamilton in 1966 that attracted many prominent Ukrainian-Canadian and Ukrainian-American historians of that day. So there was a significant intellectual element in our conference. There was Mykhaylo Marunchak as one example, and several others. So they were a part of the history of the organization of the Ukrainian Canadian community. That was the biggest event that we planned in my time period.*

C - So it was important to you to see other young people learn from intellectuals and historians?

A - *Right.*

C - Do you remember how many people attended the conference?

A - *Not more than 50, maybe 40-45, somewhere in there.*

C - In the present, we have many ways to easily communicate across long distances, but that was not always the case at the time that you were involved. How did you communicate with your executive? I'm ...

...Imagining your executive was across the country.

C - In the present, we have many ways to easily communicate across long distances, but that was not always the case at the time that you were involved. How did you communicate with your executive? I'm imagining your executive was across the country.

A - *We were mainly concentrated in Winnipeg and then later Toronto. We were actually in a sense brought together as a community across Canada by the organization's offices in Winnipeg and then eventually Toronto.*

C - Did you mostly write letters to one another to communicate?

A - *Yes, correspondence was the main contact. We had very little money. So we really couldn't afford to travel to all of the places that we were organizing.*

C - Was there an office in both Winnipeg and Toronto?

A - *I guess you could say we had an office in each city but Toronto was the main office for the organization.*

C - I noticed in the booklet it said Christie Street, what was the building that you used there?

A - *It was the building of the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services and the League of Ukrainian Canadians.*

C - Were there any issues on campuses, for example with communist clubs or socialist clubs or anything like that?

A - *There was an English historian that was convinced there was no Holodomor in Ukraine and he actually argued with me that it never took place, that it didn't exist. So, I was active in convincing the academics at the University. More than just the SUSK members, but the community in general and the English speaking community was very active in protesting our stand on the Soviet Union.*

C - One of my colleagues was talking with Roman Serbyn and he said the Ukrainian community felt quite divided at the time due to different waves of immigration, did you find that at all in your time?

A - *Certainly there was some friction created by the new immigration. We were aware of the problems that the community was facing but there was no opposition or problems that we had in SUSK. We were very lucky that all of the persons involved were very cooperative, we just simply didn't involve ourselves in it.*

C - Your executive and your friends with SUSK, were their parents mostly from the first, second or third wave immigrants?

A - *It was certainly a mix but overall we had a very positive organization. We weren't fighting anyone, we didn't seem to have any division that you could identify, so it was a positive existence that we had.*

C - I really appreciate you being able to share a little bit about your time in SUSK with us.

A - *It was my pleasure. ♦*

JOIN YOUR LOCAL USO

Here is a little bit of background information on me: I came here when I was a baby, grew up in a very Ukrainian family (or so I thought), never learned to speak the language, but loved learning about our culture and heritage regardless. One other thing you should know about me is that I absolutely *love to sing*. It is my one true passion, meaning that I will sing at any opportunity I have. It was this passion that got me involved in my USO. One day, my friend Mariia invited me to go carolling with her Ukrainian friends. Please note, this was the first very Ukrainian thing I have ever done. I have been to the festival as a tourist, I have tried Ukrainian school for a few months, but never did I really immerse myself into the culture.

Anyway, Mariia told me that Ukrainian caroling is not your typical Hollywood movie style carolling, but rather, that it involves going from house to house, collecting donations, and getting fed. At the time, I really thought that she was kidding. But by the end of the night, I could barely even sing! After that night, I knew that I found a place in which I belong. The people I met when caroling were not only nice, but they opened a door for me to a world I did not know existed. I found something in common with every person there, all the while doing something I absolutely love. I continued to meet up with these individuals and eventually went to SUSK Congress in Banff, which changed my life. It may sound as though I am ex-

aggerating, but my whole perspective of my Ukrainian heritage completely changed and is very prominent in my life now. I will never regret accepting to go carolling with that night, as it led me to so many amazing things - becoming the co-President of the uOttawa Ukrainian Students' Club just a few months later, and now working for SUSK as a Summer Student. By opening your horizons and getting involved, you never know what may be offered to you. It is really that simple! Look up your city's Ukrainian Club on Facebook, and attend one of their events! You have no idea what will come your way.

*“they opened a door
for me to a world
I did not know existed.”*



List of all USOs in Canada: UVic Ukr Students' Society, Ukrainian Students' Society (Calgary), Ukrainian Students' Society (Edmonton), MacEwan Ukrainian Students' Club (Edmonton), University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association (Saskatoon), SUSK Regina, University of Winnipeg Ukrainian Students' Association, Manitoba Ukrainian Canadian Students' Society (Winnipeg), Western Ukrainian Students' Club (London), Kitchener-Waterloo Ukrainian Association of Students (KVAS), Ukrainian Students' Club (Guelph), Ukrainian Students' Association—McMaster University (Hamilton), University of Toronto USC, Ukrainian Students' Club at the University of Toronto, Barrie USO, York USO, QUUSA (Queens), Carleton Ukrainians, Carleton Rukh, University of Ottawa Ukrainian Students' Club, McGill Ukrainian Students' Association (Montreal), Concordia Ukrainian Students Union (Montreal).

Where It All Began...



When I was first asked to document the past 50 years of STUDENT's history, I approached the task with trepidation. How can one sum up 50 years of trials and tribulations into one measly article? I began pouring through the issues of STUDENT and was presented with seemingly contradicting thoughts, attitudes, aspirations and ideas from each generation of Ukrainian Canadian students. It was only when I took a step back that I was met with the realization that there was indeed a recurring theme and, more than that, a goal that manifested itself in every issue.

Staying true to its roots, STUDENT has always played the same role, that of being a means for communication with USOs across the country and with individual students all while bridging the gap between the West and the East of Canada. Whether it be through the critical analysis about "Multiculturalism & Ukrainianism – a middle class sellout" by Y. Boshyk in the issue of 1978 (25th anniversary of SUSK) or the more recent discussion of "Remembering your roots" by Andriy Katyukha (March 2016), STUDENT has always been a platform to question what it means to be Ukrainian Canadian and search for resolutions to the struggles faced.

Founded in 1968 by Roman Serbyn, a soon to be professor of history at

McGill and the presiding of SUSK, STUDENT would first make its appearance for T. Shevchenko's centennial celebrations. Its first issue was a completely bilingual (Ukrainian and English) six pages filled with caricatures of Ukrainian politics and descriptions of SUSK. It set out to rectify a struggle ever so present - the lack of communication between students of Ukrainian Canadian descent residing in the West and the newly arrived students who were primarily located in the East. According to Roman Serbyn, it also held the goal of "interesting Ukrainian students in the important events and issues for Ukrainians in Canada and the whole world". This first issue was met with a resounding success and no less than ten years later, it emerged as a regular paper of thirty pages.

In the coming years, STUDENT would thrive through the activist spirit of most Ukrainian Canadians during the hippie period. Its pages overflowed with anecdotes from SUSK Congress' that "scandalized older members with breaches in orthodoxy", stories of SUSK field workers who grew Ukrainian communities in small towns and even letters to the Editor criticizing the "stupidity of Ukrainian men". SUSK was at its high point, with protests leading to meetings with Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau and articles in STU-

DENT being radical enough to cut it off financially from the Ukrainian community and put it on the blacklist of other newspapers such as Homin Ykraiyn.

In the 1970s, after the success of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism and new federal multicultural policy, Ukrainian students lacked a common goal around which to coalesce and SUSK plateaued. For the coming decades, SUSK underwent high and low points depending on the political atmosphere. In the 80s, SUSK reemerged once again as a strong and vibrant force, only to dwindle through the 90s and finally, collapse in 1999 and closing all operations for nine years. Only in 2008, would SUSK along with STUDENT revive itself with a more international perspective inspired to the tense relations between Russia and Ukraine. SUSK and more notably STUDENT, would once again find its place.

Fifty years later, STUDENT remains a strong yet transformed force. In recent issues, it highlights the work of USO's from across the country and succeeds in bridging communication gaps where its predecessors could not. Nevertheless, STUDENT is now forced to overcome a whole new problematic - the extinction of newspapers. More recently, it has become an online newspaper and made its old versions accessible through the website. But, will that be enough? As written in the issue for the 25th anniversary of SUSK, we can only hope that one day in the future the insights that line STUDENT's pages will serve as guideposts for generations of SUSK activists. If used well, it will equip them, as it did for me, to cope with the task of being a Ukrainian student in Canada.◊

-Sophie Ivanka Shields, aspiring Student Editor

Where We Are Now

For the past 50 years, SUSK (Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union) has been a very active organization in the Ukrainian Canadian community. To continue thriving in the coming years, SUSK plans on continuing to involve as many students as possible, all the while working on several new initiatives. SUSK is currently working on a few significant projects, namely the MITACS project, the Student Highschool Handbook, and the Postcard for Prisoners Campaign.

MITACS is an organization that encourages international students to propose their research abroad. SUSK makes the introduction between MITACS Students and local USOs (Ukrainian Student Organizations). We further facilitate local University events with which MITACS Students have the opportunity to present their research. Currently, we have several international students throughout all provinces in Canada.

Another useful tool that SUSK has been working on is the Student Highschool Handbook. Essentially, this handbook is an illustrative guide to answer significant questions, such as the following: What kind of Ukrainian life can we expect on campus? What is the school's climate as it relates to Ukraine? Thanks to this initiative, future students from



Left: MITACS students Pavlo, Olena and Dmitry at Trinity College.



Top Right: uVIC running a Post Cards for Prisoners Event.



Bottom Right: OUSC running a Post Cards for Prisoners Event.

across Canada have access to a mountain of information in which they are able to explore their university options.

Finally, SUSK has partnered with #LetMyPeopleGo, which is a campaign that promotes the release of unjustly imprisoned Ukrainians in Russia. SUSK believes strongly in this project, and has had more than four USOs participate in the campaign this year alone. The process involves writing a postcard with a kind and sup-

portive message to a political prisoner. The letters are then mailed directly to the prisoners and acts as a form of hope for them, letting them know that they are not forgotten. The procedure is very simple and brief, but makes a monumental difference - not only to those receiving the postcards, but also to the people who participate in the activity and learn from it. As an organization, SUSK works hard to support meaningful causes. ♦

arts

*«...Бо то не просто мова, звуки, Не словникові холоди –
В них чути труд, і ніт, і муки, Чуття єдиної родини.»*

- Taras Shevchenko



Left (1979): Members of the Edmonton USC-SUSK-Student caroling expedition invading the home of yet another luckless victim during the festive season.

Right (2019): The University of Ottawa Ukrainian Students' Club keep the yearly festive tradition alive by singing in 4 voices and encouraging even non-Ukrainians to join them in song.



Bottom left (2015): Students from St. Andrew's college and the University of Manitoba Ukrainian Students Association continue the age-old Ukrainian Christmas tradition of caroling, with a "vertep". All the funds collected went for medical needs of injured soldiers and volunteer defenders of

Пам'ять(Рам'ят)– Telling Our Stories

Devon Sereda Goldie

As an undergraduate at UVic in the Theatre program, I came upon a void in the theatrical repertoire we were working within. There was no Ukrainian content. In fact, there was hardly any Eastern European content at all. So, I decided to attempt to fill that void. Over the course of three years, I have been developing a play called *Пам'ять(Рам'ят)* with the support and in conjunction with a plethora of talented theatre artists. It



is the story of three generations of a Ukrainian Canadian family as they move to Canada and fight to find their place. It is a story about immigration, oppression, pain, and perseverance. The narrative explores multiple events of great significance to Ukrainian Canadians, including the internment of Ukrainian immigrants during the First World War, the Holodomor, and the legacy of the “bohunk/hunkie” slur. It is inspired by interviews with real Ukrainian Canadian families and is dedicated to my grandparents, David and Joan Sereda who inspired the characters of Nikolai and Grace Kobevko respectively.

The play started as a hint of an idea in my third year Directing course and has evolved into many forms. In my fourth year, as a class project, I facilitated the development of a 40-minute piece, then called *The Table*. In my fifth year, aided by the support of the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award (JCURA), I conducted further research and further developed the piece into a 60-minute, three act play, called *Пам'ять(Рам'ят)* [originally spelled with an ‘o’ for my colleagues’ and professors’ ease of pronunciation]. This iteration of the show was a one night only performance, presented in March 2018 **for a nearly sold out audience of over 200 attendees**, many of whom were from the Greater Victoria Ukrainian community. We received fantastic feedback from the audience.

In September 2018, I began my Master of Arts, during which I have been further developing *Пам'ять(Рам'ят)* as my thesis project. The show will be touring to Victoria, Vancouver, and Comox in Spring 2020. I am really looking forward to sharing the expanded production with the Ukrainian Canadian community! If things continue to go well, I hope to tour the show to other Ukrainian Canadian communities across Canada in the near future!

I have to give a huge shout out and thank you to Chase Gargus, Kirsten Sharun, Grace Fedorchuk, and Willa Hladun who, after being incredible co-creators and performers in the March 2018 performance of the show, went on to co-found the UVic Ukrainian Students’ Society with me

in September 2018! Without you, *Пам'ять(Рам'ят)* and the UVic USO would not have been possible! ♦



Top (1979): A cast of five Edmonton Public School teachers brought laughter and tears to approximately one-thousand children and adults in the course of twelve performances of the Ukrainian Story theatre.



(2010): Ukrainian neo-folk band “Ludy Dobri” , discovered while busking in Lviv, seek to re-envision traditional Ukrainian folk music, unearthing fading forms and attempt to create something new.

culture

Donald Sadoway Interview with Cassian Soltykevych

C - Thanks for the time to speak with me today. Before we get to discuss your involvement in your student years, I'm interested in your life before university. How were you or your family involved in Ukrainian organizations?

D - My mother's family was involved heavily in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They were among the founders of St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Toronto. My mother and her parents were active in CYMK. I was born in Toronto, but when I was 3 years old I moved to Oshawa and grew up in Oshawa. I would go to CYMK summer camps; there was an oselia, Kyiv, west of Oakville. It was there I was first involved. My father became the coach of a baseball team that played out of Ellis Park. They won the Toronto championship in 1949. He had all of these Ukrainian boys playing on his ball team and he didn't care where they came from; they were Catholic, Orthodox, or from a communist background. It became a place where a lot of people met each other that otherwise wouldn't have met, that was a place where everyone was on equal footing. So I saw the sense of civic service in my parents and grandparents and I think it probably had an influence on me. When I came to the University of Toronto, I became involved with the Ukrainian students' club. In my senior year I was actually the president. Then, when I graduated and stayed on for graduate school I became involved with SUSK. In 1974 I was the national vice-president, Andriy Semotiuk was the president and we had an office at Harbour & Spadina in a beat up old building.

C - What got you interested in joining SUSK as opposed to staying more locally involved with the University of Toronto club?

D - SUSK was more interested in national things. They had political action on two fronts. One was the anti-Soviet work, taking positions in support of political prisoners. Oleksiy Kosygin came to Toronto in 1971 and

there were big protests. So that was something that captured my attention. And the other thing was that SUSK was involved in discussions at the national level about multiculturalism. We were very adamantly opposed to the declaration of Canada being bilingual and bicultural. We said, ok you can call it bilingual but it's not bicultural, it's multicultural. So we were active on that front as well. Showing up at public forums and making representations. Being seen and being heard. Those bigger issues, that's what attracted me.

C - So with SUSK and at the University of Toronto back in those days, who were the most involved individuals or leaders with you?

D - I remember my very first SUSK meeting in Thunder Bay. The president of SUSK was Bohdan Kravchenko, he was very active and politically astute. Roman Petryshyn and his wife Marusia Kucharyshyn who continue to remain active at the Ukrainian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta. Yuri Boshyk was the editor of the Student newspaper. Andriy Bandera was with us, he was very active at that time, as well as Halya Kuchmij.

C - Can you share with us any other interesting memories from your time with SUSK?

D - The National Film Board of Canada had a series of films about community activism, and I can remember we went to screenings of these films. One of them was Saul Alinsky organizing community groups in Chicago,

there was another one with Canadian Indigenous people and how they were going about organizing. So, we looked at those films as inspiration of how we were going to get smart and get attention. We would have a day of disruption where we would all go to telephone booths and make a collect call to the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, they would answer the phone and we would ask for Valentin Moroz and we would do this from multiple phone booths at the same time and jam the lines of the Soviet Embassy and the Soviet Consulate. Moves like that we learned from these activist films.

C - How do you feel that your involvement in SUSK affected your upbringing and how important was it?

D - I can honestly say the time that I spent in SUSK was fantastic, it was worth two years at Harvard business school. I learned so much about real world politics and how to negotiate difficult conversations with people who opposed my views, and of course I learned a lot about how things were in Ukraine and the Soviet Union. I think my career would not be where it is now if not for the precious lessons I learned from being in SUSK.

(Continued on page 11)



Top (1979): Chrystia Freeland, current Minister of Foreign Affairs, attending Ukrainian bilingual school.



Left (2018): Children still celebrating Ukrainian culture at Montreal's CYM tabir.

Traditional Ways Continue...

C - I want to ask a little about your work at MIT. A few years ago you taught a class, Introduction to Solid State Chemistry, that became very popular and you had to stream it into a separate room to accommodate all of the enrollments. This led to the publication of educational materials which are free online to anyone in the world, The MIT Open Courseware initiative.

D - *My class was getting so big it wouldn't fit into the largest classroom at MIT and I didn't want to deny anyone, so we were live streaming to a second classroom, and they were also recording it and putting it on MIT closed circuit television at night. Then around 2002 MIT started this courseware initiative where they wanted to put everything at MIT online for free. So, starting in 2004 they put my entire suite of lectures and posted them online. That served to relieve the congestion problem at MIT, so it was online for the world but also online for our students.*

C - How did it feel to be part of an opportunity that takes free education worldwide?

D - *I've had people come up to me, I was in London giving a talk at Imperial College and a young woman came up to me and than*
ked me for being able to watch my lectures. I detected an accent and I asked her where she was from, and she said she was from Ukraine. So you run into examples like this, people from Africa, people from South America, China, it's gratifying to see the reach that you can have.

C - You are probably the only SUSK alumnus to have appeared on The Colbert Report. On the show in 2012, you discussed how having batteries that can store a mix of energy efficiently, a topic you've been researching for a number of years, can lead to

a more peaceful and prosperous world. Do you feel that we're getting closer to achieving that?

D - *We're getting closer, as the price of electricity falls, as generated by wind and solar in conjunction with the batteries, you're going to see a shift away from fossil fuels and actually that's how we are going to topple dictators. Look at what's happening in Venezuela right now, and we could topple Russia without firing one shot, just drive the price of oil down and those guys are going to be in big trouble because they need the money coming in from outside of the country to pay for the fossil fuels. So I believe that inventing an invention here and toppling a dictator half way around the world, that's a powerful idea.*

C - Thank you very much for taking the time to speak with us today about your career and time being involved in SUSK. ♦

A month in Lviv

This summer, ten undergrads, one dad, and a crazy grad student (AKA me) set out for Kyiv to participate in the Summer Session at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. This program has been co-run by the Slavic Studies Department at UManitoba and Kyiv-Mohyla Academy for twenty-five years. For the past few years, students from the Slavic Studies Department at UVic have attended the program as well, which is how I heard



about and came to participate in the program.

Upon our arrival, we spent four weeks living and learning at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in the beautiful Podil neighbourhood. Our mornings were spent in classes at the University, while our afternoons were spent on excursions around the city. Our classes included Ukrainian Culture and Folklore, Ukrainian language and/or Russian language, and a course on Chernobyl which included a full-day excursion to the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. On our excursions, we visited a wide array of culturally and historically significant locations including Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Saint Sofia's Cathedral, Pechersk Lavra, the Golden Gates, and Babi Yar, and visited countless

(Continued on page 12)



Left (2010): Launch of Historical Train of Ukrainian Pioneers, tracing the path of first Ukrainian Settlers.

Top (2018): Manitoba USS participating in a Cultural Arts Night where they taught others Ukrainian dance moves.

community

museums, my favourites being the Pirogovo Folk Life and Architecture Museum, the Holodomor Museum, and the Second World War Museum. We also had the opportunity to take in a few operas at the National Opera of Ukraine! My favourites were the Ukrainian classics *Наталка Полтавка* (Natalka Poltavka) by Mykola Lysenko and *Запорожець за Дунаєм* (Zaporozhian Beyond The Danube) by Semen Gulak-Artemovskiy! The days were both mentally and physically exhausting; we typically banked about 20,000 steps a day and some days it felt like our brains were beginning to melt. Then again, maybe that was just the +30°C weather! Despite the heat and our fatigue, we had an amazing time and a number of us even organized our own group outings on the few weekends we had off. We did one weekend trip to Odessa and another to Lviv! There are just too many amazing places to see in Ukraine!

Everyone who participated in the program took away something different from the experience. UofM student Zoya Kostetsky said, "I really enjoyed reconnecting with my roots

Be a spy for Student

Travelling to Eastern Europe or the Soviet Union? If so, you could be of invaluable service to Student by informing us about little-known incidents or events that you learn about during your visit. Naturally, we're especially interested in hearing about anti-Soviet activities and manifestations of resistance to the state, but we'll accept anything that sheds light on what's really going on inside the Russian empire. We want stories about strikes, shortages, bureaucratic fuck-ups and violations of human rights, as well as the words to underground songs, political graffiti, or the latest Soviet joke. We'll share with our readers any interesting information that travelling Student readers share with us. Submissions can be in the form of articles or short items for our "Bloc Notes" and "KGB" columns, and should be either typed or neatly written (double spaced with ample margins) for convenience editing.

and seeing how much the Ukrainian culture has prospered since its independence from the Soviet Union. Seeing this change reminds me how important Ukrainian education is around the world and particularly in Canada."

I would highly recommend travelling to Ukraine, whether on your own or through a summer study program! It is life-changing! ♦

-Devon Sereda Goldie, uVic President



Top right (1973): SUSK office space which was in an old building in Toronto. The executive had consistent office hours every day.

Top left (1981): call for Spies for the Soviet Union in previous Student newspaper.

Bottom right (2019): SUSK Office with Summer Students work hard on this edition of Student.

Left to right, Back row: Andrew Sos, Chase Gargus, and Kennedy McCracken.

Front row: Brenna Hildebrand, Devon Sereda Goldie, Stephanie Bloor, Zoya Kostetsky, and Ruslan Chychula.



SUSK Congress: Then and Now

Top right (1973): Participants of the SUSK Conference held on March 16-18 in Toronto



Middle left (1989): SUSK Congress Resolutions in Ottawa



Left (1988): Comic from Student Publication Representing the ever-growing community of Ukrainians and organizations.

Middle right (2019): Students attending SUSK Congress in Winnipeg exploring the city during their free time.

STUDENT

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT JOURNAL



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Professional journalists needed to
combat Russian propaganda

by Marco Levytsky

Dose of Wisdom

Newspapers have played a critical role in the development of the Ukrainian community in Canada. Early Ukrainian pioneers felt very isolated, living in a strange country with a strange language, separated from their neighbors by wide expanses of territory in areas when the prime transportation was by horse or on foot. For them newspapers served as their principal means of communication in a language they could understand, a source of valuable information about life in their new country, tips on farming and much more. In fact, they were their window to the outside world.

As new waves of immigration settled on our shores, new newspapers were created to meet the needs of their particular readership. And as English became the predominant language for subsequent generations, Ukrainian community newspaper once again had to adapt to the

Second World War without the need to prove any crime whatsoever. Nevertheless, the mainstream media (with some notable exceptions) insisted on calling these men (a disproportionate number of whom were Ukrainian) alleged Nazi war criminals even though they had not been charged with any crime whatsoever. It was up to the Ukrainian Canadian community media not only to correct this gross misrepresentation, but also point out how this policy violated basic civil liberties contained in the Charter of Rights.

Today we face an even greater challenge – namely a pandemic of rabid Russian propaganda. Recently, the prestigious non-partisan Ottawa-based think-tank, the MacDonald-Laurier Institute issued a report entitled “Stemming the Virus: Understanding and responding to the threat of Russian Disinfor-

it states.

Russian propaganda has been very successful in infiltrating social media. Otherwise well-informed people are easily duped by fake news expertly camouflaged to look like the real thing. Russian propaganda has influenced the 2016 U.S. Presidential election, the Brexit vote in the United Kingdom and even the recent worldwide measles epidemic. Here Russian propaganda’s objective was to spread disinformation that vaccines were unsafe. It was particularly directed at Ukraine which of all the European countries has been hardest hit by the measles outbreak.

Aside from its vulnerability to fake news, social media as well as the internet as a whole, has also had a negative impact on credible media – newspapers in particular. Faced with online competition in terms of both readership and advertising, traditional newspapers are shutting down, professional journalists are getting laid off. This is an unfortunate development as, whatever flaws they may have, most traditional newspapers employ professional journalists who adhere to ethical standards that include balance, objectivity and most of all, accuracy and truth in reporting. Newspapers have begun fighting back by creating online portals of their own. Yet they still have to compete for both readers and advertisers with less scrupulous sites. Our own Ukrainian Canadian community press has been hit quite hard. During the past two years alone, two venerable publications, Ukrainian Voice and the (Ukrainian Orthodox) Herald (not to be confused with the pro-Communist Ukrainian Canadian Herald) have folded, while two others – New Pathway and Ukrainian News – have merged. But the need to maintain our community press remains more urgent than ever before. And with it the need to raise a new generation of community-minded professional journalists who can play a critical role in combating the malicious disinformation emanating from the depths of the

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“It is up to our community to find new creative ways to sustain and support a new generation of professional journalists”

changing times. With mainstream media being readily available to community members, it was no longer necessary to translate national Canadian news and events around the world for a Ukrainian-language readership, but instead focus on community news and news from Ukraine for an English-language readership. And as the material was now available to anyone who understood English, it also made sense for Ukrainian Canadian newspapers to adopt an advocacy role – namely presenting issues of importance and commenting on them for the benefit of non-Ukrainians – particularly those in government.

There have been a number of times in which it was necessary to present a Ukrainian perspective on matters in the past. One such example was the war crimes issue throughout the latter half of the twentieth and early 21st century. Under the policy of Denaturalization and Deportation a person could have his citizenship revoked merely on the probability that he hid his membership as a prison guard during the

mation”. It detailed the extent of the Russian Federation’s cyberwarfare and termed it a virus “infecting and then replicating itself independently within western societies”, whose objective is to “tear apart our society and undermine our trust in our government, media institutions, and each other.”

“Truth is a mere nuisance in today’s world of Kremlin propaganda. In the course of its conflict against Ukraine, Russian state news has boldly fabricated facts and evidence to support its positions, including fake interviews and even images. During the 2013-2014 Euro-maidan uprisings in Ukraine, Russian television broadcast interviews with people who were secretly actors, alleging that Ukrainian ‘fascists’ had committed atrocities, including the crucifixion of a child by Ukrainian forces. In the case of the 2014 downing of a civilian aircraft, Malaysian Airlines flight MH17, UK investigative collective Bellingcat discovered that Kremlin agents manufactured evidence to cover up Russian state involvement in the crime,”

Hungry for SUSK— 35 years ago

Kremlin. When you are sick you go to a health care professional for treatment – not the internet. When you want to be able to make informed decisions in a democratic society you go to professional journalists, not internet trolls.

As it has for the past 50 years, student remains as a valuable vehicle for budding

journalists to hone their skills. I, myself, was a contributor during the first decade of this newspaper's existence, and the Student samples I sent in with my application helped me enter the Journalism Program at Carleton University. Many of today's writers may also consider journalism as a career.

But, faced with the decline of legitimate print media outlets concurrent with the proliferation of fake news on the internet, it is up to our community to find new creative ways to sustain and support a new generation of professional journalists who will address our issues in an honest, balanced and objective manner, while at the same time fighting Moscow's insidious disinformation campaign with our most valuable weapon – the truth. At the same time, it is important for today's younger generation to take stock of their own preferences as well. How many rely on social media and other internet outlets for their information? How many will sooner advertise on Facebook than in one of the existing Ukrainian Canadian community outlets? This is a two-way street. The community at large must realize the importance of supporting the work of young budding journalists and the younger generation must learn to appreciate the value of credible media outlets – be they in on paper or online. Putting all your eggs in the social media basket serves only to bolster Russian disinformation efforts. But maintaining a strong community-based media with professional journalists who follow ethical

practices, helps combat this scourge. ♦

“The international community has come a long way in recognizing Holodomor as an act of genocide over the past few decades. However, in the early 1980's, when I took over as President of a fledgling SUSK club at the University of Manitoba, there was limited public knowledge of this man made famine.

I remember one of our first USO meetings, where over a cup of coffee we talked about how we can raise awareness of Ukraine's history and political situation and someone proposed a Holodomor awareness campaign. In order to attract as much visibility as possible, we decided to make our event a 24-hour hunger strike. This was the first such activity in the history of the USO and for the university. We set up a large exhibit with information and handouts at the University Centre and organized a rotational schedule to ensure someone was always present to answer questions, talk about Holodomor and inevitably engage in debates with the Marxist Leninist and Communist student clubs. However, the most important part was that the students of SUSK spent the night at the University Centre itself.

What started off as a good idea for which we hoped to attract a dozen Ukrainian students, flourished and gained significant attention. For SUSK itself, the event emerged as an unexpected membership drive. I can no longer recall the numbers but, as word spread, more and more Ukrainian students emerged from the wood-

work to take up the cause and join the hunger strike. The event turned into a political education campaign for both Ukrainian and Canadian students. Professors and students alike heard about it and came out to learn more about Holodomor. And by December, our fledgling University of Manitoba Ukrainian club emerged as a thriving and active community with a growing plan of political and social events for the year.

SUSK also played an important role as a bridge between different Ukrainian communities. This seminal event – the hunger strike to commemorate Holodomor – and the organization brought together students from SUM, Plast, SUMK, Orthodox and Catholic students. They were all working together towards a common purpose.

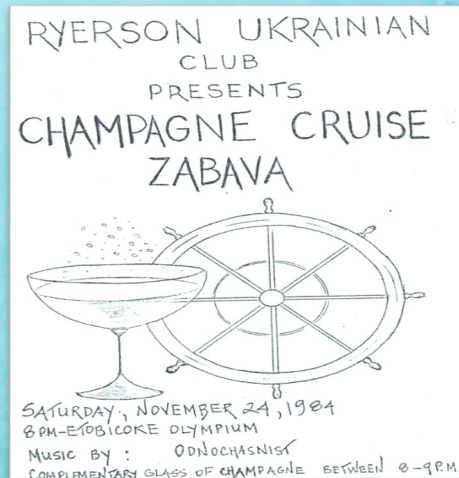
It really only takes a few committed and high-energy individuals with a vision to drive an organization. Over the next couple of years, our club organized many events in Winnipeg, including a conference with speakers, an amazing Zabava at the UNF Hall with a band from Edmonton, and we became active members of SUSK National. For me, this collaboration and the new friendships that were forged remain as lasting successes of our club and my contributions as a Ukrainian Canadian.”♦

Bohdana Dutka
Former President of USO
University of Manitoba 1983-1985

Roaring Ryerson



In 1980, Jerry Kulyk had brought to life the very first Ukrainian Students Club at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. The students group had brought together a group of hard working members who had held many successful events, pub nights and had even created and published their very own student newspaper called the “Yayechko,” one filled with event details, stories and even classic Ukrainian jokes. Unfortunately, after just a few short years, the students group dissolved in 1987. It took over 20 years before the Ukrainian Students Club had been re-established by Marta Iwanek and Paul Terek in 2009. As the years passed by, the organization has



grown significantly in numbers and popularity, due to the hard work and countless hours of dedication provided by the Ukrainian Students of Ryerson University. It is fulfilling to be part of such a great legacy today and we can only hope to keep the Ukrainian students club alive for many more wonderful years. This year, our club went all out with the

Zabava theme. In fact, all our most memorable events of the year involved some sort of Zabava. Firstly, the 6th Annual Dynamo Cup Soccer Tournament and the post-Zabava was the highlight. The tournament reached its largest size to date, and the Zabava hosted roughly 240 Ukrainian Students from the GTA. This event truly shows the club's achievements. Next, the classic, favorite event that our organization hosted once again this year was our 80's retro themed Zabava. This event has been around for so many years and is always a good time. Lastly, our winter Tropical Zabava tops the cake as a new Zabava theme that felt like it took people away on vacation! ♦

OUSC Zabava

Our very first event as a club was a fall-themed Zabava. At the beginning of the school year, our club was in complete shambles. This event completely turned us around, however. All club members worked really hard throughout the first few months in order to organize this successful evening. Anastasiya, who was elected co-president of the uOttawa Ukrainian Students' Club (OUSC) only a few weeks prior, took it upon herself to organize this event. She was successful in its execution, but only with the help of Anhelina, Club Internal and External affairs, and Mariia, Club Co-President. Anastasiya claims that "this was the most stressful but also most successful event I've ever been a part of. In fact, it's the first event I ever planned, and I certainly learned a lot."

The uOttawa Ukrainian Students' Club would like to share a few nitzy-gritty details about the successes and failures (because no event is all smooth sailing) of their fall zabava. The first step is to *make a detailed plan*. We cannot stress this enough. Make sure things



such as budgeting, roles, and deadlines are crystal clear. This avoids unwanted funny surprises the day of your event. As an event organizer, it is especially important to delegate roles evenly. No one can organize an event on their own, and your members are there to support.

The three girls worked away at executing this event, with the additional help of several members

to make 450 perogies and to run the event the day of.

Next, for the sake of your members, it is important to avoid overworking them, and especially important to appreciate them. To avoid overworking them, ensure that there are many volunteers, and that they are rotated through different positions. *Nobody wants to sell tickets all night*. Whether it be during the event, after the event, or during a year-end "Volunteer Appreciation Event," recognizing your volunteers and club members is crucial to ensure they know how valuable they have been to the club.

Lastly, there are many small things to think about for such an event, such as obtaining a liquor license, making a playlist, grocery shopping, and most importantly - *enjoying the event!* It is very easy to get caught up with hosting, but at the end of the day, you are also volunteers, and you need to enjoy yourselves too! ♦

-Anastasiya Gorodnicha,
Past OUSC President

MUSA's Victorious Varenyky



One of the classic ways for a Ukrainian Student Organization to raise money is through a varenyky sale; they sell quick *and* we get to snack on them in the meantime. However, this activity is not only for the purpose of raising funds. Gathering together and making something delicious as a group can be an incredible bonding experience within itself. Working as a team while celebrating Ukrainian culture is a fantastic way to build a connection as a group and to learn more about each other.

This year, our varenyky making activity was particularly special

“We got to share such a traditional experience with people who previously didn’t know much about Ukraine and its culture.”

because it really brought people together in a unique way. Many of our organization’s members managed to convince friends

that aren’t involved in our club to come out and help cook, even though to some non-Ukrainians, getting together in a room, knocking out hundreds of homemade varenyky in an evening may not seem like the ideal Friday night. Not only did these extra hands seriously increase our efficiency, but we got to share such a traditional experience with people who previously didn’t know much about Ukraine and its culture.

At the end of the day, that is one of the little successes that make USOs so valuable. Introducing Ukrainian traditions to non-Ukrainians is an excellent way to promote the community and what it stands for. The sale itself also ended up being a great success, but the experience of working together and reaching out beyond the community was truly invaluable.◊

-Marc Darmohraj , President of McGill Ukrainian Students’ Association.

Carleton Rukh

Carleton Rukh is a fairly young student organization; it was created less than a year ago. Our main objective is to educate students of Carleton University about Ukrainian political affairs and fight anti-Ukrainian sentiment and disinformation. Even though most of our stories are still ahead, and most of our traditions are yet to be formed, there is one story that might be of interest: the origin of Carleton Rukh.

The idea of creating a Ukrainian political club at Carleton came to us in a bus. Pavlo Kucher and I were riding home and talking about the state of affairs in Ukraine, and how it can be improved by people who currently don't live there. Firstly, Pavlo and I decided that helping Ukraine from abroad must involve spreading awareness about Ukrainian issues among Canadians. Secondly, we realized that there is definitely not enough awareness among students. And then, thirdly, both of us had a synchronous Eureka moment: "We can make our own



"That is how Carleton Rukh was born, in an Ottawa bus number 111"

USO to help the situation!"

That is how Carleton Rukh was born, in an Ottawa bus number 111. Although, "Rukh" wasn't the first variant of the name. Our main criterion for the title was laconicism, so we considered "Опора" (support), "Солидарність" (solidarity), and "Воля" (liberty). However, we chose "Рух" (movement/action), as it was the name of the youth

movement which fought for Ukrainian independence against Soviet imperialism and succeeded. Members of Carleton Rukh admire the bravery of the founding fathers of Ukraine, and most importantly value their principles: democracy, justice, honor, liberty, and fraternity. That is why we decided to continue their legacy at our own Alma Mater. ♦

Congress 2019

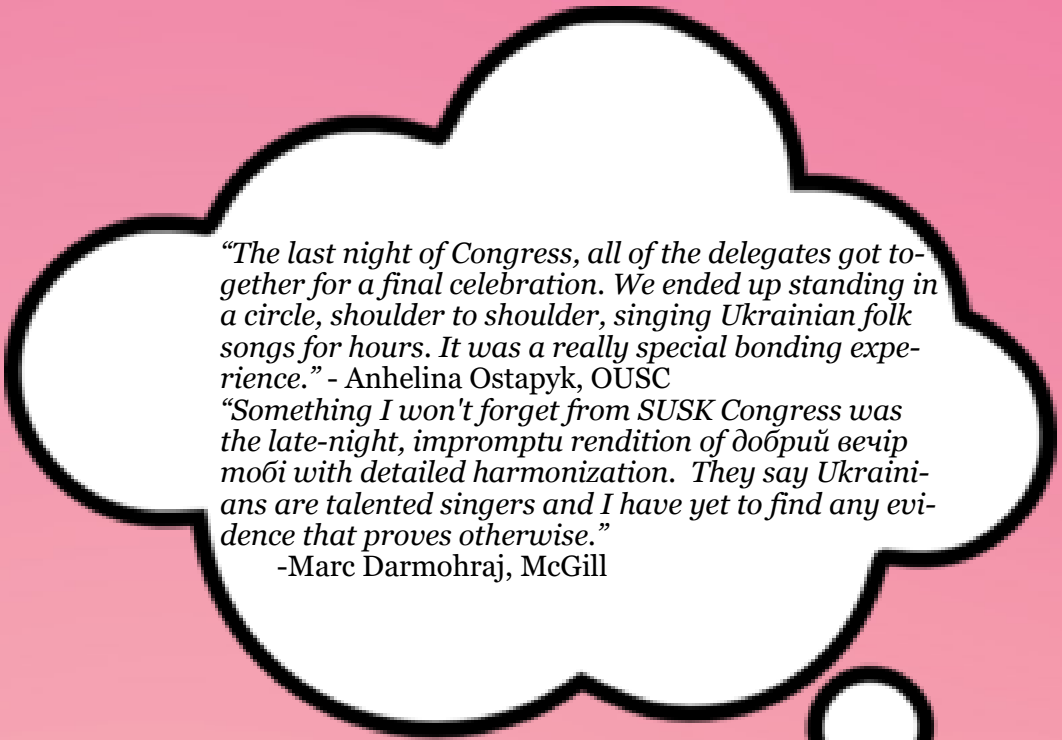
The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) Congress provides students from across Canada and internationally with the opportunity to learn more about the Ukrainian Canadian community, as well as to grow personally and professionally. With leadership workshops in addition to the ability to meet motivated students, SUSK Congress offers a unique experience for both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian students. This year, Congress was held where it all started. Thousands of Ukrainian settlers came to Winnipeg over one hundred years ago. Thus, Winnipeg is a place we can call home. This city lies at the geographic centre of Canada and North America,

and is the capital of Manitoba - a resource-rich province of 1.3 million people bordered by Ontario to the east, Saskatchewan to the west, and North Dakota and Minnesota to the south. Winnipeg is a culturally diverse city with more than 100 languages and nationalities represented throughout the region. And so, we picked Winnipeg as our destination for SUSK's 65th Anniversary. The theme was called "Back to Our Roots". SUSK Congress had a special component to teach delegates about the building a "SUSK-essful" USO, and additionally partnered with the Holodomor Resource and Education Consortium. More specifically, there was a USO 101 presen-

tation, with which delegates learned of valuable tips to grow their club by doing things such as: reaching out to local churches for resources and venue space, hosting Sing-A-Longs to offer a more comfortable environment, and hold events outside of the club in order to build stronger relationships. In terms of educational enhancement, delegates learned about things such as the Rhea Chylyman story, the Mr. Jones movie that will be released in late 2019, and human rights - through a field trip to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. All in all, delegates learned a lot of valuable things, and made numerous valuable connections and friendships.



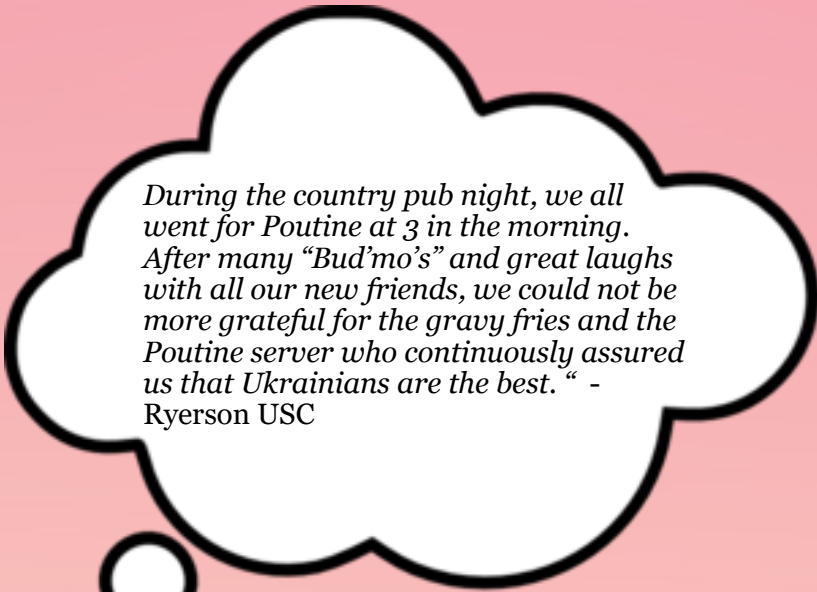
Our Favorite Memories



"The last night of Congress, all of the delegates got together for a final celebration. We ended up standing in a circle, shoulder to shoulder, singing Ukrainian folk songs for hours. It was a really special bonding experience." - Anhelina Ostapyk, OUSC

*"Something I won't forget from SUSK Congress was the late-night, impromptu rendition of *добрий вечір моє* with detailed harmonization. They say Ukrainians are talented singers and I have yet to find any evidence that proves otherwise."*

-Marc Darmohraj, McGill



During the country pub night, we all went for Poutine at 3 in the morning. After many "Bud'mo's" and great laughs with all our new friends, we could not be more grateful for the gravy fries and the Poutine server who continuously assured us that Ukrainians are the best. " - Ryerson USC

Our Funniest Stories

*Best memories are the inside jokes:
“HOW ARE WE DOING TODAY
BOYSSS” “Victory SIR” “Look at
that Calamari” “Would you like
some extra cheese “SIR”
“Everybody.....Yeaaaaaa”.*

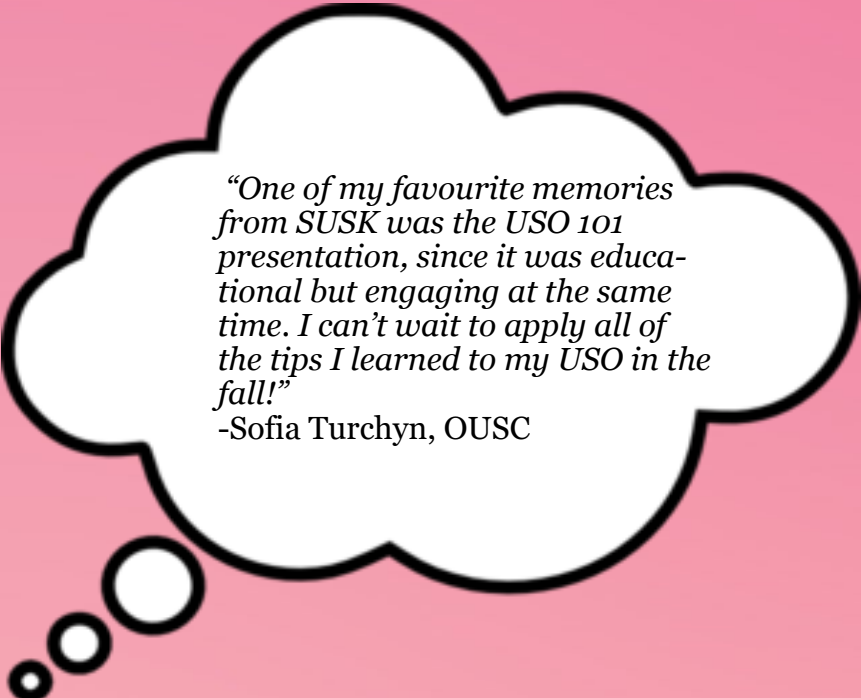
*-Nastia Gorodnicha,
Co-President OUSC*



“One of my major highlights of SUSK Congress was taking part in the scavenger hunt across Winnipeg. One of the tasks was to create a sign saying, “honk if you love Ukraine” and film somebody honking. My group decided that Cassie would be the best person to hold up the sign and entice passing drivers to honk. After some time standing in downtown Winnipeg with no luck, someone finally honked, and Cassie was so happy! I don’t think I’ve ever seen someone jump so high with joy and excitement.”

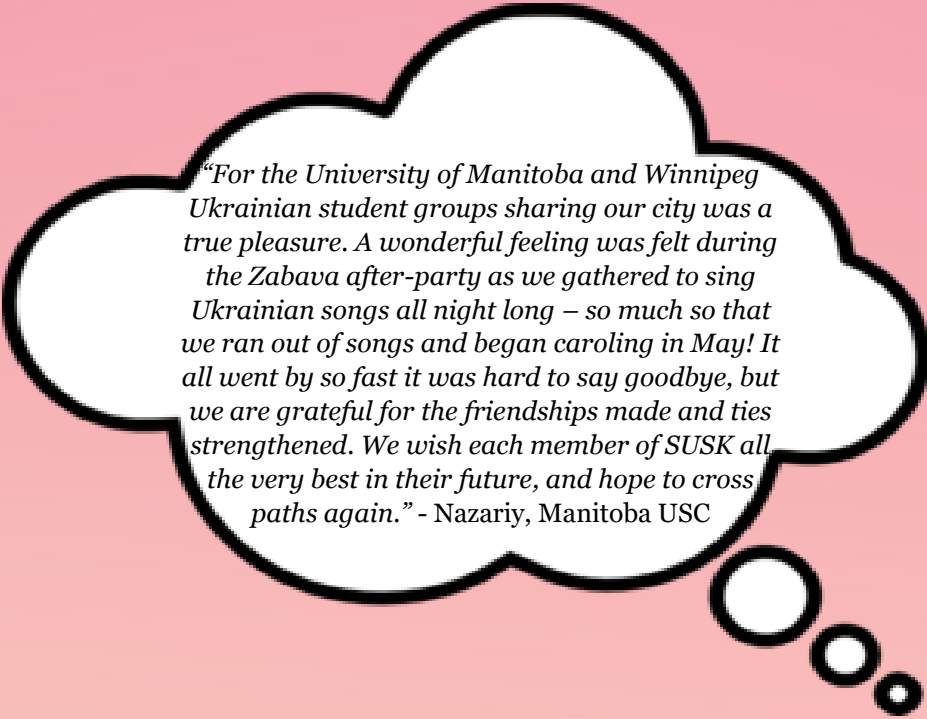
-Rostyk, Waterloo USC

Our Heartwarming Moments



"One of my favourite memories from SUSK was the USO 101 presentation, since it was educational but engaging at the same time. I can't wait to apply all of the tips I learned to my USO in the fall!"

-Sofia Turchyn, OUSC



"For the University of Manitoba and Winnipeg Ukrainian student groups sharing our city was a true pleasure. A wonderful feeling was felt during the Zabava after-party as we gathered to sing Ukrainian songs all night long – so much so that we ran out of songs and began caroling in May! It all went by so fast it was hard to say goodbye, but we are grateful for the friendships made and ties strengthened. We wish each member of SUSK all the very best in their future, and hope to cross paths again." - Nazariy, Manitoba USC

Encouraging Words

"My mother was incensed that I was devoting so much time to SUSK - as well as to our Ukrainian radio program at CKCU-FM (which I'm proud to say won 'Best Public Affairs Program' award in 1982). It took me away from my studies at Carleton University and delayed my graduation by many years. But I didn't care: I knew I was learning plenty, making difference and through our joint efforts energizing dozens, if not hundreds, of Ukrainian students across the country."

-Michael Bociurkiw (1982-1983 SUSK President)

"At a time in which newspapers are closing their doors, and often complaining that young people are not reading their materials, a student run publication continues to thrive!"

Student, like SUSK, is unique in the Ukrainian Canadian community in that it brings students together irrespective of their religious affiliation, how long their family has been in Canada, or what career they want to pursue. It provides a place where all students can belong.

Student is critical not only for the future of the student and youth movements of the Ukrainian Canadian community, but also for the future of the Ukrainian Canadian community and Ukraine. We need more people to write, think, discuss, and debate topics as our community evolves in Canada, and as our ancestral homeland develops as well. We also need to encourage student participation in other community organizations post-graduation.

My personal experience and involvement in SUSK, and writing for Student, created new opportunities to learn about what being Ukrainian Canadian and what Ukraine meant for me, and I will forever be grateful.

To all future students and contributors to Student: get involved and volunteer. You will not only get back a tenfold return on the energy you put into Student or SUSK, but you will meet incredible people, establish lifelong friendships, and maybe even find that special someone."

Многая Літа!
Cassian Soltykevych (2015-2017 SUSK Past President)

"SUSK and Student have been giving young Ukrainians a place to voice their opinions, make mistakes, learn from them, and a chance to understand who they are as individuals. SUSK helped guide and shape me into who I am. I learned skills that most people may not come across until much further into their careers. I can definitely say I made mistakes, but what matters most is that I grew from them with a community that supported me. Student helps students under bigger issues beyond their niche circles. My best advice is to jump head first into something outside of your comfort zone. SUSK can help you do that and you'll be better for it."

-Stephania Nedoshytko (2017-2019 SUSK President)

"Being seen and being heard. Those bigger issues, that's what attracted me. I can honestly say the time that I spent in SUSK was fantastic, it was worth two years at Harvard business school. I learned so much about real world politics and how to negotiate difficult conversations with people who opposed my views. I think my career would not be where it is now if not for the precious lessons I learned from being in SUSK."

-Donald Sadoway (1972 SUSK Vice President)