The mission of the Centre is to create, preserve and communicate knowledge relating to Ukrainian Canadian culture and scholarship.

Volume 11, Winter 2020

Christmas Message from the CUCS Acting Director

It has been an exciting last six months for the Centre. We participated in a review of the Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Studies Program, sponsored three lectures and I was able to travel once more to Ukraine in October. This last trip included participation in the 20th anniversary celebration of the large CIDA-funded project, Reforming Social Services: Canada Ukraine, commemorated at the International Conference: Partnerships for Social Change held at Lviv Polytechnic National University October 24-26, 2019. There I was privileged to meet Dr. Iryna Kalynovska and colleagues from Lesia Ukrainka European National University and Ukrainian writer and peace activist Lubko Deresh. My colleague Dr. Sofiya Stavkova and I co-facilitated our on workshop Participatory Research with Community with about 40 people. Just before all of this happened, the Scientific and Academic Council of LPNU surprised me with an award from the LPNU and another from the State acknowledging contributions to higher education in Ukraine, honours which humble and fill me with gratitude. It has been such a privilege to work with my Ukrainian and Canadian colleagues through these last nineteen years!

The year ahead is promising. I received approval from the UM’s Research Ethics Board to begin work on a study related to the experiences, hopes and dreams of newcomers to Canada from Ukraine. With Ms. Yuliia Ivanuik, I will begin work on this project, conceived of in collaboration with our colleagues at Oseredok, early in the new year. January will also bring a young scholar, a PhD student from Lviv Polytechnic National University, to the CUCS and UM. Ms. Mariana Hasiak will spend three months here in class and researching her topic of focus: how institutes of higher education support former military members to reintegration into civil society.

As we move into 2020, I want to thank Ms. Yuliia Ivanuik for her extraordinary assistance, and Mr. Ivan Zovynch for his stellar volunteer work in things media and technically related. Thank you Father Bozyk, Dobrudika Genia Bozyk, and the staff of St. Andrew’s College for your warmth and practical support. And thank you to the members of the CUCS policy board for all of your hard work.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to all friends of the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies. We wish you a year ahead of peace, joy, and love.
Evening of Excellence is a yearly event held at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry Campus, in which the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies participates. Approximately 35-40 prospective students and/or their parents visited the Centre’s display booth on October 29, 2019. Visitors were informed about the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies and the variety of courses offered in both Ukrainian and English languages.

On September 26, 2019 Nataliia Obraztsova examined the role of armed conflict as a factor pushing Ukrainians to immigrate to Canada. The presentation analyzed data from the work of the Immigration Committee of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress—Manitoba Provincial Council—to paint a fresh portrait of Ukrainians who have moved to Manitoba in recent years or are planning to immigrate to Manitoba.

The lecture is available online on our website and Facebook page.

On November 6, 2019 Yuliia Ivaniuk examined the causes and responses to the Chernobyl catastrophe in Ukraine as well as globally. HBO’s dramatic mini-series were compared to actual events by using source materials including CIA reports. The systematic failures and soviet response were explored and explained while also providing information on the Canadian industry and response. The lecture is available online on our website and Facebook page.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!