

TRAILBLAZERS:
THE LIVES AND TIMES OF
MICHAEL EWANCHUK AND
MURIEL (SMITH) EWANCHUK
JOHN LEHR
DAVID MCDOWELL

"Trailblazers": The lives and Times of Michael Ewanchuk and Muriel Ewanchuk book launch

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Post - Doctoral Fellow presents first paper



Ukraine at the Crossroads post-conference panel

Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies *bulletin*



Christ is Risen!
Христос Воскрес!

Volume Launched to Honour the Ewanchuk Educator Couple of Winnipeg

The Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies – U of M, St. Andrew's College, family members and the two co-authors co-hosted a book launch on January 26, 2012 at St. Andrew's College of (the volume) "TRAILBLAZERS: THE LIVES AND TIMES OF MICHAEL EWANCHUK AND MURIEL (SMITH) EWANCHUK", published by Carpathia Publishers in Winnipeg. The event, was attended by forty people. The book deals with the biography of two Manitoba long time and well known educators of the twentieth century and revolves around the themes of migration, ethnicity and geographic mobility.

Michael Ewanchuk (1908-2004) was born on a bush homestead to Ukrainian immigrants and from meager beginnings with a strong dedication to education became an important Manitoba educator and publisher of some 17 books. Muriel Smith (1900-2003), of Scottish pioneer stock, had her fate determined by her gender and economic forces, and also entered the education field in Manitoba where she became an accomplished educator.

As pioneer teachers, both helped to shape the course of education in Manitoba. Michael's role as a dedicated teacher and later long time Manitoba school inspector (1946-1973) was a most gratifying way of improving the skills of teachers across the province as well as a fitting

way to finish a career. During the last quarter century, Michael took up writing and publishing books on the Ukrainian pioneer experience, mostly in Manitoba.

The two authors – John Lehr, a professor of Geography at the University of Winnipeg, and David McDowell, a former geography teacher and now educational consultant, did an admirable job of providing a most readable story of the biography of the two educators and used very well the vast material from the Ewanchuk personal archives. Over 100 pictures, illustrated tables, documents and maps illuminate the volume. The authors must be congratulated for their strong efforts.

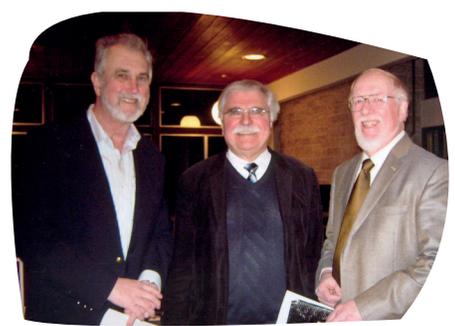
At the official launch, both authors spoke and illustrated their thoughts with quotes and readings from the volume. In addition three of the institutions that received funds from the Ewanchuk estate also provided glimpses into the life of the couple and the way the estate funds have enabled students to continue their studies (Very Rev. Roman Bozyk – St. Andrew's College, Roman Yereniuk – Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies – U of M and Kam Holland - U of W). Lastly family member – Bob Smith also added glimpses from the family history of the Ewanchuk couple and thanked one and all for attending.

The book launch was an important event in the life of the Winnipeg "education" community and as well as in the Ukrainian Canadian and Scottish Canadian multicultural communities of Manitoba. The volume is available at various bookstores in Winnipeg and from the publishers.



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Left: Dr. John Lehr, Centre: Dr. Roman Yereniuk, Right: David McDowell

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On Sunday January 29, 2012, Winnipeg's renowned "Oseredok" was the scene of two historical 'firsts': the University of Manitoba's very first post-doctoral fellow in Ukrainian studies, Dr. Svitlana Kukharenko, gave her first public presentation before an appreciative audience on the subject of "Roadside Memorials in Modern Ukraine and Their Sacred Meaning". Dr. Kukharenko spoke in Ukrainian and illustrated her findings by screening many coloured images from her field research in her native Ukraine. These memorials are unauthorized markers of "abnormal" deaths and are meant to honour the memory of persons who died accidentally or violently. The originality

of this subject matter captured the interest of all in attendance – especially those who were born in Ukraine. After the presentation, many in the audience took advantage of a casual refreshment time to meet Dr. Kukharenko and to ask further questions relating to her talk.

Dr. Kukharenko presented an English-language version of her findings on March 16, 2012 on the campus of the University of Manitoba (409 Tier Building) from 2.30 to 4 P.M co-sponsored by the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies and Central and East European Studies Program. Readers who wish to learn more about Dr. Kukharenko are invited to consult the preceding issue of the Bulletin (Fall 2011, vol.1 no. 1) issued by the University of Manitoba's Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies.



Ukraine at the Crossroads post-conference panel



l to r - L. Shulakevych A. Semeniuk A. Dlugosh O. Bashuk R. Yereniuk

The Centre hosted an evening panel discussion to review the proceedings of the "Ukraine at the Crossroads Conference", organized by CUF and endorsed by national UCC, that was held in Ottawa on March 7-8, 2012. The conference featured 27 presentations by prominent world scholars on the question *where is Ukraine heading* presently under the ineffective leadership of President Victor Yanukovich and his party.

Five attendees from the conference presented their findings and views in Winnipeg on April 3, 2012 at the Prosvita Hall. The panelists included Oksana Bashuk-Hepburn, leading editor of a women's journal and major press commentator on recent events in Ukraine, Liubomyr Shulakevych, former teacher and active member of the Ukrainian Canadian community, and two students – Andriy Semeniuk and Ariadna Dlugosh, both active in the SUM youth organization and youth activists in Winnipeg. The session was chaired by Dr. Roman Yereniuk, Acting Director of the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the U of M. Each panelist provided background information and data about their important presenter(s) at the conference as well as their conclusions on the issue of "Quo Vadis Ukrayino". They also informed the crowd of 50 about the strong need to send observers for the Oct. 2012 election in Ukraine through CANADEM and the efforts of the UCC-CUF initiative, especially the need for long term observers. In addition two vignettes were provided from the conference by electronic media. The Q and A period was well organized and many attendees asked questions as well as provided their thoughts on the topic.

All in all, the panel discussion brought further in depth information on the current status of Ukraine to the Winnipeg audience and community.

For further information

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Courses at the Centre for 2012-13

CUCS will be offering nine courses in 2012-13 to students for credit and non credit (auditors) – five in Term 1 and four in Term 2. These courses can be taken for majors and minors, as well as for the advanced BA degree. All the classes will be held at St. Andrew's College, one in the Tier Bldg and two at Oseredok (downtown Winnipeg).

The courses include:

Term 1

RLGN 1350 - History Of Eastern Christianity – Prof. Roman Yereniuk (both terms)

RLGN 2520 - Eastern Christianity in North America – Prof. Roman Yereniuk

UKRN 2720 - Intermediate Ukrainian – Prof. Iryna Konstantiuk (both terms)

UCHS 3100 - Ukrainian Arts in Canada – Prof. Robert Klymasz

HIST 2610 - Introduction to Ukraine - Prof. Olexandr Shevchenko

Term 2

HIST 2610 - Making of Modern Ukraine – Prof. Davis Daycock

UKRN 2410 - Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Experience – Prof. Svitlana Kukharenko

POLS 3720 - Politics, Government and Society in Ukraine – Prof. Davis Daycock

FAAH 3290 - Later Byzantine Art & Architecture – Prof. J. Bugslag