



Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program Newsletter

Fall 2006 Issue 2

THANK YOU, CANADA !!!



My name is Olha Zhdanova and I am a 2006 Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program intern.. I come from the wonderful city of Luhansk which is situated in the very East of Ukraine. I study in V. Dahl East-Ukrainian National University, majoring in Marketing and I am the first representative of my University to participate in the CUPP Program.

I would like to start with the quote by J.F. Kennedy: "Don't ask what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country". I wish I had more than one life to live because there is so much that I would like to do for my homeland especially in the era when my young country Ukraine needs well-educated and professional people. And that was my motivation for participating in the competition for CUPP 06, and after succeeding in the competition, coming to Canada. I knew that this program will be like a "long-term investment" into my country, into me and my future.

I believe now that I will be able to do much more for Ukraine. Unfortunately, along with the somewhat unstable political situation and a lack of well trained professionals there is a slowdown in the development of a strong democratic society in Ukraine. Education and experience acquired abroad, is an integral part of improving my homeland's stability and democratic development. Every foreign experience is unique and valu-

able and can be a positive stepping stone which in the end will come together to form a reservoir of knowledge, achievements and attainment of goals.

I was much honored to be selected a CUPP '06 intern in Canada's Parliament.. Being here, in the very heartland of Canada, I have had the opportunity of immersing myself in another culture, another society and I deepening my personal and academic

understanding of democracy society and the workings of a democratic system of government.

During my internship in the House of Commons I had a pleasure of working with Mr. Peter Goldring. Mr. Goldring is a Member of Parliament for Edmonton-East. He is an extremely hard-working and energetic person, deeply devoted to what he is doing. I was impressed how much Mr. Goldring is involved in major Ukrainian issues. And what surprised me was that not only my MP but his office staff know so much about Ukraine! It was a satisfying experience to learn this.

CUPP's combination of opportunities to work with Member of Parliament and his staff, attend Question Periods, meetings of parliamentary committees, perform administrative functions, undertake assignments, research party policies have broadened my knowledge of country-functioning, developing and growing. Working inside the country's main legislative institution gave me a good overall view of the democratic functioning of the country.

Canada is an incredible country with gorgeous scenery, beautiful people, and a rich economy. It is interesting that my first observation about Canada was that it is such a multinational country, seems like it is a small global society, where in

one city you can meet people from around the world. And it is great, because it seems like no one feels alone or homesick here, there is always someone close by who will understand you and speak the same language! It is not impossible to hear any number of languages walking on the streets of Ottawa and being understood!

Thanks to the program, our coordinators and CUPP Director Ihor Bardyn, we had a great experience, life-lasting I think, of attending interesting meetings, events and getting to know interesting people. Among our meetings I will always keep in my memory the visit to the Ukrainian Embassy, our meeting with Senator Raynell Andreychuk and Senator David Smith, the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa dinner, and of course our bike trip to Gatineau Park, as well as our various barbeques with the Ukrainian diaspora.

My Canadian experience has taken root in my mind, for sure, I will return home to do as much as I can, so that after some time passes, the whole World will know about a wonderful, democratic, prosperous country which is situated in the very heart of Europe. My Ukraine!

Thank you, Canada !!!

Zhdanova, Olha

Contact Us

Chair of Ukrainian Studies
Foundation
620 Spadina Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5S 2H4
Tel.: (416) 923-3318
Fax: (416) 234-9114
www.KATEDRA.org



Bob Rae, Liberal leadership candidate, former Premier of Ontario and Olena Khadzhylova



Borys Wrzesnewskyi and Ukrainian interns in the House of Commons



Michael Ignatieff and CUPPs

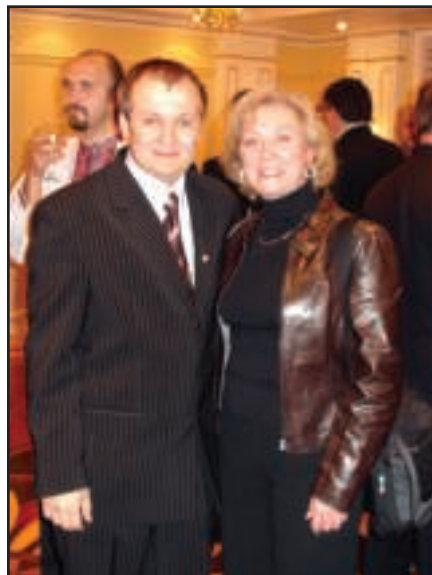




Anna Yablonska and Mario Silva, MP



Maurizio Bevilaqua, MP and Olena Khadzhyhlova



Pavlo & Lucy_Hicks



At Carlton University. L to R: Vasyl Tsuha, Yulia Bura, Mykola Pekh, MP Michael Ignatieff, Oleksandr Horchak, Pavlo Shopin.



Lidiya Syvko

6th year student in Department of International Law, Institute of International Relations, **Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv**.

Hometown: Zaporizhzhya

CUPP Scholarship: Vasyl Kereliuk

My MP: Peter Stoffer, NDP

First impression: Capital city of Ottawa is covered with trees - and now in autumn they acquire fantastic colors.

Compare to Washington, Ottawa is a garden. That's the first thing I noticed in a long list of differences between two North American countries.

Tips for new CUPPERS

Here you are, one of them: one of the Chosen. It has been a long time since you have submitted your application form. You were anxious and a little stressed at the interview at the final selection meeting. You wondered if they are going to pick you among hundreds of others. Well, congratulations! You appear to be the one – cream of the crop, as they say. And now, you are going to Canada. You don't know yet what to expect. Even in your wildest dreams won't you be able to imagine what spending more than a month in Canada means. Fast forward; we're now in Canada, and here are some of our experiences..

- Remember, your time in Canada is unique: use every opportunity to explore, to learn and to share. Chances are this is the only time in your life when you will be able to see the Parliament from inside – so, expand your insight.

- You sit and wait until your Member of Parliament invites you to join him to a meeting or event or you can rely on your own initiative and initiate your own interesting visit or trip. Use your time wisely! MPs and their assistants are aware that you are here for only a short time, especially now that the CUPP Program has been downscaled for financial reasons. Most of them will allow you organize visits to political events, visits to cultural places: meet interesting people, do independent research, attend community meetings and parliamentary committee sessions and hearings, etc. Most committee meetings are open

to the public. You are privileged with the pass which you receive from the Parliamentary Security Office at the start of CUPP, which allows you complete access to parliament. All the doors are open to you, except for those meetings which specifically take place in camera, usually because important matters of security of the state are on the agenda.

- Although the CUPP co-ordinators, this year from Kyiv and Kharkiv, may play a role in opening a "window" into Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and Parliament, they are not omnipotent. Be innovative and initiate things on your own.. Ask your MP or his/her assistant, what they would recommend you to do as a group. Maybe, they could help organize meeting with some particularly interesting members of their Party or a Senator? What if they used to work in the system of justice or in a foreign mission? Would you like to learn from their experience? Ask them! You may go to the Supreme Court; meet the Speaker of the House of Commons or of the Senate, meet with Senators; ask your coordinator to try and arrange meetings with the Governor General and the Prime Minister, although these meetings are difficult to arrange without a lengthy prior notice, Leaders of the four political parties, or regular civil servants! These people have a variety and wealth of experiences, which they will gladly share.

- Your first day at the office? Great! Take the lead and ask about everything your MP or his/her assistant would like you to do: projects, tasks, daily activities and schedule. You should remember that you are a

guest and a stranger in this country. Don't expect to be participating in the decision making or bill drafting process. Some of you will be asked to do research, write articles, maybe, even go to the constituency – which is a lot of fun and a lot of work! Many of you will be doing clerical work and accompany your MP to different meetings. But also remember, that you are going to have a whole lot of other activities not connected with your MP's office. Inform your MP and his/her assistants about all of your outside the office activities and meetings.

- Diversity and multiculturalism are words often used in Canada. People of different origins are deeply mindful of their heritage. You'll see that people are more than friendly. So, open your mind! Speak about yourself, your university, program, customs, culture, history, modern politics etc. Most people that you'll meet have their own interesting backgrounds, their families have lived through some unbelievable experiences, and your MPs have their stories to tell – immerse yourself and store all these stories and information, so you will have material to write about in your memoirs, years later! Remember Lord Tennyson's words – "I am a part of all that I have met!"

Useful information:

- When you have your own computer at your MP's office, learn how to use parliamentary web-site (<http://intraparl.parl.gc.ca/>): it is not only a great source of information about parliament itself, it also contains hundreds and thousands of links to other web-sites which might be useful while doing your own research or research for your MP or his assistant(s). Here you can find all the information concerning events taking place on Parliament Hill: work of House of Commons (HOC) and Senate; Bills and drafts, committee meetings, seminars and so on and so forth.

- If you wish to conduct a research for your BA, MA, PHD, personal needs, etc. go to the library of

Saint Paul University, on Main Street. Ask the administrator of the Sheptytsky Institute which is located at St. Paul University for assistance. There you can find unique books, journals, dissertations, access to which you may have only from this university.

- Thursday is museum day: some museums have free admissions from 4 pm. More information on museums, exhibitions and interesting events currently ongoing in Ottawa, you may get at the Infocentre (remember Canadians use the British spelling for), which is located right across the street from the Parliament Hill.

- Bank Street has everything. Shopping malls, coffee places, supermarkets (including Wal-Mart), night clubs and all kinds of stores. But before you actually buy something: check other stores since prices may vary

Tips for the trip:

- Canada has a developed system of public transportation. But be prepared to walk around Ottawa a lot, because chances are that you won't like the idea of paying \$ 3 for a bus ride. So, take a pair of com-

table shoes with you in addition to the fancy ones.

- Canada has US-standard outlets with 110 volts and a different kind of plugs. You may buy a transformer either here or at home.

- If you are coming for the fall session: take some warm clothes. Although the weather was charming most of the time, it can get quite cold.

- You will find out that Canada at some point is very Ukrainian. Many people will be sincerely interested in learning things about your Homeland. Learn about local traditions and customs. If you like to sing, you'll have plenty of opportunities to share your talent even at "closed CUPP" evenings. Take "vyshyvanka" with you – it will be inspiring for you and interesting for people around. CUPP'06 initiated a new tradition of holding a Varenyky Reception for MPs, Senators parliamentary staff, CUPP speakers and invited guests at our own piece of Ukraine in Canada, at the Embassy of Ukraine. It was a terrific success, with singing, some dancing and food prepared by the chefs of CUPP'06. Everyone agreed that this tradition should be continued in future years.

So bring your recipes as well.

- To make your life here easier, try to learn about Canada and its political system before you come: what is the current Party standing in Parliament, who is in cabinet, how parliament is structured, which issues are on the agenda in terms of domestic and foreign policy. Read Canadian newspapers on-line for a week or two before you come to familiarize yourself with the life of this country. Try Globe and Mail at <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/> as the most comprehensive news deliverer in Canada and The Hill Times at <http://www.thehilltimes.ca/> as a newspaper which covers exclusively events on the Hill (as they call Parliament for short).

- Be prepared that food here is somewhat different from what you get back at home. Some of us brought something from home. For example, you can't live without oatmeal – so bring it!

But more than anything else, come to Canada with enthusiasm and high spirits, be prepared and be open to experience and enjoy a variety of activities, as well as the mind-set to learn something new and to share your Ukrainian heritage..



Klyuchar Maksym

5th year student of the Foreign Languages Faculty (Senior student of the Department of the theory and practice of translation and sociolinguistics)

Volodymyr Vernadskiy Tavrida National University, Simferopol

My hometown: Yevpatoriya

My MP: Alex Atamanenko, British Columbia

CUPP scholarship: Christina Baryn Scholarship

First observation: The first observation of Ottawa was very interesting - while still sitting on the bus, heading for the Algonquin hotel (our future home for 3 weeks) I was thinking to myself: "Ottawa doesn't look like a North American city at all!" In fact, it looked a lot like Kyiv. The impression is still strong now - there seem to be miraculous ties between the two countries on some metaphysical level - one just feels he is in Ukraine.

It is all about inspiration!

When I think of the value of my CUPP internship – those meetings, field trips and visits which I have already experienced, and those still to come, I cannot help but reach one conclusion. I am certain that this brief chapter of my life

will become extremely important in the overall scheme of my life's journey. And so I decided to incorporate these observations into this essay, not only as a record of my stay in Ottawa, during the Fall Sitting of the 39th Sitting of the Canadian Parliament, but also as some thoughts as to the Programme value.

Let me ask you, as a CUPPer, (or as a CUPP Alumni) or just as a interested observer, who has participated in any kind of serious undertaking or experience-enriching programme, "What is the most important stage of such an undertaking?" Some would answer - "Well, if one has gained the experience, condensed it inside of his personality, - he has completed his assignment and he has been successful".

There is a certain amount of truth in that statement, but there is more to it, than acquisition of knowledge. A person, who stores knowledge, is like a library. It is a great thing if the library collections are extensive, but that is not what really makes the difference. What matters is: do visitors come to the library to search for knowledge? Because if there are no visitors - the library's value is questionable.

The same evaluation, I believe, applies to such programmes as CUPP. I think that the assessment period for the success of any intern who has completed the CUPP Program comes approximately half a year to a year, after the intern returns from his trip to Canada. All that counts, is the IMPACT (according to the United Nations Development Programme terminology - a long term effect, which is left after a certain project was completed).

To put it simpler, the success of the internship very much depends not

only on the ability to accumulate the experiences and teach yourself, but also to implement the necessary effective knowledge-disseminative technologies. It does matter, how many people are able to take responsible decisions and form judgments with the help of the information you been provided.

Now, here is what I shall try to implement (and this is humorous because this article is going to be presented to my faculty library and all the students will be able to verify from my own words, whether I fulfilled my promise – somewhat like a presidential platform during an election campaign). On my return home, I shall try to do a comprehensive presentation about the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Programme, now that I have the experience, and be in position to pass on a complete picture.

The second electoral promise is to revise the system of self government and see if it needs restructuring. I definitely will have an exten-

sive briefing session with my colleagues – even if at times I did have certain doubts that I should be dealing with all of the faculty issues, I do not have any now. I trust that I will be able to contribute to the lives of the students of my micro-alma mater. My team and I will, hopefully, be able to create a system, that will outlast our presence on the faculty.

I am talking about a strong and responsible student government, based on some of the values, which I observed in the Canadian system of government. It might sound wishful thinking, but I do believe in what I am doing: responsible and informed students grow to be responsible and informed citizens of the country.

Maybe, this is not a simple path to follow, but it is a choice of taking the well trodden path, or taking the adventurous trailblazing new path. I hope my friends-colleagues at the faculty support me in what I plan to do.

Anyway, it is all about inspiration..!



Pavlo SHOPIN

4th year student in the Department of Foreign Languages

TARAS SHEVCHENKO National Pedagogical University of Luhansk

CUPP Scholarship: Walter Tarnopolsky Scholarship

My MP: Michael Ignatieff , Toronto Ontario

My hometown: Luhansk

My first observation: Canadians are civil and polite but casual.

Critique of the article "Ukraine as a labyrinth of mirrors" by Roman Kupchinsky

I absolutely agree with Roman Kupchinsky about Ukraine being a labyrinth of mirrors. Ukraine can be anything one envisions, depending on ones sentiments and predispositions. Ukraine is evasive and incomprehensible in its politics for most of us and the author aims at unravelling the pith of contemporary Ukrainian political life.

The main thesis put forth by Mr. Kupchinsky is that Ukraine underwent a change of government but the democracy did not suffer from that change.

Ukrainian citizens were "taken for a ride" and the reasons are mundane. Ukrainian politicians are eloquent and persuasive in their rhetoric, but their true objectives are very often at

variance with the interests of the people. Consequently, the Orange Revolution is now seen as "a Ukrainian fairy tale that finally came true". Posturing, libel and buffoonery were all present during recent events on both sides of Dnipro's shores.

Roman Kupchinsky asserts that no substantial changes were implemented by the "orange politicians". At the same time, Ukrainians as a whole secured democracy for the country and that was the foremost achievement of the Orange Revolution.

The author claims that after the March parliamentary elections "the country seemed to tumble into... anarchy". Yet, without notice, the economic climate began to improve and Ukraine attained stable development. In my opinion, these results were not due to supposed anarchy but to the lack (no matter how ironic it sounds) of political interference, political patronage, corruption and

authoritarian management practised by most ministries and governing bodies, still unfortunately encumbered by Soviet era mid-sets.

Not to mention the fact that Kupchinsky alleges that Eastern Ukrainians tolerate anarchy and Western Ukrainians do not. I believe strongly that this artificial division is the only weak point of the article. I am also absolutely certain that there is no such difference between East & West and such preconceptions

will soon disappear.

Roman Kupchinsky's conclusion is quintessential for us. The first premise, in the author's thesis, that we have to accept the new government led by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and see what it does for the good of Ukraine is very important. The second premise, which is the positive influence of anarchy, is not acceptable for the reasons stated above. The third premise is understandable, impartial and true.

Ukrainians from both East and West of the mighty Dnipro River are mainly interested in the development of Ukraine and not any other country: "Western NGOs and Russian political technologists, therefore, should pack up, leave Ukraine..."

In summary, Roman Kupchinsky's article is insightful and measured into the political life of Ukraine. Kupchinsky's thesis should be appreciated by both Ukrainians and international observers.



Oleksandr Horchak

4th year student in the college of Romance and Germanic languages

The National University of Ostroh Academy

My hometown: Rivne

CUPP Scholarship: John and Mary Yaremko Scholarship

My MP: Andrew Telegdi, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario

CUPP 06 Meeting with Paul Migus

On Wednesday, October 4th, CUPP'06 participants met with Mr. Paul Migus, on Parliament Hill. This proved to be one of the most interesting and exciting meetings of our internship.

Paul Migus is one of the most experienced and knowledgeable Canadians in the areas of government, public service and real estate. Currently he is working on a project of Modernizing Service for Canadians, the precursor to Service Canada.

Mr. Migus participated in an exchange program with the Australian Department of Finance and Administration, where he was Acting Deputy Secretary responsible for all domestic and overseas Australian real estate holdings. During the meeting with CUPP'06 participants Mr. Migus gave a lecture on the structure of the Canadian government, the Constitution and judicial process, and the issues which have had a substantial impact upon the way in which the federal

and provincial governments operate. Special attention was paid to the historical elements of Canadian politics, federalism, and current ongoing process of constitutional review; political parties, and the role of public opinion within the Canadian political system.

One of the questions the Ukrainian Interns were particularly interested in, was: *How a government is formed? We learned that the process is basically the same: the political party with the most members in the House of Commons takes the leading role in forming a government. If it has a majority of seats (155 or more), then it forms a majority government. If it has fewer than 155 seats, the leading party will seek the cooperation of other parties, and form a minority government. The leader of the party that forms the government becomes the Prime Minister. The party with the second highest number of seats becomes the Official Opposition. Its leader becomes the Leader of the*

Opposition.

It was interesting to find out that by law, federal and provincial elections must be held at least every five years, but they can be called earlier. The decision to call an election is made by the Prime Minister. However, some provinces have laws that set specific dates for elections. At the same time if a minority government loses the confidence of the House of Commons, an election usually takes place. That probably is the main difference between Canada and Ukraine, as Ukraine has fixed election terms which makes it possible for the government in power to continue governing the country even during a period when the government has little support among the population.

Another question posed to Mr. Migus was: *Why don't Canadians vote directly for the Prime-Minister, if as a result of the election, he becomes the head or leader of the government?* We learned that the reason why Canadians don't vote directly for the Prime Minister follows from the British Parliamentary model and tradition, which Canada accepted and follows to this day.

In the Canadian system of government, voters elect the Members of Parliament to represent them in the House of Commons. Usually, these MPs are from one of the 4 political parties: Conservatives, Liberals, Socialists (New Democratic Party) or the Bloc Quebecois (which is the Quebec based separatist party) a particular political party. There are infrequently Independent candidates, who do not run on any party's platform. The leader of the party

with the most seats in the House becomes Prime Minister. In essence, when you place a vote for your MP, you are voting by extension for the next Prime Minister.

We also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the Canadian parliamentary system. Paul Migus as a true Canadian patriot stressed that advantages of the Canadian system far outweigh the disadvantages. For example, it's easier to pass legislation within a parliamentary system. This is because the executive branch is dependent upon the direct or indirect support of the legislative branch and often includes members of the legislature. In a presidential system, the executive is

often chosen independently of the legislature. If the executive and legislature in such a system include members entirely or predominantly from different political parties, then a stalemate can occur. Basically, such a stalemate can be observed now in Ukraine, since the President and Parliament have very different vectors for Ukraine's future development.

Some of the other questions raised during the meeting were:

- The presence of Canadian troops in Afghanistan, and the pros and cons of Canada's participation in the NATO operation in that country.

- The question of whether Canada should adopt fixed election terms.

At the conclusion of the meeting we took several photos with Paul for our CUPP Newsletter and expressed the hope that this meeting will not be the last one with CUPP Interns in the future.

What I personally will remember from this meeting with Paul Migus is his quote: "There is no right or wrong questions – only true wishes."



Olena Khadzhohlova

4th year student in Department of Romance-Germanic Philology, specializing in area of Applied Linguistics

Lesya Ukrayinka Volyn University of Lutsk

My hometown: Lutsk

CUPP Scholarship: Michael Starr Scholarship

My MP: Honorable Maurizio Bevilacqua, Vaughan, Ontario

Country of birth: Italy

Liberal Caucus; has been working as an MP since the 36th Parliament

Committees: Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics Public Safety and National Security

First Observation: CUPP'06 participants came to diverse and multicultural Canada and discovered how diverse, multicultural and interesting Ukraine and its people are! Each CUPPer is a personality worth investigating! All of us are so different but we manage to be together – why therefore, should Ukraine be artificially divided into West and East?

Second Observation: Be mindful when talking to another CUPP Intern on the streets in Ottawa or elsewhere – because every second Canadian speaks Ukrainian! (or so it seems)

Ода Капу.

Десь-колись в аеропорті
Двадцять каперів зібрались.
Що там буде, у Канаді,
Ми тоді не здогадались.

Починалось все, як в казці -
Аеропорт, літак...сюрпризи...
Просиділи ми в хибарці -
От "Аеросвіт" принизив!

Полетіли десь під вечір.
Аж ніхто й не сподівався!
А оттавський ранок пізній
Аж від щастя розридався.

Вже в столиці поселились
І в Парламент поспішили.
Депутати звеселились -
Українці прилетіли!

Хто що думає - не знаю.
Досвід - це велика штука.
Question Period - це, друзі,
Неабияка наука.

Всі MP - то чемні люди.
Сперечатися уміють.
Та сваритися прилюдно
В "Хаусі" вони не сміють.

А сенатори вельможні
Теж до себе закликали.
І політику Канади
Нам докладно описали.

Хто порадував нас, друзі,
Вам ніколи не вгадати.

Славне консульство українське
Стало радо нас приймати.

Він усе на світі знає
Про Канаду і Оттаву.
Пан Борис допомагає -
Нам розказує цікаво.

Привілеїв в нас багато.
Кожен капівець це знає.
Пас парламентський в Канаді
Всі нам двері відчиняє.

Кажуть, що мала Оттава.
Друзі, ви не вірте їм.
Ходим пішки -
Наша слава в цьому, й гордимось
цим!

А бувало, що з розмахом
В ресторан японський йдем.
"Що бажаєте?"
"Напевно... Чаю з соняха поп'єм!"

Так живем. Лягаєм спати?
Ні, мить відпочинку ждем.
Бо "есайнменти" писати
Ми "встигаєм" день за днем.

Всі ми різні, всі несхожі:
Захід, Схід, Дніпро і Крим.
Батьківщині допоможем -
Гарно бути молодим!

Дипломовані юристи,
Козаки, сопілкарі,
Щебетухи, кухарі...
Зголодніли? Мама Ліда
Приготує вам обіду.
Є козак посеред нас.
Це Михайло. Вуса - просто клас!
Наш Андрій співає гарно.
Інна - тратить час не марно.
В Юлі є перехідник -
Кожен вже до цього звик.
Ігор - суперекстремал:
Банджі-джампінг - не фінал.
Коля - справжній патріот.
Він львів'янин. Правда! От!
Юра і Кристина:
З арабами - своя людина.
Саша - інтелектуал.
Паша - справжній ліберал.
Аня познайомить всіх.
В неї друзів - цілий міх.
А Михась бере сопілку -
VIP- му́зика на вечірку.

Бібліотека - другий дім.
Йде Максим - і всі за ним.
Вася - добрий, славний в нас,
В нього завжди все гаразд.
А Георгій - це харизма,
Гумор, сміх без романтизму.
Оля допоможе всім.
З нею - щастя повен дім.
Координують весь процес
Гаяне й Катруся - yes!
Пан Бардин - це наш патрон.
Він наш лідер, чемпіон,
Наш герой і Еверест,
Одним словом,
Він - the best!
Саме завдяки йому
Ми відкрили сторо́ну
Із Парламентом доладним,
З устроєм життя докладним.
Гарно час пройшов. Тому
Дякуєм за це йому!
А Олена? Що казати?
Вірш надумала писати.
Що не вийшло - вибачайте,
І Канаду пам'ятайте!



Andriy Olenyuk

4th year student, Faculty of Law, **Franko National University of L`viv**

Hometown: Chortkiv, Ternopil

CUPP Scholarship: Volodymyr Hrynyk Scholarship

My MP: James BEZAN, Selkirk- Interlake, Manitoba

First observation: Have you ever attended a political theatre? You may wonder whether one exists, but I assure you it does. Visit the Question Period at the Parliament of Canada, and you will have the time of your life. We lack such practice in Ukraine, at least there would be less fights among the national deputies in the Verkhovna Rada.

Assignment #3

Canada's role in the Middle East and demanding the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan?

The problem of withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan is a matter of political discourse in today's Parliament. This controversial hot-button issue found its supporters in the New Democratic Party of Canada. The party has not decided yet if it will use its one and only opposition day this Fall to hold a

House of Commons vote. The observers are hesitating in making any predictions as to whether to hold such vote sooner or later, but what is definitely clear and already agreed is that there should be a debate and a vote in the House.

I would like to start my commentary with the statement that in today's geopolitics Canada is constantly striving to get the title of 'moral superpower'. The higher establishment of Canadian politics usually calls itself a peacemaking nation. But what is hidden beyond this commitment to common good and well being? What makes Canadians sacrifice their lives in military operations of NATO abroad? Is that a part of their feeling of patriotism?

It seems to me that the presence of Canadian troops in Afghanistan lies far beyond that feeling. We usually associate the feeling patriotism with such phenomenon as self-sacrifice, which implies that the individual should place the interests of the nation and common good of its political community above their personal and group interests. But can it possibly have anything common with the military operation of Canadian troops in Afghanistan, on the territory of another sovereign nation. In my book, it can and I will try to prove it.

The Canadians clearly perceive what role their country should play in the 21 century foreign affairs. They realize that Canada is a leading world's democracy with its membership in G8 club of political and economic heavyweights. And their patriotism includes the will to observe Canada prospering and developing. This goal is noble in sense of understanding the link between a citizen and a state. As we all see, the example with Afghanistan proves that some of the Canadians are ready to sacrifice their life in the name of their state's future.

It should be pointed out that the problem of taking part in the NATO military mission in Afghanistan is highly controversial. The presence of Canadian troops in the Middle East is not a popular policy among

the Canadian publicity. If you look into the eyes of the mother, whose son died in the war, you will see the value of each life sacrificed to the future of your country. The life of every killed soldier is immeasurable and only cynics can say about successful operations where 'not many soldiers were killed'. It's no wonder, that Canadians oppose the war in Afghanistan. Where there is the war, there is death and grief among the parties involved. Moreover, it would be an unbelievable situation in a democratic society, if there were mass support of violence and hostility among the population. It would be totally immoral society. It is hard to deny, that the demand for immediate Canadian troop withdrawal is a legitimate reflection of a significant and rising percentage of Canadian population. It would be also right to say that an attempt to steer the problem of Afghanistan through public opinion seems as destructive for Conservatives as holding a referendum on gun registry termination in Quebec.

But let us keep in mind that from the point of view of the state policy and its strategy the situation is a bit different. Here raw emotions step aside and cool-headed ratio is paramount. By fulfilling its commitments before the international community in fighting world terrorism, the plague of the 21 century, Canada makes its input into the spreading of peace and stability throughout the world. This country is a part of anti-terrorist initiative, which embraces world's leading countries. Although the attacks of September, 11 were not in Canada, but nearly two dozen Canadians were killed and substantial economic harm has been done to this country. This has been the reason of Canadian government to try and stop the Taliban, because it is a matter of national honour and part of national interests' fulfillment policy. However, the Canadians don't believe that they are threatened; they don't believe that terrorists would attack them and they are more concerned about their internal issues. But at the same time the pol-

icy of making Canada more secure from terrorism through internal mechanisms won't work, the terrorism should be prospected.

The opponents of the governmental policy usually use as an argument the statement that Canada wants to maintain friendly terms with the USA. As I put, an attempt to make Afghanistan an issue of bilateral relations with the southern neighbour is a political technique, which is aimed at earning political dividends. In fact, Canada this way is pursuing its own foreign policy interests. Canada is a member of G8 and a memberstate of NATO. This status requires global responsibility and execution of the commitments arising from the status.

I believe that Canada has no moral right to turn a blind eye to the world terrorism and dictator regimes. This country is strong and confident enough to be willing to accept enormous sacrifice and risk to contribute to world's peace. The mission in Afghanistan is not completed yet. Halfway is already done and withdrawal would mean turning with your back to the enemy in a battle. 'Afghanistan needs Canada's support' - stated the President of Afghanistan in his speech in the Parliament of Canada. How can a commander get the victory over the enemy, when withdrawing after having destroyed half of the enemy forces? The war is always followed by death, but it is not a reason to quit...



Olha Zhdanova

4th year student in Management Faculty, majoring in area of Marketing.

Dahl East Ukrainian National University of Luhansk

My hometown: Luhansk

CUPP Scholarship: Alexandra & Eugene Sukniarsky Scholarship

My MP: Peter Goldring, Edmonton East

First observation: No matter which language you chose to talk while walking and talking anywhere outside, you will be understood anyway. Ottawa is such a multinational city!

My MP Peter Goldring – a Chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The organization called Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group was created at the Annual General Meeting June, 17th 1992 in Ottawa, with members from Canada's Parliament and Senate. It consisted of 42 members.

Canada, with over 1,100,000 Canadians of Ukrainian decent, has a longstanding and special relationship with Ukraine, which is enhanced through Parliamentary Friendship Group Activities.

Its aim is to provide the structures for the exchange of visits, information and ideas between Canadian parliamentarians and other prominent people from Ukraine and to provide opportunities to identify mutual goals and problems and

strive for their attainment and solution. It focuses on fostering closer cultural, social and economic ties.

Right now there are over 100 Members of Parliament and Senators from all parties who are in Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Executive members:

MP Peter Goldring – Chair

Sen. Raynell Andreychuk – Senator Vice-Chair

MP Joy Smith: Government Vice-Chair

MP Borys Wrzesnewskij – Liberal Vice-Chair

MP Peggy Nash – NDP Vice-Chair

MP Inky Mark – Secretary and Treasurer

Senators Consiglio Di Nino, Terry Stratton – Directors

Following goals were set for the 39th Parliamentary session:

Reciprocal Canada-Ukraine Visa Requirements – work with the Minister of Immigration to identify the steps necessary for the elimination of visa requirements for Ukrainians visiting Canada in recognition of Ukraine's similar initiative for Canadians

Establishment of a Canada-Ukraine House – Explore with the Foreign Affairs Minister and Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine the feasibility of a Canada-Ukraine house - a trade and economic opportunities facility that would be located in Ukraine. The Canada-Ukraine House would consist of the following philosophical pillars: building democracy, competitiveness and innovation, sustainable development, research and resources, human spirit.

Raising the Status of the Canada-Ukraine Interparliamentary Group – it is time to elevate the Canada-Ukraine Interparliamentary Group to the first rank of such groups.

Other initiatives – these by no means should comprise the entire mandate of the Canada-Ukraine Friendship Group or encompass all of its objectives.



Giorgi Tatarashvili

Alumnus of the **Tbilisi State University of Economic Relations**. Faculty of LAW, speciality – business-solicitor

My hometown: Tbilisi, Georgia

CUPP Scholarship: Malanchuk Family Scholarship

My MP: Inky Mark, Conservative, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, Manitoba

First Impression: I am really amazed by the successful co-existence of different cultures, by the government which is so tolerant toward emigrants, which gives to all Canadians so strong social guarantees.

I am delighted with the affairs, which are perfectly in order in Canada

Here are the eternal beauty of nature, strong economy, successful system of governing, here is everything that makes people happy! This is marvellous country, where people enjoy life, not exist.

Alexander Motyl's Article (CUPP 2006 Assignment)

Professor A. Motyl gives his interpretation of the most recent political developments in Ukraine. As an outsider looking in, he has a more impartial point of view.

The author objectively comments that Ukraine and Russia, being once parts of one big empire, occupied different places in that Soviet Imperial structure.

Ukraine was the object of imperial rule- a periphery- and emerged from the Soviet empire without a functioning state apparatus and skilled elite. Russia was the subject of that empire – the metropole – and inherited an imperial state apparatus and highly skilled elite.

We should note that all former Soviet Republics inherited the same blessings from the Soviet Union, namely a poor or worthless state apparatus and no skilled civil service or administration. Unless you consider the former Soviet civil service or administration to be of any worth.

And therefore after the break-up of Soviet-Union, none of these newly independent states had any normal or functioning political-administrative elite, which could administer the affairs of the new independent state.

This fact, forecast very damaging consequences for the future development of these post-soviet states. As we can see it took 15 years for some of these states to elect to power people with some constructive skills, views and ideas so essential for the creation of a normal government in a democratic and independent state.

In Georgia and Ukraine it only became possible to shed some of the vestiges of the former Soviet empire, only after people led and inspired popular revolutions. Yet the influence of Russia on the internal politics of the former Soviet colonies continued even after the popular revolutions. And until today, the meddling role of Russian political interests is present in countries such as Belarus, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia.

Before the Orange Revolution, many political analysts perceived Ukraine not as independent state even after its Independence in 1991

, but still as a satellite in the political orbit of Russia. The Kuchma regime was an integral part of Russia's political sphere from the outset of Boris Yeltsin's administration. Individuals such as V.Yanukovych continued this political subservience as a surrogate of V.Putin.

Had the Orange Revolution not happened, Ukraine would have become a third member of Belarus-Russia-Ukraine Union, or new "Soviet Mini-Union". As an employee of Leonid Kuchma's administration Ivan Rafalsky wrote a book long before the Orange Revolution, in which he stated "Ukraine has entered a new stage of attitudes with Russia". And these relationships were warm and close, because Russia completely supervised the situation in Ukraine.

Alexander Motyl writes that the "stagnation" of the 1990's made the Orange Revolution possible" And this is an irrefutable fact. If Ukraine hadn't had the corrupt regime of Leonid Kuchma, a regime which became unacceptable for the majority of Ukraine's population, the whole world would not have seen the unforgettable scenes from Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square in the centre of Kyiv) and the rejoicing of hundreds of thousands of people, defending their constitutional rights.

The author is trying to draw parallels between Russia and Ukraine, from the moment of the break-up of the Soviet Union. Yet in spite of the strong relationship between the political elites in power in Ukraine and Russia, the bloody events which occurred in Russia in 1993 were not repeated in Ukraine.

The violent confrontation which occurred in Moscow, was not the result of opposing visions. Both Boris Yeltsin and his adversaries Alexander Rudskoy and Ruslan Khasbulatov did not have radically differing visions for Russia's future.

Both sides stood for a Russian empire. The difference between them was that they belonged to two different political-oligarch clans. Consequently, in Russia, the confrontation was between competing political-oligarch clans in a fight for power. It was not a conflict between democrats and autocrats. In the end Boris Yeltsin could conquer his opponents only with the aid of brute force, with tanks.

The Orange Revolution took place because Ukrainians would not succumb nor be humbled by the quasi-dictatorial regime of Leonid Kuchma, the President who managed discredit himself and his politics completely!

. And with the advent of Viktor Yanukovych on the political landscape (Olympus) it became clear that people with a criminal past, could be admitted to the Kuchma team of corrupt politicians.

There is no doubt that the Orange Revolution opened a new Ukraine to the world.

As is well known, after any revolution a nation is in a state of euphoria, which is soon followed by a phase of disappointment, because people expect to see rapid changes which they longed for. The ongoing disillusionment in Ukrainian society is not unusual, although many things have changed in Ukraine since the Orange Revolution. As Mr. Motyl objectively writes "Ukraine is a far different and better country today. It has opened itself to the world. It is democratic and free, even if chaotically so. Civil society and the media are robust, open debate is the norm, foreign direct investment has boomed, and the rule of law has improved".

The author writes that Ukraine remains poor and corrupt. To put it more precisely Ukraine is rich with recourses, but people are poor, their standard of living is low. What is the

reason for this? Why it is happening so?

Corruption – is one of the main problems facing the country. Corruption exists in all countries, even in the most developed. But if corruption permeates all structures of power and society, it becomes endemic and citizens accept it as inevitable. This endemic growth becomes a factor which destroys the state from the inside. Struggle against corruption is a most complicated process. It is a difficult struggle but it is possible to overcome. The standard of living must be improved first of all. Salaries of state employees should be raised appropriately and corrupt employees weeded out and punished.

The second problem in Ukraine is that since the Orange Revolution the new government has not had time to reform the entire civil service and state institutions, so essential for normal functioning of all social and economic systems in the country. And in the recently signed "Universal Accord" there are conditions which will contribute to the continuation of unreformed activity, unless the signatories to the Universal Accord live up to the agreement.

Mr. Motyl has no doubt about the results of parliamentary election of March 26th. The author finds them fair and free. But he is not analyzing why Yanukovich's Regions Party got 32% of the vote, Tymoshenko's Bloc-22%, but the pro-presidential "OUR UKRAINE" bloc received only 14% of votes?

To analyze these results we should answer one main and important question first: what prevented the Orange coalition from coming to a consensus and presenting itself as the united bloc? And who is responsible for that?

When Ukrainian society, including the supporters of the Orange coalition find an answer to this question, they will understand who contributed (intentionally or unintentionally) to the strengthening of V. Yanukovich's position.

Many supporters of the Orange coalition consider that President Yushchenko betrayed them when he confirmed Viktor Yanukovich's appointment as prime minister. But these supporters did not remember why the President disbanded Yulia Tymoshenko's cabinet. As we know this decision did not cause any big protest among the followers of the Orange coalition. They humbly accepted the President's reasons for firing Yulia Tymoshenko's cabinet. Was it not a betrayal, when Yulia Tymoshenko's administration could not maintain the trust of the Ukrainian nation and the President. As we remember, her Orange administration was accused of being corrupt.

So, the position of Viktor Yanukovich was strengthened by the political crisis which continued over several months.

One more question, why did Yulia Tymoshenko agree only on the post of the Prime Minister and why could she not be content with becoming the President of Ukraine's Parliament (Verkhovna Rada)?

If Yulia Tymoshenko had become President or Speaker of Parliament, the political arrangement of the elected parties would have been different. Even if Viktor Yanukovich had become the Prime Minister, two representatives of the Orange coalition would have held two main posts in the state, the Presidency and the Speaker of Parliament. Consequently, the author of the break-up of the Orange coalition turns out to be Yulia Tymoshenko,

and not Viktor Yushchenko, as some would have us believe. And Yulia Tymoshenko's main obstacle is that she is an oligarch.

It is very clear that that was the reason of her ambition to accept only the office of Prime Minister. She didn't want to say no to her own business interests. And she thereby endangered President Yushchenko.

Mr. Motyl writes that "the blue Regions Party" and Viktor Yanukovich at its head fully understood the dilemma facing the Orange Coalition after the Orange revolution. The Blue RP political machine successfully regrouped and splendidly mastered the rules of the new game. The Blue Coalition perfectly turned the split in the Orange Coalition to its own advantage.

Viktor Yanukovich achieved success with the help of his Russian "instructors" – politologists, and a little bit of additional help from his hired American PR technocrats from Madison Avenue.

But the main victory for Russia, the Blue Political Machine and Russian-centered oligarchs in Ukraine is not Viktor Yanukovich seizing the post of Prime Minister, but paragraph # 27 of the Universal Accord, which deals with Ukraine's entry into NATO, and the referendum. This is the main concession of Viktor Yushchenko and it might produce unforeseen but critical problems for Ukraine on its way to NATO, and complete independence.

Історія українства в Грузії

Стародавній грузинський літопис свідчить, що знайомство і зближення українського та грузинського народів відбулося в 10-11 віках. У взаємному зацікавленні та зближенні двох народів зіграли політичні, воєнні, релігійні та інші фактори.

Поява перших українців, які поселилися в Грузії, відноситься до другої половини 18 віку, коли російська цариця Катерина II розігнала непокірну Запорізьку Січ і тоді багато козаків були вимушені утікати на Південь, а деяка частина з них опинилася в Грузії.

З приєднанням Закавказзя до Росії на початку 19 віку в Грузії було розташовано немало російських військових частин, у складі яких служили і українці. Багато з них, у результаті тривалого строку військової служби, майже повністю розривали зв'язок зі своїми рідними місцями і після звільнення селилися поряд з розташуванням військових частин на спеціально відведених земельних ділянках. Такі військові поселення були створені на території Східної Грузії: в Гомборі, Білих Ключах, Червоних Колодязях, Манглісі та інших місцях. Але ці військові поселення не були багатолюдними і довго не проіснували. У середині 19 віку вони були скасовані, а їх мешканців прирівняли до державних селян. До перших українців, поселених в Грузії, відносяться офіцери і службовці адміністративних установ. Цей контингент був нечислений, більшість якого знаходилась тимчасово, а деяка частина з них посідала на постійне мешкання і поповнювала виключно міське населення.

Скасування кріпосного права в царській Росії надало можливість селянам вільно переміщатися в пошуках роботи та вільних земель, у тому числі і українським селянам. У другій половині 19 віку в Грузії відбулися події, які привели до появи вільних земельних територій і зокрема в Абхазії, де в наслідок їх заселення появились укра-

їнські, російські, вірменські, грецькі та інші села.

Важливу роль у поселенні українців в Грузію відіграли: розвиток судоплавства на Чорному морі, будівництво нових портів, залізниць та курортів в Грузії, що давало можливість українцям знайти роботу і заробіток. Як бачимо, головними спонукальними факторами у переселенні українців в Грузію були політичні, які виражались в переслідуваннях та репресіях українців з боку царського режиму, а також економічні і зокрема, намагання безземельних селян знайти вільні землі, роботу та заробіток у промислових галузях.

За неповними даними першого загального перепису населення російської імперії у 1887 році на території Грузії мешкало біля 8,5 тисяч українців, з яких біля 64% у містах, а 36% у сільській місцевості. Притік українського населення до Грузії не стихав і продовжувалось стихійне переселення українців, у тому числі і представників інтелігенції. На початку 20 віку в Тбілісі обгрунтовалась українська театральна трупа під керівництвом М.Белявої, яка з 1902 по 1913 роки поставила біля 45 п'єс. З 1903 по 1913 рік в Грузії разом з чоловіком етнографом К.Квіткою жила і творила велика українська поетеса Леся Українка. З 1880 по 1886 роки в Тбіліській гімназії навчався великий історик, громадський діяч і перший Президент України Михайло Грушевський.

Українці-мешканці Грузії з натхненням сприйняли лютневу 1917 року революцію в Росії, сподіваючись на здійснення вікової мрії стати вільними і сприяти створенню вільної України та Грузії. За даними перепису населення 1917 року в Грузії мешкало 2,5 млн. чоловік, з них 185 тисяч рахувались „Русскими“, 70% з яких склали „малороси“ (129 тисяч чоловік).

В Тбілісі, де з середини 19 сто-

ліття була невелика українська колонія, в 1917 році відбувся Український Військовий з'їзд, на якому було створено Українську Військову Раду Закавказзя і Українську Раду в м.Тбілісі. Українська Військова Рада Закавказзя видавала газету „Вісті“, а пізніше „Українські Вісті“.

23 листопада 1917 року Українська Рада в м.Тбілісі разом з Комісаріатом Української Центральної Ради організують і проводять I-ий український з'їзд на Кавказі, головною метою якого було створити Крайову Українську Раду, яка повинна була координувати діяльність українських товариств, спілок і партійних організацій. Головою Української Ради в Грузії був обраний П.В. Куц-як(С.Чалий), а головою Української Ради в м.Тбілісі Л.Д.Шрамченко.

Перед Українською Крайовою Радою стояли завдання вирішення усіх національних, політичних та соціально-економічних проблем, а також питання участі українців в міжнародній Раді Кавказу.

У січні 1918 року проводиться 2-й український з'їзд, на якому головою Української Ради в Грузії обирається Гр.Хіменко.

Українські спілки, товариства створюються в містах Батумі, Сухумі. В Тбілісі утворюються українська поштово-телеграфна спілка, українська залізнична спілка та український клуб. В Поті утворюється українське товариство, головою якого обрано Сосідко. Усі організації, товариства і спілки ведуть громадську роботу з відродження української культури, рідної мови, а також приймають активну участь в політичному та громадському житті Грузії. Українці беруть участь у виборах до органів місцевої влади, зокрема, в Тбіліську та Батумську Думи, де в Батумську Думу від українців обирається Красицький, Сахновський, Ловинський, Миколаєн-

ко, Полнитський. До Парламенту Грузії в 1919 році депутатом обирається Олександр Калужний.

Поряд з активною діяльністю українських організацій, спілок, товариств в Грузії, Уряд України в 1919 році встановлює дипломатичні відносини з Грузією. 5 грудня 1918 року був підписаний міжурядовий договір „Про консульства і торгіві відношення, про мореплавство та транзит”. В Грузії створюються і діють: „Українська Надзвичайна Дипломатична Місія” на чолі з І.І. Красковським, який пізніше стає Послом України в Грузії і військовим аташе М.М. Чеховським, а також „Українське Генеральне Консульство” на чолі з Генеральним Консулом Л.І.Лесняком. В Батумі знаходиться Віце-Консул С.П.Засядко, а в Сухумі Надзвичайний Уповноважений по Абхазії Петренко, а також комісар Української Центральної Ради Г.Хіменко. Активна діяльність українських організацій, товариств, спілок та дипломатичних представництв України сприяють демократичним перетворенням в Грузії і Україні, відродженню історично складених добросусідських дружніх відносин між Грузією та Україною.

Починаючи з 1917 і до 1926 року спостерігається повернення українців на свою історичну батьківщину, що привело до зменшення кількості українців в Грузії. З 1926 року починається новий, більш насичений етап у поселенні українців до Грузії. Він охоплює роки довоєнних п'ятирічок. Тільки за 12 років з грудня 1926 до січня 1939 року українське населення в Грузії збільшилось у 3,2 разів і до кінця цього періоду склало більше 46 тис. чоловік. Цьому сприяли високі темпи розвитку промисловості, сільськогосподарського виробництва, розширення мережі курортних установ і залучення для цього значної кількості кваліфікованих спеціалістів з України.

У роки другої світової війни українське населення в Грузії отримало нечисленне поповнення

за рахунок евакуйованих членів сімей військовослужбовців і працюючого персоналу евакуйованих підприємств, з яких більшість вернулася в Україну, а решта залишилася в Грузії.

У післявоєнні роки проходить інтенсивний обмін населенням між Україною і Грузією.

Будівництво промислових об'єктів, у тому числі Руставського металургійного комбінату, освоєння Колхідської долини, будівництво ГЕС та інших об'єктів народного господарства сприяли притоку українського населення до Грузії, крім того, багато бувших військовослужбовців, звільнюючись з військової служби, залишилися на постійне життя в Грузії.

Згідно даних ЦСУ Грузії (1989р.) перепису населення, в Грузії мешкало 52,4 тис. українців, що складало 1% від загального населення Грузії, з яких мешкало: в Тбілісі 16074 чоловік (1,3% столичного населення), в Руставі 2688 (1,7% місцевого населення), в Кутаїсі 2045 (0,9% місцевого населення), в Поті 1705 (3,4% місцевого населення), в Сухумі 4001 (3,4% місцевого населення) і в Батумі 3960 (2,3% місцевого населення).

За даними перепису населення 2002 року в Грузії проживає 7039 українців, в Тбілісі – 3328.

Розпад бувшого „Радянського союзу” привів до створення незалежних держав на пострадянському просторі, в тому числі і Грузії. Це вимусило багатьох українців-мешканців Грузії визначити свій власний вибір у подальшому житті.

Частина з них виїхала на свою етнічну Батьківщину, але більша частина з них залишилася в Грузії. Цьому сприяли родинні, сімейні узи та ряд других причин. Поряд з цим виникло питання: „Як прилучитися і інтегруватись у загальнодержавне життя Грузії і одночасно зберегти власну самобутність та зв'язки з етнічною Батьківщиною?”

Більшість представників українського населення Грузії вирішила об'єднатися і створити громадську організацію.

Першою такою організацією стала Асоціація українців-мешканців Грузії, яка була створена 15 липня 1992 року. Зараз Асоціацію очолює Михайло Борис. Згодом кількість громадських організацій збільшилася. Тепер по всій Грузії їх нараховується близько 20. Вся робота проводиться добровільно, безкоштовно, на ентузіазмі і патріотичних почуттях активістів. Незважаючи на соціальні та економічні труднощі, громадські організації намагаються надавати посильну допомогу українцям у задоволенні культурно-освітніх, інформаційних, соціальних потреб, а також у відродженні національних культурних традицій і збереженні рідної мови.

Відродити духовність українського народу-обов'язок нашого покоління.

Понад три століття український народ боровся на межі життя і смерті з жорстоким ворогом – російським великодержавництвом та комуністичним тоталітаризмом.

У цьому довголітньому протистоянні загинули мільйони славних синів і дочок українського народу – у в'язницях і таборах Сибіру; на Півночі при будівництві Санкт-Петербурзького й Біломор-Балтійського каналу, в катівнях НКВС, під час голодомору 30-х років, примусового переселення людей після Другої світової війни. Мільйони родин вимушені були шукати притулку в чужих країнах на всіх континентах землі, в тому числі і в Грузії.

Разом з національним геноцидом, а також у результаті так званої „совєтської інтернаціоналізації”, яка досягла свого апогею в 70-х роках минулого століття, український народ зазнав заборони наших звичаїв та обрядів, мови,

пісень, релігії, моралі - всього того, чим традиційно він жив і пишався .

В природі нічого не буває вічного, як мовить народне прислів'я.

Ми свідки розвалу жорстокої "советської імперії" і разом з нею інтернаціоналізації, метою якої було виховання безликого типу людей – так званого "советського народу", позбавленого своєї історичної пам'яті.

Україна стала незалежною державою. Та будемо реалістами - за цілковитий суверенітет українському народу ще належить боротися, ще будуть і перемоги, і поразки.

Ми повинні йти твердо обраним шляхом, який заповіли наші славні предки.

Разом з політичними акціями відродження української держави першочергове значення має відродження **духовності** українського народу, яке базується на **традиціях** релігійних та народних свят, **обрядів, звичаїв** українського народу. І, щоб очиститися від закомплексованості, а, отже, бездуховності, маємо оживити наші грішні душі свяченою водою національних традицій.

"Чи ти рано до схід - сонця

Богу не молилась?

Чи ти діточок непевних

Звичаю не вчила?"

Цими пророчими словами Тарас Шевченко звертається до України, як до матері, що тяжко страждає, одночасно попереджуючи нас, що не вчити своїх дітей звичаям – це такий же великий гріх для матері, як і гріх не молитися Богові.

Українці, які проживають на території Грузії, не втратили зв'язків з етнічною Батьківщиною, зберегли власну самобутність. В Грузії лунає українська пісня, чути Шевченкове і Лесине слово, всім тут знайома українська вишивка.

Діяльність української діаспори помітно активізувалася. Збіль-

шується кількість українських громадських організацій, про роботу яких ми дізнаємося з газети "Український Вісник" (редактори : В.Марджанішвілі, О. Куртанідзе), яка виходить щомісяця. Дуже цікавим є журнал "Президент моєї країни", який почав виходити в цьому році. В ньому друкуються статті українською та грузинською мовами. Ця преса допомагає нам, студентам, вивчати українську мову, відновлювати традиції українського народу. Особливо мені подобаються традиції проведення Новорічних та Різдвяних свят.

7 років тому, в Тбілісі, відкрилась Перша Українська школа імені Михайла Грушевського. Діти етнічних українців мають можливість не тільки здобувати освіту рідною мовою, а й глибше вивчати історію та звичаї українського народу.

В 2004 році в Грузинському технічному університеті була відкрита кафедра української мови та технічного перекладу на факультеті хімічної технології і металургії. Очолила кафедру Голова Місії ОУН в Грузії, кандидат технічних наук Ольга Метревелі.

При кафедрі української мови працює Студія, в якій мають можливість

безкоштовно вивчати українську мову всі бажаючі різного віку. Заняття проводять зав.кафедрою Ольга Метревелі та моя мама, Ліна Татарашвілі(Одемчук) яка є Головою Української Жіночої Ради в Грузії. Планується відкриття української Недільної школи.

Я теж вивчаю українську мову в цій Студії. Спостерігаючи на заняттях

за тим, з якою цікавістю вивчають українську мову грузини, вірмени, греки

та росіяни, я пишу тим, що маю українське коріння.

Безперечно, важливою і є

допомога наших грузинських друзів.

Особливо хочеться відзначити професора Грузинського технічного університету Гурама Кашакашвілі. Завдяки йому:

1) закладено основи грузинсько-українського мовного фонду;

2) кафедрі української мови надано відремонтоване приміщення;

3) надаються аудиторії для роботи Студії української мови в Тбілісі;

4) створені затишні умови для роботи таким жіночим організаціям, як:

„Асоціація Українок Грузії ім. Олени Телігі“ (голова Ольга Метревелі);

„Українська Жіноча Рада в Грузії“ (голова Ліна Татарашвілі);

„Союз Українок Грузії“ (гол.Галина Шулькевич).

Про високу національну самоповагу говорить ціла низка заходів, які були

проведені громадськими жіночими організаціями при підтримці Посольства

України в Грузії.

Міжнародний фестиваль „Веселка“, який був проведений в містечках

Руставі та Сурамі в рамках щорічного свята „Лесяоба“, присвяченого пам'яті Лесі Українки, надовго запам'ятався всім нам.

Було організовано поїздки школярів з Руставі, Болнісі та Сурамі до

Києва та Новоград-Волинського, де народилася Леся.

В березні 2006 року на кафедрі української мови було проведено

конкурс декламаторів поезії Тараса Шевченка. Захід розпочався Шевченківським „Заповітом“ у виконанні українського вокального ансамблю

„Лілея“. А потім, на фоні мелодії, цей народний гімн України прозвучав

грузинською, англійською, російською, італійською, іспанською та білоруською мовами. Я читав „Заповіт“ Шевченка англійською мовою

в перекладі Джона Віра. За умовами конкурсу поезію потрібно було

продекламувати чистою українською та грузинською мовами (переклад

Сімона Чіковані та Рауля Чілачави). Переможці конкурсу були нагороджені

дипломами і цінними подарунками, завдяки підтримці Посольства України

в Грузії.

21 липня 2006 року ми, студенти, знову зібралися на кафедрі української

мови, щоб прийняти участь в урочистому вечорі, присвяченому вшануванню

пам'яті видатної громадсько-політичної діячки, учасниці українського

визвольного руху, поетеси Олени Теліги, з нагоди 100-річчя від дня її

народження. Цей захід організувала і провела моя мама, Ліна Татарашвілі

(Одемчук). Приймавши активну участь, я відкрив для себе чудову поезію

цієї героїчної жінки.

В українсько-грузинській сім'ї, де я народився, зберігаються звичаї

і традиції двох народів. Особливо багато цікавого про боротьбу українського народу за свою незалежність, про національні традиції я дізнався від дідуся та бабусі, які проживають в Західній Україні (м. Луцьк, Волинська обл.), до яких я їздив влітку на канікули. Відношення моїх батьків між собою є чудовим відображенням тих вікових дружніх зв'язків, які склались між українським та грузинським народами.

Якою гордістю наповняється моє серце, коли українські пісні, українська поезія звучать в виконанні різних народів!

Від Грузії до Канади дуже

далеко. Але є щось головне, що зменшує цю величезну відстань між нами, що зближує нас - це велике бажання зберегти і передати наступному поколінню нашу духовну культуру, звичаї, традиції. А об'єднує нас наша рідна українська мова та мальовнича ненька-Україна.

І хочеться мені закінчити словами поета М. Парфьонова:

„Багато літ минуло з того часу,
Праправнуки вивчають „Заповіт“
У Каневі вклоняється Тарасу
Не тільки Україна - цілий світ“

Нам, молоді всього світу,
хто має українське коріння,
належить ширити добре ім'я
про Україну.



2006 after the Parliament Hill excursion by pan Gengalo



Before entering the Parliamentary shrine



Capital Region InfoCentre - gathering under the flag



Civil Serving - Andriy Oleniuk ta Yuliya Bura pered zus-trichchiu z senatorom Andriychuk



Coordinated away



CUPP 2006 awaiting their destiny in the Boryspil Airport - after being taken down from the broken plane



CUPPERS enjoying a BBQ party at pan Liubomyr's place



CUPPERS with professor Dominique Arel



Ihor Ponomarenko, Yuliya Bura, Krystyna Shust, Gayane Nurdjianian, Andriy Oleniuk



Georgi Tatarashvili, Vasyli Tsuha, Mykhaylo Vynogradskiy



Mykhaylo Zakryzhevskiy, Kateryna Obvintseva ta Gayane Nurdjianian (Parliament hill excursion with pan Gengalo)



Georgi Tararashvili on RCMP bike



Ihor Ponomarenko, Andriy Oleniuk, Mykhaylo Zakryzhevskiy on tour-de-CUPP 2006



Yuliya Bura, Inna Didenko, Ihor Ponomarenko, Andriy Oleniuk



Ihor Ponomarenko and Olha Zhdanova near Pierson statue



Andriy Oleniuk and Mykhaylo Zakryzhevskiy



Ihor Ponomarenko, Inna Didenko, Mykhaylo Vinogradskiy, Lidiya Syvko



I'm going to be first in the race! Mykhaylo Vinogradskiy on tour-de CUPP 2006



Klyuchar Maksym, Mykhaylo Zakryzhevskiy, Lidiya Syvko before concert "UKRAINIA"



It's raining, man! CUPP umbrella construction - contemporary art in the Parliament park



Meeting at the St. Paul's University



Sharing the experience (Olena Khadzhizhlova, Gayane Nuriidjanian, Kateryna Obvyntseva, Olha Zhdanova)



That's Yum! - Ihor Ponomarenko, Klyuchar Maksym, Anna Yablonska na BBQ party v pana Liubomyra



That's Yum! - Ihor Ponomarenko, Klyuchar Maksym, Anna Yablonska na BBQ party v pana Liubomyra



Mykola Pekh, Klyuchar Maksym ta Mykhaylo Zakryzhevskiy bilia Rideau Hall



CANADA-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY INTERNS

Mr. Speaker:



I wish to recognize 20 youthful delegates from Ukraine, who have visited with us for the past three weeks. They are here, in Members' offices, to gain valuable perspectives of Canada's most important democratic institution: the PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

These young people, representing the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program, embody the highest ideals of achievement and community service. They are the future leaders of Ukraine.

Young people, like OLGA ZHDANOVA, from my office.

Canada and Ukraine are inextricably linked forever by prior migration. Fully 1 in 30 Canadians are of Ukrainian descent, as are my wife and daughters.

Ukraine holds a special place in the hearts of Canadians. Canada was the first country in the western world to accord diplomatic recognition in 1990 to an independent Ukraine.

As the young emissaries depart, we wish them well and say to them:

Mhoran nital

Standing Order 31-106

October 5, 2006

Peter Golding

Member of Parliament

Edmonton East

CHAIR, CANADA-UKRAINE

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

