

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE №3, 2020/21

Global Diaspora  
Interview Project

MICHAEL  
SMERCONISH

ANDREW P. W.  
BENNETT

MARKO  
PAVLYSHYN

EUGENE Z.  
STAKHIV

ANDRIY  
SEMOTIUK

MYRON  
MOMRYK

SERHY  
YEKELCHYK

TETIANA  
DZULYNSKY

# 30<sup>th</sup>

ANNIVERSARY  
OF CUPP PROGRAM



CANADA-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM  
ПАРЛЯМЕНТАРНА ПРОГРАМА КАНАДА-УКРАЇНА  
PROGRAMME PARLIAMENTAIRE CANADA-UKRAINE







CUPP 2018 interns meet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the House of Commons foyer.

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## 1991 CANADA-UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM 2020

On July 16, 1990, the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR adopted the Declaration of Sovereignty, which declared that Parliament recognized the need to build the Ukrainian state based on the Rule of Law.

On August 24, 1991, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Declaration of Independence, which the citizens of Ukraine endorsed in the referendum of December 1, 1991. Also, in 1991, Canadians celebrated the Centennial of Ukrainian group immigration to Canada. To mark the Centennial, Canadian organizations planned programs and projects to celebrate this milestone in Canada's history.

The Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation of Toronto marked the Centennial by establishing in the Canadian Parliament, the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) for university students from Ukraine. CUPP gives Ukrainian students an opportunity to observe parliamentary democracy and government and gain experience from which generations of Canadian, American and West European students have benefited.

Since 1991 over 1,000 university students have participated in the CUPP internship programs and the Model Ukraine Conferences at universities in Ottawa, Toronto, Washington USA, Oxford UK, Lviv and Kyiv.

In its first year of operation in 1991, Chris Axworthy of the New Democratic Party welcomed Ivan Tkachenko as his Intern. Jesse Flis of the Liberal Party welcomed Maryana Drach as his Intern. Alan Redway of the Progressive Conservative Party welcomed Solomia Khmara as his Intern.

The 2020 CUPP program Canada's MPs will welcome Ukrainian students from universities in Ukraine, France, Germany, Slovakia, Norway, Turkey and Poland.

In 2020 CUPP will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of operation in Canada's Parliament.

*We are always open for  
cooperation with all  
CUPP interns!*

### Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation

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 CUPPCANADA  
[www.katedra.org](http://www.katedra.org)



Front cover depicts Ukraine's seat of Parliament in 1918-1921 on Volodymyrska Street in Kyiv, close to the Opera House.

The First Ukrainian Parliament proclaimed the establishment of the Ukrainian Republic, adopted the Constitution of Ukraine, chose the yellow and blue colours of the state flag, the Trident as the national emblem, adopted the law on the issuance of Ukrainian currency and approved the law on citizenship.



Kaspar Schultz of the University of Tartu, Estonia wrote: If Ukraine joined NATO, it is likely that Ukraine would have to sacrifice Crimea and possibly accept the sovereignty of Donbas. It is unlikely that all NATO countries would accept Ukraine as is. NATO members want their own security first and are willing to help others on the principle of solidarity. Ukraine, on the other hand, would immediately need security assistance to make their country whole again. Having to help out Ukraine is a certainty, which could come at a heavy cost for other member states.



Erik KUCHERENKO, CUPP 2022 applicant, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv replied:

Overall, I find it difficult to agree with Kaspar Schultz. I do understand his concern. Many NATO states are reluctant to run additional risks related to the ongoing war in Eastern Ukraine and Russian occupied Crimea. However, it is not necessarily an insurmountable obstacle. For example, Turkey, an important NATO member, has recently conducted a number of interventions into Syrian and Iraqi territories and participated in active warfare. These were not official NATO operations, nor were they unanimously supported by the Allies, yet it did not deprive Turkey of its right to protect its national interests. Besides, Turkey is also engaged in de facto control over Northern Cyprus, the United Kingdom is condemned by international community, including the International Court of Justice, for its occupation of the Chagos Archipelago, and Croatia, a recent NATO member, has territorial disputes with Serbia.

These examples show that Ukraine does not need to sacrifice its territories in exchange for NATO membership, especially taking into account that we are legitimately striving to return the territories recognized by the international community as an integral part of Ukraine. First, as has been shown above, this problem is more of a political nature than a strictly legal one, and can be resolved by negotiation and enhancing compatibility of Ukraine with NATO standards. Second, I believe that sacrificing Crimea

and Eastern Ukraine would mean abandoning the national idea of our statehood, which is, of course, unacceptable. Indeed, the population in these areas is less enthusiastic about the Euro Atlantic integration than people in other parts of Ukraine. However, this is a manageable issue which must be systematically tackled by the Ukrainian government. In the end, the Baltic states, being NATO members, also have big Russian minorities sceptical about NATO.

Finally, I agree that Ukraine's best strategy is to strengthen its military and economic power, make its voice heard both in the occupied territories and in the world, while exerting pressure on the Russian Federation together with the international community. Indeed, our strategy should be to 'ride out the Russian occupation' or, as another writer said, wait out the Russian support of the occupied territories. What I disagree with is that Russia may have enough time to prepare another attack. Actually, a new attack is likely to be met with strikingly harsh resistance both by the Ukrainian military and the West. Time is on our side, since sanctions are effective, however loudly Russian propaganda tries to deny their impact. This is why I believe that Ukraine should not be constantly afraid of a new attack. In fact, progress into Euro Atlantic integration will make a new attack even more costly for Moscow.





## Oleksandr AFANASIEV



**BORN IN:** Mariupol, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

**Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,**  
Master of Laws;

**Kyiv School of Economics,**  
Master of Public Policy and Administration.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Nassim Taleb "Skin in the Game".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Нація, котра мислить про світ і себе в ньому категоріями позиченої мови, неминуче мислить несамоостійно" - Оксана Забужко

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go" - Thomas Stearns Eliot

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Adele "Hometown Glory".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

**Old Podil, Ukraine.** Podil is a historic neighbourhood in Kyiv. It is located on floodplain terrace over Dnipro River between the Kyiv Hills and the lower stream of Pochaina River. Podil is one of the oldest neighbourhoods of Kyiv, and the birthplace of the city's trade, commerce and industry. After the Mongol invasion of Rus' and destruction of Kyiv, it served as a city centre until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Here the city administration (magistrate) and the main university were located, and later the city's port and shipyard were established here.



### CUPP at 30

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program is an opportunity to look back and evaluate the contribution that the Program has made to the development of Ukraine and its civil society. Over the past 30 years, the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program has educated dozens of young leaders giving rise to their professional and personal development. I am convinced that this contribution is invaluable because today the alumni of the Program are already members of the Ukrainian Parliament, Ukrainian Government and other governmental bodies. The knowledge and values that were provided to them during the Program in Canada are already reflected in their policies and government decisions. I believe that in the future the Program will have dozens of successful alumni for the benefit of Ukraine and its people.

## Evgenia BODAK



**BORN IN:** Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Leipzig, Germany.

**EDUCATION:** Yuri Fedkovych National University of Chernivtsi,  
Translation, English-Ukrainian;

**Leipzig University,** B.A. in American Studies.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, German, Russian, Polish.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Tim Marshall "Prisoners of Geography".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Бери од кожної пори свого життя те, що вона тобі пропонує. Вимагати од часу — і неумудро, і негідно, може. Але — і не пливи за течією. Будь собою — тобто, виробивши тверді орієнтири, що таке добро і що зло, виростай у їхньому магнітному полі, аби по ньому все в тобі скристалізувалося. Ідеал є один — добра і справедливості, чесності і любові. Іншого, мабуть, нема." - Василь Стус

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." - Barak Obama

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Donny Hathaway - "Jealous Guy";

Tyler, The Creator - "See You Again".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

Bakota is a picturesque scenery in Khmelnytskyi Oblast, the history of which captivates as much as its beauty. Being a submerged settlement, the village has been mentioned in historical chronicles since 1240 and nowadays lies beneath the Dnister River. The Bakota Cave Monastery on the coast of the Dnister River was preserved and shows frescoes and paintings dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today it shares a glimpse into the incredible past of Ukraine with its visitors. Bakota and the Bakota Cave Monastery are the places of historical, religious, national strength, and inspiration of Ukraine.



### CUPP at 30

The Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program has been offering an unbelievably valuable experience to the Ukrainian youth during the past thirty years. Let us make it thirty years more!

The influence of the Program is indescribable because CUPP initiates leadership, helps in building interpersonal connections and promotes Ukrainian heritage while actively implementing into its bright future. Providing proactive Ukrainians with an opportunity to learn, compare, communicate during the internship in a strong democratic government, the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program shows that motivated youth can and will get the ball rolling for the good future of our country. It lets us bring the experience back, and improve various parts of life in Ukraine through political, cultural, or academic ways. In addition, CUPP offers a safe space for those who want to gain new perspectives, meet like-minded people, and be inspired by the energy, knowledge, and experiences.

The Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program has made its name, as a one of a kind Internship Program abroad for Ukrainians. And nowadays having more than 500 alumni in the rows, it is strong and popular enough to continue existing long into the future. It is a great time to work for the better of Ukraine, therefore it is only the right time for CUPP to grow even more.





## Olha BOZHENKO



**BORN IN:** Myrhorod, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:** Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,

Institute of International Relations,  
BA in International Relations,  
MA in International Law, Interpreter from English.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian, French.

**LAST BOOKS READ:** John Bolton "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir"; Irvin D. Yalom "Becoming Myself: A Psychiatrist's Memoir", "Staring at the Sun: Overcoming the Terror of Death".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Адаптація - ворог щастя. Шукайте собі пристрасть у роботі - будете щасливі. Не завжди, але будете." - Микола Амосов

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"It's always darkest before the dawn" - Stephen King

"If there is any substitute for love, it is memory" - Joseph Brodsky

**FAVOURITE BOOKS:** Gary Romain "Promise at Dawn";  
Martin Buber "I and Thou";  
Ingmar Bergman "Private Confessions".

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:** Leonard Cohen - "Who by fire";  
Serj Tankian - "Forget me Knot";  
Helloween - "A Tale that Wasn't Right";  
Guns N' Roses - "This I Love".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

**Velyka Bahachka town, Poltava region.** This is the picture of 'Bila Altanka' ('White Arbour') located in my native place Velyka Bahachka in Poltava region. Even though I was born in Myrhorod, I have spent my whole life in this little town located at the very heart of Ukraine. 'Velyka Bahachka' literally means "The Great Wealthy". Actually, one could have hardly given a more apt name for a place so rich in generosity, fairness and beauty. Each and every time I come back to my home place, I feel the wealthiest person on the Earth as I am enriched with harmony and relieved of anxiety. Beyond a doubt, no visitor can leave this town without feeling his or her heart a little bit more full with encouragement. The place in the picture has nothing to do with the historical sites, even though Velyka Bahachka can be proud of plenty. Still, this very spot on the top of the mountain — the latter brooding above river Psol — seems to hang in the air as a glimpse of tranquility and permanence.



### CUPP at 30

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program is, first of all, a reminder and recognition of the extraordinary tremendous work done to bring Ukraine a bit closer to its well deserved place in the contemporary world-step by step, person by person. Beyond any doubt, there is no CUPP participant who has not been radically transformed or moved by this experience of touching the Canadian democracy, the unique culture. Since, in the aftermath, all such people-enriched and inspired-go back to make a change to Ukraine, I see no better role for the CUPP in the years to follow than keeping on expanding the horizons for the exceptional people, potential change-makers. To be able to contribute for the benefit of a country, one must him- or herself be enriched. CUPP has always been about personal and professional enrichment and should remain so.

## Iryna BOZHESKU



**BORN IN:** Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

Yuri Fedkovych National University of Chernivtsi,  
Bachelor in Philology.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:**

English, French, Romanian, Russian.

**LAST BOOK READ:**

Margaret Thatcher "Statecraft: Strategies for a Changing World".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Кожен є той, чиє серце в нім: вовче серце – справдешний вовк, хоч обличчя людське; серце боброве – бобер, хоч вигляд вовчий; серце вепрове – вепр, хоч подоба бобра." - Григорій Сковорода

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." - Soren Kierkegaard

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Nena "Irgendwie, irgendwo, irgendwann".

**FAVOURITE CANADIAN LANDSCAPE:**

I may seem mundane, but in the light of recent events it is important that we talk more about our natural heritage which is being taken away from us. Ukraine is one of the most naturally diverse countries in the world in terms of flora and fauna yet thousands of animals and plants go extinct because of man's endless ambitions. It is time we stopped making everything about ourselves and started caring more about the environment which is now in jeopardy. I cannot bear the thought of whole ecosystems having to suffer because of us and I know many Ukrainians stand in solidarity with this cause. [#savekarpaty](#) [#savetheplanet](#)



### CUPP at 30

The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program has proven how a whole generation of CUPP alumni can reshape Ukraine's history. This program helps to raise intercultural awareness and strengthen the ties between our fraternal nations.

It is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to observe and participate in the ongoing process of justice being carried out.

I believe every CUPP intern's goal is to acquire a more global perspective reflected in the Canadian parliamentary system and implement it in the Ukrainian politics for the betterment of our communities. So far, commendable outcomes have been achieved and I am honored to even be able to apply for this program.



## Pavlo CHERKASHYN



**BORN IN:** Boryspil, Kyiv region, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Boryspil, Kyiv region, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:** National Aviation University,  
B.A., M.A. in International Law;

**College of Europe,**  
M.A. in EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian, French, German.

**LAST BOOK READ:** James Stavridis "Sea Power".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Учіться, читайте, і чужому навчайтесь, й свого не цурайтесь."  
- Тарас Шевченко.

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution." - Albert Einstein.

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Gioachino Rossini "William Tell Overture".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:** St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery in Kyiv was built in the Middle Ages by Sviatopolk II Izyaslavych and improved in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, harmoniously combining original Ukrainian baroque and Byzantine styles. Demolished by the Soviet authorities in the 1930s, it was reconstructed and re-opened in 1999. Its resurrection might symbolize re-establishment of Ukrainian independence in 1991. The Monastery is named after the protector of Kyiv Archangel St. Michael and guards Ukrainian faith, being the main premise of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine since 2019. It also preserves the memory of modern heroes of Ukraine, whose pictures are on its external walls. It neighbors the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The monastery's colors remind a blue sky with white clouds and golden sun, creating a joyful mood throughout the year. It faces its elder brother St. Sophia Cathedral and shows us amazing views over the Dnipro river that opens from its surroundings. A truly legendary and inspiring place!



### CUPP at 30

Celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program is a tremendous achievement, shaping a new generation of Ukrainian leaders that has emerged and made a positive impact on the country's democratic transition since the re-establishment of its independence in 1991. However, Ukraine's democratic way continues: it enjoys progress, but faces serious challenges... It still has a huge amount of work to be done, it still calls for numerous bright young minds with a can-do approach. CUPP transforms mindsets and facilitates ideas by getting young people acquainted with Canada's success story. CUPP provides that inspiring light reflected in the eyes of youth, who were born without experiencing Soviet life, and wants Ukraine to be a modern sustainable democracy with strong institutions and rule of law, innovative and entrepreneurial economy. CUPP serves an important bridge between Canada and Ukraine, which relations have much more potential than have already been achieved. People to people contacts, discovering and learning by doing experience, joint initiatives are great investments that CUPP contributes into Ukraine's future and the bilateral partnership. I strongly support CUPP and truly believe this precious program will once celebrate its centenary.

## Denys DMYTRENKO



**BORN IN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

**University of Tartu, Estonia,** Faculty of Science  
and Technology, Master (2017-2020),  
Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs scholarship recipient;

**Erasmus+ exchange at Charles University in Prague,  
Czech Republic** (2019);

**Erasmus+ exchange at Palacky University Olomouc,  
Czech Republic** (2018-2019);

**University of Bremen, Germany – exchange student** (2016),  
DAAD grant;

**Kyiv National Economic University,** Economics and  
Management Faculty, Bachelor in Enterprise Economics  
(2013-2017);

**EU Study Days in Ukraine alumni** (2017).

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Czech, Russian, Slovak, Estonian.

**LAST BOOKS READ:** Aldous Huxley "Brave New World";  
Andriy Kuzmenko "Me, Pashtyet and Army".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Борітеся - побороете" - Тарас Шевченко

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" - Julius Rosenwald

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

ТНМК "Файна Юкраїна";  
Тартак "Я не хочу бути героєм України";  
Oasis "Whatever";  
Воплі Відоплясова "Країна мрій"

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

**Hills on a right bank of Dnipro in Kyiv.** Especially in places where  
Volodymyrska hill, Funicular and newly built bridge are. Also in Pechersk,  
where big Botanical Garden is.



### CUPP at 30

CUPP is the only exchange program for Ukrainians I know, which is organized and financed not by governments of Western countries, but by the Ukrainian diaspora itself.

We can observe democratic and developed society, and clearly see the goal – what future Ukraine should look like. I can tell from my experience, that getting scholarship and studying in Estonia changed my life, because Estonia is a great example for Ukraine. The same for Canada. Ukraine, in turn, is the example for all other post-Soviet countries.

I think that program should continue. It's vital for Ukrainian youth to see good examples of governance and learn. Strong and democratic Ukraine is beneficial for Canada and all the Western world.





## Vladyslav DOBROKHLIB



**BORN IN:** Mykolaiv, Mykolaiv Oblast.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy,**  
Bachelor of Political Science '23;

**Ukrainian Leadership Academy '18,** Alumnus.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian,  
German (basic), Turkish (basic).

**LAST BOOK READ:** Hans Rosling, Anna Rosling Rönnlund, Ola Rosling  
"Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World-and Why  
Things Are Better Than You Think".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Не той дурний, хто не знає... але той, хто знати не хоче." - Григорій Сковорода

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"We shall always be a small minority in the world, but, when a small nation accomplishes something with its limited means, what it achieves has an immense and exceptional value, like the widow's mite. It is a deliberate and discerning love of a nation that appeals to me, not the indiscriminate love that assumes everything to be right because it bears a national label. Love of one's own nation should not entail non-love of other nations. Institutions by themselves are not enough." - Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

Erik Satie – "Gymnopédie No.3";  
Dakh Daughters - "Rozy / Donbass".

### FAVOURITE CANADIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Kinburn Spit** is a beautiful natural area in Mykolaiv oblast. It is washed by the salty waters of the Black Sea and the freshwaters of the Dniro-Buh estuary simultaneously which creates unique conditions for nature. A significant number of endemics, rare, and endangered species of protected plants can be observed there. About 60 species found here are recorded in the Ukrainian Red List. There are many lakes in the central part of the peninsula, both fresh and salt, surrounded by coniferous and deciduous forests.



## CUPP at 30

During the last 30 years, the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) is positively impacting Ukraine by encouraging and supporting new Ukrainian emerging leaders by allowing them to learn how democratic institutions work from the inside. And while now there are over 1,000 alumni, we already can see them in the frontier of democratic changes in Ukraine through the sphere of business, creating new educational approaches and as members of Verkhovna Rada.

But moreover, I see CUPP as a bridgebuilder for Ukrainians as it has created a connection between our communities and has given us a unique understanding that Ukrainians are global citizens. And I believe that now it should be working as a two-way connection by providing a possibility for the Diaspora to have an internship in Verkhovna Rada and bring Ukrainians together. Now, more than ever, we need that cooperation in order to create a democratic and prosperous Ukraine.

## Dariia HARNYK



**BORN IN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Lishnya, Ternopil oblast, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**Ukrainian Leadership Academy 2017,**  
Western NIS Enterprise Fund scholarship recipient;

**Ukrainian Catholic University,**  
Bachelor of the program "Ethics.Politics.Economics" 2021,  
Academic Scholarship "Believe in yourself" recipient 2017/19,  
Academic Scholarship Adrian Slyvotskyi, recipient 2019/20.

**Florida Gulf Coast University,**  
Bachelor of Political sciences 2021,

**Global UGRAD** 2019 Scholarship recipient 2020,  
Southern Scholarship Foundation recipient 2020,  
Eastern European Linkage Institute scholarship recipient 2020.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, German, Spanish, Russian.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Robert Pirsig "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Racing".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Іван Багряний" - Іван Багряний

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"In any right action there should be joy from its accomplishment, passion, naked feeling and keen attention. Life is when death is behind the shoulder. If you are safe, you are not learning." - Slava Kurilov

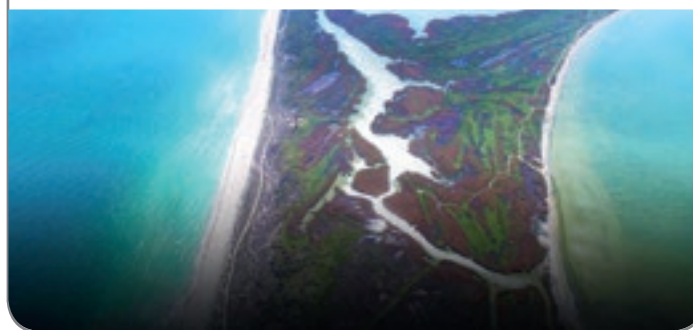
### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

Vance Joy - "Riptide".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Tuzly Lagoons National Nature Park** is a Protected area located in Tatarbunary Rayon of Odesa Oblast, southern Ukraine in the interfluvium of the Danube and the Dniester. The length of the embankment that separates the estuaries from the sea is 36 km, its width in different areas varies from 50 to 350-400 meters.

There is a research center in the structure of the park, where the flora and fauna of the region are studied. More than 700 of fauna species and 260 birds under surveillance of the most popular botanists and ornithologists of Ukraine.



## CUPP at 30

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) is a perfect time to seize the opportunity to meet upcoming challenges together with the perspective of co-creation.

The relationships between these countries should expand from diplomatic support to stable connections in terms of education, organizations, and business. We should make our own Sustainable Development Goals which we will accomplish in the next decade. For instance, we can establish an internship program for Canadian students in the Verkhovna Rada, pursue academic and professional exchanges between countries, advocate for CUFTA and non-visa agreement, as well as for affordable business cooperation between countries in terms of taxes. This anniversary is an accomplishment of the sign of power we have in our hands to make a change.



## Kseniia HLADKIKH



**BORN IN:** Donetsk, Ukraine

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:** Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,  
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv;

**McMaster University,**  
Master of Arts in Sociology candidate;

**University of Wyoming** (Global UGRAD scholarship) -  
exchange semester, 2017.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Spanish, Russian.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Dale Carnegie "How to Win Friends  
and Influence People".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"А ви думали, що Україна так просто. Україна – це супер. Україна – це ексклюзив. По ній пройшли всі катки історії. На ній відпрацьовані всі види випробувань. Вона загартована найвищим гартотом. В умовах сучасного світу їй немає ціни" - Ліна Костенко.

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Michael "Jackson Earth Song";  
Whitney Houston "I Will Always Love You".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

**Sviatohirsk Lavra.** Among the chalk hills covered with the relict forest of the Holy Mountains National Nature Park, on the right bank of the Donets River lies the architectural ensemble of the Sviatohirsk Lavra. To get to the top of the cliff you have to walk more than a kilometer through caves that were carved in chalk more than a thousand years ago. During the Soviet period, the temples were destroyed by the Bolsheviks. After the fall of the USSR, the monastery was restored, and all temples, caves and surviving buildings were returned to the Lavra. Sviatohirsk is a resort of Donetsk region. Before the beginning of the Russian aggression, it was a mecca for Donetsk residents, who would come here to enjoy the glorious view of the Lavra, located on the slopes of the picturesque chalk mountains overlooking the river.



### CUPP at 30

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CUPP combined with the achievements of alumni speaks volumes about the success of the program. This is a new opportunity to strengthen Canada-Ukraine relations. Over the thirty years, outstanding Ukrainian youth has been able to acquire hands-on experience in the Canadian parliament and explore the best democracy practices. A great network of thinkers and leaders has been created. It would now be beneficial to give Canadian Ukrainian youth the opportunity to dive in their Ukrainian heritage and see how the government operates in Ukraine. It is my impression that oftentimes Ukrainian Canadians have a somewhat distant idea about how Ukrainian structures work and why Ukraine is experiencing difficulties. This opportunity would bring both cultures closer, and allow to fill in the gaps and further mutual understanding and cooperation.

## Diana HORBATIUK



**BORN IN:** Rivne, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Warsaw, Poland.

**EDUCATION:**  
**Lazarski & Coventry University,**  
Faculty of Economics and Management,  
International Relations & European Studies, 2022;

**Ukrainian Leadership Academy,**  
alumnus, 2017;

**Computer Science Academy "STEP",**  
Speciality Web-design and graphics, 2018.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian, Polish, French (basic).

**LAST BOOK READ:** Michelle Obama "Becoming"

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Любіть Україну у сні й наяву, вишневу свою Україну, красу її вічно живу і нову і мову її солов'їну." - В.Восюра

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires" - Nelson Mandela

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Kodaline - All I want;  
Jay-Z - Empire State of Mind.

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

The Carpathians are certainly a place of power for many Ukrainians. It is the epicenter of Ukraine's rural folk culture as well as the number one holiday destination for numerous international travelers. You can observe incredible mountain lakes, fresh air of dense pine forests and adorable alpine villages. The local peaks are very popular with hikers and skiers. So far, a place of inspiration for soul and harmony. Special emotions when you feel the full grandeur of the earth and try to remember every second being 100% happy.



### CUPP at 30

Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program offers immeasurable value for the most powerful young leaders with pro-Western views. They are professional and ethical, active in public and political life, with proper values and a clear vision of Ukraine. With an increasingly connected world, students are building stronger cooperation between Ukraine and Canada. Significantly, there is a need to mention the constructive role of the diaspora. The program helps to expand cross-cultural understanding, increase global awareness and understanding the impact of global trends on local economies and local communities.

Alumni communities for almost 30 years have demonstrated drive, passion and a willingness to step outside of comfort zones for the better development of Ukraine as an independent and democratic country! So far, Ukrainians are grateful for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and wish the CUPP program further prosperity!





## Daryna HRYHORIAK



**BORN IN:** Marynychy, Chernivtsi region.

**HOMETOWN:** Vyzhnytsia, Chernivtsi region.

### EDUCATION:

**Lviv Polytechnic National University,**  
Faculty of International Relations.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, German (basic), Russian.

### LAST BOOK READ:

Jonathan Safran "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Ми досі ще рятуємо дистрофію тіл, а за прогресуючу дистрофію душ - нам байдуже." - Василь Стус

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"Get it down. Take chances. It may be bad, but it's the only way you can do anything really good." - William Faulkner

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDINGS:

John Legend "All of me";  
Coldplay "Don't Panic".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Tract of Protyate kaminnya (Sokolyne oko).** This tract is located in the Roztoky village, so-called "Bukovynian Switzerland" which is one of the 19 unique villages in Ukraine. Sokolyne oko is a giant stone arch that resembles the eye from the downward view. The eye is located in a rock about 40 meters high. Protyate kaminnya is a group of rocks formed of broken layers of sandstone and permeated with various holes and passages inside, large boulders with caves. The best view can be spotted at the top of Sokolyne oko.



## CUPP at 30

CUPP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shows us that one person can really make changes. The opportunity that Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program gives Ukrainian youth and Ukraine overall had been proven for 30 years. Now, when Ukraine is facing especially hard times, the chance to observe, how government structures work in one of the most democratic, economically developed, and with tight Ukrainian connection countries of the world is truly underestimated by the Ukrainian government. As Canada was always there to bond with Ukraine, this is also a good chance for the Canadian community to establish such ties.

I hope that in the next 30 years CUPP will thrive. I hope that Ukrainian government should become the first sponsor of CUPP. I also believe that in the next 30 years alumni of CUPP almost all of which are prominent people in Ukraine and abroad will help with donations so the program can expand. I think that during the last 30 years Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program was able to bring up a whole generation of young, motivated, and patriotic Ukrainians. So, we should remember the past in order to reach the highest peak in the future!

## Anna ILIASHENKO



**BORN IN:** Pischane village,  
Kremenchuk district,  
Poltava oblast, Ukraine.



### HOMETOWN:

Kyiv, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,** Master of Laws.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES:

English, Russian.

### LAST BOOK READ:

Good strategy, Bad strategy "Good strategy, Bad strategy".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Єдиний, хто не втомлюється, - час. А ми живі, нам треба поспішати" - Ліна Костенко

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"Everything you can imagine is real." - Pablo Picasso

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

Pablo Picasso "Де би я";  
Sting "Shape of my heart".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Stanislavkyi cliffs, Kherson oblast.** It is the place where Stanislavkyi nature reserve with an area about 700 hectares is located. Incredible landscapes attract people from all over Ukraine. Historians suggest that in ancient times there was the temple of the ancient Greek goddess Demeter, which was worshiped by the inhabitants of Olbia.



## CUPP at 30

It is the place where Stanislavkyi nature reserve with an area about 700 hectares is located. Incredible landscapes attract people from all over Ukraine. Historians suggest that in ancient times there was the temple of the ancient Greek goddess Demeter, which was worshiped by the inhabitants of Olbia.



## Olena KOKHAN



### BORN IN:

Odesa, Ukraine.

### HOMETOWN:

Odesa, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**Odesa National Academy of Food Technologies,**  
Master of Economic 2019.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, German, Russian.

### LAST BOOK READ BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

Francis Fukuyama "Political Order and Political Decay: From the Industrial Revolution to the Globalization of Democracy".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Сміливі завжди мають щастя." - Іван Багряний

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"Our mind is enriched by what we receive, our heart by what we give" - Victor Hugo

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

Scorpions "Wind of Change".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Odesa** Odesa is one of the most picturesque cities in Ukraine with its rich history, architecture and culture. The unique sights of Odesa cause genuine interest and admiration. Who would not want to visit the places that Babel described with such tenderness and mischief in his famous Odesa stories. Odesa is a Napoleon cake from a dozen historical layers, an open-air museum with a constantly changing exposition. And although Odesa, in comparison with other European cities, is a rather young lady, she is a little over 200 years old, but over the years so many different traditions, mentality, cultures have given her their souls, put their memory in it, left a trace that the city has become a truly unique patchwork quilt and you can go through all this mosaic endlessly.



### CUPP at 30

30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canada-Ukraine parliamentary program is an opportunity to look back at the CUPP experience and the huge impact of the Program on people, society and country. CUPP created a network of critical thinkers and leaders who were at the forefront of democratic transformations in Ukraine.

The anniversary is an opportunity to see how CUPP alumni, working in the public and non-governmental sector, have developed projects and initiatives aimed at combating an outdated and corrupt system. This is a chance to mention the progress in Canadian-Ukrainian relations and the development of some plans for the future. And, finally, this is a reason to be always there and to form that unified force that will continue the mission of Mr. Bardyn since 1991 to develop Ukraine and Ukrainian youth.

## Danylo LESHNEVSKYI



**BORN IN:** Lviv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Lviv, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**National University of Ostroh Academy,**  
Faculty of Political Studies and Information Management,  
Bachelor of Political Science (2020).  
Currently on the Master's program.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian, Polish, German.

### LAST BOOK READ:

John P. Kotter "Matsushita Leadership".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Мрія дає нуль, якщо її не зробити життям." - Григор Тютюнник

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"The wider your embrace, the easier it is to crucify you." - Friedrich Nietzsche

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

The Game (feat. 50 Cent) "Hate it or Love it";  
Ramin Djawadi "The Night King"  
Hans Zimmer "Time"

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Zalishchyky** is a small resort town with a population of less than 10 thousand people located in a picturesque valley on the left bank of the Dnister River. It looks like that the Dnister River dances around this unique town situated in the south of Ternopil region. It may even seem that just a little more and the river is going to strangle the town. Due to the high banks of the Dnister River, Zalishchyky has a climate close to the Mediterranean.



### CUPP at 30

This year 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CUP Program has not only the unifying value for the alumni and post-covid time participants, at the same time this event will vividly demonstrate the path that was paved by CUPP in creating a strong & supportive two-sided partnership.

Over the years, the program remains a fantastic learning experience and a tremendous stepping-stone into the decision-making environment and processes. An inclusion into the parliamentary activity of Canada is a key to understanding how the head democratic institutes provide stability of the political system, how the power of the state in the field of international relations is formed, and what is more important for Ukraine, - this is a perfect example of how a state should cooperate with civil society. Democratic transit is made in many ways, and this Program is one of them, because it enriches the growing number of young Ukrainian leaders who will be able to share their acquired experience, practical solutions and knowledge, at the same time making Ukraine a truly democratic state and developing unparalleled network between Canada and Ukraine.





## Alina MARCHENKO



**BORN IN:** Torez, Donets'ka oblast, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:** Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Institute of International Relations, Bachelor's degree in International Relations, Specialist in Translation (French) 2018;



University of Strasbourg - Sciences Po Strasbourg, Master's degree in Social and Political Sciences.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian, French.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Chin-Ning Chu "Thick Face, Black Heart: The Warrior Philosophy for Conquering the Challenges of Business and Life".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Чужа душа – то, кажуть, темний ліс." - Ліна Костенко

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"No" – it is "yes" in perspective." - (Unknown)

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:** Eternal Eclipse "Dawn of Faith".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

Svyati Hory or Slovianohirsk is a town in Donetsk oblast, Ukraine. The town experienced the Tatar-Mongol invasion in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and the local legends tell that their gold is still hidden in Svyati Hory. Besides, the Holy Mountains monastery was established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the Tatar-Mongol's gold has never been found. Since the beginning of war in Donbas in 2014, Slovianohirsk has never been controlled by the pro-Russian forces. As for me, this town remains a symbol of liberty, freedom and peace. The heritage of national importance includes the Holy Dormition Sviatohirsk Lavra, the Holy Mountains National Park as well as the number of other historical and architectural objects, hidden in the divine forests.



### CUPP at 30

The CUPP needs to be continued in the nearest future, as it has a unique value for the preparation of young and promising leaders for the Ukrainian government. It is a unique example of the Ukrainian partisan story that can be considered as a symbol of democracy, freedom of expression, academic excellence and professional performance. Such a powerful training in the multicultural environment can nurture the next generations of Ukrainians and provide them with a particular international experience. I do not doubt that the CUPP program can be transformed into an official Ukrainian parliamentary program, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Referring to the practices of the Members of the European Union and other liberal states, the CUPP initiative can be viewed as an alternative to eventual internships within renowned European institutions, such as the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Council and others. Thus, we are likely to implement similar educational practices for young and promising candidates at the governmental level to foster their personal and professional development.

## Daria MENSHAKOVA



**BORN IN:** Dnipro, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Dnipro, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:** Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, International Relations, Master with honours;



Le Mans Université, Management des Affaires Internationales, Master 2.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, French, Spanish, Russian.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Laurent Gounelle "Les Dieux voyagent toujours incognito".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"...свобода – то не пошук, не боротьба, не втеча і не протистояння. Свобода – це достатність" - Надійка Гербіш

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'" - Audrey Hepburn

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Океан Ельзи "Така, як ти";

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

Lviv is the largest city in western Ukraine, with a population of 755 800 as of 2020. Lviv is one of the main cultural and spiritual centres of Ukraine. It is one of the principal education centres of Ukraine, where many institutions of higher education are situated. Its higher institutions, location, cultural life and unique beauty make the city highly attractive for Ukrainian youth as well as European tourists. Lviv is also the home of the outstanding Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet. The historic city centre is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The old town of Lviv (stare misto Lvova) is an elegant fusion of ancient traditions together with modern life. Live music and tango milongas give a special charm and emphasize the beauty of an old city.



### CUPP at 30

At its 30 the CUPP impersonate its delegates: young, ambitious, eager to learn new and develop for the better future of Ukraine and Canada. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a time to honour the years of fruitful cooperation and look into the future. Today is the time to determine the nearest goals and move forward. There is no debt the Program should continue because it is an incredible opportunity for youth to learn international affairs and to develop democracy in Ukraine on the example of Canada.

Regrettably, Verkhovna Rada's Internship Program is outdated, so the thing that may breathe life into it could be cooperation with the CUPP or joint international internship programs. Today many Ukrainian universities have faculties, dedicated to political and social sciences as Sciences Po, nevertheless the most significant thing is the quality of such education. The CUPP made a great effort to train young executives for Ukraine and can share such an experience with Ukraine.



## Ivan PARAMONOV



**BORN IN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:** Ukrainian Catholic University,  
MA in Nonprofit Management.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, French (basic),  
Arabic (pre-intermediate), Russian.

**LAST BOOK READ:**

Yuval Noah Harari "Homo Deus".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Як добре те, що смерті не боюсь я  
і не питаю, чи тяжкий мій хрест.  
Що вам, боже, низько не клонюся  
в передчутті недовідомих верств.  
Що жив-любив і не набрався скверни,  
ненависті, прокльону, каяття.  
Народе мій, до тебе я ще верну,  
і в смерті обернуся до життя." - Василь Стус

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at  
the men he has around him" - Niccolò Machiavelli, The Prince.

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Pink Floyd "Echoes", "Atom Heart Mother", "High Hopes";  
Kraftwerk "Radioactive";  
Creedence Clearwater Revival "Fortunate Son";  
The Rolling Stones "Paint it black";  
The Cranberries "Zombie";  
System of a Down "Soldier Side";  
Ludwig van Beethoven "Moonlight sonata"(first and third play).

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

I have been thinking for a long time about the question of my favorite  
place in Ukraine, because I have visited all regions and I love canyons, the  
Carpathian Mountains and the Crimean Black Sea equally well. However,  
my favorite place is the "Dykyj Step" or the "Wild Steppe" - a place  
where Ukrainian identity has been forged for centuries. My favorite  
place is the steppes between Bakhmut and Lysychansk, the two oldest  
cities in the Ukrainian Donbass. It was here that the extreme Cossack  
outposts separated them from the eastern territories, and now the line of  
demarcation with the so-called people's republics passes. The steppe is  
harsh, but impresses with its atmosphere of freedom and infinity. This is  
where I really felt in love with Ukraine.



### CUPP at 30

The 30-year history of the CUPP program is a history of inspiration,  
dedication and vision of people who did not duplicate projects once  
or twice, but built institutions that will have a long-term impact. A  
real program that year after year builds a new generation of Ukrainian  
leaders who, through their words and actions, change Ukraine every  
day, adopting the best practices of democratic societies, Canada in this  
case. There are enough good tacticians in our country, but not so many  
strategists. Without strategic thinking, no state will have a future, which  
is why the CUPP program, based on its own 30-year history and visionary  
thinking of director Ihor Bardin, shows us how and in what categories to  
think to build a quality society and a prosperous Ukraine.

## Yuliya POLYUKHOVYCH



**BORN IN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy  
(Bachelor of Laws);

Erasmus in the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, French,  
German (intermediate), Russian.

**LAST BOOK READ:** J. Grisham "The Reckoning".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"З усіх втрат втрата часу найтяжча." - Григорій Сковорода

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"In times of war, the law falls silent." - Marcus Tullius Cicero

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Ludovico Einaudi "Une mattina";  
Khrystyna Soloviy "Hamerytskyi Kray".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

**The Pidhirtsi Castle** remains in my memory as an enchanting spot,  
which preserves the charm of the Renaissance and guards its spirit of  
the historical past. The purpose of fortification is well embodied in the  
castle, which endured numerous battles meanwhile the luxuriously  
decorated halls of the palace hosted balls with European senior  
officials. I particularly remarked this place as it reflects the history of  
Western Ukraine. The fortress was constructed as a masterpiece of the  
architecture of the baroque epoch on request of the Polish-Lithuanian  
Commonwealth's Grand Crown Hetman Stanisław Koniecpolski. During  
Soviet times, a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients was created in  
the palace. Since independence the renovative works are carried to  
reveal the gilded ceilings, royal portraits and exquisite chandeliers and  
transform into a gallery. The castle rests as an inseparable part of the  
landscape as it gives an endless view on the vast fields and enigmatic  
forest surrounding it.







## Marta POPYK



**BORN IN:** Lviv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

**National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy",**  
Law Faculty, Bachelor of Laws.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian, German (basic),  
French (basic).

**LAST BOOK READ:**

Milan Kundera "The Unbearable Lightness of Being".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Людина - це обов'язок, а не титул... Людина - твориться, самонароджується. Власне, хто Ти є поки що? Кавалок глини сирової, пластичної. Бери цей кавалок у обидві жмені і мни - доти, поки з нього не вийде щось тверде, окреслене, перем'яте. Уяви, що Бог, який творить людей, то Ти є сам. Ти є Бог. Отож, як Бог самого себе, мни свою глину в руках, поки не відчуєш під мозолями кремінь." - Василь Стус

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication." - Leonardo da Vinci

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Viken Arman "Hope";  
Назарій Яремчук "Озовися".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

In the village of Myhiia, the Pivdennyi Buh River forms a narrow canyon with picturesque islands. This canyon is one of the rafting centres of Ukraine. Apparently, nowhere else are there so many rocky islands in the middle of the Pivdennyi Buh. The name of the village comes from the Greek word emigia, which means "my land". Historian A. Shalkovskyi confirmed that Myhiia is the birthplace of the legendary Kozak Mamai. It is said that there was a wooden church built by the Kozaks without using a single nail.



### CUPP at 30

In 30 more years, I imagine CUPP to be more of an exchange program rather than an internship opportunity for Ukrainians. By that time Ukraine will become a leading prosperous European democracy with a developed economy and high-tech industries. The Canadian students would compete for the place in the Ukrainian Parliament as eagerly as Ukrainians do for the internship in the Canadian Parliament. Ukrainian parliamentary culture will be progressive and innovative. It will provide new insights as well as boost creative solutions for modern challenges.

Ukrainian and Canadian CUPP alumni will meet annually on a summit to share their success stories and inspire new accomplishments. Together they will brainstorm ways to solve not only local but also global problems.

## Taras PRODANIUK



**BORN IN:**

Shypintsi, Chernivtsi oblast, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:**

Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

**Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,**  
Institute of International Relations (Bachelor, Full-time);

**Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University,**  
Law Faculty (Part-time study);

**Young Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.**

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:**

Russian, English, French, German (beginner), Romanian (beginner).

**LAST BOOK READ:**

Daniel Smith "How to think like Churchill".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Або мільйони думок змінюють нас, або ми змінюємо цей світ." - Іван Дорн

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"We walk the same path, but got on different shoes, live in the same building, but we got different views." - Aubrey Drake Graham

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

L'ONE & Monatik "Сон".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

**Moraine lake** in Canada. is one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. I have no words but emotion.



### CUPP at 30

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program is an opportunity to acquire invaluable experience.

The internship in the Canadian Parliament offers a chance to get acquainted with the parliamentary system of one of the most developed countries in the world. The experience I will gain, I can later implement in Ukraine in various forms. I would be able to acquaint Ukrainians in detail about how the basic principles of Parliament democracy works in other countries.

Secondly, it is an opportunity to build a bridge between the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada and Ukraine, develop our civic positions, and maximally promote the creation of Ukrainian civil society, which will create the basic principles of the rule of law in Ukraine.



## Solomiia ROMANENKO



**BORN IN:** Lviv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

**National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy",**  
BA in Political Science.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian, Polish (A2), German (A1).

**LAST BOOK READ:**

Anthony Doerr "All the light we cannot see".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Коли поміж хлібом і свободою народ обирає хліб, він зрештою втрачає все, в тому числі і хліб. Якщо народ обирає свободу, він матиме хліб, вирощений ним самим і ніким не відібраний." - Степан Бандера

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Don't give yourselves to these unnatural men - machine men with machine minds and machine hearts! You are not machines! You are not cattle! You are men! You, the people, have the power to make this life free and beautiful, to make this life a wonderful adventure. Then - in the name of democracy - let us use that power - let us all unite." - Charlie Chaplin's speech from the "Dictator" movie.

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Pink Floyd "Wish you were here";  
The Cure "Faith";  
Paolo Nutini "Iron Sky";  
Kings of Leon "The end";  
The Pixies "Where is my mind";  
Olafur Arnalds "So far";  
Ludovico Einaudi "Una Mattina", "Nuvole Bianche".

**FAVOURITE LANDSCAPE:**

**Bakhchisaray Palace or Khan's Palace** was a home to the Giray dynasty of Crimean Khans. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the palace served as a residency up until 1783, when Catherine II annexed the Crimean peninsula and made it part of the Russian Empire. Despite the fact that the Palace was burnt down by Russians in 1736 and was completely redecorated during the Soviets, it is still the gem of the Crimean-Tatars architecture. It's a perfect example of how diverse, unique and vast our Ukraine is, how it welcomes every religion and ethnicity and makes them feel at home.



### CUPP at 30

This year CUPP celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary - for the first time, but definitely not for the last. Thirty years from now we will talk of CUPP as a program that educated and nourished Ukrainian leaders, who fought for and secured the right of Ukraine to be the part of EU and NATO, who eradicated corruption and finally freed the Ukrainian government from the masquerade of old faces always in the new disguises.

CUPP will educate leaders, whose social formation took place around the values of the Revolution of Dignity, who saw the time when their national identity thrived and the whole nation united to fight the enemy. CUPP will nurture those leaders, who went to Canada not to see their options, but because Western model is the only possible option. And those future CUPP generations will never take the step back - towards our Eastern "neighbor".

## Olha RUDA



**BORN IN:**

Velyki Mosty, Lviv oblast, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:**

Kyiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

**Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,**  
Master of International Relations, 2019;

**University of Warsaw,**

European Studies (Polish Erasmus for Ukraine program);

**Future Leaders Exchange Program,**

Alumna of 2010-2011, Michigan, USA.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Polish, Russian, German (basic), Hebrew (basic).

**LAST BOOK READ:** Michael Sandel "Justice. What Is the Right Thing to Do".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Лупайте сю скалу!" - Іван Франко

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Be the change you want to see in the world." - Mohandas Gandhi

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Coldplay "The Scientist".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

**The Smotrych River Canyon** is a steep rocky valley of the Smotrych river that encircles the city of Kamyanets-Podilsky and a few adjacent villages. To me, it embodies the synergy of the beauty and power of nature



### CUPP at 30

I hope that the future CUPP triennium will come with an even more holistic approach to shaping the new generation of proactive Ukrainians. And that might mean expanding the scope of the Program from the Canadian Parliament internship alone to internships in Canadian mass media, local governments, and NGOs. But what is more, the coming three decades could turn the Program into the two-way street, so to say, helping young Ukrainians from the diaspora to intern in Ukrainian governmental and civil society bodies, rediscovering Ukraine in its modern context.

And I am sure that of great support to this cause would be the growing community of CUPP alumni, willing to give-back and scale the impact.





## Marharyta STERLIKOVA



**BORN IN:** Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:**

**Yuri Fedkovych National University of Chernivtsi,**  
2 Bachelor in Philology 2014, Master in Philology 2015,  
PhD (currently) 2021;



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** Bachelor in Philology 2014,  
Master in Philology 2015, PhD (currently) 2021.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Chrystia Freeland "Plutocrats: The Rise of the  
New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"Людина лише тоді по-справжньому дорожить життям,  
коли в неї є щось несумірно дорожче за власне життя." -  
Василь Сухомлинський

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"Nothing discernable to the eye of the spirit is more brilliant or  
obscure than man; nothing is more formidable, complex, mysterious,  
and infinite. There is a prospect greater than the sea, and it is the sky;  
there is a prospect greater than the sky, and it is the human soul.." -  
Victor Hugo, "Les Miserables"

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Oasis "Live forever";  
Die Krupps, Dernière Volonté "Sans fin".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

My Alma Mater - **Yuri Fedkovych National University of Chernivtsi**  
where I can enjoy studying and working. I adore the scents of  
something sacred in the old classrooms with high ceilings, long halls  
with colorful murals, mysterious basements with its secrets, botanical  
garden where you can observe versatile greenery and be plunged in  
the rustle of foliage of the late autumn.



### CUPP at 30

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program is a great opportunity for everyone who was somehow connected with CUPP to celebrate the results over the past 30 years and to celebrate the new stage of Ukrainian independence. CUPP builds the bridge between Canada and Ukraine that helps Ukrainians from Ukraine and biggest diaspora reunite. We, Ukrainians, can take advantage of observing the political process in Canada, implement it into our politics, spread over our cultural heritage and values. Besides, CUPP educates us to be worthy Ukrainians and to cherish it even more.

## Daryna SUDACHEK



**BORN IN:** Kharkiv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kharkiv, Ukraine.

**EDUCATION:** **Ukrainian Catholic University,**  
Bachelor of Political Science by 2021;



**Ukrainian Leadership Academy,** Scholarship 2017 recipient;

**Istanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi,**

Erasmus+ participant 2020, Bachelor of International Relations.



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Russian, Arabic.

**LAST BOOK READ:**

Terry Pratchett "Going postal".

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:**

"...Будь твердим, щоб світ не роздавив тебе Не дай зачерствіти  
серцю, бо тоді помре у тобі людина..." - Богдан Солчанник

**FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:**

"To say 'I love you' one must first know how to say the 'I'." - Ayn Rand

**FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:**

Nada - Senza Un Perche".

**FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:**

**Crimean mountains** are one of the most gorgeous places in Ukraine.  
The unity of rocky mountains and deep waters of the Black sea is  
breathtaking. The subtropical climate created the conditions for growing  
many unique plants and animals, which you may meet on your road. It's  
so different from the other natural parts of Ukraine! The biggest pleasure  
is to climb on the highest point of the mountain after the long camping  
day and to be impressed by the powerful waters of the sea! .



### CUPP at 30

Such a prominent anniversary of the Canadian-Ukrainian Parliamentary program shows the importance of its existence for 30 years. This program is about uniting people with the same values and vision. I'm talking about hundreds of graduates, thousands of benefactors, Canadian and Ukrainian officials.

Sharing ideas and learning by practicing is the best tool for gaining experience during the internship. CUPP allows being deeply introduced in the Canadian parliamentary system from all its sides. Unofficial communication can help build a robust network among people, develop negotiating skills, and critically evaluate world political problems today.

It is essential to learn from the best. So, participation in the program offers a boost for personal development and impacting growing and uniting active people from different generations with similar sets of values, principles, and vision.



## Viktoriia UNUCHKO



### BORN IN:

Kozelets, Chernihiv region, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Chernihiv, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv,**

BBachelor of International Relations 2018,

Master of International Relations,

Strategic and Security Studies 2020;

**Jagiellonian University,**

Energy School Certificate

by the Energy Community 2019.;

**University of Beira Interior,**

Master of International Relations 2020

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, Spanish, Portuguese, German.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Daniel Yergin "The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"У кожного своя пустеля і свої міражі." - Ліна Костенко

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"Not all those who wander are lost." - J.R.R. Tolkien

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

ABBA "The Winner Takes It All".

Lenny Kravitz "Fly Away"; "Low".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Ai-Petri mountain is a peak of the Crimean Mountains** of Ukraine. The high peak is also one of the foggiest places in Ukraine, giving the heights an air of mystery and danger. But for all the foggy and blustery conditions on the 1234 m elevation, it offers amazing views of the surrounding cities of Yalta and Alupka, as well as the Black Sea.



## CUPP at 30

This year the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is a unique community that helps young leaders from Ukraine enhance their professional and personal development and bring Canada and Ukraine closer to each other. This program is possible because of the dedication, leadership, and passion of its founders and participants who make this unique program so successful for already 30 years and, hopefully, for 30 years ahead.

## Myroslav VOVK



**BORN IN:** Lviv, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Kyiv, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy,**

Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws (undergoing).

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES:

English, German, Polish, Russian, French (basic).

### LAST BOOK READ:

F. A. Hayek "The road to serfdom".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Великого бажайте! ...Одушевлятися великим, високим і мати перед очима гідну мету — само собою підносить людину. ... Людина росте зі своїми задумами і своїми планами. Високі пориви її підносять, а низькі і грішні похоті руйнують." - Йосиф Сліпий

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"Hold to the now, the here, through which all future plunges to the past." - James Joyce

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

Herbie Hancock - "Chameleon", "Watermelon man";

Arctic Monkeys (all records);

Okean Elzy (all records);

Braty Gadykinu (all records);

Ukrainian patriotic songs, such as - "Ой у лузі червона калина", "Ой на горі, на Маківці";

Kvitka Cisyk - "Ой ходить сон".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Dovbush Rocks** is the magnificent rock complex named after the legendary opryshko Oleksa Dovbush (local Robin Hood). It is the unique cluster of giant rocks and stones located in the Carpathian Mountains, resembling mystical creatures. Apart from being incredibly beautiful, this place is imbued with the spirit of freedom and the struggle for justice.



## CUPP at 30

Such a program as CUPP is not just necessary but plays without exaggeration one of the decisive roles in shaping the young generation of Ukrainian leaders. Currently, many progressive, west-oriented managers, diplomats, and lawyers in Ukraine are graduates of this program. Thanks to CUPP, every year, the Ukrainian community gets people with the experience needed to build the rule of law, democracy, and free society. During the last 30 years, this program has never lost its actuality. It has continued to strengthen the Canada-Ukraine ties, built up the new Ukrainian elite, and fostered Ukrainian development generally. No doubt, the same state of affairs should remain in the future.





## Sofiia YAKOVLIEVA



### BORN IN:

Olexandriya, Kirovohrad region, Ukraine.

**HOMETOWN:** Olexandriya, Kirovohrad region, Ukraine

**EDUCATION:** Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Bachelor of International Economic Relations, 2019, Master of International Economic Relations, 2020;

Hetman Petro Sahaidachnyi National Academy of Land Forces, Department of Moral-psychological support of troops activity;

**Erasmus+ Study Mobility Program** at the University of Cadiz, Spain.

**Future Leaders Exchange Program,** Alumna of 2013-2014, Colorado, USA.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** Russian, English, Spanish, German, Swedish, French.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Philip Zimbardo "The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Все, що тобі судилося, живе в тобі невідомо."

"Перш ніж братися за цілий світ, спробуй ошчасливити бодай себе." - Павло Загребельний

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"People who think dying is the worst thing don't know a thing about life." - The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

Квітка Цісик "Ой верше, мій верше";  
Silvia Perez Cruz. "Mechita";  
Воплі Відоплясова "Весна".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Dzharylhach Island.** Dzharylhach Island (from Turkic "burnt wood") is located in the Black Sea Gulf - Karkinitzkyi. Covering an area of 56 square kilometers, it is the largest island in the Black Sea and Ukraine in general.



## CUPP at 30

This year we celebrate the CUPP's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It means that this program has been inspiring, supporting, and nourishing Ukrainian youth for 30 years already!

This academic program gives us, the youth in Ukraine, a chance to build a long-lasting relationship between Canada and Ukraine as well as to be engaged in the political institutions' decision-making processes in Ukraine and abroad.

CUPP allows us to use the acquired experience in our professional career to analyze world issues, reach smart conclusions, and propose an effective solution to existing political problems.

This program helps us to open our professional potential and the talent for negotiating and problem-solving. That is what we, the young generation, need. Therefore, the CUPP should keep on existing and making this world a better place to live in.

## Elina YANYK



### BORN IN:

Kyiv, Ukraine.

### HOMETOWN:

Boyarka, Kyiv region, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy,**

Bachelor of Philology 2018,

Master of Public Relations 2020.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** English, German, Russian, Polish.

**LAST BOOK READ:** Gabriel García Márquez "One Hundred Years of Solitude".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Любов виникає з любові; коли хочу, щоб мене любили, я сам перший люблю." - Григорій Сковорода

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"My dear, here we must run as fast as we can, just to stay in place. And if you wish to go anywhere you must run twice as fast as that." - Lewis Carroll

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

Umberto Tozzi "Ti amo".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Dendrological park in Askania-Nova** which is a part of one of the oldest Biosphere Reserves in the world. It is a magnificent place where nature flourishes and charms in any season. The dendrological park has 50,000 hectares where you can not only enjoy nature but also touch the history with all its historical monuments. I highly recommend to catch a sunset in this beautiful place and find your zen.



## CUPP at 30

For 30 years Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) has played an important role in the career and life of Ukrainian young leaders. Everyone who belongs to the CUPP Alumni community makes great efforts to drive changes for better in Ukraine.

And Ukraine needs these people, enthusiastic, intelligent, and full of belief in their homeland. That is the reason why CUPP should continue to operate and grow leaders, friendship, partnership, and bright ideas that will shape the future of Ukraine.



## Anastasiia ZHEMCHUGOVA



### BORN IN:

Khrustalny, Luhansk oblast, Ukraine.

### HOMETOWN:

Kyiv, Ukraine.

### EDUCATION:

**National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy",**  
Bachelor of Law 2015;

### Bachelor of Law 2015,

Master of International Law 2018;

### Tsinghua University,

Young ICCA Scholarship holder,  
LL.M in International Dispute Settlement 2020.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES:

English, Russian, Chinese, German

### LAST BOOK READ:

Sheryl Sandberg "Lean in".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Ти візьмеш моє серце, коли воно зупиниться, ти наповниш його надією, щоби воно знову забилося в твоїх руках." - Сергій Жадан

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"Borders? I have never seen one. But I have heard they exist in the minds of some people." - Thor Heyerdahl

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

Bruno Coulais and Christophe Barratier "Caresse sur l'océan".

### FAVOURITE UKRAINIAN LANDSCAPE:

"The Holy Mountains" is a picturesque National Nature Park located along the chalk cliffs and river terraces of the Donets River in the north of Donetsk Oblast. In 1980, a State Historical and Cultural Reserve was established on the current territory of the park. It has very distinctive flora and fauna, as well as around 129 archeological sites (from the Paleolithic to the Middle Ages) and 73 historical monuments. Unfortunately, this Park has suffered great destruction during the war in eastern Ukraine.



## CUPP at 30

Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canada Ukrainian Parliamentary Program (CUPP) inspires us to be so hopeful about the future of Ukraine. Being a unique intercultural platform, the CUPP provides a chance to experience Canada's democratic system of government famous for its progressiveness, diversity, and multiculturalism.

Through the efforts of its Director Ihor Bardyn and the CUPP Alumni, the 30-year initiative has not only endured but flourished. The Program united so many thoughtful and independent individuals. As a Candidate myself, I find it a great honor and privilege to be involved in the Program.

## Lev ZINCHENKO



### BORN IN:

Kyiv, Ukraine.

### HOMETOWN:

Kyiv, Ukraine / Fairfax, VA, USA.

### EDUCATION:

**Northern Virginia Community College,**  
Associates Degree in Liberal Arts;

**McGill University, Faculty of Arts,**  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGES:

English, French, Russian.

### LAST BOOK READ:

Ray Bradbury "The Martian Chronicles".

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY UKRAINIAN AUTHOR:

"Нації вмирають не від інфаркту. Спочатку їм відбирає мову." - Ліна Костенко

### FAVOURITE QUOTE BY FOREIGN AUTHOR:

"You miss one hundred percent of the shots you don't take." - Wayne Gretzky

### FAVOURITE MUSICAL RECORDING:

The Wombats "Turn";  
Foals "Mountain At My Gates";  
Florence and the Machine "How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful".

### FAVOURITE BOOK:

Bohdan Hawrylyshyn "Zalyshaius ukraintsem".

### FAVOURITE CANADIAN LANDSCAPE:

**Andriivskyi Uzviz** is one of the most charming streets in Kyiv. Andriivskyi Uzviz connects the Upper town of Kyiv to Podil area, which is quite a beautiful transition to experience. The street is filled with centuries of history of such landmarks as St. Andrew's Church, Mikhail Bulgakov's house, One Street museum, and the Lithuanian castle.



## CUPP at 30

CUPP is a program that has the full potential to establish democratically oriented youth for better policymaking and reform implementation in Ukraine. We already can witness the result of CUPP after 30 years of its functioning. Interns of this program successfully proved its competency to be the needed change for Ukrainian politics and social life. Past participants have proven to be effective, and even nowadays represent the public in the Ukrainian Parliament. Even though it is evident that the change in Ukraine takes a long time to be achieved, change doesn't occur fast. It is the process of a long and thorough transition to what is demanded to be the best for the people. CUPP provided a unique experience for its participants to explore one of the best functioning parliaments in the world, working for the people that elected it. Experience in the Canadian Parliament is an investment into the younger generation of Ukraine to receive the knowledge of policy making and execution of those. In the next 30 years, I am sure, CUPP can provide even more positive change to Ukraine in the provision of quality reformers that are very much needed for Ukraine to exist as an independent, free of corruption, European state.



# GLOBAL DIASPORA INTERVIEW PROJECT

The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) is an internship program in the Canadian House of Commons for university students from Ukraine. Each year during the Spring or Fall Sitting of Parliament, Ukraine's students come to Parliament Hill, enter the offices of individual Members of Parliament and work with the MPs staff, attend sittings of Parliament and its standing committees and from an insider's vantage point observe how Canadians govern themselves.

More than 1,000 Ukrainian students have taken part in the parliamentary internship, participated in Model Ukraine Conferences in Canada, Great Britain, Ukraine and the USA. Participation in this practical hands on program, has made an impact on Ukraine's youngest leaders.

From CUPP's ranks have come 3 Cabinet Ministers 3 Deputy Ministers, 6 Members of Parliament, a Head of L'viv Oblast Administration and government officials for the office of the speaker of parliament, office of the president's administration and several assistants to Members of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

In 2020 CUPP celebrates 30 years of operation in Canada's Parliament. The expanded program includes the GLOBAL DIASPORA INTERVIEW PROJECT. The following interview is one of 180 conducted with Diaspora leaders, thinkers and opinion-makers.







— interview with —

# Michael Smerconish

Michael Smerconish, American political and civilian thinker, author, TV political commentator, has closely followed American politics for the past several decades. He understands the politics from the Republican, Democrat and Independent perspectives. He is a journalist on the CNN Network and hosts a daily radio program on SiriusXM's POTUS Channel, as well as the CNN and CNN International program Smerconish. He is a Sunday newspaper columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Smerconish has authored seven books: six non-fiction works and one novel. Educated at the Lehigh University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he is also of counsel to the Philadelphia law firm of Kline & Specter. His parents are Florence (Grovich) and Walter Smerconish. His paternal grandfather, Wasil Smerakanich, was born in America in 1909, one of eight children to Elias and Anna, who themselves came from the Galicia region of the Austria-Hungarian Empire.





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**We are very grateful that you agreed to participate in this interview. There is no doubt that the contemporary democracy in the United States and worldwide is facing a new type of crisis. And the United States, according to many political thinkers, has been a world hegemon for the last 30 years. In your opinion, can the United States withstand this crisis having regard to the latest events which have occurred, including the impeachment process and the global pandemic?**

I think the United States for the last four years has disengaged from the world community. I think that we'll look back on these four years as being an aberration. I think that president Biden will reengage in a way that the remainder of the world is accustomed. It will take a while for some of those relationships to be reestablished, but I think that this presidency, a very young one, less than a month old as I'm speaking to you, will look more to the world audience like presidencies of the past.

**About this current impeachment proceeding, do you as a litigation lawyer consider it important to prohibit former President Trump from participation in the next presidential elections?**

The impeachment process has begun as I'm speaking to you. I think it's necessary. I think where the House has taken a vote on impeachment, the Senate has a duty to complete the process. I don't expect it will result in conviction. I think that there is a legitimate legal issue as to whether a former president can be tried in the Senate trial like this and many Republican senators will use that as an excuse to not pass judgment on the President Trump on his conduct with regard to the riot of January 6.

**From your book "Clients to the left - jokers to the right", I noticed that you had worked in the Republican administration of George H. W. Bush and after that your political stance gradually shifted to independent observer. Please explain why. Is it because of the invasion of Iraq or something else?**

I was a loyal Republican from the time I turned 18 and registered to vote in 1980 and until 2008 the year, when Barack Obama was elected. At that time, I voted for the Democrats. I was very active in the party. I had served, as you pointed out, in the administration of "Bush 41", as we call him, but I changed my opinion in 2008 and voted for Obama largely because I did not think the Bush administration was prosecuting the War on

Terror. I thought that they had been diverted from the hunt for Bin Laden and that Obama would be different and, by the way, he was. I was still a Republican when I voted for him, but two years later in 2010 I left the Republican Party and did not join the Democratic Party. I am a political independent and there are more Americans registered as independent, than those who are registered as Republicans or Democrats. Is that a good tendency? I think so. There are some institutional barriers that prevent independent politicians from having even more power, but I think it's a good thing that there are more independent politicians and fewer of the conventional parties.

**Considering this topic and recent events, which took place on January 6th, 2021, could you tell us what steps should Biden's Administration take to address the current polarization in U.S. politics?**

I think president Biden needs to govern the way that he promised. He would govern as a unity candidate and right now there is an issue that confronts him. He wants to pass the COVID Relief Bill. The question is whether he should do it alone using the constitutional ability that he has and get all that he wants or should he get less by compromising with the Republicans. I think he is going to do it on his own instead of bending to the demands of the Republicans.

**Can the impeachment process further divide society in the U.S.?**

Yes, for sure. I think it will be a short process. I think it will last less than a week. There is of course the risk that it is divisive, but for those who believe that President Trump attempted an insurrection, then it is necessary.

**Returning to the USA as a global superpower, do you consider it necessary and important for the U.S. to return to the role of a policeman of the world?**

I think it's important. I personally think it's important for the U.S. to reengage with the world community; but I do not want the U.S. to be the world policeman. I think we have made many mistakes in the past several decades not the least of which was the invasion into Iraq and so I want us to be involved, but not fighting all the world's battles and also not seeking to impose the U.S.'s will in places, where we should not. It seems like no good comes from that.

**Initially you supported the invasion into Iraq, but after no evidence of weapons of mass destruction**



**was found you changed your opinion. Do you think it was a wrong move to invade Iraq without sufficient evidence?**

I changed my opinion more than once on Iraq. I initially thought it was a mistake, then I was convinced by Powell that there really was a risk that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, so I was supportive of the administration and when they found nothing, concluded that my initial instinct was the right instinct. This was a large part of my parting of ways with the Bush Administration. I think that the level of aggressiveness has not done well for the United States or for countries that we have been seeking to assist. The proper response to September 11 was to go, find and kill those responsible for the events of September 11, but I believe it was used as a predicate to settle some old issues, and that was a mistake.

**Considering all these events after almost 20 years, which lessons has American society learned correctly?**

I do not know if we have learned a lesson. I think the lesson for me was that Americans were swept up in having been victims on September 11 and we lost our objectivity and we are all too willing to see everybody living in the Middle East as being one and the same. Iraq had nothing to do with that. Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with the events of September 11, but too many Americans thought he must have been just like Al-Qaeda or the Taliban, and we were too accepting of that view. We were naive. We do not tend to be very knowledgeable about world events. People around the globe tend to be far more knowledgeable about the United States than citizens of the United States are knowledgeable about the rest of the world.

**Are you confident that the current Administration of the United States and American authorities in general have now taken all necessary precautions to prevent such events from happening again?**

I do not know. It seems like we are prone to repeating our mistakes, hopefully we will not do it again.

**You made a very interesting statement that U.S. citizens are not well aware about the situation around the globe. Do you consider that the well-being of the U.S. is dictated by its geography, that you have Mexico and Canada and two big oceans? You do not have so much external threats that are present in the Middle East and in Europe. So, the**

**question is: how important is geography in the context of well-being of a country?**

Very important, I think. You make a good observation, but if we did not get along with our neighbors, if our neighbors were more threatening to us, than geography would not be so much a friend. You know about problems that we have with Mexico to the South (immigration issues). We do not have immigration issues with Canada, only with Mexico. Because those relationships are intact, and neither the Canadians nor the Mexicans are aggressive, we have been fortunate.

**Returning to the role of the United States in the world politics. Has the U.S. been galvanized to be the world's eternal champion? Is it important for the world that the United States remain a global superpower?**

I think that is true, but I think that the United States should be careful where the United States commits its own people in defense of others. I may be wrong, but I think that with Iraq still fresh in people's minds there is less of a willingness in some Americans to see our men and our women fly off somewhere to defend democracy.

**Nowadays there are many challenges to democracy worldwide. In Ukraine, we feel it more than in other countries, and, perhaps, more than anyone in Europe. Ukraine and the U.S. have the same issues related to polarization of the society. In Ukraine, we were divided between those who speak Ukrainian and those who speak Russian; and this division has been fueled by powers from the Russian Federation and by whatever other country. And currently, I see that in the U.S. we have the situation when the conservatives are trying to distort the liberal order. What do you think should be done to mitigate this polarization in the U.S.? What steps should be taken?**

Well, it is very complicated in the U.S., as many factors are contributing to it. At the top of my list are our media considerations. The technology has afforded us many choices of where we get our news and information, but we have a problem in this country with people who are not taking advantage of all that choice and choosing instead to associate with the like-minded and only to have their views reinforced instead of their opinions challenged. And I think that is a big problem for our country. I think there are also





Michael Smerconish with George H.W. Bush

1980

many factors at play that make the situation worse. The diminishing influence of the white people in society where they will be a minority probably in the next 20 years are all combining to cause some people to feel unsettled about their place in this world and their place in this country. I think what you are seeing in terms of politicization in the United States is largely dependent upon that, largely caused by that.

**Recently, Ukraine has banned several TV channels that were admittedly supported from the occupied Eastern territories of Ukraine. The President of Ukraine has imposed sanctions on several TV channels. These are the issues that we are facing. Propaganda in a new form can be imported into any country. How should the government react and communicate with its people to help them understand that most of such propaganda is coming from non-democratic sources? Such non-democratic forces are growing in strength around Europe. What should be done in Democratic society to prevent such forces from achieving political power?**

We are struggling with the same issues in the U.S., as we have the First Amendment, which protects freedom of the press, but those protections are being challenged now due to spread of misinformation and rise of hate speech. President Trump is no longer given access to Twitter, which was his primary mean of communication with people. I am concerned about that type of censorship, because I do not think that the same standard that is applied to President Trump

could be applied to everybody. By that I mean, I do not think that there is an ability to enforce speech restrictions. You can easily keep track of one person's account and keep an eye on him/her, but you are not going to be able to apply the same standard to everyone because there is not enough of a policing capability, a censoring capability. I do not think that artificial intelligence can fill that gap so you will be left with disparity. I wish that a free exchange of ideas could resolve this. A true free market approach is where, if people lie or provide inappropriate information, they will be held accountable by other sources and lose their credibility. Where people are getting all their news and information from just a couple of sources you may say something that is false and I may correct you, but the people who are listening to you are not listening to me and, therefore, your words truly go unchallenged. It is a very big problem; we do not have it sorted out in the U.S.

**Recalling President Donald Trump and his presidency, one of the big issues which led to decrease of his electoral rating was COVID-19, and his swift or not swift response to it. Could you tell us whether the U.S. is efficiently addressing the COVID-19 outbreak?**

I think Donald Trump lost because of his COVID-19 response. His presidency was very tumultuous, very up and down, very erratic and in spite of the opposition that he faced from half the country. I think he would have won the election, if his response had been better. And if he had been more compassionate, caring and willing to discuss and address the issue day after day. But he was not. He always viewed, for example, wearing of a mask as weakness. He always prioritized opening of the economy to the detriment of making sure that the virus was contained, and I think that more than anything else cost him being elected. When all was said and done, I think that he could have hung on and won. Then, when he lost the election, when it was declared that Joe Biden had won the presidential election, the final two months November and December and part of January in office were horrible. He was behind closed doors trying to challenge the election results and the



nation was still in the midst of the pandemic. And it was confirmation, at least in my mind, of his total disregard of the issue. He could have ended on such a better note, if he had accepted the defeat, focused on the pandemic for the final two-three months. But instead, he was a sore loser, who did not cooperate with Biden.

**Is there the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the U.S. and on its role as a global leader?**

It is still to be determined what our role is on the global stage because I think the U.S. is trying very hard to protect itself and when the U.S. has protected itself, I think it will be our responsibility to make sure that the world is protected. Especially those countries that do not have the wealth of the U.S. to make sure their people are vaccinated.

**Moving to questions about Ukraine, what is your opinion about Biden's policy toward Ukraine?**

Well, I think that he will be a good friend to Ukraine. I think that he could be counted on to be a good and loyal ally in the face of threats that Ukraine has with Putin and with Russia. The country is probably a bit of a sore spot for Biden because so much was made of his son's business involvement (i.e. Donald Trump's telephone call to President Zelenskyi). I think that he would be a loyal supporter.

**As Ukraine has been fighting all this time against aggression of the Russian Federation defending the Eastern flank of democratic Europe from new threats, is it appropriate to continue providing lethal weaponry to Ukraine?**

Yes, for sure. I do support Ukraine, and if it is weaponry and financial aid that is appropriate. I would want NATO to carry the lion share of that responsibility, not the U.S., not the U.S. alone. As we see in the Baltic states, it is the U.S. that provided military garrisons there, not European countries.

I do think that President Trump had merit when he talked about the U.S. bearing too great of a burden. I agreed with him when he said that. I think many Americans have been of the opinion that for too long we have shouldered more than just our responsibility.

**Talking more about Ukraine, we have some questions about your connection to Ukraine. Do you link yourself to Ukraine? Please tell us about your family's immigration story.**

The answer is yes. At different times, when people have said what is your heritage, I have given different answers. All that I believe to be accurate at the time and all as I am going to explain to you telling the same story.

My mother's side is completely understood, completely researched. I have visited Montenegro, which is where she is from. I have seen the house where my grandmother was born and raised, and I know the whole story.

My father's side of the family has always been more of a mystery. Largely because not as many relatives were living and it was not as easy to get information about the story. My mother was one of 11. Eight sisters and three brothers. My father is one of two. My father is gone now, my mother is still with me. And I think the size of my mother's family also made it easier to understand the story and my grandmother on my mother's side was also able to converse and explain. But on my father's side of the family it was much more of a mystery.

My father's mother was Italian, and she was born in the U.S., but her name was at birth Carmela Vaccaro. They americanized the name meaning they wanted to end some of the ethnic identification, maybe because they thought they were discriminated. I do not know. So, they became the Walker family. I know where they are from. They are from a village called Langro in Calabria. So that is 3/4 of the family history that is put together. The difficult part has always been my



Michael Smerconish with Joseph Biden  
2016





father's father. At different times, when I have been asked the question "what is the origin of your name or where are your parents from", I would say: "my mother's family is from Montenegro, my dad's mother was Italian, although their family may originally have been from Albania. And then with regard to my dad I would say: "Ukrainian". Or I would say: "the Carpathian Mountains", or "the Austro-Hungarian Empire", or "the modern-day Poland", and I think all of those things are accurate. I am at home now and I have a big filing cabinet and in this filing cabinet I have all my research about my family history and it is the kind of a project that I will work on, and it might be months or even years before I go back to that project. I have not worked on the project recently, but it is sort of a lifelong ambition to understand exactly what my family story is.

The most accurate information I can tell you is that I am a descendant of Elias Smerakanich, who was born between the years 1867 and 1872 in what was then the province of Galicia in Austria. He emigrated sometime between 1886 and 1891, his wife Anna was born between the years of 1865 and 1867 also in Galicia, she likely emigrated the same year and then I go into some of the census records where Elias and Anna were recorded variously as speaking Slovak, Russian and Ruthenian (Ukrainian). With these languages in mind it is highly likely that they were Rusyns (Ukrainians), that is how I would pronounce it, you may pronounce it differently, a group who settled in what is present-day northern Slovakia, southern Poland and western Ukraine in the Carpathian Mountains. And then, further along in my research, and this is something I would love to pin down, and ultimately visit. Several Smerkanich families were traced in villages of modern-day Poland, I do not know how to pronounce this, it is "Świątkowa Wielka", which is located in present-day southeastern Poland, very close to the border with Slovakia. That is as good as I can do. So, what do you guys think, does that make me Ukrainian?

**When I first read the letter from CUPP Director Ihor Bardyn, suggesting that I contact you, and saw your surname, I assumed that you are Ukrainian. You definitely have Ukrainian roots, not Polish ones, because of the surname. As you said your father's father name was Elias and your great-grandmother was named Anna, it is definitely Eastern Slavic names.**

The research also says, it appears highly likely that the ancestral family was from Świątkowa Wielka area. So that must be the answer.

**In my opinion, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania have a lot of people, who identify themselves as Rusyns, as you said, or Ruthenians because there are different people, who actually lived in these borderlands, near borders of Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine. It was very common that people, who lived there, identified themselves as Rusyns, and now in Ukraine we more likely identify them as Ukrainians. But some people still identify themselves as Rusyns, who live in modern Serbia or Poland, but it is totally different from Polish or Slovakian, or Hungarian descend.**

That says that there are today people with similar names to mine living in those villages. Here is what it says: several Smerakanich families have been traced in the village that I shared with you.

**Even though, it is the territory of modern-day Poland, if they are close to the border with Ukraine, prior to the Second World war these territories were populated with Ukrainians. These lands are referred to as lands beyond the Curzon Line.**

How is the family record keeping in that part of what I will call Ukraine? In other words, do there tend to be good records?

**I would not speak about Poland, but about Ukraine I can tell you that it is very difficult to trace documents.**

You asked me about this part of my life, it is very important to me and it remains a goal of mine, while I am alive, to track down and to be able to know exactly, I want to go back as far as to know where did I come from. I do not have any desire to go back any further than that, but if I could figure out which of those villages, that would be very important to me.

I think the only probable chance to trace this thing is to look for the census and records from churches.

**In conclusion, Mr. Smerconish, if you may, please tell few words and wishes for CUPP interns.**

I appreciate your curiosity and people, who are at school and want my time, I always try and give it. Because, when I was younger and at school trying to get involved in politics, many people were very gracious with their time, so I try to pay it back. **CUPP**



— interview with —

# Andrew P. W. Bennett

Rev Dr. Andrew P. W. Bennett is the Director of the Cardus Religious Freedom Institute and an ordained deacon in the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. From 2013 to 2016, he served as Canada's first Ambassador for Religious Freedom and Head of the Office of Religious Freedom ('Office') defending and championing religious freedom internationally as a core element of Canada's foreign policy.

**Good afternoon Deacon Andrew. Thank you for participation in the interview for the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program ('CUPP'). We are delighted to have a conversation with such a keen observer of the Ukrainian World. Let us start with questions related to the Ukrainian Diaspora. Do you think the term 'Diaspora' is a permanent designation?**

Ukrainians in Canada have been here for at least a hundred and thirty years. And now you have many that are fourth-generation Ukrainian Canadians, who may have no ties whatsoever with Ukraine.

I was chatting with a friend of mine. He lives in Victoria, British Columbia, and his name is Christian Stackaruk. He has no connection whatsoever with Ukraine apart from having the last name, which is Ukrainian. He does not speak Ukrainian. He is not an Orthodox Christian or a Greek Catholic. He has no cultural points of reference. His mother's side is Italian-Canadian, and he feels much closer to his Italian side because it is one generation less removed from Italy. And if you look at most friends of mine, who are maybe third generation Ukrainians, they do not speak Ukrainian.

In the second generation, many of them do speak Ukrainian and at some degree of fluency. So, I do not know if it is helpful to use the term 'Diaspora' after the first generation. I think once a particular ethnic community becomes embedded within a broader society, it rather integrates (but not assimilates) into

this society especially in a country such as Canada or the United States that have always been immigrant societies. I think we may speak about Ukrainian-Canadians, Scottish-Canadians and Irish-Canadians. The immigrant experience is one of having various levels of identity. You may have your particular ethnic identity. You may have a strong attachment to that, or you may have none at all. You have a strong attachment to the place where you live now. Or maybe, for those who are new immigrants, there are still more connections with Ukraine.

There fore, it is very much a question of generation. It is a question of how a welcoming society integrates that particular community. I do not think most of my friends in Canada, who are Ukrainian Canadians, talk about being a part of a diaspora. They do not use that term at all. It has a rather limited use. And when you think about parts of the country, where there is a sizable Ukrainian Canadian population, Ukrainian-Canadians are the local population now.

**Are the terms 'Ukrainian Canadians' or 'American Canadians' something permanent, or will it eventually perish?**

I have no problem with these kinds of labels, but it is up to a person, how they use it, or whether they choose to employ that label. I believe certain measures can help to maintain that strong cultural identity. It can certainly be language, domestic traditions, etc. being an Eastern Orthodox Christian or being Greek





Catholic historically connects you with Ukraine and Kyivan Rus. But in many cases, it is very much up to a person's own experience and how they choose to continue to maintain that ethnic identity or particular traditions. I am both a Scottish-Canadian and an Irish-Canadian, but I do not use those terms. I am a Canadian.

One side of my family has been here since 1801. Our family were originally speakers of Scottish and Irish Gaelic and none of us speaks those languages anymore. We are still Catholic, and I have come a bit closer to my Scottish Catholic roots because I can see the link back to those people that came to Canada and there is still that connection, but it is not something that directs my everyday life. It is not something that especially shapes how I see things. We have certain traditions in our family that would derive from that cultural background. I have a kilt, I love bagpipes. I have some sense of identity with that ethnic background, but it is one of many different ways of understanding who I am.

I am a Canadian. I have certain loyalty to this place, because I was born here. I understand how Canadians think. There are all sorts of cultural reference points, but that is something that a Ukrainian- Canadian would experience as well.

**Does the Ukrainian church need to grow in numbers in Canada and overseas to succeed in its objective to spread Ukrainian culture?**

Ukrainian churches, whether it is Ukrainian Orthodox or Ukrainian Greek Catholic, will not survive in Canada, if they are focused on promoting Ukrainian culture alone. If they insist only on having liturgies in Ukrainian, if they insist on being closed to other communities, they will not survive. The goal of the church is to spread the Gospel. The goal of the church is to evangelise and to bring people to Christ. Any church that does not have that as its primary goal will not thrive.

Therefore, the sort of Kyivan-Galician expression of



Orthodoxy, whether we are speaking about the Greek Catholic or the Orthodox, is a wonderful gift that Kyivan Rus has given to the world. From repressions under the last decades of the Tsar's rule to experience of the First World War, to the collectivization under Stalin, to the Holodomor, to experience of the Second World War, Ukraine has suffered horribly. As a result, Ukrainians left their homeland and went out into the world to many different countries, including Canada, the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Poland. And they have brought with them Orthodox Christianity. It is the work of God that those first immigrants came to Canada and brought with them this very beautiful and rich tradition that has a lot to say to the contemporary world with very little hope, very little beauty, and seemingly very little truth.

The church with its origin in Kyivan Rus has a specific role in this world to bring Christ to others in its Slavic-Byzantine way. If you look at those churches in Canada that have their roots in this Kyivan-Galician tradition and that have incorporated into an English-speaking society, these churches are thriving. Parishes across Canada are stronger if they are using English as well as Ukrainian. Living that tradition fully and opening up to other people is the key to growth. For example, at my parish here in Ottawa, we have two communities. There is an older, mainly Ukrainian-speaking community with the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. It would typically be attended by 120 people and the average age would be probably somewhere in the mid-fifties. At 11:30, we have the second liturgy, which is in English with some Ukrainian. That community is about the same size, about 120 people. But I would guess the average age there is probably about 25. And in that second community, I would say less than half are ethnic Ukrainians.

People are drawn to this church by the beauty and richness of its tradition. The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church was suppressed by the Soviets from 1946 through until 1990, and therefore it is a church that brings with it the experience of being persecuted. Thus, it can be very strong and very vibrant in a society increasingly hostile to faith. I had a conversation once with Patriarch Sviatoslav, about when he was the Bishop of Buenos Aires. It was Pascha. And he was at

the cathedral on Pascha wishing people 'Khrystos Voskres' and there was a young man, whom he had never seen before. The patriarch came along and said 'Khrystos Voskres!'. And the young man replied. And the patriarch said, 'I have never seen you here before. You should come back again'. And the young man said to him, 'I do not mind visiting a museum once in a while, but I do not want to live in one'. This was an epiphany for the patriarch. I remember him saying to me, 'Sometimes our churches look too much like museums, churches cannot be fundamentally about culture and language. It has to be about Christ. It has to be about the Gospel.' It is good to have culture and language, but they are not sufficient. You have to have the Gospel. You ought to have Christ. And you ought to have this strong Christian faith expressed through culture and language. At the same time, if the majority of people that one is trying to bring Christ to speak English, then one should use English.

When Saints Cyril and Methodius came from Thessalonica, they did not speak Slavonic. While speaking Greek, they realised the need to communicate with the Slavs to learn their language to spread the faith. And we need to learn from that. If we want to spread the good news of Christ's Gospel, people have to understand it. And if one is maintaining any language (whether Greek, Ukrainian, Arabic, etc.) in countries, where no one speaks that language apart from a little group, it is not going to thrive. One might feel comfortable about oneself, but that is not what the Christian faith is about. It is not about keeping it to oneself. It is about sharing it with others.

There are many ways in which people can, as Ukrainian-Canadians, express their identity, and that is great. Live your tradition, but do not use it as a way to exclude people from the Gospel. Therefore, when someone, who does not speak Ukrainian or does not come from that background, but is drawn by the Holy Spirit to come into one of our churches, we have to welcome them with open arms. And we have to reach out to them because no one knows what talents God is bringing to us in this person.

**We would also be very interested in your opinion about rather secular matters. In the context of growing concentration of wealth among the super-**





**rich worldwide, what is needed for Ukraine to combat the excessive influence of its oligarchs?**

There are anti-corruption measures in place, which need to be strengthened and adhered to. The first thing you need to do is to ensure that your tax system works and that you are able to tax people fairly and that they pay their taxes. So you have to ensure that the system works and that it is enforceable. But that is certainly insufficient. You need to promote entrepreneurship amongst the middle class giving them the space to develop businesses. You need to give them access to trade. You need to get people, get their brains into the economy so that they can continue to develop the economy. And this is happening in Ukraine. It happens in every area. Ukraine is still only thirty years out from the brutal communist experience and the economic system still has long-lasting scars. Also, you need to continue to support lending for business entities.

People's mentality is another important dimension of the issue. You are only the first generation that has grown up in a society free of communism yet experiencing its legacy. But you did not experience its immediate effects. Some oligarchs use their wealth to invest in businesses (and thus to grow the middle class) supporting people who want to develop new areas of commerce. Some of them are certainly greedy, but others are willing to invest to benefit from it.

**Canada's first Ambassador for Religious Freedom**

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You need to make sure that your government generates enough revenue within the tax system, which is fair, equitable and enforceable.

**Are wealth taxes appropriate for diminishing the impact of the super-rich?**

What would be my general view of wealth taxes? I am not going to speak about Ukraine specifically. I do not think wealth taxes are appropriate, if it has been gained legitimately. The business should pay their fair share of income tax. But they should be encouraged to invest that income. I do not think increasing wealth taxes is appropriate. You do not want to get people who have wealth leaving your country and putting their money abroad. You need to encourage them through various incentives to invest in the country. Thus, I am not a big fan of wealth taxes.

**Our next question relates to the freedom of religious expression. The law was passed in Quebec prohibiting Certain religious groups from publicly displaying their religious beliefs at work. What is your opinion on that decision?**

I am fundamentally opposed to that law. It is a discriminatory law. I believe that at the core of religious freedom is the freedom to live out your faith publicly. Public servants are banned from exposing symbols of their faith, including any obvious crosses, hijabs and niqaabs for Muslim women, as well kippot/yarmulkes for Jewish men. This is fundamentally discriminatory. This law affects many public servants. You could be working for a ministry, you could be a crown attorney, you could be a teacher. You could even be working for a private sector company that has a contract with the government to provide governmental services. We are going to have differences and people are going to have different beliefs, and they are going to want to express those beliefs. And, if we have genuine democracy and genuine pluralism, what is wrong with that?

Quebec likes to think of itself as a neutral state. It is



not neutral. It asserts another type of faith, which is secularism. There are two ways in which you can be secular as a political community. One would be what Charles Taylor, the Canadian political philosopher, calls 'open secularism', i.e. when there is a free market of religious expression where the government does not favour any one particular expression but instead allows them all to exist within a public sphere. Then, there is closed secularism, which is what we have in Quebec now, i.e. where the secular state dictates that your religious expression must be private.

My ultimate question is what are they afraid of? What is so threatening about different religious traditions existing in a rich tapestry?

**Concerning the hijab, there was a huge discussion in France in the context of public safety and national security. This religious symbol has been exploited by terrorist groups to carry out their terrorist attacks. In your opinion, is it justified to restrict some religious symbols due to considerations of public security?**

I think we have to distinguish between the hijab and the niqaab. The hijab is simply a head covering, whereas the niqaab is the full-face covering. I do have a problem with the niqaab, because in our culture, in the Western culture, we recognise one another by our faces. One engages a person by looking at their face. And so when one hides the face, whether it is with a costume mask or with a bandana you immediately create a barrier between that person and other people. So I do agree with prohibiting the niqaab, if needed, e.g. among public servants, especially those in the courts and teachers.

Now, from what I understand from my contacts in the Muslim community, the niqaab is not a very common expression of religious piety in the Muslim world. It is more common in the Gulf States. The hijab simply

covers the head leaving the face visible. I would be a very hypocritical Catholic if I had a problem with head coverings because I think of all the religious sisters and monks, who have head coverings. So, I have no issues with head coverings.

**It sounds like something very close to your current area of professional responsibilities. Are you actively opposing this law now?**

Yes. In the think tank that I work with (Cardus), we have done several things on this matter including publishing op-eds opposing the law and interviewing leading commentators in Quebec on the impact of the law after its first year.

**We are very interested in your work at Cardus. Have you had an opportunity to cooperate with Ukrainian religious communities?**

I have had many different chances to reach out to different representatives of Orthodox and Greek Catholic clergy to talk about the work we are doing. I divide my time between Cardus in Ottawa and



Rev Dr Andrew Bennett is a Deacon of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.





the Religious Freedom Institute in Washington. In October of 2018, the Religious Freedom Institute hosted in cooperation with the George Washington University and the United States Institute for Peace a day-long conference discussing religious dimensions of the conflict in Ukraine.

### **What are the organisations you currently work at?**

I should start with my work at the Office of Religious Freedom, where I was the Ambassador for Religious Freedom. Our work was focused on issues related to international religious freedom. I headed up the office established by the Canadian government as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The office operated for three and a half years.

The mandate that I had was to advance religious freedom internationally, as part of Canada's foreign policy to protect human rights worldwide. The office had a budget for doing this and we had a maximum staff of seven people. We focused our work on three different areas: policy, programming, and advocacy. The policy side was really working with like-minded countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany to find areas where we could work multilaterally or bilaterally through the UN or the OSCE, or other organisations. We promoted the idea that religious freedom is very important in countries that regularly violated individual religious freedom, either through government restrictions or through social hostilities that governments either turn a blind eye to or are powerless to address.

We worked with other governments to protect religious freedom. And I would say the greatest achievement for us as Canada during that time was the establishment of the International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief. For the first time, this contact group brought together foreign ministries from countries that were interested in advancing religious freedom. It was founded under my leadership in June of 2015. And it continues to operate today with Canada and the United States co-chairing it.

On the advocacy side, I acted on behalf of Canada and engaged directly with foreign governments in countries, where cases of religious persecution

occurs. I had meetings with government officials, leaders of religious communities, and advocacy groups that were trying to champion religious freedom. I was traveling a lot. During my time in office, the countries that I visited and focused on included Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and also countries of the Middle East. I was in Jordan, where we looked at the persecution of Christians in surrounding countries such as Syria and Iraq. A considerable part of my work was direct engagement with governments to account for their actions.

Then on the programming side, this was where we partnered with different organisations to set up projects in different countries that would teach people about religious freedom. That included dealing with the curriculum that students are taught in schools and how they understand people that have different beliefs or working to support civil society organisations in those countries that were trying to address religious persecution. In some cases, we were providing direct assistance to people being persecuted.

We had between 20 and 23 projects. We had projects in a dozen countries, including Ukraine. In Ukraine, we had a project with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and that was a project to bring together people of different religious traditions to talk about religious freedom.

### **What does it look like in Ukraine after the Revolution of Dignity?**

I visited Ukraine twice. The first time was in January of 2014 when I was in Kyiv during the Revolution of Dignity to meet with religious leaders. It was a very short visit, maybe 72 hours just to get a sense of what was going on so I could report back to my foreign minister. It gave me understanding of how Canada might help the churches and other faith communities. I went back in October of 2014 and visited Kyiv and Lviv for about 10 days to have deeper conversations with different religious groups (Orthodox, Greek-Catholics, Evangelical Protestants, Muslims, Baptists, and Jews, etc.). We had very productive discussions dealing with issues related to the annexation of Crimea and the Russian intervention in the Donbass. It was a great experience.

Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** stands with Rev Dr **Andrew Bennett** (right) and National President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Canada, **Mr. Malik Lal Khan** after naming Bennett ambassador to the Office of Religious Freedom in Maple, Ontario.

2013 © The Muslim Times



Canada really took a leadership role protecting religious freedom worldwide. But after that, the Liberal government got rid of the office and diminished the country's focus on religious freedom. There is still some focus, but it is pretty limited.

After leaving the office, I took roles with two different think tanks. One is based in Canada named Cardus, which is Canada's faith-based think tank. I am the Director of the Cardus Religious Freedom Institute. Our work incorporates research and networking/events to look at how we reinforce and uphold religious freedom within Canada. Where certain challenges to religious freedom in Canada arise, we try to find solutions to address them.

And then, I also work with the Religious Freedom Institute in Washington, DC which is an organisation focusing on international religious freedom. I lead the North America Action Team there that looks at religious freedom within North America from the perspective of research, education, and culture. At neither Cardus nor the Religious freedom Institute are we engaged in legal activities, or appearing before courts to advocate for religious freedom. We rather do research and engage in networking.

My professional life is very much focused on continuing to champion religious freedom, but less at the international level and more at the domestic level.

At the same time, I am still engaged in some projects in Europe, including relating to Ukraine.

**Currently, your work is more focused on domestic issues. Could you give us some insight about the state of religious freedom in Canada and main problems that you are targeting?**

The first thing to say is that we have a comparatively broad degree of religious freedom. Canada is not China, or Saudi Arabia, or Pakistan. We have religious freedom in Canada. But religious freedom, like any other freedom comes with certain responsibilities. One has to live out that freedom. I think the biggest challenge we face in Canada is what I would call 'amnesia'. We have a certain forgetfulness about religious freedom. And I would say that we do not simply defend religious freedom for its own sake. We defend religious freedom, because we believe religion is good and that it is good for society.

The amnesia that we are fighting has two aspects. The first aspect is within our institutions where I think many have forgotten why religious freedom is important. We see this in our legislatures, courts, media, and business. There is a thought that religion is not particularly important. Well, religion is important and it has been important for all of human history. As human beings, we have this metaphysical need to contemplate and pursue things beyond us.





And we need to be able to do that in all aspects of our lives.

The other amnesia is within faith communities, where as Christians we are often the worst offenders. Some faith communities have bought into a sort of a postmodern view that religion is a private matter. It is what one does in a church or in a synagogue, or in a mosque. And maybe it is what one does at home. However, one certainly cannot speak about it at university or one's workplace. This is wrong. There are obviously private aspects of religion and we have our private beliefs, but human beings have always lived much of their lives in the public sphere. Our deeply held beliefs are expressed and manifested publicly through words and actions.

Therefore, if we look at Canada, it is still a majority Christian country. Now, the degree to which those Christians are faithful and go to church regularly is perhaps fairly small (20 per cent or less). But if we look at Canadian history, a lot of our hospitals, universities, and social organisations were established by Christians not just for Christians, but for everybody. At Cardus, we have done a lot of work to look at the impact of faith communities on Canada's social fabric. We worked with McMaster University and looked at charitable giving data from Statistics Canada. In Canada, every religious organisation is a charity. Every year they have to file charitable tax returns from which we can derive information about their impact in communities. Through the Cardus Halo Project we found a multiplier effect for every dollar that a faith community takes in. For every CA\$ 1 a congregation spends it could create CA\$ 4.77 worth of services a city would not have to provide. Thus, if you were to get rid of all faith communities, you would have a huge hole in support provided for the whole community.

At Cardus, we try to educate people about the role of faith communities and their impact on our everyday lives.

**Critics of the Office of Religious Freedom often submitted that it did not have clear criteria to determine which violations to focus on. How were the priorities set?**

We have to remember that it was a brand new

mandate, brand new office, brand new everything. It was a blank slate, and we decided to focus on those countries where violations of religious freedom were most serious. We realised that we could not focus on every particular situation. We tried to focus on those countries where we could engage and could have an impact, even if a small impact. We looked at the Pew Forum's assessment of government restrictions on religious freedom and social hostilities related to religion. We also consulted with our allies and looked at what the UN and the OSCE were doing. And then as situations arose such as in Myanmar, in the Middle East, in Ukraine, we responded to those.

Countries that we ultimately focused on included Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Sri Lanka and Nigeria. You should understand that we were a small team with a relatively small budget. CA\$ 5 million per year is a small budget relative to other spending within Global Affairs Canada, or Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development as it then was. Every year, CA\$ 4.25 million was designated for programme efforts in the mentioned countries. We had CA\$ 750,000.00 dedicated to other activities, including advocacy and policy initiatives, as well as the salaries and benefits of the office's employees.

Various mandatory reviews, including an audit, were done at the end of the mandate of the Office of Religious Freedom. And they were generally favourable. Although, I remember they did point out that we could have used additional resources to be more effective. It is a fair remark. But I believe a lot of the criticism came from people, who did not know what we were doing. If you look at a lot of stories in the media around that time, assessments are fairly neutral or positive. I remember the opposition parties were fundamentally opposed to us. Both the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party were of the opinion that the Conservative Party had established the Office of Religious Freedom for political reasons to favour different minority communities in Canada. I do not know the motives of the Conservative Party. It is not my business. As a public servant, my objective was to lead the Office of Religious Freedom as I was entrusted to do. But I did find it frustrating that other political parties did not want to listen or take time to



learn about our work. There was also information that we could not disclose, because some people would have been put at risk.

I am very proud of the impact that we had, no matter how modest it might have been.

**Why was it important to focus on religious freedom? Why did not Canada focus on such freedoms as freedom of press or concentrate on combating slavery and forced labour?**

Canada's government focuses on all those issues in various ways. One can do many things at once, but one does have to establish priorities. When we were championing religious freedom, we were not going to exclude other freedoms because religious freedom is bound together with other freedoms, such as freedom of expression, freedom of association. Religious freedom is fundamentally about the public living out of your most deeply held beliefs. Whether those beliefs are religious and theistic, or whether they are atheistic. The vast majority of people in the world, who are persecuted for their beliefs, are being persecuted for religious beliefs. There are people, especially in certain Muslim countries, who are maybe secular humanists, or atheists, or agnostics who are persecuted for challenging the established religion. Persecution is quite severe in many places.

If one does not have freedom to live one's most deeply held beliefs, this means that freedom of association is also restricted. One cannot join together with others to worship. And your freedom of expression is also constrained because you cannot speak openly about your faith. When we associate with others, we are expressing something that we believe, we are expressing ideas. We associate with people because we share something in common with them.

The other thing to remind ourselves is that freedoms are not a gift of some external authority. They are not a gift of the state. Freedoms exist apart from any state because they are inherent to us as human beings. Therefore, the state cannot grant or revoke them, but it has to recognise such beliefs subject to certain restrictions, for example, preaching violence. We had a case in Canada with regard to fundamentalist Mormons in British Columbia. Some of them had 20 wives, including women in their teenage years. They were brought before courts under anti-polygamy laws, as polygamy is prohibited in Canada under the

Criminal Code, as in many other Western democracies. The accused submitted that they had a right to have as many wives as they wanted, because they believed it to be a requirement of their religion. However, the court rightly held it to be a violation of women's and children's rights. I believe it is a reasonable limit. However, if we consider, for example, the freedom to speak out and say that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the saviour of the world, that is a non-violent statement. Hence, I need to be free to say it publicly.

Thus, we have to be able to distinguish between understanding of freedoms and how they are bound together. One cannot speak about one freedom and exclude others, but one can highlight particular freedoms.

**If you were asked to summarise arguments to re-establish the Office of Religious Freedom, what would you say?**

Here, I am going to surprise you. I would not re-establish the Office of Religious Freedom. There are three main arguments for that. The first is that the issue has become too politicised. The Conservative Party wants to re-establish the Office of Religious Freedom, and other parties do not. The concept of religious freedom becomes a political tool. And that does not help anybody. Therefore, we have to depoliticise the issue.

The second reason is that in politicising the Office of Religious Freedom it impugned those who worked there. None of us were politicians. We were all public servants. I was a public servant. Moreover, if one is to re-establish the Office of Religious Freedom, a lot of people at Global Affairs Canada would be very sceptical rightly judging it to be a political tool.

The third reason is that we need to be much more strategic in how we talk about religious freedom so that it is not politicised. I would establish an Office of Human Rights and appoint an Ambassador for Human Rights. That ambassador would have a mandate to defend fundamental freedoms internationally as expressed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This would include initiatives through which we can focus on religious freedom, freedom of expression and freedom of association. I believe we can achieve greater cross-party support by doing so.



— interview with —

# Marko Pavlyshyn



Emeritus Professor Marko Pavlyshyn is the convenor of Ukrainian Studies in Monash University's School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics. His research specialisations include modern and contemporary Ukrainian literature, post-colonial approaches to the study of Slavic literatures and cultures, and issues of culture and national identity. Between 2000-2005 Marko was the Director of Monash University's Centre for European Studies and, in 2005-2010, Head of the School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics. He was the founding President of the Ukrainian Studies Association of Australia. In 1998-2003 he was President of the Australia and New Zealand Slavists' Association. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

**Please, tell us about your family and your childhood?**

I was born in Brisbane, Queensland, in 1955. My parents came to Australia in 1948. They were both born in Western Ukraine. My father was an architecture student in Vienna and then graduated in Darmstadt, Germany. My mother did Slavic Studies in Prague. They came to Australia, where both became activists in the Ukrainian community of Brisbane. My father headed the Ukrainian Association of Queensland, for many years. My mother taught singing and directed the school choir in the Brisbane Ukrainian community school. And the Ukrainian community life in which my parents were so deeply involved was a part of my experience

as a child. I attended the Ukrainian community school on Saturdays and attended, with my parents, weekly. It was a Ukrainian diaspora childhood which was, at the same time, quite integrated into Australian life. I attended Australian secondary school in Brisbane, where I also completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Queensland. Then, I moved to Melbourne for my graduate work.

**You were born in Australia to Ukrainian immigrants. Please tell us, how did your parents get to Australia? Do you have relatives in the Diaspora?**

My parents came to Australia after the Second World War. Given the nature of Soviet rule, returning



to Ukraine was not an option for them. When Australia began to receive refugees from European countries, my parents chose to emigrate there. My grandmother already lived in Australia. She had come in 1937.

**How did you choose your specialization? Were you free in choosing your career and professional occupation?**

This story has some unusual dimensions. I qualified in literary studies as a Germanist. Ukrainian Studies was not available as a specialization in Australia at the time. German literature interested me, and I completed my Ph.D. in this field in 1982. This was the time when the Ukrainian diaspora in North America made it a priority to fund Ukrainian Studies at universities. Australia followed suit. At Monash University in Melbourne there was interest in converting the Russian department into a Department of Slavic Languages where Ukrainian would also be offered. An academic position in Ukrainian Studies was advertised. When the person appointed decided three weeks before the start of classes not to come to Australia, I was offered the job. That is how in 1983 I became Australia's first lecturer in Ukrainian Studies. Despite lacking formal qualifications in this field, I did not seek to obtain a Ph.D. in Slavic Studies. I simply began writing and publishing, applying the theoretical principles and methods that I had acquired as a Germanist in my research into Ukrainian literature. Thus, I was able to establish a profile in this field very quickly.

**What was the most interesting stage in your career?**

The most interesting stage in my career came a little later. In the Soviet Union, as the period of *perebudova* and *glasnost* developed momentum, cultural life became exciting; in Ukraine, particularly in the literary sphere, new possibilities appeared. At the same time, contacts with Western countries became easier. I began traveling to Ukraine and sharing with Ukrainian colleagues the scholarly approaches that had gained currency in the Western humanities. I found myself applying these to Ukrainian cultural life. It had become rather popular to describe the

cultural conditions of the time as postmodern – that is, characterized by a pleasing, even playful fluidity, resistant to the notion of immutable truths, celebratory of the differences between cultures and the possibility of their beneficent intermingling. I was interested in discovering such phenomena in Ukrainian cultural life.

This was also a period when postcolonial studies had achieved mainstream status in Western humanities scholarship. Western practitioners of this approach generally focused their attention on the unjust power relations between Western cultures and those of the former colonies of Western nations. Similar relations between Russian culture and the cultures of the subordinate nations of the Russian Empire and, later, the Soviet Union, however, remained largely invisible from their perspective. I began to write about the topic, and some of these publications found a welcoming audience in Ukraine. Overall, the period between 1990 and 1993 was, perhaps, the most interesting stage of my career. The things that I wrote in this period achieved some influence, and they are still cited.

Prior to my first visit to Ukraine I became acquainted with the poet Dmytro Pavlychko, then a key figure of *Rukh*, the Ukrainian movement for *perebudova*. He arranged for me to stay at the House of Writers in Irpin. I would travel daily to Kyiv, where the Institute of Literature of the Academy of Sciences gave me a desk. This was also an extremely beneficial experience for me. It was an opportunity for me to interact with members of Ukraine's academic community. I found no difficulties at all in communicating with these fellow professionals. For all our differences, we shared many common experiences and were pleased to exchange views.

**What is your current position?**

Last year I retired from Monash University. My current position is Emeritus Professor of Ukrainian Studies, which means that I'm expected to contribute to research and to continue to supervise PhDs. Recently we had two such graduates, both of them originally from Ukraine. One of them, Denys Shestopalets, researched the political discourse of religious leaders in Ukraine. The other, Olha



Marko Pavlyshyn  
and Serhy Yekelchuk

Monash University, 1992



Shmihelska, looked into the challenges encountered by present-day immigrants from Ukraine to Berlin and Melbourne. Olha and Denys were recipients of scholarships created by generous donors, Victor and Maria Rudewych. The doctoral projects were interdisciplinary and involved supervisory teams representing different disciplines, in Olha's case sociology and law (as well as Ukrainian Studies, of course).

**Tell us about the history of the establishment of the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics at Monash University. Can you share your experience working as a leader of this Project?**

Well, the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics is the overarching entity in which Ukrainian Studies is today located. At first, the Ukrainian program was part of the Department of Slavic Languages. Later, this was merged into a Department of German Studies and Slavic Studies. This in turn was blended into a School of European Languages and Cultures, then a School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics (of which I was head for five years) before the final amalgamation that created the diverse School bearing the present, rather cumbersome, title. At different times I was also director of the Center for European Studies and of the Center for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.

**Please, tell us more about the history of the**

**establishment of the Ukrainian Association of Australia?**

The wave of displaced people of Ukrainian origin who came from Germany after the Second World War settled mostly in the capital cities of the Australian states. In each, similar organizations were created to address the needs – political, social, and cultural – of the Ukrainian community. Soon the leaders of these bodies came to the view that they needed a national body that would co-ordinate their activities. The first such entity, called the Union of Ukrainians in Australia, came into being in 1950. Today it is known as the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations (AFUO). So, since the 1950s, the Ukrainian community has had a centralized structure. AFUO members are the state community organizations (the so-called hromady) and the national peak bodies of other organizations including the two major youth associations and the women's association. The Ukrainian churches – Catholic, Orthodox and, for a time, Baptist – have honorary membership, as does the peak body for Ukrainian community schools, the Ukrainian Education Council of Australia. Australia's Ukrainian community is, as you see, highly structured and organized. Hence it is able to exert greater pressure on the Australian government than its size would suggest. These things are well described in published sources, such as the two volumes of the book *Ukrainci v Australii* (1966 and 1998) and the fourth volume of the *Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora*, which is mainly dedicated





to Australian material.

**Please, share your experience leading the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Australia and the Ukrainian Association of Australia.**

In the early 1950s a Ukrainian literature scholar, Yevhen Yulii Pelenskyi, who migrated to Sydney, established the Australian branch of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. In the mid-1960s, a sub-branch was established in Melbourne by Teodosii Liakhovych. The Society's main achievements were the preparation, editing, and publication of those big volumes about Ukrainians in Australia and the organization of a series of conferences on Ukrainian settlement in Australia. I became President of this Society at some point in the 1990s. Many of the activities of the Shevchenko Scientific Society were taken over by the Ukrainian Studies Association of Australia (USAA). Major Ukrainian Studies conferences held at a number of Australian universities were co-productions of the Shevchenko Society and the USAA. In 2015 the USAA became the Ukrainian Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand, and its current president is Natalia Chaban, a professor of European Studies at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. Dr Chaban is originally from Cherkasy, Ukraine.

**Regarding the Ukrainian Studies association, what were the background students that took part in the courses?**

In the early 1980s, the students of Ukrainian Studies at Monash were in large part members of the Ukrainian community. This changed over time. In recent decades students taking Ukrainian have come from a range of backgrounds, those with Ukrainian roots being a small minority. The last undergraduate cohort that I taught contained, among others, a student from the People's Republic of China, an Australian Chinese student, a young woman from Ukraine whose native language was Russian, and a son of recent immigrants from Ukraine who had maintained Ukrainian language and culture to a high degree. But most were random people interested in Ukrainian, or in languages generally, for a range of reasons.

As for the USAA/USAANZ, it has always sought to

involve colleagues of different backgrounds and from a wide range of disciplines who work on Ukrainian questions or issues related to Ukraine, encouraging them to increase their exposure to Ukrainian subject matter.

**What do you consider to be the most constructive or lasting accomplishment of the Diaspora in Australia?**

One of the features of the Australian Ukrainian community which differentiates it from its counterparts in Canada and the United States is that it came into being much later. The post-Second World War immigrants and their descendants formed a relatively coherent group which quickly organized itself. Despite being a relatively small community, Australian Ukrainians have been quite effective politically. When, for example, the Malaysia Airlines flight was shot down over eastern Ukraine in 2014 with many Australians on board, the Ukrainian community was able to influence the Australian government to respond energetically to that tragedy. It is, as I said earlier, a community that has created a remarkably centralized and well-structured network of organizations providing a wide spectrum of fields – cultural, social, and religious – in which people of Ukrainian identity may involve themselves.

How is the Ukrainian community represented in Australia?

The structures through which the various parts of the community are represented in its central body, the AFUO, are as I've described them earlier in this interview. The AFUO, in turn, is represented in the Ukrainian World Congress and thus has input into diaspora-wide policy formation and the diaspora's liaison with official structures of the Ukrainian state. As for representation of Ukrainian causes to the various Australian state governments and the Australian federal government, this is achieved, in part, through the activity of Australian-Ukrainian parliamentary friendship groups, but also informally through the personal networks and connections of key community activists. A handful of state and national parliamentarians have some Ukrainian heritage.



To Australian society at large, the Ukrainian community, small though it is, most frequently becomes visible through traditional mechanisms of cultural self-representation. Multicultural festivals, in particular, are occasions when Ukrainian folkloric and other ensembles showcase Ukrainian culture.

### **Does Ukrainian Diaspora feel any discrimination in Australia?**

I don't think that the AFUO or any of the organized Ukrainian communities in Australia experience discriminatory pressure of a systemic kind at the moment. But by virtue of the very nature of immigration, new immigrants experience certain kinds of disadvantage. Even well-qualified Ukrainian immigrants who come for ready jobs, are fairly fluent in English, and have some financial resources prior to migration – even they need the social capital of a community. They benefit from cooperation with each other.

### **What are your thoughts on the current situation in Ukraine?**

The main fact in the minds of diaspora Ukrainians when they think of the Ukrainian situation today is the war. For many Ukrainians, the war appears to have clarified issues of identity on which perhaps until recently they had no reason to reflect deeply. The war has convinced many Ukrainians that they are committed to their country, whatever their cultural profile.

Something I find impressive about Ukraine is that, despite the country's tribulations and difficulties, it remains a democracy, a state that for all of its imperfections still provides for orderly transitions of power through elections.

I've tried to follow some of the successes and failures of the Ukrainian state as it faces the challenges that it needs to overcome, including recent setbacks in the struggle against corruption that have been the work of the Constitutional Court, no less. Such developments are, indeed, disappointing. But regardless of all difficulties, the country has survived for nearly 30 years. That is a longer period of independence than



any which Ukraine has enjoyed since the Middle Ages.

### **What advice can you give to members of the upcoming generation of diaspora Ukrainians?**

My recommendation is that people of the upcoming diaspora generation learn to think of themselves as global citizens with a Ukrainian aspect. It's important to understand oneself in a contemporary, modern way – as a person of multiple identities. We are integrated into the countries where we live, but we have bonds through culture and heritage with the countries from which we come. It makes sense to nurture both kinds of relationship, benefiting from the education and economic opportunities of our countries of residence, but at the same time cultivating Ukrainian cultural and linguistic competence and our connections to Ukraine. **CUPP**



interview with

# Eugene Z. Stakhiv

Eugene's family moved to the U.S. after World War II. Eugene was born in 1944 in Austria, his current place of residence is Alexandria, Virginia. Eugene graduated from City College of New York, gaining a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology in 1966. Later, he obtained a master's degree in oceanography from Florida University and a Ph.D. in water systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1989. Most of his professional life, Eugene worked at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources and has published over 100 papers and authored 150 technical reports. Eugene conducted numerous scientific studies and was a co-recipient of 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in which he co-chaired the group on water resources management.. In 1992 he developed projects to prevent draughts and flooding and provide hydropower in Ukraine. He's worked internationally with the World Bank, USAID and UN organizations on water projects in Bangladesh, Aral Sea Basin, Armenia, Iraq, Vietnam, Indonesia, Phillipines and Afghanistan. In 2003, he served as interim Minister of Irrigation in Iraq as part of the reconstruction of Iraq. In 2004, he served as science advisor to the US Ambassador to UNESCO. Eugene has always played an active part in Ukrainian diaspora life. He helps to sustain Plast, and is an active member of Plast "Chornomortsi", and he contributes articles on scientific issues to Ukrainian newspapers and other publications.

## preface

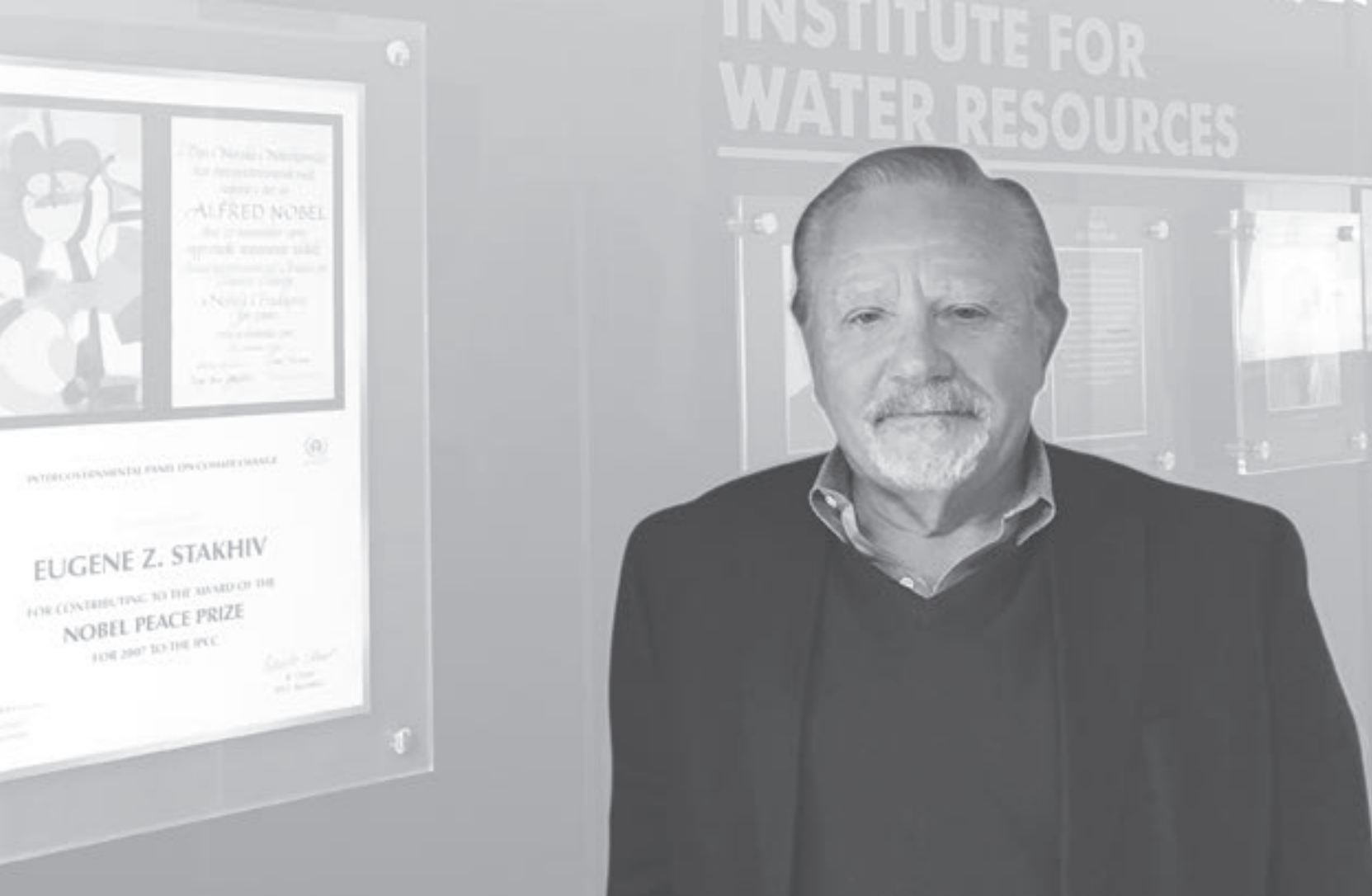
Response by Eugene Z. Stakhiv, Professor at Johns Hopkins University, USA

All of your questions address and revolve around the basic issue of 'what should be the role of a Diaspora – what purposes do they serve?'. All diaspora's go through an evolutionary process: Stage 1 first generation emigres who look for economic opportunities, who don't know the language and have minimal skills, simply organize as a series of fraternal and community organizations, consolidating around a common language and religion – to be with like-minded people who share the same cultural experiences. Stage 2 is built around the next generation who have assimilated into the host nation and join the middle class, and begin to exert authority through positions in academia, business and local government. Stage 3: individuals with a strong Ukrainian heritage become successful businessmen; participate in political processes, and assume leadership positions in the major institutions

of the host nation – government, military, judicial, and academia. It is this 3rd stage where the Diaspora exerts the most political influence in supporting the aspirations of native Ukraine – as in the case of US and Canada.

Thus, given the recent nature of an exodus of 1 million Ukrainians seeking jobs throughout Europe, it will take time for them to consolidate and organize. Many will be in stage 1. Albeit that many Ukrainians emigrating now are fairly well-educated and have skills – so they will be similar to the 3rd wave immigrants after World War II, who settled in US, Canada and Australia – whereupon they immediately organized the foundations of the cultural infrastructure based on language, arts, Plast, SUM, religion and community welfare (e.g. UVAN, NTSh, Samopomich, Narodny Soyuz, Robitnychiy Soyuz).





**T** There have been several **DIASPORAS** or **Waves of Immigration**, out of Ukraine. Can a comparison be made among/between the **DIASPORAS** and the impact they made on the homeland?

Yes, I can **QUALITATIVELY** compare the relative effectiveness of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> waves. I represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave – parents came to America in 1949 after the World War II – most were very patriotic **POLITICAL REFUGEES** from western Ukraine – largely middle class and reasonably well-educated – far better than 1<sup>st</sup> (1890's) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (1920's) waves who were largely **ECONOMIC REFUGEES**, who came seeking a better life. Many 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> wave emigrants were Zakarpathian 'rusyns', who did not identify with Western Ukraine and its political aspirations. Nevertheless, they set up orthodox and catholic churches, schools and other Ukrainian institutions that served as the foundations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave. The news of the 'Holodomor' of the 1930's played a great role in unifying these Ukrainian institutions and in consolidating the Ukrainian national identity amongst these groups. The 3<sup>rd</sup> wave fortified the anti-

Soviet nationalist sentiments. The 4<sup>th</sup> wave, again, was more oriented towards economic benefits, and were not as vocal about Ukrainian nationalism, despite the Orange Revolution and subsequent revolution of Dignity. Nevertheless, in the US, the 4<sup>th</sup> wave revitalized many of the institutions, focusing on fundamental organizations like the churches, Ukrainian school, credit unions and Ukrainian national homes.

**Can you perceive the Ukrainian Diasporas existing in the countries of current settlement, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, USA, Australia/New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, France, Germany, UK, Greece, Italy, China, etc. evolving into permanent Diasporas similar to the Jewish Diasporas?**

Yes, anything is possible, but a key feature of a functioning and **EFFECTIVE** diaspora is mass – i.e. large numbers of people who are willing to dedicate and volunteer their time, effort and finances to organize themselves into a viable political entity.



And the question then becomes – to do what, exactly? Many organizations exist simply as fraternal organizations – simply to be together and enjoy the company of like-minded people. A Diaspora, like the Jewish one, for example, has a higher goal in mind – to help Israel or their respective native countries – politically, financially and economically. Many of the countries noted above are not noted for helping Ukraine – only US, Canada and Australia have been effective, because of the influence of 3rd wave patriotic Ukrainians. The rest are essentially useless because their Diaspora numbers are small, they have very little influence on their host nations – but most importantly, the political policies of those host nations are not very supportive of Ukraine’s aspirations.

**What would be the benefit to the homeland and the Diaspora, if permanent and active Diasporas take root/hold in those countries?**

As noted above in question #2 – what is the purpose of an ‘active Diaspora’? There are two main objectives of a well-functioning, active Diaspora in an individual country. One can organize simply for maintaining community cultural values (church, Ukrainian school, sports, scouting, etc.) or one can organize explicitly for two main purposes: 1) to assist native Ukraine in its needs (support war effort, send material aid, create businesses, etc.) AND 2) to influence the policies of the host nations to help Ukraine (in the UN, through direct financial aid, grants, business loans, research assistance, trade, bilateral treaties, etc.). Both objectives are very important and complement one another.

**What do you consider to be the most constructive or lasting accomplishment of the Diaspora in Canada/USA/UK/France, Australia, Argentina, UK, etc?**

My time in Iraq negotiating new water supplies with local sheikhs along the Euphrates River.

August 2003

I only see significant accomplishments from U.S., Canada and Australia – mainly because they have very effective diaspora that has been operating in the political sphere and influencing their governments to provide visible support for Ukraine in all the international institutions: UN, IMF, NATO, Parliaments, legislation, etc. The rest seem to be very weak to non-existent.

As an example, in the US we have UCCA (Ukrainian Congress Committee of America), which supports UNIS (Ukrainian National Information Service) which, in turn, lobbies Congress for all sorts of legislation condemning Russia and providing financial support for Ukraine’s war. Canada has a similar effective political structure. This is the crux of an effective Diaspora – it needs to address the basic goals of a sovereign Ukraine. Otherwise, it just serves its own internal community needs – which are necessary prerequisites to sustain it’s more important external role in providing support to Ukraine.

**Should Ukraine, Canada and the USA enter into a NATO model union, if Ukraine does not join NATO?**

NO - politically NOT FEASIBLE for either nation. The U.S. already has an obligation to defend Ukraine should any country invade its territory via the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, signed by the U.S., U.K., Russia and France. But, already, the U.S. and U.K. have already stated that this agreement does not have the status of a formal treaty. The best and





### Dr. Eugene Stakhiv Receives Meritorious Civilian Service Medal

Under Secretary of the Army Dr. Joe Westphal (left) presents medal to Dr. Eugene Stakhiv (right).

2013 © iwr.usace.army.mil

only path for Ukraine to shore up its security is to become a member of the EU and NATO. But first, it has to tackle its many internal problems – foremost among them being corruption.

**Ukraine has one of the largest Diasporas in the world, with many of its members maintaining cultural and economic linkages with their homeland. What tools does the Ukrainian World Congress use to unite Ukrainians abroad?**

I can't say that I'm impressed by the work of the Ukrainian World Congress. Perhaps their main function is simply to keep all the parties in each of the countries working together to achieve common aims. I can only say that UCCA-US is very effective, because it has a permanent paid lobbyist in Congress, working on behalf of achieving concrete goals in aiding Ukraine – whether it be sanctions on Russia, military aid for Ukraine, support in the UN, or World bank loans. This is the MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION of UCCA in support of Ukraine. Except for Canada, I don't see any similar or comparably effective initiatives in the other western countries. But, perhaps I'm not that well-informed of other activities.

**Approximately one million Ukrainians leave the homeland every year, according to former Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin. What can serve as an incentive for Ukrainians to return to their homeland?**

Improvement in economic conditions; better job prospects for young graduates; improve graduate school academic and research opportunities; combating corruption and ending the war in Donbas.

**Should the return to the homeland be a priority for Ukraine's government?**

Only for key high-valued jobs and certain economic and financial sectors. Economic and tax incentives must be provided for businesses and individuals in science, technology and business formation.

**What would you change in the framework of Ukraine's current politics?**

What would you change in the framework of Ukraine's current politics? Not much – Zelensky is undertaking the fundamental changes that the populace has wanted since the Orange Revolution. He has his hands full with reforming the court system; curbing the power of oligarchs; reforming the economic system of Ukraine; reforming the military while fighting a hybrid war against Russia – all in the midst of a pandemic. He's under great pressure from the EU, IMF and the U.S. to make all these changes without much help fending off Russia. [CUPP](#)





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interview with

# Andriy Semotiuk

Andriy's adopted father moved to Alberta in 1912. Andriy was born in Canada, and his current place of residence is in Toronto. In 1974 Andriy became an immigration lawyer and helped over 10,000 clients with various legal problems. He is an authority on the topic of U.S. and Canadian immigration, writing articles for Forbes as well as speaking internationally on the subject. In the 1970s, Andriy worked for Ukrainian World Congress as a correspondent and for the Bureau of Human Rights of the Ukrainian World Congress as a journalist. He defended many Ukrainian prisoners imprisoned by the Soviet Union, including Danylo Shumuk, Valentyn Moroz, and many others.

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**Good morning, Mr. Semotiuk, it's a pleasure to meet you. As you know there have been several diasporas or waves of immigration, out of Ukraine. Can a comparison be made among/between the diasporas and the impact they made on the homeland?**

Each Wave of the Diaspora was different. The first wave which was prior to World War I was an economic wave looking for improvements in regard to living standards. People were hard-pressed because of the situation back home in terms of farming

and what economic opportunities there were for Ukrainians back home. So you have to consider this: some Ukrainians came from Western Ukraine, but Eastern Ukraine was behind the Iron Curtain. So I am talking mainly about Western Ukrainians who came to Canada, to the United States and elsewhere, because prior to World War I in Eastern Ukraine it was Tsarist Russia and I think it was difficult to move from Eastern Ukraine westward. So the first wave was an economic wave and, of course, they had to get established, get their feet on the ground, and after



that they started sending money back to Ukraine. It is illustrated through my own family experience.

My adopted father, Vasyl Semotiuk, he came in a first wave to Canada. He came in 1912. When he arrived in Alberta, Western Canada, he almost immediately got a job, he started working on the railroad. The railroad back then was a priority for Canada, to link all the provinces. And he became ultimately one of these guys who repair the railroad, he was a foreman and he had other immigrants working for him repairing the railroad tracks. He worked there for 30 years as the railroad person. In his case he grew up in Western Ukraine near Chernivtsi and his father died when he was young, a teenager, leaving behind a family to look after. Vasyl, my adopted father, had to look after his brothers and a sister and get them through school before he could leave to come to Canada, to pursue his fortune. He himself had no school education, he was self-taught. So he had been farming until his siblings graduated from school, and then he went to Canada. He believed there had been no future for his family in Ukraine. Vasyl came to Canada and started sending money back to Ukraine, so that his brother could buy land in Ukraine to extend the farm. Therefore, that was the first generation.

Following the World War I, the second generation came. And in the case of my family, my uncle Andriy came, my father's brother. And also his other brother Ilya came to Canada. Ilya fought during the War for Austria. He was a corporal in the Austrian army. And he knew Hitler.

### **Personally?**

Personally, yeah. He said that he was a good corporal, a good soldier, Hitler was. But Ilya escaped, he took off in the middle of the War and came to Canada. Because he didn't want to fight for Austria, he wanted to fight for Ukraine. So he would be a part of a second generation, him and uncle Andriy came after the World War I. They went into farming, they asked my father to buy a farm, he paid the money. So they farmed. Now, there was more of a political immigration, but still economic. And what happened there in their case was drought. And year after year crops failed. The Dust Bowl of 1930s came through Alberta, meaning nothing, locusts, thousands of

locusts. They killed all the crops. There was no rain. And year after year they suffered, they barely survived. My father helped them as much as he could. They struggled and then finally, finally they got crops and they got up on their feet. And that's an interwar generation, I guess.

Then there's a third generation, which is the post World War II generation, that was definitely political. People didn't want to be under Soviet rule and they came to Canada, established themselves in Canada. Now, these generations didn't get along very well, the first generation worked hard, scraped for every penny. They looked at the second generation and said: "Та то ліниві люди, вони не хочуть працювати, they want everything for free". And the second generation, for example, in my own family's case my father, Vasyl, sponsored a guy from his old village. A guy named Butsmaniuk who was a painter. So it's winter, this guy is not doing any work, because he's a painter, he doesn't want just any job, he wants a job where he could keep his hands so he could paint. And my father was like: "Why is this guy just sitting here doing nothing, why doesn't he take any job?". And this guy is thinking: "I can't take any job, I need to be a painter". So there was a bit of conflict between the generations. The second generation, the post World War II generation was all about coming back to Ukraine and establishing a free independent Ukraine, a democratic state, which the first generation also supported, but they had differences. They were economically different. The first generation was settled in Canada, they knew how to speak English, they were settled in how things worked. The second generation was new, they didn't know which way was up, they had a hard time adapting. They weren't as entrepreneurial as the first generation. So those are the differences.

**Right, and then there is the last generation or wave of immigration that has started in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. What are the features of that wave? When the diaspora became as organized and efficient as it is now?**

Well, there are two points. One: how did it happen that we have a central body in Canada, Ukrainians that all work together? Two: what is the most recent



generation's orientation? Regarding the first one, the central body. In the midst of World War II when Hitler and Stalin signed Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact to jointly work together, split Poland in half, each taking a half of Poland and for Stalin to support Hitler or at least agree not to attack Hitler when Hitler turned westward and occupied all of Western Europe, while Stalin helped him by giving him resources, during that period the Canadian government was troubled because it had been drawn into the War by the United Kingdom. Canada was a colony of the United Kingdom. And it needed one voice for the Ukrainian community, so this helped the Ukrainian community organize itself. All Ukrainians who were both against Hitler and Stalin organized into one organization, the Ukrainian Canadian Committee it was called back then. To this day the organization is operating and it's name is Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

As for the third generation of immigrants, they are again economically motivated. Their primary concern is to make money, that's why they are in Canada. They don't have much of a volunteer orientation, it's not within their realm of thinking to give their help for free, whether that would be for the church, or a community organization, or a school. Not all of them, of course, this is just a gross generalization. They are less politically motivated than the second generation was. See, they don't go to church, by and large, so one of the largest networks that keep the community together doesn't reach out to that community. Many of them are Russian-speaking. Therefore there is a connection, but a very loose one, with the previous generations.

**Are they ready to help Ukraine or is that beyond their interests at all?**

If they call themselves Ukrainians, usually that means that they are ready in some ways to help Ukraine. But I don't see many leaders among them. There are some who are taking leadership positions and are very good, but not many are.

**Can you perceive the Ukrainian diasporas existing in the countries of current settlement evolving into permanent diasporas similar to the Jewish diasporas? Are they similarly united and efficient?**

Well, you're looking at someone, who's history in

Canada is over a hundred years. So the answer is definitely "yes". There are lots of us. My children speak Ukrainian. They were born in Canada, I was born in Canada.

**How did you learn Ukrainian?**

My parents and school. School has taught me Ukrainian, public school. There is no doubt in the answer. Ukrainian diaspora will survive many, many generations. However, we are not as organized as a Jewish community. They are very good at maintaining their religion, basically. Not their language so much, but their culture and religion. But we're okay. There will be Ukrainians around.

**What would be the benefit to the homeland and the diaspora, if permanent and active Diasporas take root in the countries of settlement in the similar way as the Canadian diaspora?**

Well, there are limits on what can be done within context of, for example, Brazil or Argentina. There are Ukrainians, the second and the third generations who speak Ukrainian and the great benefit to Ukraine is that it raises the profile of who the Ukrainians are. So the country of settlement knows that there are Ukrainians, what they want. That helps Ukraine. And then there are people who are travelling back and forth. It is important to have diasporas in different







### Andriy Semotiuk's Keynote Presentation at PYI Seminar

U.S. & Canadian lawyer and Forbes columnist Andriy Semotiuk delivered a keynote presentation "Navigating Change: A Leader's Role" where he spoke about a great example of Senator Paul Yuzyk's leadership and character.

2018  
Ottawa, Canada

countries, because they influence the government. So we have an influence in Canada, we have an influence in the United States, we have an influence in the UK, in Argentina, in Brazil. That's very helpful to Ukraine.

#### **What do you consider to be the most constructive or lasting accomplishment of the diaspora in Canada, the USA, other countries?**

I think the resurrection of Ukraine as a country is in some measure the result of the diaspora. We lived with a dream of having an independent Ukraine. When Ukraine was behind the Iron Curtain, you know, it seemed hopeless. We defended political prisoners for years. I myself defended Danylo Shumuk for fifteen years before he was finally released. I defended Valentyn Moroz, I was in a hunger strike for ten days to help him when he was in a hunger strike. I was just one of many hundreds, thousands who defended Ukraine in the darkness.

Let me tell you one story. I worked as a Ukrainian journalist at the United Nations in the 1970s. I personally asked questions of the Ukrainian Soviet UN representative at press-conferences in New-York. At one instance Ukrainian Ambassador to the United Nations held a press conference because he was concerned about the human rights record of South Africa. And so he's talking about South Africa and apartheid and I posed a question: "Since you're so

concerned about the human rights in South Africa, are you concerned about the human rights in the Soviet Union and what's going on with Ukrainian dissidents?". I asked Kurt Waldheim, the UN Secretary-General about what the UN is prepared to do for Ukraine. I asked Henry Kissinger who was then a Secretary of State for Gerald Ford whether he was prepared to support Ukraine. I asked Jimmy Carter whether he was ready to support Ukraine. I am just one, there were all kinds of people like me around supporting Ukraine, trying to get Ukraine on her feet. So the biggest contribution is not only not letting the dream die, but also supporting Ukraine financially, for example, raising money for the consulates. Ukraine has consulates in Canada now, because Ukrainian community here helped fund the building. The same happened in the United States, in France, in the UK and elsewhere.

#### **Should Ukraine and Canada and the USA enter into a NATO model union, if Ukraine does not join NATO?**

Well, any Ukrainian union with Western governments, whether it's NATO, EU, US, Canada is a good idea for Ukraine.

#### **Which option is preferable?**

I'll tell you which option is preferable: where

## Opening of the Ukrainian Museum in New York

from left:  
Reporter from Good Housekeeping conversing with  
Camila Smorodsky; **Andriy Semotiuk (Information  
Center of SKVU)**; Andriy Chaikivskyi (Hudson  
Dispatch), Ella Prociuk (Ukrayinka v sviti).

November 11, 1976 © Nashe Zhyttia



Russia falls apart. Russia is the problem. They are not democratic, it's an imperial country, it's still controlling a lot of non-Russian areas, it doesn't respect human rights, it's attacking Ukraine, that's the big problem. So we have to do whatever we can to, it's a long-term issue, but we have to change attitudes in Russia. They still have this great Russian imperial attitude. I believe Ukraine's democracy will survive to the degree to which there's democracy in Russia. I think we need to really focus on Russia. And there are groups in Russia that are very sympathetic to us. Here are some groups in Russia that can be worked with: first of all, gays, the LGBT community, secondly, muslims and other ethnic minorities, thirdly, religious groups like the Mormons, the Jehovah's Witnesses, people like that, fourthly, Russian liberals, although very few, but there are few. And there are others, you know, people outside the big cities, who are not that pleased with what is going on in Russia. We have to work with people like that. But it's not going to come from inside Russia, it's going to come from outside of it.

### **What can we do to help those people create democratic country?**

We have to teach them. We have to get them to see for themselves what life is like in a free democratic state by coming to Western countries. We have to encourage young people to talk openly about what the situation there is, I mean among themselves, and to study their own history, the history of the

World Wars, the United Nations, religious groups. They need to talk.

### **Ukraine has one of the largest diasporas in the world, with many of its members maintaining cultural and economic linkages with their homeland. What tools does the Ukrainian World Congress use to unite Ukrainians abroad?**

I worked for Ukrainian World Congress in 1970s when I was at the United Nations in New York. What tools does it use? Well, it speaks Ukrainian, it's a helpful tool. It supports Ukrainian organizations like churches, schools, social services. It talks about the history, the history of Ukrainians. History is a very important unifier. It can also be a divider, like if talk about the Holodomor in Ukraine it can be a unifier. But if you are Russian and you descended from someone who came to Ukraine after the Holodomor because your father or grandfather was a colonel in Red Army and was given some land in Ukraine, then the Holodomor is not exactly a unifier for you. So the language practice, the culture, respecting the traditions, religion, supporting dissidents and political prisoners currently in Russia, fighting the war against Russia (Russia is a tremendous unifier of Ukraine, anything Russia is doing has been unifying Ukraine), so, publishing newsletters, those are all steps that World Congress is taking to help.

**Approximately one million Ukrainians leave the homeland every year, according to former**



**Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin. What can serve as an incentive for Ukrainians to return to their homeland?**

If Ukraine had the rule of law and respect for private property, you know, the rule of law, meaning the courts work, and what they say is what they do, and the country abides by the laws and the declarations of the court, if Ukraine implemented that a lot of people would be interested in coming back to Ukraine. Where there is no rule of law it's hard to expect that people would come and invest in the state. And there are changes coming, it's not like nothing is happening. And as they do a lot of Ukrainians will come back. What I would do is, there are all kinds of charts of countries and where they stand. So, for example, Transparency International has a chart that lists countries according to transparency; Freedom House has a chart which countries are the freest; Amnesty International's chart is in terms of human rights and so on. So what I would do is I would take these charts and follow, how well Ukraine is doing from month to month, from year to year? How are we on anti corruption front, where do we stand? We're behind Nigeria, why is Nigeria ahead of us? How could we beat Nigeria? What are they're doing we aren't doing? Where are we on human rights? Why are we 134th out of 186? Who is ahead of us? Why are they ahead of us? I would work on that level, I would try to improve notch by notch up. If we could knock out Russia's influence over us, and that's only going to come by an internal change in Russia, the war is not going to do it. I don't think we (when I say 'we', I mean Ukrainians), I don't think we are going to win a war against Russia. You know, they've got nuclear arms, they've got vessels, they've got tanks, airplanes. That's not the field where we are going to win. But in the ideological war, in the fight for truth, what is true and what is good, we could win. We have the right to win, because we surrendered, Ukraine did, its nuclear arsenal. That's where we are leaders in the world. The Chernobyl disaster and the clean up and how it transformed the transparency of what's going on in Ukraine, that's another place where we're leaders in the world in terms of the environment. I don't know if there are many countries who are sensitive to the environment as Ukraine and make sure that kids and grandkids don't suffer from environmental disasters.

So there are places where we're leading. I think we have to fight on the non-violent, peaceful ideological front in terms of future.

**Russia has been using an advanced form of hybrid warfare in Ukraine since early 2014 that relies heavily on an element of information warfare. How strong is this sociocultural phenomenon in Canada, USA, Australia, Europe?**

It's very strong, it's all over the place. They've got RT (Russia Today) television all over the place here. You know, stupid people watch RT television and they think that's the truth. There is a fight truth versus fiction. And it's pouring out of Russia into the United States, Canada, Europe, and Ukraine. Fiction through the RT television is everywhere, hybrid warfare. What amazes me is that there is no hybrid warfare back. Why aren't we pumping truth into Russia? The same is true for Canada, we should be pumping the truth into their country. They could be close-minded, but they just need to see the truth, that's the problem, they don't know the truth.

In any country, in any political situation there is a staunch 40% that will never change, there is 40% that will eventually seek a change and then there is, in between that, 20% that will make a difference. So not much you can do about the 40% that will never change. But there's a lot you can do to strengthen the 40% that will and fight over the 20% who will make a difference. And this is all propaganda in the sense of truthful propaganda. Telling the truth or helping them see the truth, especially by example. You know, having people like you, who will go to Russia, but... You can't speak the truth in Russia openly, because you'll get shot. So you got to live the truth, be the change you want to be. And if enough people are, that will help. It'll take a generation or two, maybe not in my lifetime, maybe in yours, but it will change. And as Putin goes some other guy will come along, and maybe not quite as bad as Putin. But you can't expect internal change by itself without help from outside. They need to see the reality, the outside world.

**Thank you so much for your time and for your help, Mr. Semotiuk.** 



— interview with —

# Myron Momryk

Retired archivist from Library and Archives Canada

**T** **There have been several DIASPORAS or Waves of Immigration, out of Ukraine. Can a comparison be made among/between the DIASPORAS and the impact they made on the homeland?**

I am writing from the Canadian point of view regarding the various waves of immigration from Ukraine. In Canadian history, there are three main waves of immigration: First wave – 1891-1914; Second wave – 1920-1939; and third wave – 1945-1952. All three waves were composed of Ukrainians who sought to have a future and provide for their families that they could not in Ukraine under the Austrians and Russians (First wave), the Poles (Second wave) or the Soviets (Second and Third waves). They were able to build a life in Canada that they could not in Ukraine as farmers, workers, scholars, middle class professionals, artists, writers etc. In all three waves, the leadership of the community was concerned about the fate of Ukraine and campaigned for the independence of Ukraine. The Third wave (post-Second World War) made a determined effort to keep the struggle for the independence of Ukraine their main goal through political organizations and publications, lobbying with the Canadian federal government, public demonstrations, etc. In the Canadian case, this struggle was successful because Canada was the first western country to recognize the independence of Ukraine in 1991 (Poland was the

first east European country). This led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**Can you perceive the Ukrainian Diasporas existing in the countries of current settlement, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, USA, Australia/New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, France, Germany, UK, Greece, Italy, China, etc. evolving into permanent Diasporas similar to the Jewish Diasporas?**

The Diasporas in these countries can be organized in a similar style as the Jewish Diaspora but through organizations with a membership that has a broader base than those strictly of Ukrainian descent. These organizations could be, for example, the Norway-Ukraine Friendship Society. Their goal would be to promote trade, economic ties, exchange of scholars, artistic groups, tourism and related matters that both countries can benefit. Norwegians could be members especially those who are Ukrainophiles, planning to visit Ukraine and interested in learning the language and culture. At the same time, they can lobby their governments where they live on issues that directly involve Ukraine.

**What would be the benefit to the homeland and the Diaspora, if permanent & active Diasporas take root/hold in those countries?**

To use the Norwegians again as an example, the Ukrainians in Norway can lobby the government on various issues such as entry into the Council of Europe and NATO. They can provide 'Ukrainska Pravda' on controversial historical issues, send articles and letters to local newspapers and counter any attempts by the enemies of Ukraine to distort and slander the Ukrainian nation. On economic issues, they can lobby with the Norwegian government to assist Ukraine with the oil industry and other business ventures. They can organize tours of cultural groups to Ukraine and promote tourism. They can also lobby both governments on political and economic issues that are of interest to both countries. Until recently, Ukrainians were often mistaken for 'Russians' and spreading popular knowledge about Ukraine should be a primary goal. Ideally, Ukrainians living in Diaspora countries should run for elected offices at all levels. This is perhaps the best way to help their own local communities and also Ukraine.

**What do you consider to be the most constructive or lasting accomplishment of the Diaspora in Canada/USA/UK/France, Australia, Argentina, UK, etc.**

The most constructive and lasting accomplishment is the independence of Ukraine in 1991.

**Should English be made mandatory in Ukraine's elementary and secondary (high school) schools?**

It is generally accepted that the English language is now the international working language of choice replacing the French language in many areas. The English language is necessary for anyone wishing to have an international career in politics, business, education, science and many other fields. However, it should not be mandatory.

**Should Ukraine and Canada and the USA enter into a NATO model union, if Ukraine does not join NATO?**

Over the last 150 years, the Ukrainian people have been drawn into international conflicts because they were obliged as Austrian, Polish or Soviet citizens to participate in wars that were not of benefit to the Ukrainian people. Ukraine should not participate in

any military alliances but rely on their own human and material resources for defence. I am suggesting Sweden as a model. However, temporary alliances are possible but under no circumstances, should foreign soldiers or military bases be stationed in Ukraine. Ukraine had a treaty with Russia about the Russian Black Sea fleet in Crimea and Russia took advantage of the political chaos in Kyiv in 2014 to annex Crimea.

**Ukraine has one of the largest Diasporas in the world, with many of its members maintaining cultural and economic linkages with their homeland. What tools does the Ukrainian World Congress use to unite Ukrainians abroad?**

A primary tool for many decades for uniting Ukrainians is social, youth and political organizations that have an international membership for example, Plast. Also, social events such as conferences, meetings and especially banquets which are outdated but useful tools to arrange meetings among Ukrainians and form a common consensus among Ukrainians. The popular media is another useful tool that should be mobilized to defend Ukraine against the efforts of the enemies of Ukraine to slander and distort Ukrainian identity and history. The present efforts by the Ukrainian World Congress should be continued and expanded.

**What is/are the strategy, mission and results and achievements of the work of the Ukrainian World Congress?**

The Ukrainian World Congress should continue to represent the views and interests of the Diaspora with the Ukrainian government and also with foreign governments and the United Nations. It seems that the present Ukrainian government has not shed its Soviet traditions and is incapable of governing a modern state according to democratic principles.

**The global Ukrainian community is playing a critical role in support of national efforts to build a peaceful, prosperous, strong and united Ukraine. How would you in general evaluate the cooperation with Ukraine's government? Is the potential of the Ukrainian Diaspora sufficiently harnessed/used?**

The Ukrainian World Congress should continue

to perform its role as a 'loyal opposition' based on democratic principles that seem to be lacking in Ukraine. It should be emphasized that the Congress seeks no financial gain or other benefits for the constructive criticism whereas politicians often cater to interest and lobby groups and support policies for personal financial gain. The political party system in Ukraine is still at the nascent stage and the existing parties are based on individual personalities rather than on political programs such as a Socialist, Liberal or Conservative Party. These personalities tend to govern according to their own private interests (and for paid foreign interests). The Congress should constructively criticize the Ukrainian government on its policies and programs and the Ukrainian government should appreciate this role if they value the role of the Diaspora in building the Ukrainian nation.

**Approximately one million Ukrainians leave the homeland every year, according to former Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin. What can serve as an incentive for Ukrainians to return to their homeland?**

The best incentive is the end to the war in eastern Ukraine. It was obvious to interested observers from the Diaspora that the Ukrainian Army in the years 1991-2014, was totally demoralized, impoverished and badly equipped. Yet the Ukrainian journalists, politicians including the World Congress neglected to raise the question of the poor state of the Ukrainian military. As a result, when the Russians invaded Crimea and eastern Ukraine, nothing was done and many soldiers and sailors surrendered to the Russians for a promise of increased pay. The war has to be brought to a successful conclusion. Secondly, the economy has to be improved. The monopolies owned by the oligarchs have to be dissolved and a middle class of independent businessmen, merchants, shop owners, tradesmen encouraged to develop. The banking system has to be government regulated and supervised otherwise they are used by the oligarchs as sources for dubious and often illegal financial transactions for their own benefit. The economy has to be diversified so that youth graduating from school can have a choice in employment. The government

bureaucracy has to be reduced so that Ukrainians can work at manufacturing and productive industries and pay income tax to improve government services. Seeking government employment (and security) is still a tradition from the Soviet years. For workers that unfortunately lost their jobs because they worked in obsolete industries (like the coal industry), should be re-trained in various other more modern skills and trades. Adult education courses at all levels should be emphasized and promoted. When the economy will flourish, Ukrainians will return.

**Should the return to the homeland be a priority for Ukraine's government?**

The present Ukrainian government should have as its priority, the end of the war in eastern Ukraine and the return of Crimea. The popular perception both inside and outside of Ukraine is that the Ukrainian politicians are mainly interested in improving their own financial situation at the expense of the nation. Where are the patriots? The people living abroad will return when there will be peace and prosperity in Ukraine.

**What would you change in the framework of Ukraine's current politics?**

I would emphasize that the present Ukrainian government make a strong effort to depend on their own national human and economic resources rather than continually borrow money from international agencies and banks. I am aware that the present Ukrainian government's debt to foreign entities is enormous and this is a road to eventual economic collapse. The oligarchs have to be eliminated otherwise the present system of oligarchic 'atamanshchyna' that has crippled Ukrainian political actions in the past will ruin the nation.

**Canada and Ukraine are connected by deep and enduring people-to-people ties and growing commercial relations. The entry into force of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA) in 2017 marked another milestone in a partnership that has been creating prosperity for citizens of both countries. What are the most promising sectors for Canadian Investors in Ukraine?**



Some of the industries in Ukraine that can benefit from Canadian investors are businesses used by Canadians such as tourism, computer related, health technology, clothing industry. Also many of the everyday items (almost everything) manufactured and sold from China can be made in Ukraine.

**Russia has been using an advanced form of hybrid warfare in Ukraine since early 2014 that relies heavily on an element of information warfare. How strong is this sociocultural phenomenon in Canada, USA, Australia, Europe?**

The influence of Russia in producing anti-Ukrainian propaganda is strong in Canada and this hybrid warfare has been in effect since the early 2000s. The Russians have built up a network of journalists, academics and politicians that support Russian government policies and actions and also pro-Russian interpretations of history and politics often unconsciously. The Canadian media (including television) has to be constantly monitored by individual Ukrainian Canadians and any anti-Ukrainian information brought to the attention of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. This is the policy followed by Canadian Jewish organizations regarding evidence of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel propaganda. Irresponsible actions such as controversial public statements by Ukrainian politicians and physical fights in the Rada simply contribute to support Russian propaganda.

**Do you think corruption is one of the major challenges that Ukraine faces today? How do you evaluate the role of international partners in establishing the High Anti-Corruption Court?**

Why does Ukraine need a High Anti-Corruption Court? Are there not existing laws against theft and corruption? There is corruption in every country but in Ukraine it is especially common because this is a legacy from the Soviet years. Also the level of pay and salaries is low and individuals who wish to improve their financial situation often resort to corruption. This is common in poor former colonies

where the only decent salaries are paid to (often corrupt) politicians in the government. Ukrainians politicians and civil servants that spend their vacations at expensive resorts in southern France and Switzerland should be investigated regarding the sources of their income. Again, where are the patriots?

**Is corruption to some degree, a fact of life or a reality in most countries, and if yes, then why do some countries, some governments and some Diaspora members, single out Ukraine in particular?**

I have had discussions with tourists in Canada from Ukraine about this issue. Their answer is that 'Everyone does it'. Even journalists who covered the Poroshenko Presidential campaign several years ago complained that the election campaign was too short and they did not have time to request 'bribes' which I suspect is the common practice. There is still the lack of a diverse and open economy in Ukraine where journalists and others can seek employment but are compelled to work for a few 'oligarchic' employers who control almost all the media. Corruption in Ukraine is linked to the last vestiges of the Soviet system and a strong anti-Soviet and pro-patriotic campaign would help to reduce this problem. But this may take another generation.

**Should the Diaspora establish a School of Ukrainian Studies (SUS) to support research and student scholarships. The focus of the SUS to be, to increase career/study options by exploring Ukraine and its diaspora in the context of contemporary national and international issues?**

There are enough universities in Canada that teach Ukrainian studies with scholarships at various levels. More Ukrainian Canadian students are required to take these courses. But the present economic situation discourages studies in the humanities and social sciences and most students study almost exclusively computer science, business and sciences. [CUPP](#)



— interview with —

# Serhy Yekelchuk

Serhy Yekelchuk is Professor in the Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies and the Department of History at the University of Victoria (Canada). Dr. Yekelchuk's research interests include the social and political history of the Stalin period, as well as the formation of the modern Ukrainian nation from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. His *Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation* (Oxford University Press, 2007) was the first Western history of Ukraine to include coverage of the Orange Revolution and was translated into five languages. His monograph on late-Stalinist political rituals appeared in 2014, and his book about the current Russian-Ukrainian war, *The Conflict in Ukraine*, came out in 2015.



**T**There have been several DIASPORAS or Waves of Immigration, out of Ukraine. Can a comparison be made among/between the DIASPORAS and the impact they made on the homeland?

Overall, I think the postwar immigration, consisting to a significant degree of educated and politically committed Ukrainians, made the greatest impact. It rebuilt or established community organizations and put Ukrainians on the radar of politicians in their host countries. It also served as a custodian of national memory, which could then be transferred to independent Ukraine. Canada is a bit of an exception to this general trend because the community had organized and entered the political scene in the previous generation, during the interwar period. Many participants in the postwar revival were the children and grandchildren of earlier immigrants.

**Can you perceive the Ukrainian Diasporas existing in the countries of current settlement, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, USA, Australia/New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, France, Germany, UK, Greece, Italy, China, etc. evolving into permanent Diasporas similar to the Jewish Diasporas?**

The Jewish model is fully applicable to the Ukrainian diaspora in North America and most of the communities that the DP generation created or influenced. But some of the countries you name only recently became centers of Ukrainian settlement abroad. I think the Orange and Euromaidan revolutions served as events prompting these new communities to organize.

**What would be the benefit to the homeland and the Diaspora, if permanent & active Diasporas take root/hold in those countries?**

It should not be seen as a problem for Ukraine but, rather, as an opportunity. Of course, much depends on the Ukrainian authorities - it takes two to tango.

**What do you consider to be the most constructive or lasting accomplishment of the Diaspora in Canada/USA/UK/France, Australia, Argentina, UK, etc.**

The presence of Ukrainian culture and scholarship as a recognizable and valued element of the national mosaic in these countries. In Canada - recognition of Ukrainians as pioneers of the prairies, who helped build modern Canada.

**What about the most recent wave of immigration, the so-called economic immigration?**

Recent immigrants in Canada are now joining in significant numbers the churches and community organizations that were created after WWII. They have been energized by the Euromaidan. We no longer have to worry about what will happen to our organizations, because they will carry on the work.

**Should English be made mandatory in Ukraine's elementary and secondary (high school) schools?**

It surprises me that it is not already. It should be.

**Should Ukraine and Canada and the USA enter into a NATO model union, if Ukraine does not join NATO?**

When it comes to reforming, training, and supplying the Ukrainian army, both countries already have special partnerships with Ukraine. The UK and other European partners also participate. I do not think that a tripartite agreement is feasible or necessary. If Ukraine does not join the NATO, it can deepen the existing collaboration with each of its Western partners.

**Ukraine has one of the largest Diasporas in the world, with many of its members maintaining cultural and economic linkages with their homeland. What tools does the Ukrainian World Congress use to unite Ukrainians abroad?**

General coordination and speaking on behalf of Ukrainians abroad. But the reality, as demonstrated by the diaspora's response to the Euromaidan and Russian aggression, is that it is national associations and even local communities that engage with Ukraine directly.

**What is/are the strategy, mission and results and achievements of the work of the Ukrainian World Congress?**

I am not really involved with the Congress, but value it as a platform for national associations to coordinate their work and issue more powerful statements.

**The global Ukrainian community is playing a critical role in support of national efforts to build a peaceful, prosperous, strong and united Ukraine.**





**How would you in general evaluate the cooperation with Ukraine's government? Is the potential of the Ukrainian Diaspora sufficiently harnessed/used?**

Not really. Things were working well under Poroshenko, but now everything is uncertain. Ulana Suprun was a big success story. But the diaspora can provide so much more.

**Approximately one million Ukrainians leave the homeland every year, according to former Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin. What can serve as an incentive for Ukrainians to return to their homeland?**

Economic growth, political transparency, serious efforts to combat corruption.

**Should the return to the homeland be a priority for Ukraine's government?**

No. If the reforms work, it will happen on its own.

**What would you change in the framework of Ukraine's current politics?**

Increase civil society's control over all levels of government.

**Canada and Ukraine are connected by deep and enduring people-to-people ties and growing commercial relations. The entry into force of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA) in 2017 marked another milestone in a partnership that has been creating prosperity for citizens of both countries. What are the most promising sectors for Canadian Investors in Ukraine?**

The areas that Canada is known for: commercial agriculture, oil and gas, minerals, service industry.

**Russia has been using an advanced form of hybrid warfare in Ukraine since early 2014 that relies heavily on an element of information warfare. How strong is this sociocultural phenomenon in Canada, USA, Australia, Europe?**

Marginal in Canada because all parties strongly support Ukraine's sovereignty, but very alarming elsewhere in the world.



**Do you think corruption is one of the major challenges that Ukraine faces today? How do you evaluate the role of international partners in establishing the High Anti-Corruption Court?**

Ukraine's Western partners cannot push through each and every reform like this, by threatening to withhold visa-free travel and other things. It is really embarrassing that, after two mass revolutions, the West still needs to speak to the Ukrainian government on behalf of the Ukrainian people.

**Is corruption to some degree, a fact of life or a reality in most countries, and if yes, then why do some countries, some governments and some Diaspora members, single out Ukraine in particular?**

Not in Canada. There is a good reason to single out Ukraine because it is usually ranked in international corruption indexes together with countries from Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Do you think Canadian citizens of Ukrainian background should be able to get or keep Ukrainian citizenship as well?**

Yes, absolutely! This is what we want.

**Final Comment about the idea/proposal to undertake the CUPP INTERVIEW, or comment about the CUPP Interviewer who conducted the interview.**

Thank you very much for doing this! We really need better communication and better understanding of our expectations. [CUPP](#)

— interview with —

# Tetiana Dzulynsky



Born in 1940 in Cholm, parents from Komarno near Lviv. After 1943 lived in Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, Australia and Canada since 1954. Computer programmer, Financial Administrator, community activist (Plast, NTSh, UCC). Have visited Ukraine appr. 15 times, usually Plast related. Have access to Ukrainian Media. No Ukrainian President so far has seriously dealt with the reforms Ukraine desperately needs. Three relatively positive ones helped Ukraine to some extent: Kravchuk helped bring about independence, Yushchenko helped to revive the Ukrainian language, and Poroshenko did start on some useful reforms. With Zelenskiyi it is too early to say. We supported the CUPP program from its inception and believe it has helped educate a talented group of young people about the functioning of one parliamentary democracy, thus making them politically savvy and potentially able to help Ukraine on its road to a functioning democracy. (I personally have no way of knowing to what extent the potential has been realized.)

**T** **There have been several DIASPORAS or Waves of Immigration, out of Ukraine. Can a comparison be made among/between the DIASPORAS and the impact they made on the homeland?**

To me, there is a difference between a Diaspora and a Wave of Immigration. A Diaspora is a group of immigrants and their heirs that is planning to exist permanently in a given country, while becoming citizens of said country. Immigrants can assimilate, as many do.

In Canada in each wave of immigration there were those who assimilated and many who did not, even if they did not perceive of the notion of a diaspora, as we know it today. Discrimination toward the early settlers in particular probably created incentives for some Ukrainians to form their own communities, while for others it gave impetus to assimilate.

The third, political wave of immigration was a big boost for creating a diaspora which now includes the heirs of

all the waves. This diaspora no doubt has had the biggest impact on the homeland (see answers to following question), but what the impact of the earlier waves of immigration was I do not know, particularly as there was no independent Ukraine.

**Can you perceive the Ukrainian Diasporas existing in the countries of current settlement, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, USA, Australia/New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, France, Germany, UK, Greece, Italy, China, etc. evolving into permanent Diasporas similar to the Jewish Diasporas?**

Yes. In Canada most of us are functioning with the understanding that we are members of a permanent Diaspora. In Plast, years ago we passed a resolution that we lived in a Вічна Діаспора. I personally have accepted a long time ago that I have two identities – a Ukrainian one and a Canadian one, and there is no conflict between



them. All of my family and all of my friends think the same way.

**What would be the benefit to the homeland and the Diaspora, if permanent & active Diasporas take root/hold in those countries?**

In Canada a permanent & active Diaspora already exists and I believe we have influenced Ukraine in two ways. On the one hand we have kept alive the idea of an independent Ukraine, and to some extent informed Ukrainians and the world about Ukrainian history, culture and language. On the other hand, we have lobbied the Canadian government, successfully, to help Ukraine in various ways – be it helping with elections, training policemen and the army or supporting NGOs. Ideally this should be happening in all countries where there are Ukrainian communities.

**What do you consider to be the most constructive or lasting accomplishment of the Diaspora in Canada/USA/UK/France, Australia, Argentina, UK, etc.**

To some extent the Diaspora is flourishing. It has kept alive the idea of an independent Ukraine, fought Soviet/Russian misinformation and informed generations of young Ukrainians and the world at large about Ukrainian history and culture.

**Should English be made mandatory in Ukraine's elementary and secondary (high school) schools?**

**Elementary – definitely available, I am not sure about mandatory**

High school – definitely mandatory. Other languages available.

**Should Ukraine and Canada and the USA enter into a NATO model union, if Ukraine does not join NATO?**

Yes.

**The global Ukrainian community is playing a critical role in support of national efforts to build a peaceful, prosperous, strong and united Ukraine. How would you in general evaluate the cooperation with Ukraine's government? Is the potential of the Ukrainian Diaspora sufficiently harnessed/used?**

Definitely there is more potential if Ukrainian communities throughout the world were better organized and in many cases, more united. Also, though the global Ukrainian community needs to directly

communicate with Ukraine's government, NGOs and other institutions, it needs to make sure that it lobbies the world community to help Ukraine, especially in its push-back to Russian aggression. Every community around the world pays lip-service to lobbying, but not every-body is putting in the needed united effort.

**What would you change in the framework of Ukraine's current politics?**

The plans presented by the Prime Minister after the Executive was sworn in were excellent. I am not well enough informed to comment on how they are being put into practice. But I am aware that Ukraine has to tread a very thin line between fighting a war, carrying out difficult but necessary reforms and bolstering the economy. And that is not easy.

**Do you think that reforming the Ukrainian parliamentary system into a bipartisan, for example, liberal-conservative, would be beneficial for Ukraine?**

One cannot create a “liberal-conservative parliamentary system”. In all countries there are political parties that are more-or-less “liberal”, more-or-less “conservative”, more-or less socialist, more autocratically inclined or less autocratically inclined etc. In addition, the terms have somewhat different precise meanings in different countries. Political parties are each created by groups of citizens who hold certain values, they are not created by any “system”.

The question for Ukraine is whether the parliamentary system should be “first-by-the-post” as in Canada or proportional representation as in many countries in Europe, or the mixture that Ukraine has now. Each has its pros and cons. I do not know what would be best for Ukraine, but definitely it would be advantageous to allow citizens to choose individual Rada members from the list that parties present.

**What is your opinion on the decentralization taking place in Ukraine? Should the one grow into federalization?**

Decentralization is needed as it has many advantages, but Ukraine should not become a federation. A federal system has many problems that Ukraine does not need, especially with a manipulative bully neighbour. The country needs a united government/country to manage the various attacks from the autocratic neighbour. [CUPP](#)





# Talented Ukrainians

## Alexander Archipenko

Alexander Archipenko was born May 30, 1887, in Kyiv. In 1902, he entered the Kyiv School, where he studied painting and sculpture during which time, he was impressed by the Byzantine icons, frescoes, and mosaics of Kyiv. He moved to Paris in 1908 where he attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and then continued to study independently at the Musée du Louvre, where he was drawn to Egyptian, Assyrian, archaic Greek, and early Gothic sculpture. In 1910, he began exhibiting at the Salon des Indépendants, Paris, and the following year showed for the first time at the Salon d'Automne.

In 1912, Archipenko exhibited his first solo show in Germany at the Museum Folkwang Hagen. That same year, in Paris, he opened the first of his many art schools, joined the Section d'Or group, which included Georges Braque, Marcel Duchamp, Fernand Léger, and Pablo Picasso, among others, and produced his first painted reliefs, the *Sculpto-Peintures*. In 1913, Archipenko exhibited at the Armory Show in New York and made his first prints, which were reproduced in the Italian Futurist publication *Lacerba* in 1914. He participated in the Salon des Indépendants in 1914 and the Venice Biennale in 1920. During the war years, he resided in Cimiez, a suburb of Nice. From 1919 to 1921, he exhibited his art in Geneva, Zurich, Paris, London, Brussels, Athens.. Archipenko's first solo show in the United States was held at the Société Anonyme, New York, in 1921.

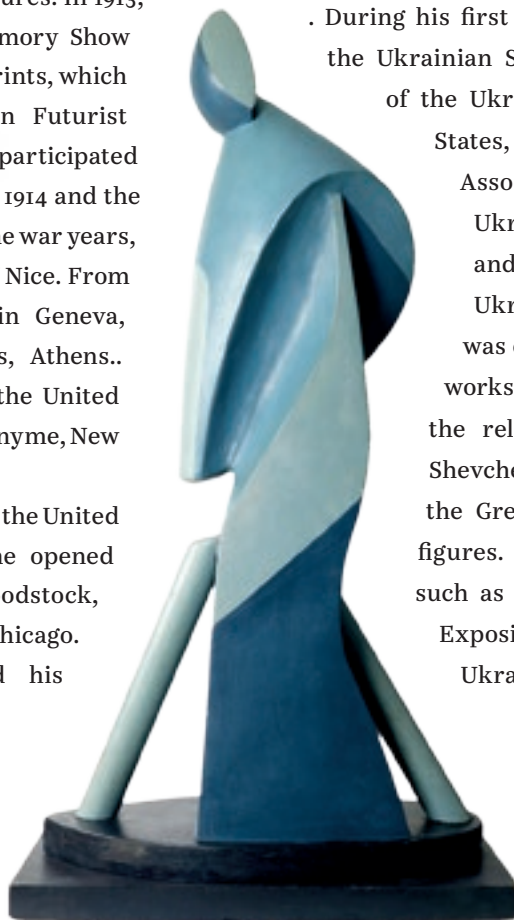
In 1923, he moved from Berlin to the United States, where over the years he opened art schools in New York City; Woodstock, New York; Los Angeles; and Chicago. In 1924, Archipenko invented his

first kinetic work, *Archipentura*. For the next 30 years, he taught throughout the United States at art schools and universities. He became a United

States citizen in 1928. Most of Archipenko's work in German museums was confiscated by the Nazis in their purge of "degenerate art." In 1947, he produced the first of his sculptures that are illuminated from within. He accompanied an exhibition of his work throughout Germany in 1955–56, and at this time began his book *Archipenko: Fifty Creative Years 1908–1958*, published in 1960. Archipenko died on February 25, 1964, in New York.

Archipenko never severed his ties with Ukrainians. During his first years in Paris he was a member of the Ukrainian Students' Club; in Berlin, a member of the Ukrainian Hromada; and in the United

States, a member of the Ukrainian Artists' Association in the USA. He belonged to the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences and was an honorary member of the Ukrainian Institute of America where he was exhibited multiple times. Many of his works have Ukrainian themes, for example the relief *Ukraine* (1940), busts of Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Prince Volodymyr the Great, and other Ukrainian prominent figures. Some of Archipenko's exhibitions, such as the one at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, were sponsored by Ukrainian art groups.



# Alexis Gritchenko



Alexis Gritchenko was a Ukrainian painter and art theorist from Krolevets, Chernihiv province. He studied philology and biology at the universities of Kyiv, St Petersburg and Moscow before turning to art. In Paris, he became an enthusiast of Cubist painting, and after a trip to Italy, he blended with his study of early Italian Renaissance painters, creating a

style that brought together the cosmopolitan and urbane with the orthodoxy of the Byzantine legacy of sacred art.

After 1924, Gritchenko lived in southern France. Gritchenko made frequent trips to Spain, Portugal, England and Scandinavian countries, and the paintings he brought from those visits were exhibited in several leading Paris galleries, such as Maison Bing, Granoff, Druet, De l'Elysse, Weil, and Bernheim-Jeune. After an exhibition of Gritchenko's art at the Maison Bing in 1926,

Louis Vauxcelles wrote about him, saying, "the young Ukrainian colorist conquered Paris." In 1937, a one-man exhibition with Gritchenko's works was held at the Museum of Ukrainian Art in Lviv, then under Polish rule, where his first Ukrainian-French monograph appeared.

To preserve Gritchenko's artistic legacy, the Alexis Gritchenko Foundation was formed in New York City in 1958. At the beginning of the sixties, it was discovered that his paintings which had been in the collections of the Ukrainian Lviv Museum were destroyed as creations of "bourgeois formalism." This caused Gritchenko to bequeath a collection of seventy works including oils, watercolors and drawings, to the Alexis Gritchenko Foundation, with the provision that they be transferred someday to the museums of a free Ukraine. On March 26, 2006, a ceremony was held to formally transfer the Gritchenko Foundation collection to the National Art Museum of Ukraine. He has died at the age of 93 in Vence, France.



# Leo Mol

Leo Mol or Leonid Molodozhany born in 1915 in Polonn, Ukraine, a famous sculptor, painter and glass artist.

Studied under the tutelage of Wilhelm Frass and Frans Klimsh. Graduated from the Leningrad Academy of Arts. During the Second World War, he was deported to Germany and developed his unique style having been inspired by the works of Arno Breker. In 1948, he immigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he opened his first ceramics exhibition.





# William Kurelek

Born in 1927 in Whitford, Alberta. Earned BA degree from the University of Manitoba majoring in Latin, English, and history. He discovered his passion and talent for drawing at a young age despite the hardships of his childhood brought about to his family by the Great Depression. The influence of the writings by James Joyce, specifically *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, had a significant impact on Kurelek's mindset that finally set him as an artist: "That book had a more profound influence on me than any other single volume in my three years of higher learning. It convinced me to rebel finally and completely against my family and become what I'd always half-wanted to be an artist."

In 1959, Kurelek met with the owner of the first Toronto postwar contemporary art galleries, Avrom

Isaacs, who helped Kurelek exhibit his art. Kurelek's shows broke the attendance records at the gallery with the exhibition of his famous works including trompe l'oeil paintings such as *Behold Man Without God*, 1955, and his post-conversion *Self-Portrait*, 1957. During this period Kurelek illustrated a number of highly successful books, including W.O. Mitchell's *Who Has Seen the Wind* (1976) and Ivan Franko and Bohdan Melnyk's *Fox Mykyta* (1978), as well as two he wrote himself, *A Prairie Boy's Winter* (1973) and *A Prairie Boy's Summer* (1975). He died in 1977.



Received honorary degrees from the University of Winnipeg, the University of Alberta and the University of Manitoba.

Leo Mol created more than 80 stained-glass windows in churches throughout Winnipeg. Around three hundred of his works are on display at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park. Leo Mol also projected the sculpture of Taras Shevchenko on display on Washington's Embassy Row. In 2000, he was awarded the Order of Manitoba and became a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. He died in 2009 at the age of 94.





# Sonia Delaunay



Sonya Delaunay had a difficult childhood with resettlements and separation from family. Finally, her uncle invited her to St. Petersburg and adopted her. At 16 years her drawing skill was noted by her teacher and at 18 years old, he recommended that she continue her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Germany.

In 1905 she moved to Paris where she enrolled in the Académie de La Palette in Montparnasse. During the education, she spent time in Parisian galleries. The most influential artists in her life were Van Gogh, Gauguin, and Henri Rousseau's post-impressionist art. In 1911, Sonia Delaunay created a patchwork quilt which is now in the Musée National d'Art Moderne collection in Paris. Contemporary art critics

recognize this as the point where she moved away from perspective and naturalism in her art. She frequently moved throughout Europe with her husband and son to collaborate with new artists.

In 1921 Sonia, her husband Robert Delaunay and their son Charles settled in Paris permanently. For the 1923 staging of Tristan Tzara's play *Le Cœur à Gaz*, she designed the entire set and costumes. In 1924 she opened a fashion studio together with Jacques Heim. By the end of 1934, Sonia was working on designs for the 1937 Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques dans la Vie Moderne. After the second world war, Sonia served as a board member of the Salon des Réalités Nouvelles for several years. In 1964 Sonia and her son Charles donated 114 works by Sonia and Robert to the Musée National d'Art Moderne. Sonia Delaunay died December 5 1979, in Paris, aged 94. She was buried in Gambais, next to Robert Delaunay.



# Mykola Hlushchenko

Hlushchenko was born in 1901 in Russian Empire. At the early age Mikola moved to Yuzovka (now Donetsk) where he attended classes in drawing. After escaping a prisoner-of-war camp in Poland during World War I he made his way to Germany where his love for art brought him to the private studio of Hans Baluschek in Berlin.

A graduate of the Academy of Art in Berlin. From 1925 he worked in Paris where he immediately attracted the attention of French critics.





# Katheryn Winnick

Katheryn Winnick was born on December 17, 1977 to Roman and Lesya Winnitski in Toronto, Canada. She is of Ukrainian origin. Her parents were born in West Germany, where their families fled from Western Ukraine to escape the Communist invasion. Her parents were children, when they moved to Canada. As a child, Katheryn spoke exclusively Ukrainian and started learning English at the age of 8. Now she speaks five languages - Ukrainian, English, French, Russian, and Italian.

When Katheryn was seven years old, she began training in martial arts. By age 13, she had earned her first black belt and continued training until she was 21 years old, when she opened three Taekwondo schools. Katheryn holds a 3rd-degree black belt in Taekwondo, and a 2nd-degree black belt in Karate. She is a licensed self-defense instructor as well as a licensed bodyguard who is known for teaching martial arts to actors on film sets. She graduated from York University in Toronto with a major in

kinesiology. Many of her fans are not aware that she is an expert in the area, which complements her knowledge and understanding of martial arts and the human body. After university, Katheryn focused on her acting career and studied acting at the William Esper Studio in New York City.

She launched her acting career in 1999 and for the past two decades, has appeared in several films and television shows including “Stand Up Guys,” “Failure to Launch,” “Killers,” “Love & Other Drugs” and “Vikings”. She was named the Best Actress in a Drama Series by the Women’s Image Network. She also received a Critic’s Choice Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series, a Golden Maple Award nomination for Best Actress in a TV Series and a nomination for a Canadian Screen Award for Best Performance by a Lead Dramatic Actress. In addition to these prestigious nominations, Katheryn received the Serendipity Film’s Award of Excellence at the Banff World Media Festival.



At the beginning of the 1930s, Hlushchenko belonged to the Association of Independent Ukrainian Artists and helped organize its large exhibition of Ukrainian, French, and Italian paintings at the National Museum in Lviv.

In 1944, he moved to Kyiv, and created a series of paintings of the post-war Kyiv, as well as many landscapes he saw while traveling to France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and other countries. He was a Ukrainian artist who won Shevchenko National Prize in 1972.





CUPP 2007

Intern to [Chuck Strahl](#), Fraser Valley, British Columbia

[John Sopinka Scholarship](#)

## Volodymyr Omelyan

In 2000 graduated from Ivan Franko University of Lviv, Master in International Relations and Law. In 2001 earned additional degree from Lviv Polytechnical University, in finance and economy. Completed courses in conflict resolution and mediation at Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution, Saint Paul University Ottawa, 1999.

2000-2014 diplomat at Foreign Ministry, state servant at Ministries of Environment, Economy, Finance, Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers. In 2015 joined Ministry of Infrastructure as Deputy Minister-Chief of Staff.

2016-2019 - Minister of Infrastructure. As the result of presidential elections joined the political opposition to Volodymyr Zelensky.

In late 2020 became member of the "European Solidarity" Party and was elected a Member to the Central Council of the Party.

### CUPP EXPERIENCE

CUPP makes possible a great change of your mentality. By working in your parliamentary team, you learn and understand western values and practices. I pay tribute to Mr. Ihor Baryn and the numerous benefactors for investing their time, passion and finances into the education of new Ukrainian elite. CUPP is the best instrument to assure a bright future and bring Ukraine back to the West. After you complete CUPP, you understand that changes take time, but that the changes are needed and, are irreversible. The best experience is that during the CUPP internship you become a part and a full-fledged participant of the decision-making process. And once you understand how a functional and transparent political system works and the benefits for society - you will never support the perverted Soviet-type bloody kleptocracy again. It was great honour for me to become a member of CUPP family and every time I am fortunate and able to make decisions which benefit Ukraine, I stress that this success and inspiration started in 1999, in Canada, thanks to CUPP.



CUPP 2004

## Bogdana Nosova

Fall Intern to [Françoise Boivin](#), MP for Gatineau, Quebec  
[Malanchuk Family Scholarship](#)

Born in Kyiv, Ukraine. Graduated from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Institute of Journalism (BA (Honours), MA (Honours), Ph.D.). Studied and had professional internship in Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Poland, the UK, the USA. Worked for Ukrainian TV Channels and printed media as International News Correspondent and Foreign Desk Editor and as Press Attaché for the state institutions. Author and anchor of the numerous TV Programmes and author of series of articles for Ukrainian media on foreign policy, international relations, European integration and Euro-Atlantic cooperation topics.

Member of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine. Member of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Author of the handbook "International Journalism: Modern Foreign Opinion Journalism", and the monograph "Ukraine - NATO: the

Media Context", and about 50 scientific articles on media and communication studies in peer-reviewed academic journals in Ukraine, Poland, Kazakhstan, Turkey.

Taught University courses among others: "International Journalism", "International Broadcasting", "World Media Systems". Rewarded the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine Award for Excellence in University Teaching and Academic Research. Awarded Acknowledgement of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine for Excellence in University Teaching and Academic Research. Awarded Certificate of Merit by the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine for better coverage on Ukrainian Television on the topic of Ukraine-NATO relations. Awarded the Anatoliy Moskalenko Prize of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine as winner for the better scientific research in the field of journalism.

### CUPP EXPERIENCE

My participation in Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (2004 Fall) was indeed at the time while Ukrainian State have been faced at a turning point in its transformation, development and establishment. All my expectations regarding CUPP had been met. I am forever grateful to the CUPP Director Mr Ihor Baryn, to all its organizers who made my participation in this Program possible, to the Canadian Parliament MP Françoise Boivin and to the staff of her office who offered every opportunity for my internship there. I very much appreciated all for this great possibility to form an understanding of the functioning of the Canadian Parliament, to see the work of the Canadian media, and to learn the achievements of a multicultural society. My CUPP experience has broadened and deepened my professional outlook, adjusted my career. As time has shown, all CUPP alumni are successful everyone in their own fields. And the CUPP community brings together and meets new interesting people, regardless of the Program graduation year. I am unequivocally convinced that CUPP is needed for Ukrainian students and Ukraine as part of the educational process. This is a great Program that enriches new knowledge, expand new skills, and widens horizons incredibly. It is particularly important that Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program is open to Ukrainian students of any areas of University studies.

### Advice to CUPP 2020 interns:

"CUPP is a worldview Program. I believe that the perfect candidate to participate in this Program will strive to embrace all the opportunities that are available. I wish the CUPP 2020 interns a successful achievement of their outcomes!"





CUPP 2007

## Roman Stasiv

Intern to [Randy White](#), British Columbia  
[Malanchuk Family Scholarship](#)

Roman graduated from the University of Lviv, then studied at the University of Nottingham (UK) and did his master's degree in law at the University of Oxford (UK).

After returning from Oxford, Roman did a 9-year legal career with top international law firms in Ukraine (Baker&McKenzie and Clifford Chance).

In 2012 Roman left legal career to pursue various business opportunities and founded FastDocs, currently a leading translation services provider to law firms and international organisations in Ukraine. In 2014, after the Revolution of Dignity, Roman served as the Deputy CEO of the Ukrainian state postal service ("Ukrposhta") for 9 months.

### Advice to CUPP 2020 interns:

“Do loads of socialising with your CUPP-mates and build lasting friendships! Believe me, in 10 years your friends will become government ministers, successful business leaders and influencers and you will be able to join forces together to do great things for our nation.”

### CUPP EXPERIENCE

CUPP has proved to be an exceptional return on investment for Ukrainian diaspora in Canada.

Just look how many CUPP alumni made their contributions to Ukraine by doing public service, volunteering and excelling in business! I firmly believe that Ukrainian government should consider financing CUPP (at least partially) in order to “10x” the number of participants.

Moreover, wealthy Ukrainians who seek the best return on their charitable expenditures should consider donating to CUPP as a proven tool that helps nurturing a new generation of leaders for Ukraine.



CUPP 2001

## Vasyl Myroshnychenko

Vasyl is a Partner at CFC Big Ideas, a Kyiv-based strategic communications company. He has over 15 years of experience advising clients on corporate communications, public affairs and special situations. Vasyl has advised many multinational companies and domestic industry leaders across different sectors. His clients include Google, Uber, PrivatBank, Novo Nordisk, CNN, Embassy of Japan and many others.

Vasyl is a co-founder of Ukraine Crisis Media Center, a media NGO set up in early March of 2014 aimed at amplifying Ukraine's voice internationally. Funded by the international donors, UCMC carried out multiple campaigns designed to fend off the Kremlin disinformation and fake news. It also conducted a comprehensive government communications program to improve the resilience and communications capabilities of the government agencies in 2015-2016.

In 2014, Vasyl co-founded Professional Government Association, an umbrella organization, which united alumni of the Western Universities in Ukraine with the

goal to mobilize talent for the economic and government reforms. He was a Head of the PGA in 2015-2016.

Vasyl sits on the board of the Ukrainian-British City Club, a London-based organization promoting UK-Ukraine trade and investment relations. He was a Marshall Memorial Fellow '18, a prestigious leadership program of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

He was a Chevening Scholar and obtained MSc in Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (2006, UK). He also holds MA and BA degrees in international relations from Institute of International Relations, Kyiv National Shevchenko University (2002, 2003). Vasyl is a graduate of the Global Village for Future Leaders of Business and Industry program at Iacocca Institute, Lehigh University (2002, USA) and Swedish Institute Management Program (Sweden, 2009) and a two-week intensive course on public affairs and advocacy from the Center of Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University in Washington, DC (USA, 2014).

Intern to [Dan McTeague](#),  
Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, Ontario

[Antin Hlynka Scholarship](#)  
recipient

### CUPP EXPERIENCE

It's exactly 20 years this year since my CUPP experience. I am very thankful to Ihor Bardyn for his dedication to the program and for inspiring us, the undergraduate students, to continue with our master's studies abroad. A large number of CUPP alumni have obtained graduate and PhD degrees from the universities in North America and Europe. I believe that we as a cohort of over 1000 alumni sharing similar experience, are able to contribute to sustaining Ukraine's path towards democracy, neutralizing the influence of oligarchs, creating economic growth and securing rule of law.



CUPP 2004

Advice to  
CUPP 2020 interns:

“Work hard  
and enjoy every  
moment of the  
programme.”

## Olena Ovchynnikova

Intern to [Denis Mills](#), Toronto-Danforth, Ontario  
[Raynell Andreychuk Scholarship](#)

Olena received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Uman, Ukraine, and two Master's degrees from the University of Oxford (in International Area Studies and in Sustainable Urban Development).

Since May 2018, Olena is Portfolio Manager at the UN System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development in Bonn, Germany.

Before coming to Bonn, Olena was leading the Secretariat of the Regional United Nations Development Group for Europe and Central Asia, coordinating activities of 22 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on the ground in 18 countries of Europe and Central Asia.

Before that Olena was Special Assistant to UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the CIS, providing substantive support and advice to UNDP Regional Director and managing regular Dialogues with Member States between the UN senior leadership and Permanent Representatives of the Member States on various public policy topics.

Olena joined the United Nations in Kyiv, Ukraine in 2009, working on inter-agency coordination, country programming and results-based management and, later, on energy, environment and sustainable development programme. Olena also taught at the University of Uman, Ukraine, and was a senior programme manager at the FMLU.

### CUPP EXPERIENCE

I participated in CUPP twice in 2004: in May in Toronto and in October in Ottawa. In Toronto, I experienced first-hand a full parliamentary election campaign of Dennis Mills, a 4-time re-elected MP from Toronto-Danforth.

The CUPP'04 gave me a few lifetime friends and a network of amazingly talented CUPPers from all over Ukraine. Dennis Mills lost and gave me a lesson of how to lose gracefully and continue to serve to Ukraine.

In October 2004, I came back to Canada, this time to Ottawa to be one of the two coordinators for a new cohort of CUPPers who came to work with the newly elected MPs (Andrew Telegdi, Kitchener—Waterloo, Ontario). These two months in Canada were also full of lessons learned, with CUPPers organising a demonstration in front of the Canadian Parliament in support of the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine. Overall, the CUPP experience was truly life-changing.



CUPP 2007

Advice to  
CUPP 2020 interns:

“Believe in yourself, never stop  
learning, and be the change you  
want to see in the world around  
you. But above all, be kind  
to yourself and those  
whose lives you touch.”

## Yulia Nuzban

Intern to [Rick Dykstra](#), MP for St. Catharines  
[John Sopinka Scholarship](#)

Yulia has worked on investigation and prosecution of crimes against humanity and war crimes with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands since 2010. In the past, she has worked with a law firm in Ukraine, human rights organisations in Ukraine and Poland, research and historical institutes in the Netherlands and Poland,

and an international criminal defence team in the Netherlands. Yulia has received advanced degrees in international law from Kyiv International University and the University of Amsterdam. She has published pieces on international criminal justice, human rights, and the rule of law, and judged several international moot court competitions.

### CUPP EXPERIENCE

Life is full of challenges and opportunities. For some of us, these come more often than for others. Growing up in Ukraine before and after it gained independence in 1991 was certainly full of both challenges and opportunities. But being a proud and resilient nation has helped us get through rather difficult times in the past. During those times, the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada and Canada as a nation have supported our young state, which had finally fulfilled the dream of many generations and became an independent nation capable of deciding its own destiny. The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Programme continues to make its own lasting contribution.

The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Programme provided me with an important opportunity in life, along with hundreds of other participants in the past three decades. It allowed me to experience a new culture, meet inspiring individuals, observe best practices in governance and leadership, and grow as a person. It is the experience that I will cherish forever because it is unique. Besides, it is born out of a generous spirit of giving thanks to people like Ihor Bardyn, Lucy Hicks, John Sopinka, and many others.





**Yuliia Serbenenko**

CUPP 2017 alumna & digital designer

**CUPP anniversary collage project** is dedicated to celebrating the bright history of the program. Together with CUPP 2020 interns, I committed time and love to find some special moments of each CUPP year.

**All CUPP journeys started with a meaningful letter.** Therefore, an envelope was used as the main element of the collage's composition. The letter is aimed at uniting all CUPP generations and reminding us about our responsibilities and ambitions.

*Ihor Bardyn  
Toronto*



*CUPP alumni  
Worldwide*



From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The **Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program** was established in 1990/91 to mark the renewal of Ukraine's independence and the centennial of Ukrainian group-immigration to Canada. My focus is on **Ukraine's Future**, on **Ukraine's students**.

CUPP family



CUPP 1991 interns with Cam Jackson



1991



From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The **Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program** was established in 1990/91 to mark the renewal of Ukraine's independence and the centennial of Ukrainian group-immigration to Canada. My focus is on **Ukraine's Future**, on **Ukraine's students**.

CUPP 1992 interns: Oksana Ivasiuk,  
Solomia Medynska, Oksana Briuchovetska



1992





From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The **Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program** was established in 1990/91 to mark the renewal of Ukraine's independence and the centennial of Ukrainian group-immigration to Canada. My focus is on **Ukraine's Future**, on **Ukraine's students**.

CUPP 1993 interns

CUPP 1993 interns with Ambassador  
Levko Lukianenko



1993



From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Irena Shinkarenko, Ruslan Deinetchenko, Mrs. Aline Chreitien, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Serhiy Miskiwi, Hlib Krivenko, Ciga Makara



CUPP 1994 interns at the airport



CUPP 1994 interns with  
Ambassador Viktor Batiuk



1994



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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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New York stopover in 1995



CUPP 1995 interns with Mr. Erast R. Huculak



1995





### Звернення до учасників програми

Випускники ППКУ, як дехто з вас сказав, вам була надана унікальна й привілейована можливість працювати в парламенті іншої держави — Канади. Пам'ятайте і використовуйте те, чого навчилися. Пам'ятайте про свої переваги та свою відповідальність. Ви зобов'язані повсякчас робити найкраще у кожному житті. Ви зобов'язані віддавати більше, ніж ви одержали своєю грошаді та Україні. На початку століття прем'єр-міністр Канади Вільфред Лорієр сказав: "Двадцять століття належать Канаді". Через сумлінну працю та самовідданість двадцять перше століття повинно належати Україні".

**Ігор Бардин,**

керівник ППКУ, липень 1996 р.

На злітку: директор ППКУ Ігор Бардин (праворуч) зі своїм сином та Юриєм Рудковим, який був помітний нафінансований учасником ППКУ '96.

CUPP 1996 interns



1996





From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 1997 interns with Ms. Barbara Hall, the Mayor of Toronto



CUPP 1997 interns with Canadian Ambassador Christopher Westdal



1997





From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The **Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program** was established in 1990/91 to mark the renewal of Ukraine's independence and the centennial of Ukrainian group-immigration to Canada. My focus is on **Ukraine's Future**, on **Ukraine's students**.

CUPP 1998 interns with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and MP Lou Sekora



CUPP '98



1998



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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 1999 interns in Budapest



CUPP 1999 interns enjoy the Constitution Day celebration



1999



From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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We expected, that coming to Canada and living in our society for two or three (and originally some students stayed for six months or even a year) months, students begin to understand the relationship between office staff, the MP, the executive assistants and other members of parliament, and the degree of tolerance, communication and the degree of trust that exists between individuals who work in parliament, including the relationships among people who have strong opposing political views.

After a performance by the CUPP 2000 choir



2000





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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 2001 interns



CUPP 2001 interns with Roman Galadza



2001



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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 2002 interns with Alex Hordienko



CUPP 2002 interns with Ray Hnatyshyn



CUPP 2002 interns with Yarema Keleby at McGill seminar



2002





Dr. Arvin Kuchler (DVM)  
Donglin Veterinary Medical University in Liao  
Dr. Ray Pappalardo's notes

①-④-⑤-⑥-⑦-⑧-⑨-⑩-⑪-⑫-⑬-⑭-⑮-⑯-⑰-⑱-⑲-⑳-㉑-㉒-㉓-㉔-㉕-㉖-㉗-㉘-㉙-㉚-㉛-㉜-㉝-㉞-㉟-㊱-㊲-㊳-㊴-㊵-㊶-㊷-㊸-㊹-㊺-㊻-㊼-㊽-㊾-㊿-  
①-②-③-④-⑤-⑥-⑦-⑧-⑨-⑩-⑪-⑫-⑬-⑭-⑮-⑯-⑰-⑱-⑲-⑳-㉑-㉒-㉓-㉔-㉕-㉖-㉗-㉘-㉙-㉚-㉛-㉜-㉝-㉞-㉟-㊱-㊲-㊳-㊴-㊵-㊶-㊷-㊸-㊹-㊺-㊻-㊼-㊽-㊾-㊿-

Буденко - то Буденко, він із батька тут військовий атаман, зі шкільних часів, не зупинився, не зупинився, не зупинився, розвивався, не зупинився, не зупинився.

В Україні можна з України вийти (0-8-077)  
Тут всі знають де Сходу це поле і це має  
бути не як натовп до не провідного міста,  
що розташоване серед лісів на два дні їзди.

С-образ, С-образ - *gashite oxamen tse, gashite oxamen* и  
С-образ, С-образ - *gashite oxamen tom, gashite oxamen* и



Mr. President accompanied by a famous singer

03 Varenky party

# 2003





From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 2004 interns in front of Queens Park



CUPP 2004 interns



CUPP 2004 interns with Anne McLellan, 9<sup>th</sup> deputy PM of Canada



2004



From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The **Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program** was established in 1990/91 to mark the renewal of Ukraine's independence and the centennial of Ukrainian group-immigration to Canada. My focus is on **Ukraine's Future**, on **Ukraine's students**.

CUPP 2005 interns in Montreal



CUPP 2005 interns



2005



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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 2006 interns with Viktor Yushchenko, the 3<sup>rd</sup> President of Ukraine



CUPP 2006 interns



CUPP 2006 interns



2006



From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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October 31, 2007

Address to the House of Commons on behalf of Ukrainian Interns by MP Peter Goldring, Edmonton, Alberta.

*Mr. Speaker:*

*I wish to recognize 20 youthful delegates from Ukraine, who have visited 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 services. They are the future leaders of Ukraine. Young people like Yaroslav Udovenko, from my office.*

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

*Ukraine holds a special place in the hearts of Canadians. Canada was the first country in the western world to accord diplomatic recognition in 1991 to an independent Ukraine.*

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

*NO-HY-A-LEETA!*

Royal Military College welcomes CUPP 2007 interns



2007



From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Looking at Lake Ontario



Ukrainian Bloor West Village Festival



2008





From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 2009 interns with Justin Trudeau, MP for Papineau, Quebec



2009





From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP meeting with Sauve scholars in Montreal



CUPP meeting with Jeffrey Kuhner, a regular contributor to the commentary pages of the Washington Times, at McGill





From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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At working lunch at Parliamentary Cafeteria



CUPP Oxford Model Ukraine Conference  
Work Crew setting up registration desk



CUPP Oxford Model Ukraine Conference  
at the University of Oxford



2011



From: Ihor Bardyn

Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP meeting with Senator Raynell Andreychuk



2012





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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP faces by Maryna Rabinovych



2013





From: Ihor Bardyn

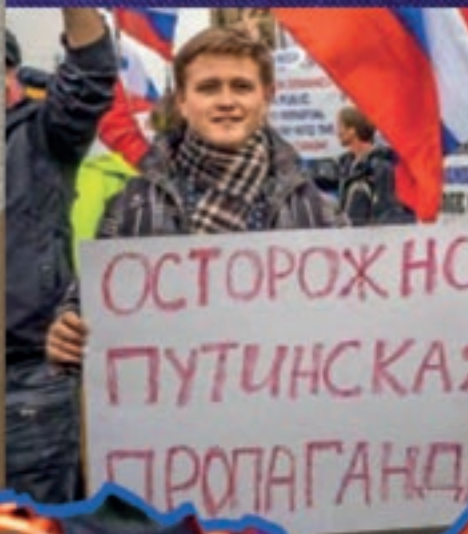
Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Ukrainian Day on Parliament Hill



Demonstrations in Ottawa  
(October 11, 2014)



Putin is sowing chaos and disorder in the "frozen conflict zones" created by the Kremlin in Abkhazia & South Ossetia (Georgia), Transdnistria (Moldova), Nagorno-Karabakh (Armenia-Azerbaijan), Crimea (Ukraine) and now Donetsk People's Republic, Lugansk People's Republic.



2014



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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Ukrainian Diaspora in Quebec City



Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival



2015



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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP Vyshyvanka Day on Parliament Hill



CUPP meeting with German Ambassador Werner Wnendt



2016



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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 2017 interns are waiting for the first snow



CUPP 2017 special mugs



2017



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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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CUPP 2018 interns with Andrew Scheer, a leader of the Conservative Party of Canada



CUPP 2018 first meeting



2018





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CUPP 2018 interns with Borys Wrzesnewskij



West Block tour guided by Wayne Easter



2019





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Subject: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Final selection meeting of CUPP 2020 candidates



2020





# Universities attended by 2021 CUPP Interns



National University  
of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy



Taras Shevchenko  
National University of Kyiv



National University  
of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy



The Bohdan Khmelnytsky  
National University of Cherkasy



Kyiv National Economic  
University



Ukrainian Catholic  
University



Lviv Polytechnic  
National University



The Odesa National Academy  
of Food Technologies



Oles Honchar Dnipro  
National University



Ostroh Academy



Hetman Petro Sahaidachnyi  
National Ground Forces Academy



Ukrainian Leadership  
Academy



Minor Academy  
of Sciences of Ukraine



National Aviation University



Kyiv School of  
Economics



Lazarski University



Leipzig University



Charles University



Tsinghua University



University of Tartu



University of Warsaw



Florida Gulf Coast  
University



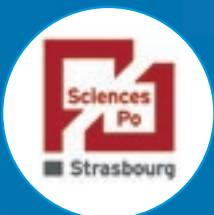
Northern Virginia  
Community College



Jagiellonian University



University of Bremen



Institut d'études  
politiques de Strasbourg



University of Beira  
Interior



College of Europe



Istanbul Bilgi  
University



Le Mans  
University



McGill University



McMaster University



University of Paris 1  
Pantheon-Sorbonne



University of  
Wyoming