

INSTITUTE OF
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Newsletter

Spring 2015

Fulbright Program in Ukraine

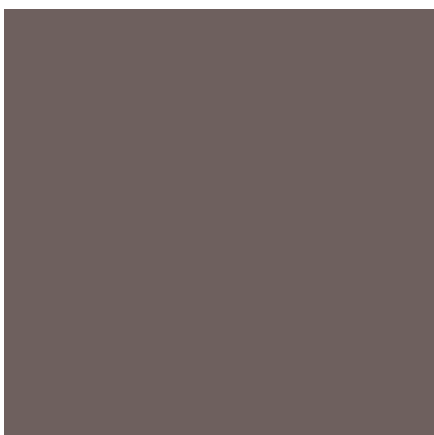
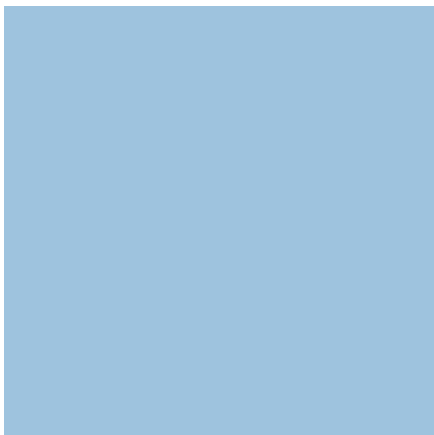
■ www.fulbright.org.ua ■ tel.:(+38044) 287 0777 ■ office.ukraine@iie.org

Stories by
US Fulbright Scholars
and Students 2014-2015:

Fulbright

changed

my life





U.S. Fulbrighters always find their stay in Ukraine inspirational and enriching

Dear Friends,

In this issue we have compiled U.S. Fulbrighters' 2014/15 experiences in Ukraine vibrantly illustrated by their activities, achievements, and fruitful cooperation with Ukrainian institutions. Since September 2014, 10 scholars, 4 teaching assistants and 8 graduate students from different states and universities in the U.S. have been lecturing and carrying out research in 18 Ukrainian universities and research institutions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Ukrainian institutions who hosted US Fulbright grantees:

- Chernivtsi Yuriy Fedkovych National University, Chernivtsi
- Kamianets-Podilsky Ivan Ohiyenko National University, Kamianets-Podilsky
- Kirovohrad Volodymyr Vynnychenko State Pedagogical University, Kirovohrad
- Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Variety Arts, Kyiv
- Kyiv Taras Shevchenko National University, Kyiv
- Lesia Ukrayinka Eastern European National University, Lutsk
- Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Lviv
- M. T. Rylsky Institute of Art, Folklore Studies and Ethnology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv
- M.V. Ptukha Institute of Demography and Social Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv
- National Academy of Public Administration, Office of the President of Ukraine, Kyiv
- National Aviation University, Kyiv
- National Mining University, Dnipropetrovsk
- National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv
- Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Film Studio, Kyiv
- Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University, Mykolayiv
- Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv
- Uzhhorod National University, Uzhhorod
- Vinnytsia Institute of Economics and Social Sciences, Vinnytsia

We thank you for your cooperation, hospitality and care shown towards our US Fulbrighters.

To our readers:

We would encourage you to take a moment to read about the Fulbright experiences, take note of the opportunities that exist for academic, personal and professional development, and consider applying for a Fulbright!. It is not too early to start planning for your future Fulbright experience.

**Kauffman, Lisle**

Kansas City Kansas Public Schools, Kansas City, KS

Education

Lecturing | *Providing Equal Access to Higher Education for Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

Vinnytsia Institute of Economics and Social Sciences, Vinnytsia

1.09.2014 – 30.07.2015

Lisle.kauffman@fulbrightmail.org

When I initially submitted my Fulbright project proposal, it was written for a program at Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University in Luhansk (EUNU), where I taught with a Fulbright Scholarship in 2011. The original goal of this project was the development of an inclusive university environment for deaf and hard of hearing students, enabling them to achieve successful integration into the community and society upon graduation. Tragically, the war in Eastern Ukraine disrupted and ultimately ended the inclusion program at EUNU in Luhansk, so I have had to modify my current project. I am presently teaching in Vinnytsia, and my goals have shifted toward encouraging Ukrainian educators and university administrators to develop and implement inclusive education programs for students with disabilities, a monumental task in a country burdened by war and economic crisis.

I am currently teaching special education courses at the Vinnytsia Institute of Economics and Social Sciences of the University “Ukraine” to undergraduate and graduate students in psychology and social work, as well as American Sign Language (ASL) to deaf students enrolled in a vocational program at the institute. Additionally, I have presented lectures and led discussions at various universities on the topics of deaf education, deaf culture, foundations of special education, inclusive education, and developing higher order thinking skills in students. I have taught in the cities of Vinnytsia, Bar, Kyiv, and Kryvyi Rih, with numerous visits to other cities planned in the future.



I have had the pleasure of presenting at a number of conferences and roundtables including: 1st International Scientific Conference hosted by Vinnytsia Institute of Economics and Social Sciences *The Problems of Providing Higher Education to Persons with Special Needs in Terms of Inclusive Educational Environment* on November 5, 2014, where I presented a televised lecture on “Providing Special Education Services to Students with Disabilities in the United States”; 14th International Conference *Current Problems of Training and Educating of People in an Integrated Educational*

Environment in the Light of the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on November 19, 2014 at the University “Ukraine” in Kyiv, where I presented the lecture “Successfully Educating Students with Disabilities”; and participated in a round table discussion on *Inclusive Education* at the Vinnytsia Institute of Economics and Social Sciences on December 4, 2014, where I gave a presentation on “Successful Practices of Inclusive Education for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.”

During my Fulbright Scholarship in Ukraine, I have also been speaking to English language students in the local public schools, as well as volunteering at English Club meetings at Window on America in Vinnytsia. I have had the exciting opportunity to collaborate with the Vinnytsia City Council on improving community access to individuals with disabilities. We are developing an action plan titled *City of Social Cohesion* with a focus on facilitation community integration for individuals with physical and sensory disabilities, and this plan will be a critical component of a long term civic development document titled *Development Strategy Vinnytsia 2020*.

The warm hospitality of my Ukrainian hosts, colleagues and students touches me deeply. For a people who struggle daily and have so little, Ukrainians are among the most loving and generous people I have ever met.

Teaching in Vinnytsia, Ukraine has been extremely rewarding, and I have never been happier professionally. The sincere appreciation I receive from colleagues and students is highly uplifting and makes going to work a joy rather than a chore. Moreover, the warm hospitality of my Ukrainian hosts, colleagues and students touches me deeply. For a people who struggle daily and have so little, Ukrainians are among the most loving and generous people I have ever met, and I look forward to the final three months of my Fulbright Scholarship. As was the case in 2011, my final day in Ukraine will be very sad, indeed.



Markiw, Victor

University of New Haven, West Haven, CT

Music

Lecturing | *American Folk Music. History of Rock & Roll*

Lviv Mykola Lysenko National Academy of Music, Lviv; Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Lviv

10.09.2014 - 10.06.2015

vmarkiw@newhaven.edu

This year I introduced Ukrainian students and faculty to American music. Teaching the course “The History of Rock and Roll” to young Ukrainian students (who surprised me with their English language skills) and faculty has been very rewarding. I was immediately impressed by their knowledge and interest in the topic and soon realized that my student base, essentially conservatory performance and composition majors, knew virtually every major American R & R musician including Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Bill Haley, and Jerry Lee Lewis, as well as major bands and genres from the 60s through the 90s. Like students back home, these young musicians were conversant with a plethora of current American rock bands, clearly demonstrating the universality of this beloved American musical genre. The students are, however, less aware of the roles played by blues, gospel, spirituals and jazz ensembles in the evolution of rock and roll.

Also, I have been researching materials for a book I plan to write on piano playing. This semester I will prepare a number of performance practice questions for about 120 piano majors studying in Ukrainian conservatories. I will later compare these findings with a similar group of students in the United States.

In addition to my teaching and research, I have been very active learning the Ukrainian language and meeting daily with new friends to speak Ukrainian and assist them with the English language. As



a pianist, I have spent countless hours practicing existing repertoire and working on a new repertoire as well as works by Ukrainian composers. I have given several performances in Lviv and Kyiv. The political situation remains the biggest surprise while residing in Ukraine. It has been very difficult living in a country at war and dealing with the daily struggles Ukrainians face, and, in particular, those who have become close friends and colleagues.



McCabe-Juhnke, John

Bethel College, North Newton, KS

American Studies

Lecturing | *Text Embodied: Interrogating American Voices through Performance*

Lesia Ukrayinka Eastern European National University, Lutsk

2.09.2014 - 2.07.2015

jmcjuhnk@bethelks.edu

The goal of my Fulbright project is to facilitate intercultural dialogue through performance. As a scholar of performance and communication, I work with students to understand how perceptions of self and other are shaped by our individual and collective experiences. I use dramatic performance as a technique for exploring personal, literary, and communal texts from the U.S.

As Ukraine continues to reconstruct its national identity - an identity both shaped by and distinct from the social-political culture of the Soviet era - and the U.S. national identity adjusts to a political system that appears more polarized than ever on both foreign policy and social issues, the opportunity to study, rehearse, and perform one another's texts is key to achieving intercultural understanding. As we tell each other's stories, we learn to appreciate our differences and to celebrate our common humanity.

My time at Lesia Ukrayinka Eastern European National University (EENU) is divided between teaching communication studies courses in the Department of General and Social Psychology and coordinating the American Theater Club on campus. I have also lectured for the Department of Philology and the Intercultural Club at EENU. Community outreach activities include lecturing at Ostroh Academy, serving in Zhytomyr as an international election observer with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, presenting a lecture series on Communication Expectations in the U.S. at Kyiv EducationUSA Advising Center, coaching primary school drama club students at Treasury of Wisdom Private School in Lutsk. In addition I lectured at a meeting for public school teachers from Lutsk and nearby Rivne. The "Day of Tolerance" event included presentations by other professional educators, songs and a short play performed by kindergarten students, an English-teaching demonstration, and a lunch featuring foods from around the world.

U.S. Fulbright Scholars 2014-2015

Life in Lutsk over these past three months has been full, fascinating, fun, and frustrating at times. My Ukrainian language skills, while improving, are still very rudimentary. I can ask directions (which has come in handy more than a few times), make small talk about my family, and negotiate the grocery store just fine. I'm fortunate to be working in a University setting, with a department chair who speaks English and is very devoted to making my experience in Lutsk as pleasant as possible. EENU offers a ready social network in the workplace. Of course, very few of my colleagues speak English, so opportunities to build close relationships have been limited.

While English-speakers in Lutsk are rare, enthusiasm for English-speakers (especially those from the U.S.) is pervasive! Early in my time here I had an encounter in Vopak (the grocery store below my apartment) that has become typical of my interactions with the locals. I asked a man to help me weigh and price potatoes. He was a rotund, red-faced man, probably in his mid to late sixties. When he found out I was from the U.S. his face brightened, he grabbed my hand with both of his and shook it enthusiastically. He was almost giggling with delight. Potatoes weighed and priced, I moved on to the cereal aisle, and he moved back to a group of friends. I noticed he reported our encounter with great excitement (I saw him pointing in my direction as he spoke). This warm welcome has been repeated countless times during my stay in Ukraine. I had a similar encounter a week ago, when my wife and I happened upon a rally in Lutsk city square. It was a fundraising event for soldiers fighting in Eastern Ukraine. There we met Oksana, an event volunteer who spoke English. She introduced us to Sasha, a proud Ukrainian patriot who gave up his business when the war broke out and joined the army. As Sasha spoke and Oksana translated people started gathering around us. A couple of Americans in the midst of this rally was an unusual sight for them. Soon volunteers brought us food. Half-moon-shaped pastries (filled with beef and cabbage maybe?), fried and garnished with green onions. We were handed cups of glintwein. No one asked us to pay. They just wanted us to eat. A woman in one of the booths offered my wife a Ukrainian peace doll. "It's a gift," we were told. Soon another man came by offering more food. "Varenyky?" he asked. Well, sure! Soon he delivered a bowlful of potato and onion varenyky with two forks.

Though most Ukrainians are poor, they are rich in generosity. I hope to take some of that generosity of spirit back with me upon my return to the U.S.

Experiences like these remind me that wherever I go in Lutsk, I carry my cultural and economic privilege with me. Here in Western Ukraine, people see the U.S. as a democratic ideal for which they strive. It seems "true Ukrainian patriots" enthusiastically embrace all things Western. People here are eager to meet me, to know me, and to gain my approval. Though most Ukrainians are poor, they are rich in generosity. From the late night security guard at the library who invited me to join her in her office for tea and *korovai* to the man on the overnight train from Kyiv to Lutsk who passed an apple up to me from the lower berth, gift-giving is an everyday occurrence. And no request for help goes unanswered. I hope to take some of that generosity of spirit back with me upon my return to the U.S.



Mixing with the locals at a Fundraising Rally for the Ukrainian Army. From left to right: wife Karen, Sasha, Oksana, and John. Theater Square, Lutsk, Ukraine. February 22, 2015.

U.S. Fulbright Scholars 2014-2015



Sywenkyj, Joseph

Freelance Photographer

Photography

Research | *Quiet Observations and Emotive Truth: A Documentary Exploring Issues Facing People with Special Needs and the Physically Disabled in Ukraine*

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv

1.09.2014 – 30.07.2015

joseph@josephsywenkyj.com

The immense changes that have taken place in Ukraine over the past year influenced me to adapt my research topic. I am presently documenting how the revolution and war are affecting Ukraine's severely wounded Maidan activists and wounded soldiers as they adjust to a post-injury life.

Over the past six months, I have documented Ukrainians who were severely wounded during the revolution and now in this time of war. Most of the men are between 20 – 45 years of age and have had serious internal injuries, had legs and arms amputated and suffered severe burns covering much of their bodies. Many of them are also battling Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and are now addicted to painkillers while others are showing signs of alcohol abuse.



Volodymyr Hanchorovsky, 31, married with 4 children, kisses his wife in their home in Khmelnytsky Oblast. Mr. Hanchorovsky was severely wounded on February 20, 2014 when he was shot three times, twice in the back and once in the right arm, while attempting to reach wounded demonstrators who had been shot by security forces in central Kyiv during the Euro Maidan Revolution. Mr. Hanchorovsky underwent multiple operations in Ukraine and Germany but has significant and persistent issues, including extreme pain throughout his body due to nerve damage. This often inhibits him from receiving physical therapy.

November 17, 2014

U.S. Fulbright Scholars 2014-2015

The soldiers and activists are from various regions of the country and of diverse social and economic backgrounds, but each of them has several things in common: severe physical and emotional pain and the difficult task of adapting to a new post-injury life. I am also documenting how some of these men are proceeding with their lives as they recover physically and begin the even longer process of healing emotionally.

Though my grant is research only, I chose to expand it. I am currently in the process of creating a web resource in Ukrainian and English that will feature the images and stories I am actively collecting. I will also oversee graduate students at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy School of Journalism as they document similar themes. We will regularly update the site with new stories about wounded soldiers using documentary photography, text and video. This aspect of the project is still in the beginning stages of development, but I am confident of its success.



*“Our life has changed completely,” said Svitlana Kapusta, 29. Mrs. Kapusta wipes the brow of her husband, Sergeant Sergey Masan, a Ukrainian paratrooper from the eastern Ukrainian region of Mykolaiv, as he recovers in a hospital in Dnipropetrovsk. Sgt. Masan sustained burns to 70% of his body and lost several fingers in a grad rocket attack in the village of Dyiakovo, Luhansk Oblast, near the Russian border. He spent approximately three months in the war zone and asserted that his brigade was frequently fired upon with grad rockets launched from the Russian Federation as well as other weapon systems from within Ukraine.
September 29, 2014*



Tartter, David

Office of the Vermont Attorney General, Montpelier, VT

Criminal Law and Procedure

Lecturing | *Introduction to American Criminal Law and Procedure*

Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Lviv

1.02.2015 – 30.05.2015

David.tartter@state.vt.us

I am currently teaching U.S. Criminal Procedure to two classes of law students, focusing on the various showings that must be made by the state in order to justify increasing levels of intrusion on individual privacy and freedom of movement. As the semester proceeds, we will move into trial procedures, continuing to focus on the methods by which the defendant's rights are protected. I will also be giving a short series of lectures at Cherkasy National University on the same topic, and in Kyiv and Kharkiv.

I have only been in Ukraine for a little while, but I am very encouraged by my reception. My students have been welcoming, interested, and involved.

I have only been in Ukraine for a little while, but I am very encouraged by my reception. My students have been welcoming, interested, and involved. Their questions have been perceptive and show a good understanding of the issues. I am looking forward to working with them for the remainder of the semester.



Toporowych, Roxy

Independent Artist/Filmmaker

Film/Cinema Studies

Research | *The Storytelling Experiment: Contemporary Stories from Rural Ukraine*

Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Film Studio, Kyiv

1.09.2014 – 30.07.2015

roxy@kinorox.com

Since arriving in Ukraine, I have slowly immersed myself into the world of post-Soviet filmmaking. At the Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Film Studio, I have had an inside look into the rich history of Ukrainian cinema and have had the opportunity to explore the studio in its current state. This includes seeing the physical studio spaces and equipment, exploring the Dovzhenko museum and archive, and walking through the immense collections of costumes, props, posters and signage associated with the studio since it's beginning. Via the studio, some employees, and outside producers I have been able to learn about the state funded film system, one of the only outlets for directors to produce their work in Ukraine.

I have also had the great fortune to meet directors, cinematographers and other talent on the forefront of the independent film scene in Kyiv (which is still a new idea to Ukrainians.) These meetings have led to fresh ideas and creative collaborations.

In November, I was able to connect with *One Minute Jr's*, a program partnered with UNICEF, which helps young adults in assorted countries around Eastern Europe and the Middle East engage audiences with their stories via one-minute videos. This organization has provided the infrastructure for my original storytelling project and along with Caritas (NGO) this project will branch to areas outside of Kyiv.

Similarly, I have established a solid relationship with the arts organization Izolyatsia. Originally from Donetsk, Isolyatsia was forcibly removed from their space and relocated to Kyiv. Together with them I will host hands-on documentary workshops for children and young adults who have been displaced by the war.



*Children with great-grandmother at funeral
Skole, Ukraine*

I have been lucky enough to travel quite a bit within Ukraine as well, focusing mostly on rural areas. Thanks to a generous loan from Canon I have been able to photograph and video many of my experiences. I have witnessed everything from the first day of school to a village funeral. I've met with volunteer battalion members on Maidan, visited an incredible orphanage in Ternopil, filmed the arm-wrestling champion of the world in Kremenets and had an educational and enjoyable time test shooting the Canon C100 with a local photographer in Lviv. I've experienced a truly rural Christmas filled with rituals and deep beliefs. In all, Ukraine has not been without its adventures, all of which have informed me and have positively changed me.

Thus far my experience has been quite fulfilling, although it must be said that it was a slow burn and the current crisis and war has an affect on all of us. Most conversations are focused on this theme and of course it changes my perspective, forcing me to constantly evaluate how to utilize my skills and re-shape my project into something more contemporary.

Joint projects that have emerged include a feature film project collaboration with local talent and a storytelling event similar to The Moth. This spring I will give master classes at various universities (including the National Academy of Fine Arts, Kyiv Polytechnic, Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University, etc) on both production design and set decoration for film, as well as a class on the US film "system" and breaking through with independent filmmaking.

Additional projects also include collaborating with a few of my fellow Fulbrighters! I look forward to visiting them in their cities and conducting similar storytelling, master classes, and in one case shooting a short doc with a few of the students.

It may have taken several months, but similar to a film project you first need time to research, know your characters and story and also know your audience before proceeding. Taking time to lay the foundation, I feel, has been the most crucial step towards completing this successful Fulbright year. There is much more to come.



Wolowyna, Oleh

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Demography

Research | *Detailed Analysis of Demographic Consequences of the 1932-1934 Famine in Ukraine*

M.V. Ptukha Institute of Demography and Social Studies,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv

30.08.2014 – 29.08.2015 olehw@aol.com

Besides fighting the Ukrainian immigration bureaucracy, I worked intensively for 2.5 months on the Holodomor project with demographers at the Institute of Demography and Social Studies. Two original results from our research are: a) monthly Holodomor losses in 1933 in urban-rural areas by oblasts; b) 1933 famine losses by nationalities in Ukraine, for urban-rural areas by oblasts. Compared to other famines in the XXth century, a unique characteristic of the Holodomor is that most deaths took place in a very short time period: almost 90% of all deaths caused by the Holodomor occurred during the first half of 1933; the number of losses increased more than 11-fold between January and June of 1933. Our research also confirms that, compared to other nationalities, Ukrainians had the highest number of relative losses in both rural and urban areas. Holodomor 1933 losses in rural areas were 161 per 1000 population for Ukrainians, followed by 92 for Polish, 68 for Russians, 62 for Germans and 42 for Jews.

I also gave several lectures on my other topic of research, Ukrainians in the U.S., in Lviv: Lviv Polytechnic National University, Institutes of Ethnology and of Regional Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Lviv Ivan Franko National University, and in Kyiv: Kyiv Taras Shevchenko National University. My presentation on “Brain Drain Ukraine-US” at the Fulbright office generated significant interest from Ukrainian media. Interviews were published in *Ukrainian Week* <http://tyzhden.ua/Society/123827>, *DzerkaloTyzhnia* http://gazeta.dt.ua/EDUCATION/ukrayina-zatoplyuye-ameriku-hvileyu-intelektu-znevodnyuyuchi-sebe_.html and a TV interview on National TV UTP (<http://utr.tv/ru/on-line.html>).

After several months at home, I returned to Kyiv for three more months. The main objective is to estimate 1932-33 Famine losses by regions of Russia, in order to make a comparative analysis of famine losses in Ukraine and Russia. I am also working with Ukrainian cartographers on an Atlas of Ukrainians in the US.



Emigration Press Conference, November 6th, 2014



Zielyk, Sofika

Independent Artist

Art

Research | *Folk Art as Inspiration and Muse for Early 20th Century Artists of Ukraine*

M. T. Rylsky Institute of Art, Folklore Studies and Ethnology,

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv

1.09.2014 - 31.12.2014; 1.05.2015 - 30.09.2015

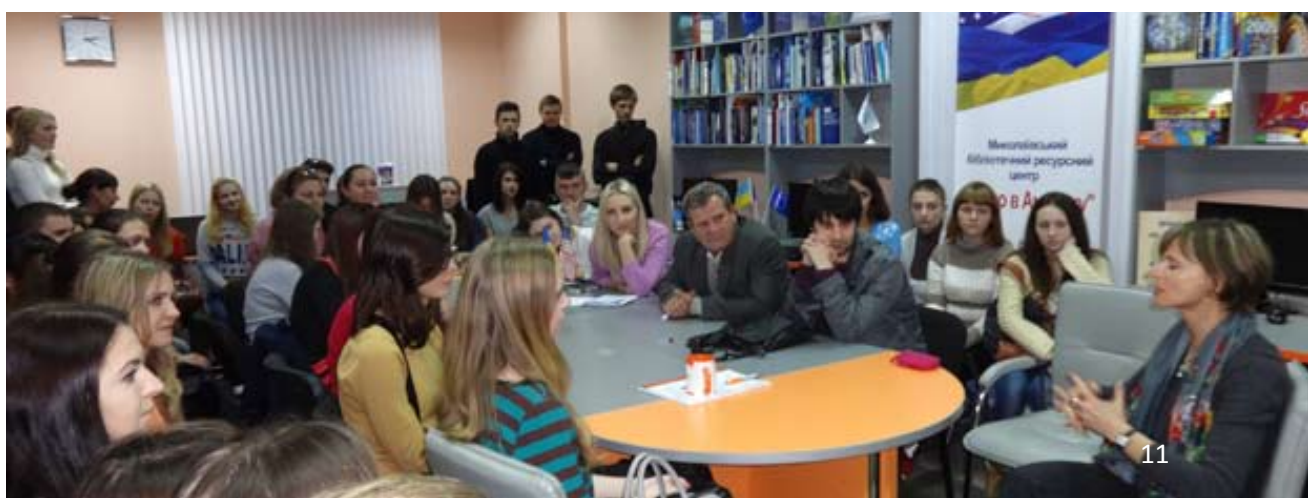
sofika@sofika.com

“Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations.”

I have heard this quote by Sen. William Fulbright many times in my life but only after I had spent the first part of my Fulbright grant in Ukraine did I fully understand the importance of these words. My first four months in Kyiv were spent in a whirlwind: researching my topic “Folk Art as Inspiration and Muse for Early 20th century artists of Ukraine”, travelling to different cities and lecturing on “Pysankarstvo”- the tradition of Ukrainian Easter eggs. I not only met art historians, academics and museum curators but I interacted with students, workers and taxi drivers. I immersed myself in the culture of my temporary home. I was no longer a tourist in the ancestral home of my parents, as I had been many times before. Most people could not quite figure me out. I stood shoulder to shoulder with residents in grocery stores and bank lines, seemingly a regular Kyiv citizen yet when I spoke in my fluent Ukrainian, my diaspora accent gave me away as a foreigner. I piqued their curiosity. How was it that an American spoke their language fluently; AND more importantly, why? The beginnings of our conversations revolved around the mundane such as the price of bread, store hours or directions but quickly progressed to inquiries about my purpose in their country and details about my Fulbright research topic. Not only did they learn from me but slowly I also realized that I had pre-conceived notions based on my own prejudices and family history that were being challenged with each and every encounter.

There is much wisdom in Sen. Fulbright’s words: “To truly understand a culture one has to live in its midst. Only through educational exchange can we fully understand each other and realize that we are not that much different.”

Throughout Ukraine’s history, and especially in the last 100 years, Ukrainian folk art has suffered greatly and has been marginalized. The average Ukrainian citizen at worst, knows nothing of it and, at best, considers it peasant art not worthy of celebration. The mere thought that I travelled to their country to further study this art and that people all over the world find it unique and beautiful gave my new acquaintances and friends incredulous pause. And perhaps their “AHA moments” will spark future introspection and conversation within their community. There is much wisdom in Sen. Fulbright’s words: “To truly understand a culture one has to live in its midst. Only through educational exchange can we fully understand each other and realize that we are not that much different.”





Anderson, Nadina

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Sociology | *Negotiation in Family Exchange:*

The Impact of Marketization on Marital Power

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv

30.09.2014 - 30.07.2015

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I came to Ukraine to complete my dissertation research. As a sociologist researching marriage, marketization, and household economics, I find Kyiv a fascinating site of gender politics and rapidly changing financial circumstances. I ask individuals about their daily lives, their hardships, their opportunities, and their opinions. I also ask couples how they manage to share money. Some facts are immediately clear. As veterans of repeated economic collapses, Ukrainians know how to budget and minimize risk. Several women have told me emphatically, “We know how to survive.” They use official salaries, government stipends, ‘black’ earnings, potatoes grown by grandmothers, and dollars bought from friends to ensure this ‘survival’ through precarious times. But they worry heavily about the future. They wonder what kind of life they can provide for their children. Many deliberate leaving. Food prices rise and anxieties rise higher. Those with unofficial or seasonal work struggle to secure projects and gain new revenue sources. Greater inequality exists between those paid in dollar equivalents and those with incomes in hryvnias. I study these inequalities. Part of my dissertation will discuss how those with privilege negotiate their finances in contrast to those without privilege.

So far, two colleagues from the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and I have interviewed forty-five respondents in Kyiv, Lviv, and Cherkasy. By this June I hope to complete eighty interviews. These interviews are recorded, transcribed, and translated for coding and analysis. While I have only begun to review my transcripts, I believe I will have a rich collection of data from which to write my dissertation. Pending the outcome of other grant applications, I also hope to work with the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology to conduct a nationally representative survey on employment, marriage, and family finances.

In addition to this research, I have been taking six Russian lessons every week and leading an English conversation club. These activities aid me in my research both by improving my language abilities and by building rapport with Ukrainian friends and acquaintances who help me recruit respondents to interview.

To be completely honest, I am heartily sick of borsch by now. I dream of tacos from Tucson, salads of spinach and strawberries, spicy Thai food, and dry desert weather. I am tired of finding dill in my pasta and raw salmon in my crepes. I am tired of walking on ice and avoiding potholes on sidewalks. I am even tired of my fluffy winter shapka, warm and snug and lovingly cared for. Admittedly, I know how to shove my way onto the crowded metro between Lva Tolstogo and Maidan and not get caught in the doors. I know to yank my scarf over my nose when entering the toilet at the mall. I even know how to speed walk in snow boots past women daintily trotting along in heels.

That being said, I did not come to Ukraine for the food, the weather, the sidewalks, the metro, or the toilets. I came for the people.

Ukraine has good people. My respondents help me. They give me their stories and tell me honestly, frankly, and sometimes painfully about their lives. Outside of my research, people help me discover Ukraine. The young people I interact with in Kyiv are smart, witty, and observant. These are the people who have shaped my experience here.

Ukraine has good people. My respondents help me. They give me their stories and tell me honestly, frankly, and sometimes painfully about their lives. They give me their time for nothing. Outside of my research, people help me discover Ukraine. My roommates ask me about America. My students translate jokes in Ukrainian. In the grocery store, the metro, the flower shop, the street, and the market, I fumble and fail on a semi-regular basis and people come to my aid. Through my broken Russian, people smile at me and give me advice. The women I work with in my research have surpassed my expectations in terms of the quality of work they provide. The young people I interact with in Kyiv are smart, witty, and observant. I find kindred spirits here in a way I never did in Chile or Japan. These are the people who have shaped my experience here.



Erlacher, Trevor

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

History | *Ukrainian Nationalist Radical:*

The Life, Thought, and Milieus of Dmytro Dontsov

Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv

1.09.2014 – 1.07.2015

Erlacher@email.unc.edu

My research has been going quite well. I have found, gathered, and read many materials for my dissertation. The libraries and archives are good places to work with helpful staff and well-stocked and organized collections. I have read hundreds of documents and thousands of pages of primary and secondary sources and have already accumulated a book's worth of research notes. I am on schedule to have fulfilled the objectives of my proposal by the time my grant period ends in July. When the time comes to write the chapters of my dissertation, I will have more than enough material. My views on the subject of my research, Dontsov's radical nationalist ideology, continue to evolve under the influence of current events in Ukraine and the well informed input of Ukraine's citizens.

I have met numerous local scholars here in Lviv, including Yaroslav Hrytsak (the renowned Ukrainian historian and public intellectual who is serving as my host institution advisor) and Halyna

U.S. Fulbright Students 2014-2015



Svarnyk (a D. Dontsov specialist and the head of the historical documents collection of the Vasyl Stefanyk National Library), among others. These contacts have really opened my mind and have been generous and helpful to me with my project.

I've learned a ton about Ukraine, and have had the privilege of being here during a pivotal historical moment. This experience has given me insights into Ukrainian history and culture that I would likely have missed entirely had I been observing events here from abroad.

Though I am still well short of native-level fluency, my proficiency in written and spoken Ukrainian has improved immensely these past six months. Most Ukrainian texts, provided they're legible, present no troubles for me. I've learned a ton about Ukraine, and have had the privilege of being here during a pivotal historical moment. As terrible as these times are, this experience has given me insights into Ukrainian history and culture that I would likely have missed entirely had I been observing events here from abroad.

Ukrainians are easily the kindest and most open Europeans I've ever met. They're also an exceptionally well educated and thoughtful lot.

Generally speaking, historical research is solitary work. On a typical day, you'll find me reading and writing alone in a cafe, at the library, in an archive, or at home. Nevertheless, I observe and speak with people on a daily basis, so I still get a sense of the mood and rhythms of life in Ukraine, a postrevolutionary society at war. If anything, I'm surprised by how normal and orderly everything is. The news on the television is a constant barrage of frightening images from the Front and the latest outrages in international politics, but the people calmly carry on and businesses function normally. Ukrainians are easily the kindest and most open Europeans I've ever met. They're also an exceptionally well educated and thoughtful lot. Good conversation is never hard to come by.



Mahoney, Grace

Seattle University, Seattle, WA

Language and Literature | *Festivals of Identity and Heritage:
Cultural Practices and Urban Space in Ukraine*

Kamianets-Podilsky Ivan Ohiyenko National University, Kamianets-Podilsky

26.08.2014 - 26.07.2015

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During my grant period I changed my focus from festival culture to public art and murals in Ukraine. This change was inspired by one of the festivals in my grant location. Respublica Anti-Money Fest raises money through concert ticket sales to commission new murals annually in Kamyanets-Podilsky. Over the course of the last four years, these murals have changed the face of the city and perpetuated feelings of stewardship within the community and raised awareness of the merits of public and independent art. With these concepts in mind, I researched the murals and Respublica Festival in Kamianets-Podilsky and other murals, street-artists, and public art promotion around Ukraine. I wanted to gain an understanding of the general role of street art in communities and observe how street art and murals in Ukraine have become more popular since the Revolution of Dignity. I have found that public art increases community awareness and involvement and, when commissioned

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in partnership with independent actors, increases democracy and free expression. I have also found that the upsurge of murals in Ukraine during and after the revolution has developed in line with the creation of murals and public expression in other countries during social movements and crises. Likely, as the crisis comes to an end, the volume of murals painted in Ukraine will decrease. Decisions about what to do with current murals and graffiti will be left to their communities, but stable projects, such as Respublica, and others will continue promoting murals as means of community growth and stability.

I have compiled my research into a paper and presentation and will present at Kamianets-Podilsky National University, Cherkasy National University, the Center for Urban History in Lviv, and elsewhere.

Aside from my main research project I have worked on learning Ukrainian language, designed a traveling exhibition of Maidan art, lead an English club at the university, and translated a book of poetry, *The Groningen Manuscript*, with poet Iryna Starovoit. These side projects have greatly deepened my Fulbright experience and have contributed to my general knowledge of Ukrainian art, literature, and language and have further involved me with my community in Kamyanets-Podilsky.



**McCartney, Evan**

United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CL

Political Science | *Past and Present:*

Ukraine's Journey toward Military Aviation Autonomy

National Aviation University, Kyiv

1.09.2014 – 1.07.2015

evan.mccartney09@yahoo.com

This project focuses on the Ukrainian aviation industry. During the Soviet Union, Ukraine was the industry's epicenter for aeronautical and astronautical manufacturing. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Ukraine inherited the backbone of the former union's aviation industry and manufacturing including the aviation giant Antonov - known for producing the An-225. Among the top ten arms producers in the world, Ukraine fails to manufacture at its market potential. This project has focused on the industry's status quo. After twenty four years of production independence, this research has examined the health and wellness of the industry. Additionally, the consequences of the Soviet Union and continued state controlled ties of the industry are important in this examination. The information gathered thus far will be compared to that of Western styles of organization and practices, so that areas of improvement can be identified and long-term obtainable goals established.

During my time in Ukraine, I have shadowed industry professors and collected archived information. Interacting with aeronautical engineers several times a week, I visit private and state run aviation corporations. Plant visitations are scheduled for the near future in my pursuit to further understand this field. In addition to my research, I have provided numerous lectures at the National Aviation University (NAU) in Kyiv on how airplanes fly, crew resource management (CRM), instrument flight rules (IFR), relationship between Air Traffic Controllers and pilots, flight instruments, etc. I visited Ukraine's Defense Expo and numerous aircraft museums and airshows. In addition to continued research, I will be working in NAU's subsonic wind tunnel facility.

Every day I am inspired by the strong resolve of Ukrainians.

Even though I have traveled to Ukraine before, I gained a renewed perspective after living here for six months. For example, living in Kyiv during wartime has shed light on how strong the Ukrainian people are, fighting for democracy in what seems like a sea of corruption. Every day I am inspired by their strong resolve. I see it firsthand with friends I have made at my university, friends from my church, and friends in my field. In addition to being inspired, engaging with Ukrainians has introduced me to a new world of customs and foods. For example, I have not only discovered the intricacies of Ukrainian cuisine, but also discovered a variety of superstitions that influence the lives of Ukrainians. Additionally, I started taking salsa dancing lessons, as it is very popular in Kyiv and a great way to meet new people. Altogether, my time in Ukraine has proven to be a very fruitful experience.





Rakowsky, Peter

SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY

Political Science/International Relations | *A Quest to the West, European Neighborhood Policy and Ukrainian Integration*

Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv

1.09.2014 – 7.07.2015

peterrakowsky@gmail.com

The research that I have conducted thus far has been a very fruitful learning experience. I was able to dive into the political, economic and social relationship that the European Union and Ukraine have developed since the creation of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) in 2004. The data that I have gathered has given me insight into the deep rift that exists within the EU in regards to interacting with Ukraine. The ENP was created for a number of different reasons ranging from security, economic prosperity and projecting European values onto neighboring countries. From the information that I have gathered, I have come to understand that the ENP has some pros, but many cons. Since Euromaidan happened in 2014, I was very glad to see that the EU has acknowledged the need to rethink and strengthen the European Neighborhood Policy with Ukraine. I hope that while I am in Ukraine, I will be able to see how the EU plans to change the ENP with Ukraine to develop a proper strategy to integrate the country into European society.

As I continue my research, I will continue to analyze the European Neighborhood Policy, but I will also be looking at what Ukraine can do to expand its business opportunities outside of Europe. Ukraine's ultimate goal is to become a prosperous, European Union Member State. I believe that in order for the European Union to accept Ukraine's membership application, Ukraine must stabilize its economy. Once Ukraine does this, the EU will consider Ukraine to be a much more serious candidate for membership, and may eventually vote for Ukraine to enter the European Union.

While conducting my research, I was lucky enough to present my research at an international relations conference that was held at Lviv Ivan Franko National University. I had the privilege of discussing my Fulbright topic with students from different EU countries, which allowed me to hear what EU citizens think of the ENP and Ukraine. I hope that in the coming months, I will be able to attend more international relations conferences to present my research and interact with Ukrainian and EU students.

At the end of my grant, I am confident that I will have enough information that will eventually help me in my MA/PhD dissertation writing. The Fulbright Scholarship has been an invaluable tool that has given me the chance to conduct research on an extremely important topic. One day I hope to become an expert in this field.

Ukraine has never allowed me to experience a boring day, because a country as unique as Ukraine gives any person more opportunity than anywhere else in the world to explore and experience something special.

When I studied in Ukraine in 2012, my perceptions of Ukraine were pure amazement, absolute beauty, and admiration for the incredible people living in this country. Three years ago there was no war, the news never reported on death and destruction within the country, and I didn't have to deal with the fear of friends and family going to war and never returning home again. Even with everything that has changed since my last visit to Ukraine, I still find this country to be stunningly beautiful. I still walk the streets and look at people with a deep reverence. I still learn something new about the Ukrainian culture every single day, whether it is a new word, or a new custom, or a new kind of Ukrainian cuisine that I have never tasted before. Ukraine has never allowed me to experience a boring day, because a country as unique as Ukraine gives any person more opportunity than anywhere else in the world to explore and experience something special.

Having the privilege of researching and living in Lviv during this serious and critical time in Ukraine's history has been one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my life. Budgeting my

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time to do research, tutoring students studying the English language, keeping up-to-date with what is happening in Donbas, seeing family and friends, experiencing art and culture, etc, has truly made me perfect the art of time management. I am currently a little more than half way through my Fulbright Grant and all I can say is that I hope time slows down a bit. These past seven months felt like only a month has passed. I hope the next four months will be as eventful and educating as the previous 6.





Rappert-McGetrick, Trista

Pennsylvania State University, University Park Campus, PA

Applied Linguistics | *Multilingual Academic Writing in Southern Ukraine*

Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University, Mykolayiv

10.09.2014 -10.07.2015

tmcgetrick@gmail.com

My project aims to report on the practical, cultural, linguistic, epistemological, and rhetorical challenges faced by Ukrainian scholars writing in English. Achieving this aim has meant examining a) the differences between Ukrainian- and English-language articles from Ukrainian and American/international journals, including differences in academic genres and genre conventions, rhetorical styles, argument structure, knowledge creation and dissemination practices, and lexico-grammar; and b) the pragmatic challenges Ukrainian scholars face due to lack of access to resources, such as scholarly databases, and lack of institutional support for faculty writers.

Because humanities articles have been the least studied by applied linguistics, and because so many of the writers I am working with are literary scholars, I have chosen to focus by the discourse analysis part of my project on articles from this field. By studying Ukrainian and American literary studies articles, I have identified some important genre, rhetorical, epistemological, and linguistic differences that Ukrainian academic writers should be made aware of. First of all, genre conventions differ significantly: American journal articles tend to be much longer and have longer works cited lists. Rhetorically, the emphasis in Ukrainian vs. American literary studies articles appears to be put on different moves. For instance, American introductions focus more on drawing attention to the new ideas presented in the article and their importance and on providing an outline of the main argument leading up to the thesis statement toward the end of the introduction section. Ukrainian introductions seem to focus more on displaying knowledge of previous research and showing how the author's ideas fit into the wider landscape of criticism and interpretation. Linguistically, certain lexico-grammatical constructs are more prevalent in Ukrainian texts than American ones, including the passive voice and the use of the first person plural to refer to a single author. It further appears the functions of the first person singular, far more prevalent in American texts, may not be fully understood by Ukrainian writers writing in English. The use of 'I' is not just meant to draw attention to the author or to avoid excessive use of the passive voice, but can also function as a hedging device.

So far, I have piloted a workshop designed to help scholars investigate the genre, rhetorical, logical, and linguistic differences between English and Ukrainian texts in their disciplines through corpus linguistics and article analysis. I have started two writing groups that offer peer-support and critique to authors throughout the writing process. This semester, I plan to run my workshop at other local universities and invite American scholars to participate in a roundtable on academic writing. I am continuing to explore ways to address the challenges identified above and help scholars investigate the genre, rhetorical, logical, and linguistic differences between English and Ukrainian texts in their disciplines through training, advocacy, peer-support, and dialogue with American academics.

I have found the people of Mykolayiv to be incredibly energetic, dedicated, and pro-active. Because of their interest in me and my work, I have been able to become involved in several cultural and educational endeavors in Mykolayiv

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I have found the people of Mykolayiv, especially those associated with Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University, to be incredibly energetic, dedicated, and pro-active. Because of their interest in me and my work, I have been able to become involved in several other cultural and educational endeavors here in Mykolayiv. Soon after my arrival, I began facilitating a weekly conversation club at the university. Three other Americans and I meet with students, teachers, and community members to discuss topics such as charitable giving, overpopulation, and stray animals. The club has become very popular because of its relaxed atmosphere, lively discussion, and tea and cookies. I have also been teaching a weekly TOEFL prep class at the Mykolayiv Window on America Center, which has drawn a number of students interested in applying to programs like UGrad and Fulbright.

In addition to my work with English Language Learners, I have been able to take part in some interesting cultural projects. The leaders of our local film club accepted my idea for a program of American films on the theme "Individual and Society." Members of our club watched and discussed *The Dead Poets' Society*, *Into the Wild*, *Winter's Bone*, and *Precious*, and received the program enthusiastically because of the new view it gave them of American culture(s). In conjunction with Mykolayiv's poetry club, which organizes monthly poetry evenings, I am working with students from Black Sea State University to offer an evening of African American poetry and culture, culminating in the presentation of a group of MA in Translation students' first-ever translations of Toni Morrison's *Five Poems* into Ukrainian.

I have also been having fun getting involved with the local music scene, singing and playing mandolin with (possibly the one-and-only) jazz banduryst and singing some American rock songs at a local bar.





Rockafellow, Isaac

At-Large, New York, NY; University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Circus Studies | *Establishment of Identity in the Post-Soviet Era: Ukrainian Circus, 1991-Today*

Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Variety Arts, Kyiv

5.09.2014 - 5.07.2014

isaac.rockafellow@gmail.com



I want to better understand the Ukrainian circus system. To that end, I have been training with students at the Kyiv Municipal Academy of Circus and Variety Arts to understand their perspective on circus in Ukraine. Broadly, their feeling is that successful artists do not work in Ukraine, or only do so intermittently. The second half of my project will investigate how the Ukrainian National Circus Company operates; its funding and economic history. I will also be assessing the prevalence of exotic animal acts in the National Circus - one of the defining features of modern circus is the reduced usage of animals, for both economic and ethical reasons.

The most lasting impression of Ukrainians I have is how incredibly they have pulled together to support one another

I doubt I will be alone in saying this, but the most lasting impression of Ukrainians I have is how incredibly they have pulled together to support one another. Unsurprisingly, my time in Ukraine has also been full of political re-examination. In the face of interstate Russian propaganda, I had to question my faith in outright media freedom, until recent Ukrainian censorship laws (see bill No. 1317) are making me re-evaluate that re-evaluation.



Seneczko, Marianne

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Public Health | *Cooperation between NGOs and Governmental Agencies in HIV-AIDS Prevention*

National Academy of Public Administration, Office of the President of Ukraine, Kyiv

9.09.2014 - 9.07.2015

mseneczko@uchicago.edu

I am researching the cooperation between NGOs at the regional level and governmental agencies at the level of public authorities, as both entities work together to combat HIV infection. My objectives are to determine the roles that both sectors play in policy formation and implementation in the prevention of HIV, to highlight the outreach efforts that make formation and implementation a seamless transition, and to identify the challenges that keep policy from successful implementation. I will question experts at all levels of this collaboration to determine whether efforts to reform policy, increase access to preventive resources, enable preventive practice, and combat surrounding environmental influences (such as gender stereotypes and stigma) are effective. By evaluating the degree of access HIV patients and high-risk populations have to different resources and by documenting key determinants in how to better target effective policy implementation, I will construct an ideal, yet practical model program that targets the populations, and encourages testing and client adherence to treatment.

Currently, I have accomplished the first two objectives and parts of the last two. Additional accomplishments and activities include co-founding a reproductive health rights coalition, attending a regional coordination council between government and NGO officials, creating extensive questionnaires for different players in HIV prevention, making my first site visit in Sumy, offering translating and editing services, and public health consulting for two HIV prevention and treatment NGOs. For the remainder of my project, I plan to continue learning about the quality of and degree to which clients needs are serviced, while constructing a model that draws upon what key determinants I've learned—one that retains clients and serves them emotionally, intellectually and physically. I plan to accomplish this by making several site visits to integrated care centers, and expanding upon successes while suggesting improvements where they are needed.

Having grown up in a family with ancestry from western Ukraine, I was no stranger to Ukrainian customs and language. However, upon my arrival in Kyiv, I was shocked at the dissonance between the Ukrainian diaspora in America and Ukraine, specifically with differences in dialect and culture. The biggest surprise for me was the common use of Russian language and Surzhyk in the capital city. Another exciting discovery was finally meeting my family in Lviv. Not only did I learn more about my ancestral roots in the village, but I even discovered that a book was being written about the five generations of medical professionals in my family! The author tracked me down and interviewed me about my interest in public health and medicine as part of his book.

Apart from discovering family ties, my experience was also very fruitful in other areas. For example, I was given the opportunity to attend several conferences in human rights, reproductive health, and public policy, where I networked with professionals in different fields. From networking, I was able to partake in several other events and projects, such as grant writing for international funds, collaborating with several UN councils and the surrounding European community at round tables, and learning the ins and outs of NGOs in Eastern Europe. Another valuable opportunity I have taken is volunteering at Kyiv Central Military Hospital and offering a listening ear to wounded soldiers from Donbas. When not researching or volunteering, I enjoy playing volleyball with a men's league, getting fit with Zumba, and discovering restaurants, bars, and cultural exhibits in Kyiv.



**Bloemen, Christina**

University of Montana, Missoula, MT

TEFL/Applied Linguistics | *English Teaching Assistantship*

Uzhhorod National University, Uzhhorod

10.09.2014 - 10.07.2015

bloemenchristina@gmail.com

When coming to Ukraine initially, I was quite unsure as to what I would find. I planned on implementing a mixed English/Film club, exploring the links between English as a second language (ESL) teaching and the expansion of vocabulary and grammatical structures through film. In addition, film allows students to explore different cultural and societal problems, hear the pace of native English while being at home, and explore frequent cultural references made by members of American society specifically. However, with the political and economic environment being rather unstable, the university schedule was condensed into a marathon semester ending in December and not picking up until February. While impeding the ability to establish a regular film club, I was able to expand my ideas into specific classroom settings. I was also able to introduce American-specific holidays to students and the university teaching staff. For example, I carved pumpkins with students from first through fifth years, as well as prepared an entire Thanksgiving meal for my colleagues at the university to enjoy and learn about our traditional dishes and activities on Thanksgiving. Within the classroom, I was offered the opportunity to work directly with the master's degree students, giving them a weekly seminar on academic writing. This was an unexpected delight, being able to work exclusively with master's students and see the expansion of their abilities in abstract writing, essay structures, and politically correct writing. In addition to working with university students, I have been able to visit and work with professors of the university studying English. I also have been working with teachers from villages and mountain towns who visit the Teacher Development Institute based in Uzhhorod. Both of these experiences have given me the opportunity to expand my teaching abilities from university-specific to working with adults with professional experiences in teaching. Another interesting opportunity presented itself in January, where I worked with the Institute to write and structure the annual regional English Olympiad competition, for student all over the Transcarpathian oblast to participate and challenge themselves against each other in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Recently, I have been additionally working with the top students from this competition to prepare them for the national competition held in Uzhhorod in March.

With my history as a political science major, seeing the election process through its entirety was absolutely amazing. Especially touching was watching Ukrainian families come in, parents casting their votes and showing their children how the electoral process works.

Overall my experience in Ukraine has been overwhelmingly positive. I have experienced true Ukrainian hospitality, from celebrating Ukrainian Christmas in a local village to sampling homemade wine at various festivals throughout the year. During the parliamentary elections in October, I had the honor of participating as an international observer. With my history as a political science major, seeing the election process through its entirety was absolutely amazing. What was especially touching was watching Ukrainian families come in, parents casting their votes and showing their children how the electoral process works. While the economy has been falling and the political pressure from the war has been impacting Ukrainians country-wide, I have seen a rise in national pride, as well as the construction of a volunteer-state in Ukraine. Outside of the classroom, I have been able to participate

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in various activities with the English Philology Department, including competing in a university-wide ping-pong competition! I have had so many amazing and unforeseen experiences and I am sure that I will continue to experience this throughout the rest of my grant period!



Poeske, Abigail

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

TEFL/Applied Linguistics | *English Teaching Assistantship*

Chernivtsi Yuriy Fedkovych National University, Chernivtsi

10.09.2014 -10.07.2015

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During my first semester, I taught English Conversation classes to second and fourth year groups, ran a weekly English club, and took Ukrainian language lessons. This semester, I continue to teach English Conversation classes to fourth year students, host English club and learn Ukrainian. I also coordinate a Global Collaboration Project that I have designed to address needs of my students that I recognized in my first semester. This virtual, 8-week project connects my students with other English language learners all around the world. They learn about, discuss, and try to solve global issues which impact us all. While practicing their English, they develop their global citizenship skills, discover other cultures, and make international friendships.

Over the winter holidays break, I went to the Carpathian Mountains for a very cultural Ukrainian Christmas. Two other Fulbrighters and I celebrated Christmas in Hutsul tradition in a beautiful rural village. We participated in the caroling, rode a horse-drawn sleigh around the village, went sledding, and hiked through the snow at Mount Hoverla.

I had the opportunity to spend two weeks over winter break working at Ukrainian Catholic University's International Office in Lviv. While there, I advised them on how they could make their study abroad program more appealing for Americans, edited their website and assisted with Erasmus program applications, contributed to a handbook for international visitors, consulted them on how to best connect with Slavic Departments in the US to promote their program, and created a map which visualized student mobility at UCU (which is now hanging on the wall of their office!) to encourage more students to become involved. I also had the chance to meet with representatives from Estonian universities who were promoting their exchange programs. My time at UCU was worthwhile and mutually beneficial. I was able to observe and learn a lot from their perspective, and the experience was relevant to my future goals of a career in international education.



The Virtual Fulbright Ukraine:

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If you would like to share your own Fulbright story, submit pictures from your time abroad or comment about the program, we invite you to take the time to tell us in your own words about your Fulbright experience. You may write about specific moments that you felt were meaningful or the overall experience. Please submit your stories with accompanying photos to valeksanych@ie.org. We look forward to receiving your stories!

Letters to the Editor or Opinion Pieces are welcomed.
Please send them to valeksanych@ie.org.

Veronica Aleksanych, Editor
Marian Luniv, Designer
Photo courtesy of U.S. Fulbright grantees 2014-2015