



December, Volume 55, Issue 2

Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union

## **President's Message**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second edition of “Student” newsmagazine for the 2012-2013 academic school year. What a momentous two months since our last issue. It was a busy time for both SUSK and its thousands of members across the country. Namely, I am referring to the Ukrainian Parliamentary Elections and of course the Holodomor commemorations; subjects which will feature heavily in this issue.

The recent parliamentary elections in Ukraine are still fresh in all our minds. Not only because of our natural desire to remain engaged on issues pertaining to democracy and rule of law in modern-day Ukraine, but the fact that one-third of the present SUSK Executive participated in the Government of Canada Electoral Observation Mission to Ukraine, funded by Foreign Affairs Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency. Additionally, three former members from the 2010-

2011 and 2011-2012 executive teams were present as well. Furthermore, if we continue to include students part of our

various clubs throughout Canada, and our vast network of Ukrainian-Canadian alumni from years past, you'll find that it was a highly saturated SUSK mission! As we await the final CANADEM (the agency responsible for administering the Canada-Ukraine Mission) report, two observations: the participation of many Ukrainian Canadians as part of the 500 person strong contingent was both timely and invaluable (given the natural comfort with language and culture – a fact which was commented on by non Ukrainian-Canadians), and the size and scope of the mission spoke to the effective level of influence the Ukrainian community enjoys in Canada. We must not lose sight of this privilege, and continue to press the Government of Canada to be active in ensuring that Ukraine remains on a positive path of economic and democratic development.

November was also the month during which we, and other Ukrainians around





the world, solemnly marked the Holodomor tragedy. The Holodomor was the 1932-1933 Act of Genocide by Famine engineered by the Soviet Stalinist regime, an effort which was designed to exterminate the Ukrainian nation by means of deliberate starvation. In Canada, the Federal Government - as well as several provincial legislatures - have recognized the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people. Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union members were active in marking the Holodomor at universities across the country with events such as Holodomor film screenings, presenting informational exhibits, displays, and lecture seminars, as well as participating in public memorial events. As with the Holocaust, it is important that such painful episodes be openly displayed and studied, for the benefit of national and international audiences, with the hope that such acts never be repeated.

As I mentioned last issue, "Student" tells our collective stories. As a community, as a "народ." Thank you for taking the time to read this issue and I hope you consider contributing in the future. All it takes is a pitch and a quick e-mail to our Media Director (media@susk.ca).

З повагою - Regards,

Danylo Korbabicz  
-University of Ottawa

### **Holodomor Commemoration**

Edmonton's Ukrainian community gathered at the municipal City Hall on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1932-1933 Act of Genocide by Famine, Holodomor. Hundreds of people turned out for the annual event, organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Edmonton Branch, to remember the victims and to never forget the terror that was imposed on them by the Soviet Stalinist regime.

The event began with a *Panakhida* (Memorial Service), and included a keynote address, and a wreath laying ceremony. Youth from various organizations were present and well represented.

A reporter from CTV Edmonton had a chance to speak with a Holodomor survivor – Natalia Talanchuk who was just 8 years old when it was imposed. "I can't sleep at night sometimes thinking about it because it haunts me," Talanchuk said. She recalls her mother having to sell jewelry in exchange for





food, but remembers didn't have jewelry to help them get by. "They were eating anything. The cats were eaten, the horses were eaten, they were hungry so they went into garbages," Talanchuk said. "Lots of them died." Talanchuk says her mother used to forbid her from looking out the window of their home. At the time she didn't understand why, but later, she learned. "Dead people were sitting in front until the horse and buggy picked them up," she said."

By estimated accounts, there are only about 15 survivors of the Holodomor that live in Edmonton.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Yars Balan, Co-Director of the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) in Edmonton, spoke about the academic research that has been conducted on the Holodomor.

The Ukrainian Students' Society at the University of Alberta actively participated in the event by laying a wreath in front of the Holodomor monument in front of Edmonton's City Hall. The monument, pictured below, was the first Holodomor monument in the world, erected in 1983 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famine-genocide.

A video summary of the event can be found here, created by Ivan Lypovsky:  
<http://youtu.be/4qH51zb3ZRc>

Read more about CTV's coverage of the event:  
<http://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/ukrainian-community-marks-79th-anniversary-of-holodomor-famine-that-killed-millions-1.1052512#ixzz2DLwdejxk>

Adrian Warchola

-University of Alberta



*(Members of the Ukrainian Students' Society, Sasha Vorotilenko, Adrian Warchola, and Zenon Markeych stand in front of the first Holodomor Monument in the world – Edmonton, AB)*





## ***Students' Standpoint: What are your thoughts on the 2012 Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine?***

"Sadly, this parliamentary election delivered more of the same. Though the elections appeared competitive, structural factors made the result more pre-determined than ever. Then again, relative to Putin's Russia, Ukraine is a beacon of democratic awesomeness."

"Little has changed in the aftermath of the 2012 Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine. Ukraine is still run by the same people who ran it before the elections."

"I can't tell specifically how the democratic process went. But, I have many friends in Ukraine and the general feeling is hopelessness for change even when they vote. They don't vote for perfect candidates only the lesser evils."

"100s of oligarchs that own steel factories, mines and shipping ports in Odessa are the people with the real power, not the President or Ministers. It will take a lot more than electing a new President to make real change in Ukraine."

"The Ukrainian elections are a textbook example for falsification. Ukraine will never be allowed into the EU if the country continues to be run this way."

"A sad indication of the current state of Ukrainian politics. The lack of viable leadership options currently available to Ukrainians is pitiful. The Ukrainian political landscape is in desperate need of a total overhaul with new people and ideas which meet the realities of a present day world."

"Definitely regression in terms of the dominant party adhering to international standards and ultimately a democratic electoral process. Despite the severity of corruption, the Ukrainian people remain strong willed and dedicated to fighting for a democratic Ukraine."

"I was observing the 2012 Parliamentary Elections in Kyiv and was completely shocked and saddened by the violations that I witnessed on election day. My experience however was an exception and Election Day was generally accepted by the international community as "free and fair". The problem is that the majority of election fraud occurred before and after Election Day. Although the international





community is increasingly focusing on this period before and after I believe there needs to be much more done. Elections cannot be accepted by the international community as long as there is no blatant fraud on Election Day. I believe these elections were generally free but not fair."

*Answers compiled by Olena Kit*

### **Holodomor**

The Holodomor of 1932-33 was a terrible tragedy in Ukrainian history and the worst part about it is the lack of people who genuinely care to remember it and honour the memory of those who died. In fact, as I was told last week, by someone who was not Ukrainian and visited Ukraine, the Ukrainians they met did not care either and praised the Soviet regime for the work they had done. This of course can't be true for all of them but that this mentality still remains is very disturbing. This past week, however, the University of Ottawa Ukrainian Students Club decided to raise awareness of this horrible event by setting up an informative display on two tables outlining the genocide and providing what one could call proof of what

happened. The information included ranged from quotes from official government documentation as well as related statistics that managed to survive the Soviet destruction of anything that had to do with the genocide. The club spent the entire day answering questions and generally letting people know about a tragedy that many in the world fail to recognize or deny outright. This crime should never be forgotten by the Ukrainian people.

William Pidzamecky

-University of Ottawa

### **Excited To Get Back**

2012, what a year it was. Looking back at what the world went through this past year, there have been many interesting events from Hurricane Sandy hitting the United States to South Korean pop artist Psy achieving a billion views on a YouTube music video. Just as quick as the year ends, a new one comes in, and with it back to school we go, to the old corners of libraries we call home with new textbooks and that Venti latte with extra espresso shots to help get through those long nights. And I couldn't be more excited.





For myself, school is finally becoming what I love. Many years I would sit through a class thinking, as many others will agree, "why do I need to know the historical meaning behind Macbeth if I want to study [insert any field of study besides english liturare here]?"". When I get to school everyday, I'm excited to be there. I enjoy hearing what my friends are learning in their classes. Everyday is going to be something new. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the years they have at university. Get out. Go play some durak with friends. Go have a pint with your professor. Go enjoy your time at university to the fullest you possibly can, it's been the best time of my life yet and I can't wait to get back.

Cassian Soltykevych

-University of Alberta

**November: A Month of Holodomor and Moustaches at the University of Calgary**

"September 25, 1932

Doroha Marusia,

*Times are starting to change. We were commanded to harvest our field earlier than normal. Later, over half of our harvest was collected by soviet officers. How will such a small food ration feed the mouths of my two*

*little sisters, brother, baba, and the rest of the family? I miss you terribly, and I truly hope that you are not seeing the same misfortunes in your village. I hope to see you soon, my love. Pavlo"*

A solemn Roman Storoshchuk echoed the words through the microphone with a soft uneasiness in his voice allowing the audience to comprehend the fleeting hopes and growing fears embodying the character, Pavlo, as he writes to his distant love Marusia, during the dark times which we have now come to know as Holodomor. The University of Calgary Ukrainian Student's Society opened the commemorations ceremony at St. Vladimir Church on November 24th, with a theatrical rendition of the Ukrainian Famine Genocide. Dressed in traditional embroidered Ukrainian blouses, Pavlo read aloud one letter after the next while his Marusia, played by Christina Chumak, sat silently from across the stage with candles flickering in the background against a panel of students dressed in black. Breaking the silence after Pavlo's last letter, the angelic voice of Stephanija Romaniuk brought Marusia to her feet as she proceeded into a contemporary dance symbolizing the tragedy and loss of this horrific crime against Ukraine.





This is the fourth year that the USS has been asked to open for the Commemorations event and every year we are met with the same level of recognition and praise from our audience, community leaders, and government officials. Is it because our five minute performances consist of Oscar award-winning material? No, most likely not, although I will note that it is worth being creative. Throughout the years I have come to realize that it isn't our artistic abilities that others are applauding but rather it's the fact that young people are taking to the stage and actively demonstrating our awareness for such an important hallmark in our nation's history, even though it happened long before our lifetimes. As the youth, we personify the

memory and legacy of Holodomor living on in the community and without us it would seem that we have already forgotten. This is why I think that Holodomor is the perfect opportunity for students to exercise their club's authority by being active and contributing to their cities' own local events. Even something as simple as setting up an information booth on campus speaks volumes about our dedication and due diligence in keeping this flame alive. If we all play our part, the community can rest easy knowing that past efforts have not been without purpose, not to mention that Baba and Dido would be very proud.

Along with raising awareness for Holodomor, our USS also took a stand in raising awareness for men's health by putting together, "Team Kozak" for the



legendary month of Movember. Through our Facebook event page,





members were able to check in on all of our Kozaks' progress as they posted updates of their steady growing 'staches. Whether you could sport the handle bars, the horseshoe, or just a five o'clock shadow, everyone contributed and in the end we raised \$715 dollars for the cause. We applaud you for your valiant efforts. Well done Kozaks!

Ann Zalucky

-University of Calgary

### **Charity Perohy Mow Down**

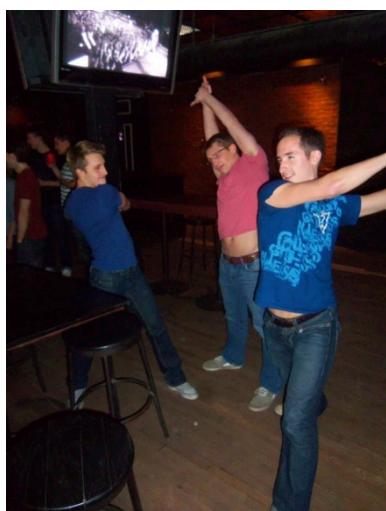
November 16, 2012 was a day of excitement for the Ukrainian Students' Society in Edmonton as they prepared for their second annual perohy eating contest during their Charity Bar Night at Knoxville's Tavern. This event is a fundraiser we put on annually to raise money for different charities, organizations or causes. The main event was our perohy speed-eating contest! Each contestant was given 14 perohy and had to eat it ALL as quick as possible. With 14 contestants only one could be the winner, but in this case the duo of Deanna and Nastassia won the contest, this could be considered as cheating, but we won't get into details. And as a close second, came Frank



*200 perogies graciously made by the workers at*

*Knoxville's Tavern*

Simpson. As the night progressed, our youth connected with old friends and formed new ones. The Ukrainian Students' Society is proud to have raised close to \$300, which will be donated to the Children of Chernobyl Canadian



*A few of our members stretching before the contest*





Fund. As students, we think it is important to help the children of Ukraine to have the ability to succeed and accomplish goals.

Sasha Vorotylenko  
-University of Alberta

### **Вшанування Пам'яті Жертв Голодомору 1932-33**



Кожного року в місяці листопаді, українці вшановують пам'ять мільйонів жертв Голодомору 1932-33. Бувши в Україні минулого літа, я мала нагоду відвідти національний музей Меморіал Пам'яті Жертв Голодоморів в Києві.

Меморіальний комплекс складається з трьох основних частин: Свіча Пам'яті, Зал Пам'яті і символічних “чорних дощок”. На початку алеї, при вході до Меморіального комплексу, розміщені два скульптури

ангелів – охоронців душ померлих. Ангели творять вхідний портал до площа, на якій знаходяться кам'яні жорна. Розбиті “жорна історії” відображають зупинок хліборобства, зупинок життя. В центрі площа стоїть скульптура “Дівчинка з колосками”, яка нагадує про “Закон про п'ять колосків” та трагічну долю багатьох дітей.

Центральною частиною Меморіального комплексу є Свіча Пам'яті – символ незнищеності української пам'яті про пережиті трагедії. На Свічі знаходяться чотири металеві чорні хрести, прикрашені фігурами бронзових лелек, які є свідченням українського відродження. Свіча додатково





орнаментована хрестами різної величини, що символізують душі померлих від Голодомору – маленькі діти та дорослі люди.

В Залі Пам'яті, який знаходиться під Свічою, розташований музейний експонат про Голодомор. Хоча експонат включає лише одну кімнату, він надзвичайно вражливий. У Залі відвідувач побачить різні документаційні елементи трагедії, включаючи наукові фільми, історичні документи і знимки, пам'ятне мистецтво, та томи Національної книги пам'яті жертв Голодомору.

Із Залу Пам'яті, відвідувач має нагоду дзвонити Дзвін Пам'яті, спускатися Сходами Спогадів, та відвідувати символічні “чорні дощki” – гарнітні плити які несуть назви населених пунктів, що були призначенні на голодну смерть.

Якщо будете в Києві, настійно рекомендую відвідити Меморіал Пам'яті Жертв Голодоморів, який відображає мабуть найбільш жорстоку та болючу трагедію українського народу.

Христя Чолій

-University of Waterloo

## **How to Run a Successful Perogie Night**

Being on the UWO exec for the last four years I have experienced my fair share of Perogie Nights; and having personally hosted the last five here at Western, I think it's time that I share some of my expertise with the rest of the Ukrainian Students' Clubs. Here are several tips to making your Perogie night a success:

1. Make it a potluck. Asking everyone to bring their own favourite Ukrainian dish adds that extra touch to Perogie Night and ensures that everyone will get adequately fed. In the past, we've had people bring kolbasa, borshch, and various other delicious Ukrainian snacks. This kind of variety would not be possible if everyone didn't contribute.
2. If you're going for homemade, make some ahead of time and freeze them incase the turnout is higher than you expected. This is essential if you want to prevent the exec from slaving away in the kitchen all night. We've had several close calls of people ending the night not so well fed, so I've found this to be a major success factor.





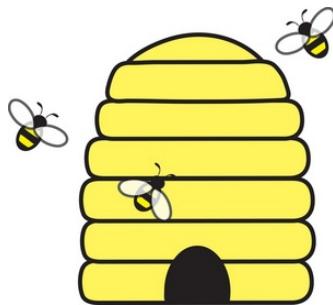
3. Once everyone is well fed, bring out some classic games, like taboo or twister. Somehow UWO Perogie Nights always end in the playing of one of these two games. Maybe it's partially the honey pepper Zirkova shots that bring us to these classics, but in any case, there's no better way to get people to bond.

Anastasia Ostapchuk

-University of Western Ontario

### Медівник

### (Gluten-Free) Honey Cake!



As I've taken an interest in experimenting with old and deviating from my usual cooking and baking repertoire, I have begun to investigate gluten free recipes. It's been pretty

interesting. I didn't realize there are so many different types of flours or wheat-flour substitutes that can be used. From rice flour to coconut flour, from finicky to easy substitutes. Whether intolerant or not, there is a plethora of interesting recipes just waiting to be tried. I came across a gluten free honey cake; which reminded me of Baba's медівник (*medivnyk*)! I had to give it a try. Not knowing Baba's secret recipe myself,

**1/2 cup turbinado sugar (brown)**

**1 cup honey**

**1/4 cup vegetable oil**

**1/4 cup applesauce**

**4 eggs**

**2 tsps grated orange (zest)**

**1/2 cup orange juice**

**1/2 brewed coffee**

**3 cups gluten-free pancake mix**

**1 1/2 tsps baking powder**

**1/2 tsp baking soda**

**1/4 tsp salt**

**1 tsp ground cinnamon**

**1/2 tsp ground nutmeg**





craving some kind of home-made treat, and taking advantage of the 10% off student discount day at Bulk Barn for some extra ingredients that were missing from my cupboard— I had nothing to loose. So I gave it a whirl, making some slight modifications (like adding coffee and decreasing amount of sugar)! If anyone has a gluten intolerance/allergy, is interested in gluten free baking, and/or is looking for a *медівник* (*medivnyk*) recipe – try this one!

Ulanna Wityk  
-University of Waterloo

*Have something to say?*

*Have a story to tell?*

*Submit an article to Student!*

*Email [student@susk.ca](mailto:student@susk.ca)!*

- 1) Preheat Oven: 350°F
- 2) Grease Pan with butter or oil
- 3) Mix: pancake mix, baking powder and soda, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt
- 4) Separate Eggs (yolks and whites into 2 bowls)
  - To Yolks add: sugar, honey, oil, apple sauce, orange zest
  - Whisk whites
- 5) Combine flour mixture and Juice to the yolk mixture slowly. When combined, fold in egg whites until combined.
- 6) Pour batter into greased pan, and bake for 45-50 minutes. (Check that toothpick comes out clean)
- 7) Cool and serve.

*Смачного (Smachnoho)!*

