

Greetings from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine



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The Fulbright program in Ukraine has really come into its own in recent years. As more and more Ukrainian faculty have returned to their home universities and reached positions of influence, they can help lead and inspire the next generation of young scholars in Ukraine. At the same time, the inclusion of more junior faculty in the program will ensure that its benefits will be felt for some time. The steps taken this year to form the alumni advisory board demonstrate that Ukrainian Fulbrighters hope their program can play an important role in modernizing higher education in this country. The choice of last year's organizing seminar theme "the Role of the University" demonstrates that improving the mechanisms of higher education, whether it be through university management, library resources, or schemes to ensure academic integrity, is a high priority for these scholars.

The American faculty and scholars also have a role to play in this process. Beyond the influence of their teaching and advising, many American scholars return repeatedly to Ukraine because of their commitment to higher education in this

country. Some have even decided to make it their permanent home. Most have been active participants and organizers of international conferences on such topics as journalism, politics, the environment and religion that draw international scholarly attention to this region. Many Americans enjoy Ukraine because they find it a country open to new ideas and with tremendous potential for development.

The Fulbright Program in Ukraine has been fortunate to have Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak and her dedicated staff to guide the growth of this program. Their unmatched relationships with local universities and unwavering commitment to academic integrity enable us every year to find the very best representatives of the Ukrainian scholarly community, while at the same time, making sure that the knowledge brought by American scholars is put to the best use possible.

At the conclusion of the 2003-2004 school year, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy salutes the accomplishments of the Fulbright Program in Ukraine and looks forward to the next exciting year.



Monastery of the Caves, Kyiv

A word from Marta Pereyma

My congratulations to the Fulbright Program and JFDP Office in Ukraine on your first yearbook. It reflects so many of the excellent programs and activities which have been a hallmark of your presence in Ukraine. Given my own relationship to the Fulbright Office over the past five years, I can attest to the strength and continued development of your office while promoting responsible and responsive alumni.

The Fulbright and JFDP program office has always enjoyed a reputation of excellence and fairness in program competitions. These scholarship opportunities are very much prized by the Ukrainian academic community. William Gleason, the first director set the stage for establishing an independent Fulbright and JFDP Office which administered these programs... It was with him that we saw the introduction of a bilateral committee of American and Ukrainian scholars, government officials and others in the selection of program participants in an open, merit-based competition which is an important feature of all U.S.-Government sponsored academic exchange programs. Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, the current director has been able to further develop and consolidate the gains of these efforts while introducing new directions. Each of the directors was able to inspire the program candidates and alumni to reach new heights in their respective fields and in interdisciplinary cooperation. Throughout that time, the academic landscape of Ukraine changed. Academics from various fields began to talk to and cooperate with each other.

The past year has been particularly fruitful in promoting the concept of the idea of the university which spun off several regional conferences on many important related topics. Renata Kosci-Harmatiy, Fulbright Graduate Program participant and assistant to the director made a very important contribution to the development of these events. I had the pleasure of attending these conferences and seeing the openness and passion with which these topics were pursued not only among Fulbrighters but other Ukrainian academic specialists thus widely extending the fora for discussion. One can already see the com-

mitment growing to foster a more professional academic community with honesty, integrity and quality at its foundation.

I know that the Ukrainian Fulbrighters and Junior Faculty Development program participants studying, lecturing and doing research in the United States receive high marks for their commitment to their field, seriousness of purpose and work in bringing about a more positive image of Ukraine and its people to their interlocutors in the United States. American Fulbrighters have been no less successful in gaining the respect of their Ukrainian colleagues and hosts. They have been very active not only in the academic sense but in showing off the best in the American character and importance of diversity.

I wish to commend Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak and her staff — Veronika Aleksanych, Inna Barysh, Edward Horodniy, Marian Luniv, Larysa Nosenko, Natalia Savruk and Natalia Zalutska for all of their work as well as the representatives of the Fulbright Alumni Association with Olha Homilko (head), Myroslava Antonovych, Oleksandr Vynohradov and all of the many other activists throughout Ukraine. I congratulate you and extend my best wishes to your continued success in introducing new ideas, academic excellence and scholarship and in bringing about a stronger academic community in a democratic Ukraine.



Marta Pereyma

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U.S. Embassy Kyiv August 2004



Restoration of church iconography