

Ukrainian Junior Faculty Development Program Alumni Profiles

Tetyana Semyhina

Tetyana Semyhina, Head of the Graduate Program in Social Work at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, was a JFDP scholar during the 2002-2003 school year. Her appointment was at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, a small town comprised mainly of Native Americans. During her fellowship she developed three new courses: Comparative Social Policy, Health Policy Analysis, and Information Provision for Social Services. Tetyana participated in six conferences and presented a paper titled

“Cost of Slow Reforms: Demographic Issues, HIV/AIDS, and Health Care in Ukraine” at the 8th Annual Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention at Columbia University. Later, this paper was read on her behalf at the 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference at the United Nations. During her stay at Pembroke, Tetyana wrote the book titled *Social Policy in a Global Dimension* that was published in Kyiv. Upon returning home Tetyana defended her thesis on “Social Policy Models of Economically Developed Countries” in Political

Science. More recently Tetyana has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the research journal *Social Policy and Social Work*, and she has published another book *Community Work: Practice and Policy*.



his award, Yuriy became a participant in the process of intercultural relations and gained invaluable firsthand knowledge of the process. As a result of his research, Yuriy presented papers at the Pacific Sociological Association and the Midwest Sociological Society. At a conference in Washington D.C. he discussed the development of civil society in Ukraine. Yuriy prepared several articles on epistemological aspects of multicultural discourse, multicultural education, and gender transformation within the contemporary cultures of post-Communist countries. In Ukraine, Yuriy continues to work on these topics, volunteers at the United Nations Development Program “Equal Opportunities” project, and serves as the Director of the Center of Gender Education in Luhansk. Yuriy recalls with satisfaction the contacts he made not only among American colleagues, but among JFDP fellows from different countries as well.



Yuriy Tkachenko

Yuriy Tkachenko spent his 2003 Fulbright fellowship at the University of Kentucky studying methods for developing electronic resources at the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine. Yuriy’s colleagues at the School of Library and Information Sciences were “highly qualified, friendly and helpful”, and the facilities themselves “just shocked me. I’ve never seen anything like it before; it’s not even a library in our traditional understanding.” In addition to his work at the University of Kentucky Library, Yuriy also visited the Lexington Public Library,

Library of Congress, and the University of South Alabama Library. His projects in Kentucky included research on acquisition, storage and dissemination of electronic resources; practical experience in converting deteriorating research material into online text and image formats; and preparing multiple presentations and workshops. Beyond his library research, Yuriy was an active member of the broader University of Kentucky community. He regularly attended activities of the Center for Russian and East European Studies, helped students with their language skills and even shared his culinary expertise in preparing Ukrainian dishes. The conclusive stamp of his integration into campus life came when strangers asked his opinion of the University of Kentucky basketball team!

Yuriy Savelyev

Yuriy Savelyev was a Junior Faculty Development Program Scholar during 2002-2003 at Sam Houston State University. During this period he worked on inter-ethnic relations and cross-cultural communication, taught an introductory course on ethnic studies, and developed the courses “Sociology of Multiculturalism and Globalization” and “Sociology of Gender” for his home university in Ukraine. Thanks to

Group of JFDP participants 2002—2003. Yuriy Savelyev (left)



Fulbright Senior Specialist Program

Iryna Yur'yeva

Iryna Yur'yeva, Director of International Collaboration at Donetsk State University of Management, spent 2002-2003 at the University of Georgia developing a course in Education Administration. During this period she made six presentations for various classes and for colleagues in the Office of International Education. She also completed a two-month internship in that office, carrying out a variety of daily tasks that introduced her to the intricacies of education administration in the United States. She plans to publish the results of her experience and research in a forthcoming article. Iryna's other visits in the U.S. included the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, and Miami University. She remains in close contact with faculty and colleagues from the Office of International Education at the University of Georgia. Back in Ukraine, Iryna remains an active partner in the Fulbright mission. She is liaison between Fulbright and her university in Donetsk. She regularly attends JFDP alumni events and serves on the review panel and selection committee for future JFDP scholars.



Gerald E. Whittenburg

Professor, School of Accountancy
San Diego State University, San Diego,
California
Field: Accountancy and Taxation
Host Institution: Academy of State Tax
Services of Ukraine
Dates of Grant: April 3 — May 3, 2003

As a result of a grant from the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program, we (I was accompanied by my wife, Devona Newport) were able to spend the month of April 2003 at the Academy of Tax Services of Ukraine, in the city of Irpin, doing a variety of tasks. Irpin is a college town on the western edge of the Kyiv metropolitan area, about 25 kilometers from downtown Kyiv. One of the ironies that illustrates how the world has changed in the last few years is that the Academy of State Tax Services is located on Karl Marx Street in Irpin. I wonder what Karl would think if he were still alive today? The Academy provided us a comfortable one-bedroom apartment in the faculty housing building. There was a small cafe



in the apartment building where each day we were provided three meals of typical Ukrainian food. The food and service at the cafe were excellent and quite abundant. The Ukrainians were gracious hosts. They provided everything we needed for a comfortable stay in a foreign culture. We cannot say enough about how well we were treated by the faculty, staff and students while in Irpin. The purpose of my grant was to lecture to students and faculty on the tax system of the United States. The official tasks I performed for the Fulbright Senior Specialists grant can be summarized as follows. During the program, I gave fourteen student lectures; held three faculty seminars; met four times with

administrators about U.S. higher education; participated in a three-day Civil Education Project conference; took part in two news conferences (one with the assistant U.S. Ambassador); and attended three student meetings and receptions. Besides interacting with students and faculty over accounting and taxation issues, I was able to gather an appreciation of the challenges required in changing from a communist-style economy to a western-style capitalist economy and how the transition had gone since 1991, the date of Ukrainian independence. However, the main thing that makes any trip like this useful is simply getting away from your normal daily routine. In that respect, it is like going to an academic conference, only much better. I was able to participate in the working environment of another academic institution on a daily basis. That allowed me to gain a much more in-depth view of the workings of higher education in Ukraine.

Victor Greene

Victor Greene, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, reports on his Fulbright Senior Specialists' Grant at Kyiv Slavonic University:

The Fulbright Senior Specialists' Program awarded me a grant to give 10 lectures on a survey of American history and culture at Kyiv Slavonic University between November 15 and 30, 2003. With absolutely no knowledge of the Ukrainian language, I was a bit anxious about my daily living in Kyiv and the successful effect of my prepared lectures in English. KSU provided me with extraor-

inary hospitality. They assigned me an engaging translator/guide who was my companion every day of my stay. My apartment was comfortable and transportation was either pro-

Victor Greene flanked by the faculty of Kyiv Slavonic University



vided, or my guide directed me via public transportation. The Kyiv Fulbright Office also afforded me some additional guidance and gracious hospitality with a memorable Thanksgiving dinner. I went on occasional excursions that included a Jewish religious service, a trip to an outdoor and a city museum, and a concert of Ukrainian songs. It was my teaching and my relations with the students that was most enjoyable and I believe intellectually rewarding to both them and me. The course was not a required one, yet the attendance regularly ran up to about 50 or more, illustrating a strong interest in the U.S. I used the meetings not only to talk about American history but also to have the students compare our two countries' national and cultural pasts with theirs, particularly the treatment of immigrants and minorities. The graduate students especially were most responsive and several times invited me to extend our discussion after class over tea, which involved more mutual learning.



Richard Etulain

Professor Emeritus of History from the University of New Mexico Richard Etulain was a guestlecturer at Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University in Ukraine as part of the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program. This is how his Ukrainian colleague, Oleksander Malyhin, at the English Language and Methodology Department, describes Professor Etulain's contribution.

Discovering America with Richard Etulain

Teachers and students of the Foreign Languages Department at Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University had a rare opportunity to attend the American History lectures of Fulbright Professor Richard W. Etulain in February of 2004. I attended all of his lectures and am still under the influence of this remarkable man and skillful and artistic teacher. What do we know of American history? Not much, I am fairly sure. In our brave new world we used to divide everything into black and white. On the one hand, we saw students protesting against the Vietnam War and heard Martin Luther King, Jr. delivering his "I Have a Dream" speech. On the other hand, we saw Teddy Roosevelt waving his big stick. Thanks to Dr. Etulain's artistic narration, instead of flat shadows of the past we had a chance to meet living, breathing men and women, who fought, loved and lost close friends. As I sat in the lecture hall along with my students, I felt like a sponge



absorbing as much information as possible. It was interesting for me, a teacher, to be in the circle of students. As Professor Etulain spoke about the American Revolution, characters from Fenimore Cooper's *Spy* leapt to mind. Professor Etulain's narration is so vivid. Why? Because not only is he a history professor, he also holds a Master's Degree in English Literature. He brings together his love of books and his love of history into a single approach. When we first met I was a little bit apologetic for our life here and some of its discomforts, but Dick interrupted me with the words, "I do not care much about the conditions of life in any country. It is people and personalities who I am interested in and going to study." During our talks he used to say, "I am always learning; I teach my students, my students teach me." I can't remember such a friendly atmosphere in any lecture room.

When standing before an audience of students, we as

teachers can take two approaches. On the one hand, we can demonstrate our authority by putting students in their place. On the other hand, we can try to build a comfortable relationship with our students. What I observed from Professor Etulain's example was how to bridge these two approaches. While he carries the air of scholarly authority, he clearly loves and respects his students.

Oleksander Malyhin
English Language and Methodology
Department
Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University,
Ukraine