

Ukrainian Fulbright Scholars in the U.S. 2003—2004

Yakiv Hershkovych

Senior Researcher at the Institute of Archaeology at the National Academy of Sciences, spent the 2003-2004 academic year at Wellesley College in Boston. His primary focus was on the cultural development, ecology, and economic systems from the Balkans to the Urals during the second millennium B.C. During his Fulbright, Yakiv also lectured at Harvard, the University of Chicago, and UCLA. Yakiv is working on two articles (“Late Abashevo and Pokrovka Parts in the Periodization of the Bronze Age of East Europe” and “Burials of the Late Bronze Age from Olexandrivka Barrow”) in Ukrainian; the third (“Black Archeology: Illicit Antiquities and Problems of Protection of an Archeological Heritage in the Post-soviet Space”) he is writing in English. Yakiv states that American and Ukrainian archaeologists are working on understanding one another’s fundamental concepts and terms, and as this happens new prospects for cooperation and collaboration unfold.



Svitlana Biletska

Associate Professor of Comparative Education Department Kharkiv State Pedagogical University, recently returned from her 2003-2004 Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Minnesota at Morris, where she studied multiple aspects of child-centered education. In addition to library research, Svitlana’s project involved numerous field observations. She visited day

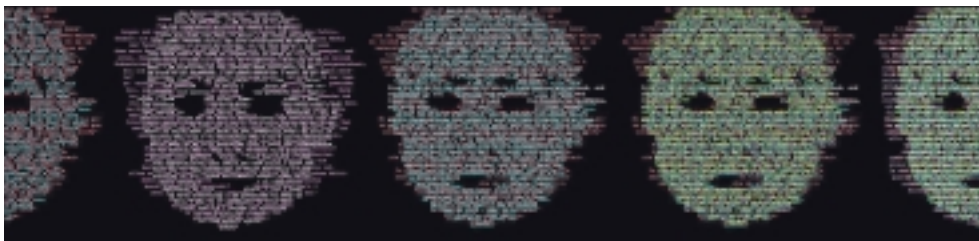
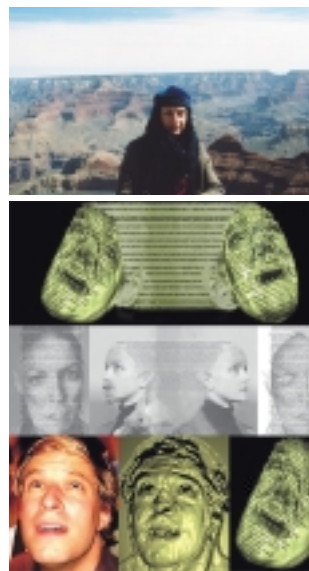
care centers and public schools as well as alternative establishments such as the Nokomis Montessori School in Minneapolis. She interviewed families practicing home schooling — “an educational phenomenon unknown in Ukraine.” Beyond research, Svitlana also worked closely with such programs as the Parents as Teachers National Center (St. Louis), Early Child Family Education, and Education Minnesota. She already published two articles and is working on a book titled *Child-Centered Education: Theory and Practice* (title translated from Ukrainian by the author). This coming year she will teach a new seminar to student teachers on parenting

training programs and help in translating the works of the American self-esteem writer Jean Issley Clarke into Ukrainian. Svitlana writes that before embarking for America, she knew of the phenomenon of American optimism, but was unprepared for the sheer ubiquity of affirmative slogans and phrases to be found everywhere — on coffee mugs, calendars, even on the walls of a women’s restroom in Minnesota. According to Svitlana, “Positive thinking (with its problems and values) in American life and the concept of self-esteem in American schools are tightly linked and I plan to cover this point in my future book.”

Oksana Chepelyk

Leading researcher of the Institute for Contemporary Art, film director of the Ukrainian News and Documentary Film Studio Oksana Chepelyk’s 2003-2004 Fulbright Award took her to the the University of California in Los Angeles. As Oksana herself puts it, “Few universities in the world offer the extraordinary range and diversity of academic programs that students enjoy at UCLA.” Oksana’s research — which included library and archival work in addition to interactive communication

laboratory experiments — focused on interactive art installations that foster intercultural communication and address the interrelations between languages, identity and power. She plans to publish her research findings under the title *Textual GENE and Interactivity as an Intercultural Communication Model* (title translated from Ukrainian by the author). Oksana presented her work in many universities and institutions, including Eye Beam in New York, the Museum of Jurassic Technology and the Fowler Museum in Los Angeles.



Serhiy Lepyavko

Professor of History, Chernihiv State Teacher Training University, spent his 2003-2004 Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Colorado, just minutes from the Rocky Mountains that rise up dramatically west of Boulder. As a visiting scholar to the university's Center of the American West, Serhiy conducted research on a project titled "Two Great Frontiers (Eastern Europe and North America): A Comparative History." According to Serhiy, the Great Frontier Theory opens new avenues for understanding Ukrainian history. In addition to visiting major academic

institutions such as New York City's Columbia University, Serhiy visited a Navajo tribal college in rural Arizona. Serhiy's travels throughout the American Southwest introduced him to one of the most culturally and historically diverse regions of the United States, as well as to the network of superb national parks in Utah and Arizona. On his East Coast visit, during an afternoon at the Museum of Natural History in New York City, Serhiy was surprised to find himself face to face with the reconstruction of a prehistoric house from the Mezin settlement on the river Desna near his native Chernihiv. The museum also

contained an exhibit about Ukrainian Cossacks. It was a brief glimpse of home before stepping back onto the streets of America.



University, spent six months in 2003-2004 as a Fulbright Scholar at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C. She studied the process of national consolidation in the United States and American means of managing ethnic and cultural diversity, and lectured at California State University at Long Beach, George Washington University, and at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Among the topics she covered were transition in newly democratized states, the political landscape of Ukraine, and the current status of Ukrainian culture and language in Ukraine. Antonina's post-Fulbright plans include working on a book titled *From Ethnic to Civic Nation: Experience of Western Democracies and Ukraine's Perspective* (title translated from Ukrainian by the author). She intends to incorporate her research into new courses on theories of nations and nationalism. Antonina's talents are not limited to the scholarly sphere. One of her memorable experiences from her Fulbright year was participating in the Christmas Chorus at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Perhaps she might give a rendition at the fall Fulbright conference in Ukraine?

Valentyna Pidlisnyuk

Professor and Head of the Agroecology Department, National Agricultural University in Ukraine and Advisor to the Committee on Ecological Policy of the Ukrainian Parliament, spent the 2003-2004 academic year at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. The focus of her research was governmental policies and practices for environmental management in Ukraine.

Valentyna's busy year included visits to Stanford and Georgetown Universities, as well as to Albany University, where she participated in "Water Summit XI: Georgia's Water Future," and to Auburn University, where she joined a round table discussion at the International Center for Aquaculture and Aquatic Environment. Additional presentations included lectures at the Institute of Ecology; a paper at the Fourth National Conference on Science, Policy and Environment in Washington D.C.; and a talk at the Fulbright Scholar Forum hosted by the University of Georgia. Valentyna has two scholarly articles currently accepted for publication, and her research will be included in a forthcoming graduate-level textbook entitled *Environmental Policy and Practice: Status and Perspective for Ukraine*. Valentyna's passport is also due for a workout, as she has successfully submitted papers to upcoming conferences in the

Czech Republic, Turkey, and the Netherlands. While in America, Valentyna learned the hard way that America's passenger railway system pales in comparison to that of Ukraine and the rest of Europe. What should have been an easy trip from San Diego to San Francisco involved two buses and an overnight transfer in addition to the train itself.

Antonina Kolodii

Senior Research Fellow, Ethnology Institute, Academy of Science of Ukraine and Professor of Political Science, Ivan Franko Lviv National



Ukrainian Fulbright Scholars

Oleksandr Tokhtamysh

Senior Research Fellow at Borys Hrinchenko Kyiv Municipal Pedagogical University, recently returned from his 2003-2004 Fulbright Fellowship at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania. The title of his research project was "Effective Psychological and Psychosocial Assistance for Handicapped Children from Ethnically and Culturally Diverse Communities." In Pennsylvania, Oleksandr strove to integrate the scientific potential of the United States and Ukraine in the area of practical psychology, as well as to advance mutual understanding of psychosocial and cultural acceptance in both countries. As part of his research, Oleksandr conducted visits to Villanova University, Temple University, and Argosy University in Phoenix. Oleksandr intends to disseminate the results of his findings in articles and lectures on cross-cultural aspects of psychological assistance to ADHD children. He collaborates with his American colleagues. Oleksandr notes that when he arrived in Phoenix in April to temperatures over 35 degrees centigrade, he learned that some people in Arizona install air conditioners in their dog kennels — giving quite a new meaning to the expression it's a dog's life.



Svitlana Pukhnata

Associate Professor from Horlivka Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages, the Department of Theory and History of World Literature and Culture, Svitlana Pukhnata's 2003-2004 Fulbright Fellowship took her to the Department of African Studies at San Diego State University, where she researched narrative strategies in the novels of modern African-American women writers. Additional university visits included the University of California at San Diego and Georgia State University, where

she presented a paper titled "The Metaphor of Jazz in Toni Morrison's Jazz" at the annual conference of the National Council for Black Studies. Svitlana's time at SDSU was spent attending classes, talking with students and faculty, and gathering research material on the works of Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and Gloria Naylor. Svitlana plans to teach three new courses at the Horlivka Pedagogical Institute of Modern Languages (Modern African American Women Novelists, Postmodernism and Contemporary African American Literature, and Contemporary

African American Literary Criticism) and to continue work on a monograph, *The Narrative Strategies in the Novels of Modern African American Women Writers* (title translated from Ukrainian by the author). An article on Toni Morrison has already been accepted for publication by *The Literary Griot*.



Oleksandr Pronkevych

Dean of the School of Foreign Languages, Petro Mohyla Humanities University in Mykolayiv, recently concluded a very productive 2003-2004 academic year at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. The focus of his Fulbright Fellowship was the comparison of discussions of national identity in Spanish and Ukrainian literature from 1898 until 1936. The University of Wisconsin earned Oleksandr's praise by combining "the positive sides

of a well-to-do provincial environment with highly intensive intellectual life." Oleksandr describes the main accomplishment of his fellowship as an upgrading of his theoretical approaches toward constructing national and other identities. He believes that Hispanic Studies in the United States, with its "dynamism of thought and exchange of ideas", can serve as an excellent model for the humanities in Ukraine. Oleksandr amassed a wealth of research materials in America

(for example, illustrations of Don Quijote by the Ukrainian artist Borys Kriukiv who lived in Argentina, and the papers of Oleh Romanyshyn from Canada). Oleksandr is working on a publication titled *Spanish-Ukrainian Literary and Cultural Contacts – from Baroque to the Present* (title translated from Ukrainian by the author). He also found time to co-direct a performance of Ukrainian fairy-tales in English translation at the elementary school attended by his daughter in Madison.





Victor Yelensky

Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, was stationed at Brigham Young

University in Provo, Utah from February to October of 2004. His Fulbright research concerns religious freedom and national identity, including comparative research on nation building in Ukraine and the United States. During the first three months of his fellowship Victor completed a chapter on “*Globalization, Nationalism, Orthodoxy and Ukrainian Nation Building*” (titles translated from Ukrainian by the author) from a planned book and submitted a number of articles to Ukrainian journals. Victor lectured to students at Brigham Young University on religion in post-communist Central Europe, as well as on religious freedom and church/state relations in Ukraine. He is currently writ-

ing an article on religious freedom and religious engagement in Eastern Europe.

In June 2004 Victor plans to participate in the annual conference of the Center for Investigating New Religious Movements (CESNUR). The title of the conference is “*Religious Movements, Conflicts and Democracy: International Perspectives.*” While at the conference, Victor intends to visit the Dawson Institute for Church and Religious Relations and observe first hand locations near Waco, Texas associated with the most dramatic episode in recent American church/state relations – the killing of members of the Branch Davidian Compound by federal agents.

Volodymyr Vladymyrov

As Professor of the East-Ukrainian National University in Luhansk, Volodymyr Vladymyrov’s 2003-2004 Fulbright Fellowship spanned eight months at the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism in Columbia. A “rich library, excellent staff and wonderful conditions for work” provided the basis for an impressive output of scholarly work. In addition to research and consultation with professors in the School of Journalism, Volodymyr completed two books during this period (*Problems of Understanding in Journalism* and *The Last Months of the Soviet Press*) and began work on a third (*World Foundations of Journalism*) (titles translated from Ukrainian by the author). He also established an electronic “bridge” between the School of

Journalism at the University of Missouri and the East Ukrainian National University in Luhansk. Via the Internet, journalism students at both institutions now engage in a dialogue on the commonalities and differences in the way that journalism is taught in the United States and Ukraine. Volodymyr was particularly impressed with the hands-on experience that American journalism students receive in editorial offices, radio stations, and television studios. Volodymyr and his wife Liuba were amazed by the animal wildlife that lived in the forests surrounding their apartment at the University of Missouri, although Volodymyr is skeptical about the rumors of black bears.

