

# American Fulbright Scholars in Ukraine 2003—2004

## Amy Johnson Frykholm

Amy Johnson Frykholm spent the 2003-2004 academic year in Kyiv lecturing on American Literature and Culture at the Drahomanov Pedagogical University and at the National



University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Amy came to Kyiv with her husband Peter and son Samuel, who is two. In addition to teaching, Amy lectured at the Ukrainian Catholic University in L'viv, the Taras Shevchenko University, and presented a paper at a seminar in American Studies at the Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences. She organized a spring conference, sponsored by Fulbright and held at Kyiv Mohyla, that brought together scholars from five countries to discuss the influence of American religious movements on Europe. Faculty members at her host institution frequently called upon her to deliver guest lectures and participate in various academic seminars. Amy and Peter enjoyed exploring



Kyiv through the eyes of their son. "So many people have become surrogate grandparents, aunts and uncles for Samuel," Amy says. "It's been wonderful to spend a year in a place where children are valued so highly." From Samuel's perspective, Kyiv's buses, subways and trains will be dearly

missed. With his outgoing demeanor and insatiable love for kicking anything round, the local babusi never did reach a consensus on whether the child will be President of the United States or the next international soccer hero.

## Samir Bukhari

Samir Bukhari arrived in September of 2003 to begin his Fulbright at the National Academy of Law in Odesa. Eight months later, he reports the following:

The National Academy has approximately six thousand students, a large and distinguished faculty, and enjoys a reputation as one of the top law schools in the country. Within Odesa, the Academy is associated to an unusual degree with its founding president, Serhiy Kivalov (recently the head of Central Electoral Commission). Any mention to an Odesan of the Academy will immediately draw a response of "Kivalov." For better or for worse, it is an indication of the intersection of education and politics in Ukraine. Nevertheless, during my time



here, I enjoyed an unfettered opportunity to closely interact with my students in a free, stimulating environment. My experience has been overwhelmingly positive. My accomplishments are closely linked with the accomplishments of my students, all of whom displayed intellectual vigor, curiosity and diligence throughout the semester. I feel gratified that they will walk away from

the course with an understanding of the fundamentals of corporate and securities law in the United States as well as insight into business crime, both in the United States and in Ukraine.

Perhaps more importantly, I am confident that they will walk away as a community and continue to keep in touch with one another and that they will be better off for it. In addition to teaching, I also conducted research into the regional aspects of business crime. I hope to publish a paper on the subject sometime next year. My experience has been too multifarious to capture in a sentence or paragraph but suffice it to say that it has been a most rewarding year filled with wonderful people and experiences to last a lifetime.

## Lianne Fridriksson

Lianne Fridriksson spent the first six months of 2004 lecturing in Journalism and Communication at Ivan Franko National University in Lviv. This is a description of her Fulbright experience in her own words.

Being in Ukraine as a Fulbright scholar has been a kind of academic destiny for me. My first research paper ever as a graduate student in journalism more than 20 years ago was about New York Times' Moscow correspondent Walter Duranty and his complicity in covering up the devastating famine in Ukraine 70 years ago. A difficult paper to research at the time since his family members in Florida were unwilling to cooperate with me, I always felt the paper left more questions than it answered. Today from my windows in central Lviv, I look out upon the Wave of National Revival monument



that depicts that enormous man-made tragedy as well as the sweeping rise in nationalism and pride. My Fulbright work here has been two-fold. First, I have been lecturing in the Faculty of Journalism at Ivan Franko National University, with seminar sessions at the U.S.-sponsored IATP (Internet Access Training Project) Center. I have had the good fortune to be associated

with the Media Ecology Institute at Ivan Franko and therefore have had the friendship and collegueship of some wonderful media educators there, who have made me feel very welcome. I've had the opportunity to help several graduate students with their research projects and have been able to assist a colleague here in editing some manuscripts. And, it's been a pleas-

ure to take every opportunity to spread news of Fulbright opportunities to students and faculty alike. The second area of my work has been research. I have written three research papers for international conferences dealing with political communication in Ukraine, and in particular the media situation in light of the upcoming national election. I hope to see these papers published as well. As a specialist in international communication, I look forward to incorporating my Ukraine experience into the courses I teach in the United States. Probably the most unusual situation for me was being on the "other side of journalism" when a reporter for one of Lviv's newspapers interviewed me for a story about my work here. As I fielded his queries, I found myself wanting to ask questions of him, and indeed, in true journalistic spirit, I wound up interviewing him as well!

## Lon David Kaufmann

Lon David Kaufmann spent 2002-2004 lecturing in Computer Graphics and Web Design at National Academy of Art and Architecture, Wisconsin International Humanitarian University and European University in Kyiv. This is what he writes about his Fulbright experience. Thanks to the generosity of the Fulbright program, and the hospitality of three Ukrainian institutions, I'm completing my second year in Ukraine. My two semester course series provided practical and conceptual skills in computer graphics for web design and E-Commerce. By the end of each school year students completed websites which addressed a

broad interpretation of e-commerce functions. These ranged from a site promoting a Black Sea resort in Crimea, to an online flower shop and a tour site which documented the location and styles of graffiti to be found in Kiev. At all three institutions I've benefited from working with accommodating administrators, congenial faculty and students who are bright and diligent in their work. Teaching has still allowed time for travel throughout Ukraine, both for lecturing at seven universities in Ukraine and Belarus, and for sightseeing. The highpoints of my travels would be the cities of Lviv, Odesa, Sevastopol, Yalta, Uzhhorod and fishing in the Carpathian Mountains. The only low point

occurred on a dark side street in Lutsk. While on an evening tour with students I stepped on a loose manhole cover and was suddenly three feet shorter! I've since been told that Ukrainian mothers recite a little poem to their children about avoiding these. Unfortunately I didn't have the benefit of a Ukrainian mother. I've found Ukrainian culture very active in all the arts and it's been a joy to establish friendships with Ukrainian artists and designers here. I've seen a bold inventiveness in current architectural construction and in the visual arts. This is matched with an appreciation for the classical traditions in music and opera. Last May I was fortunate to be invited to

participate in the Kyiv Art Forum which brought together Ukrainian and American visual artists for a collaborative workshop outside Kyiv. In the concluding group exhibit at SoviArt gallery, I contributed the digital montage "Sound of Silence."



# American Fulbright Scholars

## Natalia Feduschak

Natalia Feduschak spent 2003-2004 as a Fulbright Fellow at the Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv, where she taught journalism to second-year students. Natalia also lectured in Lutsk and traveled throughout the country conducting research for a book prospectively titled *When Ancestors Call: A Personal Search for Ukraine*. While the book will address serious national issues such as human trafficking and health problems, it will also

focus on what Natalia sees as positive changes among Ukraine's young people, "who believe their country has a bright future if they become part of the political process and a force for change." Natalia describes her primary accomplishment in the classroom as advancing the critical thinking skills of her students. Through rigorous discussions, seminars, internships and opportunities to speak with journalists, Natalia's students began to look at information with increased sophistication and from differing points of

view. Natalia reports that during classroom discussions of ethics, the First Amendment, libel, freedom of information and other seminal topics, her students became less willing to tolerate superficial answers from their peers, and pushed one another toward higher standards of accountability. Natalia summarizes her year in Ukraine in part by stating, "What has amazed me is the resilience of so many people who are working for positive change in difficult economic and political times."



## Doug Larch



Doug Larch spent 2003-2004 lecturing at Kirovohrad State Pedagogical University. This is just one of his many Fulbright experiences.

**Loving Lviv**  
I know you'll find it hard to believe that I'm saying this, but there are some experiences that just overwhelm words. Even for verbose, often belliscose me. Lviv was one of them. We live in a land so full of contrasts that it makes your head and heart spin. To look at people on the streets of the cities and in the universities, you would swear that you were in one of the most economically affluent and booming nations on earth. People dress

so stylishly, with such attention to detail and to grooming and cleanliness. Home interiors are decorated with verve and artistry. Architectural reminders of greatness and beauty are everywhere. People actually wash and clean the streets and the outside of buildings every day. And yet, resources are so limited and meager on a personal basis as to cause great hardship even tragedy, in many families, and to limit the size and scope of our friends' worlds — both realistically and virtually. I was excited in September to hear the stories of the historical and cultural greatness of the ancient city of Lviv, and the awe and reverence in which my students held it. I was surprised and even hurt to discover that virtually none of them had ever been there, despite a lifetime of longing, though this enchanting city was less than 200 miles away. The resources were simply not available... ever in their lives. We were moved again to discover that the same was true for most of our colleagues. So Susan and

I began trying to find a way to take these precious friends there. Because my production of "Angels in the Snow" intervened (and we had to bear all of that budget ourselves), and because we chose to host hundreds of friends in our home (some almost every day), our resources dwindled too, and so we had to face some realities. Still, we decided we had to find a way to take at least some of the students to Lviv. We settled on a competition that looked at the personal efforts of the students in democratizing their behaviors all year, capped by an essay contest. We eventually selected and took a company of 35 souls to Lviv. With the great help of our wonderful friend Tania Datska, we set about the task of getting all the passports of our students and getting the round-trip train tickets (with sleeping compartments, since Lviv was a 15-hour train ride away!) for all of us. It took eight trips to the train station and over twelve hours of negotiation, but we all eventually ended up in the same train car, and the

trip over was magical — kind of like those awe-inspiring teen-aged summer church camp memories, except on wheels, and based on eight months of time together, instead of just a fleeting week — guitars all night long, great talks, people becoming friends across rank, age and station, eating together; reading the article I wrote featuring all of them and their ideas expressed about democracy; taking innumerable photos; memorizing moments and each other. And then we arrived. We had powerful help in planning and executing our journey — from American-Lviv Fulbrighter Wawa Baczynski, UCU students Olha, Vova, and friends, from Marta Pereyma, Cultural Attache to the US Embassy in Kyiv, everybody at the Les Kurbas Experimental Theatre, from an amazing company of actors, from other citizens and friends. For four days and nights we were together much of the time — even our sleeping was one big pajama party in the apartment of a wonderful and immensely helpful

Fulbright colleague from Lviv (Marinee Koukouroudza). In eloquently guided walking tours, we drank the dizzying city and its monuments, cathedrals, castles, stunning architecture, narrow, winding roads — its diverse and brilliant museums, from arsenals of armaments to eons of icons — its modern European central boulevard and its Ukrainian traditional art markets — three powerful theatre productions, marches up small mountains and through cemeteries — we came face to face with a thousand years of Ukrainian history consumed the fire of patriots, poets and playwrights. We shared picnics, coffees, home lunches and midnight snacks, a sit-down dinner at a traditional Ukrainian restaurant. We met

and made great friends with student guides from Ukrainian Catholic university, love bloomed, Lviv bloomed, lives expanded, tears were shed, hugs replaced handshakes, laughter rang equally with reverence. Everywhere. The whole trip was set up as a living leadership seminar and a living laboratory in democratic communication. Throughout it all, the students and five faculty friends destroyed decades-old barriers and became family. Throughout it all, they talked incessantly about patriotism, used their native Ukrainian language instead of the Russian that so often supplants it, and marveled at the proofs of Ukrainian greatness, struggle and sacrifice that were all around. Throughout

it all they kept notes, discussed their new experiences, always sought more light. Faces became absolutely radiant with discovery, pride, even joy, as though dark clouds of suspicion, self-imposed exile from hopes and dreams were dissipating with every new experience, every new extended hand, as new horizons of hope. The memory of each unique and moving experience, the awed faces, the brilliant smiles, the exuberance, the kindness even through utter exhaustion, the lovely souls, cause me such beautiful, exquisite pain that I can barely write even now. Susan and I sent the company home without us on the train. We had carefully planned to go on to Lutsk and Belarus, so the company would return without us. We always walk a carefulline as Americans here. We can lead by example, we can share our resources, we can create experiences. But our ultimate goal always has to be to get out of the way. And turn it over to the people who own it already. Reports of the train ride home were stunning. Every company member worked on the return evaluative essays we asked for, despite the less than ideal conditions. All shared food, song, stories. With our great friends, Sasha and Alyona Shleyenkov providing the impetus, they played what they called “democratizing” games to demonstrate creative thinking and problem solving. They decided to form a club upon returning to support each other and to continue building a “critical mass” of leadership. They decided to mutually join the IATP program at home to enhance their computer and internet skills.

We have now had the ceremony distributing the certificates of completion that prominently feature both the Ukrainian and American flags. It has only been two weeks, but yesterday the new club was founded at the IATP computer center, with over 20 of the company in attendance. Virtually all have been to our home since, and they gather with regularity and commitment. I am certain that for many, their lives have changed not just for a moment this spring, but forever. I am a man who can move from one experience to another with the speed of light (which I often do, in order to get to the next thing that needs to be done). And, although I acknowledge that some of what we do influences people here, it is easy for me to feel as though a recently-completed event almost didn't happen as I rush headlong into the next. But I can't shake this one. We did a good thing. It has the potential of changing some things for the better. For some people that we truly love and a land that means so much to us already. I am truly, truly awed and humbled by this experience. We are also changed.



The Neptune Fountain in Lviv

# American Fulbright Scholars



Walter Parchomenko speaking at the conference on National Security

## Walter Parchomenko

Walter Parchomenko spent his 2003-2004 Fulbright Award researching democratic governance and security reform in Ukraine. His host was the Institute of International Studies and Projects in Kyiv, which is affiliated with the Institute of World Economy and International Relations at the National Academy of Sciences. Walter describes his experience as follows: I surveyed more than 20 research centers in Kyiv, commonly identified as serious think tanks, and identified three as essential sources to help reduce the existing information gap on Ukrainian security developments, and security reform efforts. I conducted follow-up interviews with key staff members of these centers in an effort to better understand their mission, staff publications, funding, influence, and to gather other useful insights. I conducted an intensive study of parliamentary oversight of media reform and human rights issues. I reviewed key, relevant legislation and presidential decrees since independence; testimony

from recent hearings conducted by parliament's special committee on freedom of speech and special committee on human rights; and interviewed key members of their respective staffs. An important accomplishment of my research was is to establish a close professional relationship with leading staff members of the Kyiv-based independent, critical press and Internet sites. I developed a close working relationship with the Institute of Mass Information in Kyiv, which is affiliated with the international organization Reporters without Borders. My research will provide Washington policymakers, scholars and interested students with a deeper understanding of Ukrainian NGOs that seek to advance security reform, mass media freedom, and democratization efforts. In cooperation with my many new Ukrainian colleagues, I intend to disseminate the key findings of my research in Washington. This year I am preparing to publish a monograph titled, *Democratization and Security Reform in Post-Soviet Ukraine*, as well as several journal articles on this subject.



## Marian Jean Rubchak

Marian Jean Rubchak spent the winter and spring months of 2004 as a Fulbright Scholar at the Kyiv Polytechnic University, where she lectured and conducted research on the role of historical memory in the identity formation of contemporary Ukrainian women. Marian's travels in Ukraine included visits to universities in Lviv, Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kherson. Marian has a number of publications in progress. She has assisted in various time-consuming translation projects, conducted field research and made numerous contacts during her months in Ukraine, all of which have deepened her understanding of the matriarchal myth in Ukraine.

## Dorian Mazurkevich



Researched and lectured on U.S. intellectual property rights during his 2003-2004 Fulbright

Fellowship. Specifically, he focused on issues of piracy and counterfeiting and the prospects for intellectual property enforcement in Ukraine. Dorian lectured at the National

University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Kyiv, and visited a dozen other universities in Vinnytsya, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Zaporizhzhya, Ternopil, Dnipropetrovsk, and Odesa. Dorian will share his expertise at the future U.S. Trade Representative hearings regarding intellectual property enforcement in Ukraine. One of Dorian's most satisfying accomplishments was assisting a Ukrainian publisher who taught him the "pitfalls and barriers" of protecting intellectual rights in Ukraine. Dorian

also took great satisfaction in assisting a graduate student interested in the mechanisms and economics of intellectual property rights transfers. "To work with a Ukrainian student who wishes to advance into the outer-boundaries of Ukrainian jurisprudence, in a country that discourages such progressive-thinking, has been a truly rewarding experience." As a Ukrainian speaker in Kyiv, where Russian still predominates in daily commerce, Dorian describes many hilarious "Abbot & Costello" routines he acted

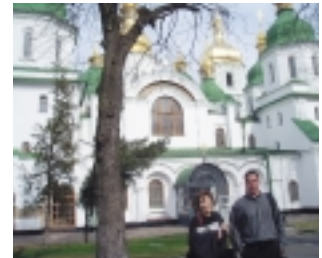
out with clerks as they confused one another with similar words and different meanings. "How much does it cost to use the internet? Ten hryvnia for a chas (chas = 'time' in Ukrainian, 'one hour' in Russian). How much time ('chas') do I get? One time. Yes, how long is that time? One time. Yes, for one time. It would be one time. I understand, I pay 10 hryvnia, but for how long would that be? Time. Yes, time. How long? One time..."

## Ardyth Broadrick Sohn

Ardyth Broadrick Sohn spent the spring semester of 2004 conducting research and lecturing in Journalism and Mass Communication at Kyiv International University. Ardyth's teaching covered a broad range of media (television, radio, newspapers, and magazines) and numerous specialized topics within the context of media management, including news editorials, advertising, and public relations. Her research involved a case study of a major Ukrainian television

station. Ardyth presented her initial research findings at a conference in Budapest in May, and will seek publishing opportunities for a wider audience this summer. Ardyth learned much about the challenges faced by Ukrainian journalists and was honored to meet so many ambitious young students who are eager to join the profession. Ardyth's travels in Ukraine included Odesa, Yalta, and L'viv. In Kyiv, she frequented the opera, Pechersk Lavra, multiple churches and museums, and other "marvelous sites" of the capital.

As Ardyth's Ukrainian and Russian language skills are still emerging, she had many amusing encounters with the neighbors in her apartment building, including one elderly man who chided her for leaving an envelope with money for the water delivery men. As Ardyth puts it, "While not exactly friends, the old guy and I are on speaking terms now. He chatters while I smile, nod and say a lot of das — certain he's watching my back for any 'hooligans' who might want to take advantage of a silly American woman."



Mr. Bihun (right) in his beloved forest

forestry and forest conservation. His extensive professional experience includes work with federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private property owners on developing sustainable forest management and conservation programs. Mr. Bihun has also participated in numerous international development projects to promote global cooperation in forest management. He explored the conflicting pressures placed upon Ukraine's rich forest resources during the period of transition to a market economy. In cooperation with Ukrainian scientists, Mr. Bihun assisted in the development of a national forest stewardship policy to encourage the emergence of a forest products industry in Ukraine and simultaneously support conservation. The development of a forest management resource program, consistent with American and international standards and conventions, will further strengthen Ukraine's integration into the international community.

## Yurij Bihun

Mr. Bihun has a strong academic background in forest sciences and has published over 100 articles on sustainable