

Sharing



NEWS & VIEWS...

Marianna Zajac, UNWLA President

As can be read in the formal press release found on the next page, several UNWLA Executive Committee and other attending UNWLA members had the immense honor and pleasure to have a brief meeting with His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav on Sunday, November 20th. The event, Fordham University Honors Ukrainian Catholic Leaders, was very spiritually uplifting and the perfect venue for our organization to present its first installment towards the UNWLA Women's/Gender Studies Endowment Fund to Rector Borys Gudziak in the presence of the Patriarch. The presentation officially and publicly marked our commitment to this historical and exciting opportunity for the UNWLA.



Ukrainian Catholic University Rector Rev. Borys Gudziak accepts a check from UNWLA President Marianna Zajac, the first installment of an endowment being established by the UNWLA for Women's/Gender Studies at UCU.

I would like to underline that there were many exchanges of proposals and ideas among myself, UNWLA Vice President (Culture) Sophia Hewryk, and Marta Kolomayets, Director of Programs & Communications of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, about defining the path to achieve the UNWLA's objectives and to do so within UCU's program structure before the final agreement was reached. Detailed information will be available through UNWLA Regional Councils

and branches. The day prior to this festive event, the annual commemoration of the victims of the Genocide/Holodomor of 1932-33 was held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Patriarch Sviatoslav, accompanied by leaders of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches, led the service to a packed Cathedral. The participation and speech of the newly elected Patriarch inspired all present. As is tradition, many UNWLA members attended.

The UNWLA participated in and helped sponsor the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence organized by the U.S. Ukraine Foundation and held in Washington, DC, on December 1st. UNWLA Honorary President and U.S. Ukraine Foundation Board Member, Iryna Kurowyckyj, and I decided to participate and thus focus on Ukraine's positive achievements while, at the same time, not forgetting the current political situation in Ukraine. The primary purpose of the event was to celebrate Ukraine's peaceful road to the Referendum for Independence and to look to the future by committing to play a role in supporting the evolution of a democratic society where the rule of law is transparent and predictable. The day included roundtables on issues such as energy, agriculture, and investment opportunities in Ukraine, with U.S. company representatives sharing their experiences and viewpoints about working in Ukraine. Awards were offered to those companies working in Ukraine that have demonstrated social responsibility by helping to improve the civil society in Ukraine. The day culminated in a formal and well-attended Gala with filmed greetings from former Presidents George Bush (senior) and Leonid Kravchuk, who were both in office in 1991.

With great sadness, I share with you the news of the passing of Ulana Hlynsky on November 26th. Ulana Hlynsky was elected into the National Board of the UNWLA as the Liaison for Branches at Large at the Convention in Sarasota, FL, in 2002. She was respected and loved among UNWLA members who had the pleasure of working with her but especially among the members of Branches at Large. In her mild manner, Ulana developed a relationship with the branches scattered across the country and supported their important work on behalf of the UNWLA. Her gentle smile will be missed but remembered. May she rest in peace!

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE of AMERICA
and the
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN LVIV
ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

At Fordham University's tribute to Ukrainian Catholic Church Leaders, on November 20, 2011, in the presence of His Beatitude Patriarch Sviatoslav, Marianna Zajac, President of the UNWLA, presented Rev. Father Borys Gudziak, UCU rector, with a check for \$ 25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand dollars).

This was the first installment of a \$100,000.00 endowment being established by the UNWLA for Women's/Gender Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University and will be a long-term investment in perpetuity. At the XXIX Convention of the UNWLA, held in May of this year, delegates overwhelmingly endorsed this unprecedented project. Newly-elected Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, upon hearing about the launch of a women's/gender studies program at UCU, found the news to be "wonderful and perhaps the first time that a university in Ukraine was beginning such an innovative program." Rev. Fr. Gudziak has been a strong supporter of the UNWLA and has voiced his enthusiastic encouragement of this new project. (Please view this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePCQOjO1N24> to see the interview with Father Borys, students, and staff regarding women's/gender studies.)

The UCU Women's/Gender Studies program will be offered within the Department of Modern and Contemporary History as part of the humanities faculty. Besides the students of UCU, the program will initially be open to the students of the inter-institutional program in Humanities (MIHuS)—a special program provided by UCU in partnership with the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv and the University of Warsaw. The UNWLA provided the impetus to get the women's studies program moving, and the UNWLA lectureship funded through its endowment will be a highlight of the Women's/Gender Studies program. The initial course will commence in the fall semester of 2012. Leading professionals in the field as well as selected members of the UNWLA would serve as an advisory council to further define this endowment.

This ground-breaking collaboration between the UNWLA and UCU could lead to other original ideas in the future. An innovative program such as this one could serve as a model for other universities in Ukraine. With the launching of this exciting program, the UNWLA is in the position to play a significant role in the education of future Ukrainian women leaders.

Historically, Soyuz Ukrainok of Ukraine, founded by Milena Rudnytska in 1921, and the UNWLA, founded in the United States 86 years ago, have strongly promoted and emphasized education. This can be attested by the UNWLA's preschools throughout the United States, its highly developed and effective scholarship fund, and its publication of books such as *A Candle in Remembrance*. (Published in 10/2010)

As the largest and oldest organization of Ukrainian women in the diaspora with a mission to preserve Ukrainian culture, history, and traditions through education, the UNWLA sees its cooperation with UCU in Women's/Gender Studies as an important investment in the future of Ukrainian women. (Please see our website: www.unwla.org)

We encourage our diaspora to become contributors to this innovative project. Donations should be made out to "UNWLA" with a notation "Women's/Gender Studies @ UCU" and mailed to our headquarters at 203 Second Avenue, N.Y., N.Y. 10003.

Lidia Bilous
Vice President, Public Relations

Marianna Zajac
President