

**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