

# CARING FOR COMMUNITIES

## Вітаємо! U of T Community Welcomes Ukrainian Exchange Students



Over the 2022 summer and fall terms, 170 students from Ukraine have taken courses at the University of Toronto thanks to the generous financial support of the Temerty Foundation and members of the community.

Rebecca Gimmi, the International Projects Officer at the Office of the Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Science, reached out to Ksenya Kiebusinski, Head of the Petro Jacyk Central & East European Resource Centre in early May 2022. She asked her about ways the University could connect with students taking part in the Special Exchange Program between the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (KMA) and the University of Toronto. The University wanted to organize co-curricular and social activities for them.

Ksenya proposed organizing a library orientation program for the students which would include a show-and-tell display of Ukrainian material held at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

More than 30 students from various disciplines, ranging from computer science and business to philosophy and political science, took part in the library orientation program. The orientation was preceded by a display of selected rare books. Items that generated the most curiosity among the students was a first edition of Taras Shevchenko's *Кобзар* (*The Bard*) published in St. Petersburg in 1840, a practical cookbook in Ukrainian describing how to prepare foods in the English or Canadian style, and the Ukrainian-language newspaper *Студент* (*Student = Étudiant*) issued by the Ukrainian Canadian University Students' Union from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Students were welcomed by Edward Schatz, Director of the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, and by Ksenya and Lucan Way, co-directors of the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine. Heather Buchansky, Student Engagement Librarian, and Julia Martyniuk, Liaison and Education Librarian

at Gerstein Science Information Centre, presented on library resources, services, and supports.

Students were introduced to the wealth of resources available at the libraries to support them both in their courses—from research consultations and access to databases—and beyond the classroom—like streaming films and technology loans. The event concluded with a chance for all attendees to socialize over traditional Ukrainian cuisine consisting of cabbage rolls and perogies catered by local restaurant, Heavenly Perogy.

“The best part of the orientation program was the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by the students about library staff, faculty, and Fisher Library. They wanted to know everything possible about us. Ukraine has a great future based on the confidence and intelligence this young generation demonstrates,” shared Ksenya.

Contributed by Ksenya Kiebusinski

Above: Edward Schatz, Director, Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, welcomes the Ukrainian exchange students.