



ukrainian education center

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A New UEC Face

By Valeria Cherednichenko



Olya Skidina, a new UEC patron

Olya Skidina has been coming to the UEC basically every day for the last half year. As Olya says, it was quite an interesting story how she first came to the Center. It all started when her neighbor decided to learn to play the piano. Numerous apartment buildings constructed during Khrushchev's rule have such thin walls that a phone ringing in the neighboring apartment can often be overheard. As a first-year Aviation University student studying to be a programmer, with much new material to learn and homework to do, she could hardly manage the distraction of a beginner's piano lessons. Then an acquaintance told her about a library that had books on computers and English study materials. The acquaintance, Lyonya, is a first-year student at

ICU. He himself became a regular UEC patron after he first received a free Bible at the UEC in the fall of 2005.

What Olya found in the Center when she first came was not only a variety of books that she could use for her studies, but also four quiet rooms where she could actually read those useful books. She also discovered many wonderful films in English on video cassettes and DVDs that she likes to watch in her free time for both pleasure and developing her English listening skills. Moreover, it was in the UEC where Olya met some Christian friends her age. Young members of Nivky church invited her to Student Night (the church's outreach activity for students) and the Soup Group (a group led by Chris and Lena Lovingood that weekly enjoys some hot soup and discussion of basics of Christianity). Olya has become a regular visitor at these activities and now brings her friends to the UEC.

Pray for Olya as her faith grows.

By the Numbers

By Sergiy Lyakh

The last several months at the Center were fun - over 100 people came each day, lots of items were checked out and then returned, computers and rooms were used constantly. Starting with September 2005, each month has been substantially busier than the same month one year ago. Usually, the peak season at the UEC is September through April. Universities in Kyiv have different schedules,



(continued on page 2)

By the Numbers

(continued from page 1)



Lyonya enjoying lunch in the UEC's kitchen

have different schedules, but generally students are either starting or already busy with classes in September and finish up or prepare for their finals in April. The need for the UEC's services increases during this time.

The factor in our statistics that we value the most from the last season is that the number of active

patrons (the number of different people who use the library) has steadily grown. In April 2005, we had 434 active patrons. This April, we served 539 active patrons. **This dramatic increase shows not only that more people are using the Center each month but that the library remains a valued service and is much needed.** 221 new patrons have registered so far in 2006, an increase of 36 over last year at the same time.

Many new people who joined our community last September stayed with us, valuing our services and using them to enhance their educational efforts. All other statistics - the total number of visitors each month, the number of items taken and returned, the usage of our database - have increased also as a direct result of the increasing number of active patrons.

The UEC staff thanks God for His help and for all our supporters who continually pray for us, donate library materials, and provide financial assistance. We do our best in serving Kyiv patrons and pray that God does His work in their hearts.

Friends Club

By Chris Lovingood

The UEC will celebrate 5 years of ministry in October. We now have a patron base of over 3,000 and many alumni, students we have served who are now working in full-time jobs. As Kyiv's economy continues to improve, we recognize the importance of giving our patrons and alumni an opportunity to give back. In the past, a few have made donations, but we decided to make that opportunity available to all.

The **UEC Friends Club** was launched in March. Patrons were informed via email and posters of the opportunity to give. When an individual's donations reach \$100, they join the Friends Club and are granted extra library privileges. Thus far, 22 patrons have made donations and Yuri Krukov has already joined the Friends Club. Between January and April, \$1,150 has been donated. Considering the average monthly salary in Kyiv is about \$350, that's a remarkable amount.



Oleg, Lena, Anya and Nastya are Kyiv UEC sponsors

Our goal is \$5,000 in the first year of Friends Club.

We are also planning to form our first advisory council in June. Pray for us as we make these small steps toward nurturing philanthropy in Ukraine.

UEC Winter Life

This winter, local church members have busied UEC meeting rooms. Monday afternoon an English outreach class is hosted. On Monday evenings, a group meets to study the Psalms and C. S. Lewis's *Reflections on the Psalms*. Across the hall, **Anya Zubkova** leads an outreach English class. Tuesday afternoons the hall is filled with the Soup Group, an outreach to university students. A worship leaders meeting is held on Tuesday nights. **Vitaly Samodin** leads three Bible studies throughout the week. Church groups meet on Wednesday and Friday nights. More than 100 people are involved in these weekly activities. There were numerous other one-time events and meetings.

Since meeting space is very difficult to come by, the UEC provides an invaluable service to Christians and local churches by maintaining a high quality facility for Christian ministry.



Tanya and Galya warm up during a church home group



UEC Family News

Sergiy Lyakh, the UEC manager, visited the USA in February for the wedding of **Bogdan Andriychenko**, the first UEC manager, and Cassandra Neir (pictured on the left). Both work for Hilton and live in Los Angeles. **Katie Boyer** finished her master's degree in comparative literature and has moved to Birmingham, Alabama. **Jonathan Shaub**, a former intern, has begun graduate studies and continues to recover in Nashville.

Missionaries Enjoy the UEC

The UEC exists to promote a living faith in Jesus Christ by meeting educational needs in Ukraine. We fulfill our mission by maintaining the largest circulating theological library in Kyiv and through informal cooperation with local churches and missionaries. **Grady Bryan** is just such a person. While he served as a missionary and as a university instructor, he used the Center for occasional class meetings, showing videos, and by leaving books on reserve for student research. With some classes of over 100 students, Grady's students kept the Center staff busy this last semester by checking out Bible study materials, reserve books, and videos on the life of Jesus.

Kristina and Ken Gray have recently returned to Kyiv and they immediately began using the Center. Kristina has referred more than twenty

students to the UEC from Wisconsin International University and has reserved rooms to meet with students for special study sessions. WIU students also come in search of Bible study materials and other useful resources. Many Kyiv missionaries use the Center's library on a regular basis.

Thanks to your generosity, we are building a vital community resource and allowing Jesus Christ to shine through a practical demonstration of his love.

*If you shop at Amazon.com, remember to use the search engine on our website <http://www.ueckyiv.org/amazonbuy.php>. The UEC will receive **5.75%** of all purchases with no extra cost to you.*

May Holidays

By Valeria Cherednichenko

The month of May starts with a series of days off throughout Ukraine. For about a week, the whole country stops working to celebrate two of the most popular local holidays.

May 1 (and usually May 2) is Labor Day, originally known as the Day of International Solidarity of Workers. It was



The hammer and sickle - symbols of the working class

established during Soviet times to celebrate the labor of workers and members of collective farms. Once a holiday of big parades, red banners, and bright balloons, Labor Day in Ukraine these days is regarded as an opportunity to rest, visit with the family and oftentimes have a picnic in the forest. Local governments may also provide citizens with free outdoor concerts and various kinds of

entertainment for those taking a walk in the city. An alternative activity for many Ukrainians is starting the season of planting potatoes at their country gardens known as dachas.

On May 9, Victory Day, Ukrainians celebrate the victory over the Nazis in 1945. Since basically every family was in one way or another scarred by the Great Patriotic War (or WWII), this holiday is the time of looking at old pictures and telling stories. The day starts with parades downtown and ends with fireworks. Not as big in number as before, World War II veterans wear their old soldier's uniform and their medals. They are congratulated with flowers and invited to give speeches at local schools. TV broadcasts Soviet dramas and comedies about the war, the remakes of songs from the 1940s and 50s fill the radio, and flowers are taken to Kyiv's numerous war memorials.

For many Ukrainians, the May holidays are also a popular season of camping in Crimea and the Carpathian mountains. Whatever the choice for a holiday activity is, the first week of May is certainly the busiest time of traveling. Train tickets to every location are bought out long in advance.

*Please send all donations and
correspondence to this address:*

**Ukrainian Education Center
4301 Hillsboro Road, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37215**

**Visit us at our new web address
www.ueckyiv.org!**

Thank You!

Library Donors

Thanks to these generous donors - and any we may have overlooked - 213 items have been donated to the UEC library thus far in 2006.

Grady Bryan
Marcus Cathey
Dr. Mack W. Craig
Aleksandr Kanevsky
Chris and Lena Lovingood
Tim and Beth Mangrum
Mikhail Migovych
Natasha Mitchell
Lyudmila Morozova
David Ralston
Lilia Rudnitskaya
Irina Ryzhenko
Vitaly Samodin
Olga Serhienko
Yevgenia Titova
Andrey Umanets
Angie Wilson
Viktor Yevpak
Anna Yezhova

Financial Donors

We thank all these - and anyone overlooked - for their financial donations thus far in 2006.

Dr. Mack W. Craig
Stephen and Mildred Eckstein
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