



## President's Message

Dear Readers,

The past few months have been very busy for SUSK, with our Executive spending many hours working on the upcoming SUSK Congress in Saskatoon. We have also been hard at work updating our position paper for the year, as well as updating our Student Archive by posting all of the names and authors of past issues online.

The 2016 National SUSK Congress is back in Saskatoon after a 25 year absence. The entire SUSK Executive is thrilled to be working with the University of Saskatchewan Ukrainian Students' Association (USUSA) to help put on this 4 day event. Students from across Canada will meet to discuss various topics, learn from engaging speakers, and even explore a bit of the prairie life of Ukrainian settlers in the region. On the Saturday of the Congress weekend, SUSK is excited to be a part of the Vensa Festival - one of the largest Ukrainian festivals in Western Canada. Registration for Congress is still open for a short while so please visit [congress.susk.ca](http://congress.susk.ca) to register today!

Over the past few weeks, our SUSK Executive has also updated our position paper which will soon be live on our website, [susk.ca](http://susk.ca). We identified current topics that are of importance to SUSK in both Canada and Ukraine. A few topics of the paper include Ukrainian studies, Ukraine's independence, the unjust imprisonment of Ukrainians by Russia, Ukraine's integration into the EU and NATO, and the Canada's Diplomatic Relations with Ukraine.





Lastly, the past year has given SUSK a chance to get to know their alumni a little better. Through our Student naming project, where we search through old Student issues to list all of the article names and authors, we have found many names that we recognize! Reading old Student issues has shown many of us that past SUSK Executives faced many of the same problems we see today. It has definitely been an excellent learning opportunity and we hope we will be able to grow our relationships with past alumni in the years to come.

Слава Україні!

Cassian Soltykevych  
SUSK President

### Not Yet Done Fighting For The Ukrainian Language

Numerous myths surround Slavic languages and their bizarre similarities. Their speakers are often thought to communicate in some common “Slavic” tongue--which is often believed to be a descendant or a relative of the Russian language--since how could so many languages co-exist in such close proximity of Central-Eastern Europe and not blend & fight? Well, Slavic languages have definitely influenced each other’s development throughout history, but not exactly in a one-directional way many imagine they have.

A common misconception is to classify the Ukrainian language as one of the dialects of this Great Slavic (*and nonexistent*) Tongue. The second most popular question I get after introducing myself as Ukrainian is “*What is the Ukrainian language? Is it like a variety of Russian?*” (The first being “*Where is Ukraine, even?*”) So here’s the first myth for you. Despite Ukrainian’s proximity to Russian in syntactic structures, pronunciation, and the Cyrillic alphabet, Ukrainian shares only 62% of the same vocabulary with Russian, while 84% of lexical similarity with Belorussian.

Neither it is accurate to assume that Ukrainian and Russian directly originate from a single ancient language. After the medieval powerful state of Kyivan Rus’ was divided into many independent Republics after the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Ukrainian language





was taken in different directions as a result of territorial conquests and political decisions. In the West, the Ukrainian language formed a subvariety with Belorussian, called “Ruthenian,” which had a lot in common with Polish after the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Eastern formations of Kyivan Rus’, however, had a tradition of Church Slavonic, a more prestigious written language, popularized by Peter the Great upon forming the Russian Empire at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Although Ukrainian never formally existed in any of Western republics such as the Duchy of Lithuania and later the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it still had the power to develop more freely [3] and saw several nationalist movements. The Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union could not allow such leniency, as it would threaten the unifying force of the Russian Tongue. Due to such political beliefs, Ukrainian in the East was vastly Russified, giving an impression that the two are alike. One may believe that Ukrainian is a lower variety of Russian, but history shows that the statement can’t be further from the truth.

It is only natural, then, for Ukrainian speakers to be leaning “to the West,” where they have historically been able to exercise certain language freedom, compared to various attempts of suppression under the Russian Empire and the Soviet rule.

Another common myth involves a belief that several languages cannot co-exist on one territory without conflict. They definitely can; take Switzerland, for instance. Such mastery in language regulation is a good model for any multilingual state. However, the situation in Ukraine is different in that Ukrainian has always been disadvantaged on the territory, with speakers often preferring languages that are more politically advantageous.

Ukraine has a rich linguistic variety, with speakers of Ukrainian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, and Crimean Tatar, among others, sharing one land. It is Ukrainian, however, that needs help and support from its speakers to maintain autonomy most. Ukraine’s political climate doesn’t help, either, with the two self-proclaimed independent regions having switched their institutional systems to Russian and its Eastern neighbour continuing to exert forces of colonialism over Ukraine.



The Ukrainian language has to become a symbol of one's identity, association with Ukraine, and a strive for Ukraine's distinctness from the surrounding states. Unless Ukrainians work hard to preserve Ukrainian as a unifying force of the nation, it is running the risk of being pushed back, undermined, and dominated by politically powerful states.

Kateryna Gordiychuk  
SUSK Secretary

### **STUDENT #TBT**

We dove back in our Student Archives and found a cool article going back to the first time the Toronto Ukrainian Festival was hosted in its home of the Bloor West Village! If you're having trouble reading it in this issue of "Student", please visit: <http://student.susk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/STUDENT-1997-November.pdf>

We hope you enjoy this #flashback and we'll keep digging for more cool stuff to share with you!

### **USC Volunteers At Parade**

#### **Ukrainian Parade In Bloor West Village A Huge Success**

On Saturday, August 24, the first annual Ukrainian Parade and Festival was held at Bloor West Village. The parade, which began at 11:00 at the gates of High Park, was made up of a variety of groups.

Some of the participants included the Baturyn and Avanguard marching bands, youth groups from SUM and Plast, dancing groups, a school bus from the Ukrainian Canadian School Board, and various other groups and dignitaries in convertibles, as well the Shriners in their little carts causing havoc for the parade marshals.

The parade marshals themselves, handsomely dressed in their fluorescent crossing guard vests, were volunteers from your own University of Toronto Ukrainian





Students' Club. With the assistance of the walkie-talkies, we ensured that the parade flowed smoothly west-bound on Bloor from High Park to Jane.

At Jane and Bloor the festivities continued, where a cabaret show and beer tent were set up. The festivities lasted until dusk, when everyone went home praising Hogtown Brewery and dreading waking up the next morning for an even longer day. A couple guys on horses at the parade in Toronto.

The following day, the 6th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence was celebrated at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Cultural Centre (a.k.a. Kyiv) in Oakville (home of Donovan Bailey, in case you didn't know yet).

With the help of 15 or 20 generous volunteers, U.S.C. did the job of being parking attendants, was one of many pop vendors, and had the privilege of being sole beer vendors for this well attended event, at which there were approximately 5,000 people.

We are extremely grateful to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and especially Mr. Hordienko for giving us the opportunity to take part in the festivities.

The afternoon concert was unfortunately cut short by inclement weather, but this was not to put a damper on the First Annual U.S.C. Ukie Day Pub, which was held in the Kyiv hall that night.

Kari Ochi, as is always the case, pumped up the crowd, and everyone had a great time. It was very satisfying to see a larger population of Ukrainian youth take part in the Independence Day celebrations than in years past.

With an approximate crowd of 250 people at the Pub, it was an encouraging sign for years to come.

Once again, thanks go out to the organizers and the volunteers, and we hope to see everyone who has not yet joined the club this year sign up at the Halloween Pub (October 31 @ YHO), where admission is free with the purchase of your U.S.C. membership. See you there.





Orest Sklierenko

### Dear 16-Year Old Me

In a decade you'll be 26. I know, a decade, that seems like an infinite amount of time. But I tell you what, it's not, it's going to fly by. I can only imagine how soon I'll be celebrating 36. I'll blink a few times and there'll be the cake.

I won't lie to you: the world is a scary place when you turn 26. Terrorist attacks occur regularly; people are fleeing war-torn countries, risking death in the process. Countries are illegally occupying others, multiple shootings happen in random areas that result in multiple deaths of people whose only crime was being in the wrong place at the wrong time. An erratic, offensive fool is running in the lead for the presidency of the most powerful country in the world.

But 16 year old me, what I really wanted to talk to you about: stop worrying. In a decade, though right now 26 to you seems like an impossibly old age, it's going to happen in the best year of your life. And you'll know that it's just going to keep getting better.

I know you don't like high school much. Your windowless school looks like a jail, there are too many people and a lot of them aren't very nice to each other and you're struggling to fit in. Rather than obsessing about tests, you spend way too much time thinking about the fact that your crush doesn't want to date you. Luckily for you, tests don't require that much preparation in high school (oh, just you wait). You hover on the edge of the popular circles like a shadow, trying to be friends with these "cool" people but not really liking the types of activities they're into. Soon you'll be graduating high school and you'll have to think about applying to a university, such a scary thought. And you literally have no idea what you want to do. How are you supposed to know? You're 16. You just got your braces taken off.

So you choose a program based on some combination of which subjects you were good at in high school and which is most likely to give you a job and your parents' advice.



High school really doesn't prepare you at all for university, does it?

You'll practically have no social life for the next four years, and they'll be the hardest four of your life. You'll spend days thinking it's not even physically possible to finish all the homework they give you, cry of exhaustion, hang on to your calculator like a life raft, find yourself sprinting to submit your assignments before the noon deadline. You hear you can use the school gym for free as a student but you never find out where it is. You could find all the libraries in your sleep, though. But your saving grace will be those friends, those brilliant people, who are going through the same thing you are. You're all wondering why you put yourselves through this rigour. Then eventually you'll stumble out of uni, pale and blinking in the sunlight at the tender age of 21 wondering what the hell happened over the last four years.

But it will be worth it when you're 26. Actually, it'll be worth it when you move into your first place when you're 23.

You'll ignore people who dive right into their first job after uni and instead you go travelling through Europe for four months, and though you might question it at first, you'll never regret that choice. You'll become addicted to seeing the world, falling in love with new cultures, vowing to travel as much as you can. At 26, you will have travelled to almost thirty countries. People will always keep telling you you're so lucky that you've travelled, and of course you are, but it's also a choice you made and worked for and paid for, a choice you still make and work and pay for, and don't ever let anyone make you feel badly about that.

You'll enter the 'real' world of adulthood and find a career and come to the realization that no one seems to be sure about anything. Remember when practically yesterday you believed that adults knew everything? Yeah, not the case. Some people know a lot, but that doesn't mean they don't make mistakes. When they do and you notice, have the confidence to know you can say something. You're not incorrect just because you're a young newbie. But do it politely. Sometimes you'll wonder why you went to school when you're not using much (or anything) of what you learned in those expensive university courses. But you learned how to think critically, how to



concentrate for long periods of time, how to work with others, how to listen to others, and this will help you in your life.

You'll learn what makes a workplace a good one; learn to speak up in meetings, gain confidence as a woman in a traditionally male-dominated field. It won't always be easy; you'll go to construction sites with photos of nearly nude women on the walls, you'll work long hours alongside men who have tattoos and facial piercings and talk in a manner that you're not used to at all. Sometimes you'll face condescension and realize what you should have said thirty minutes later after it happens, but the majority of people you will work with will be respectful and professional (and then you'll become optimistic again about the direction in which humanity is heading). You'll be surprised by where your career path starts taking you, but you will be excited about the opportunities it offers. Soon you won't even think twice about being the only woman in meetings. You'll be so glad you didn't burn any bridges along the way.

Something that will hit you suddenly and vividly, out of the blue: you too, are an adult. Adults, who you once placed in a different category from you, are now meshing around you, briefing you with their unsolicited advice on how to save for retirement, how to advance in your career, what to do with your money. These adults won't always be right. They won't automatically trump you with whatever they think is right because you're in the same playing field now. You'll stand up for yourself, and defend what you think is right.

People have all these different opinions about everything, and you'll agree with some, disagree with others. A combination of your travels, the way you were raised, and the people you surround yourself with will make you much more open-minded, and will make you view the world differently. This will make you appreciate art, architecture, nature, transportation. It will make you appreciate how convenient our society is, how much food we have and how much is wasted. You will see how other people live; how happy people are with the little they have. The materialism of how important it was to always have the latest shiny thing will disappear.



The relationships you choose to have will make you grow immeasurably. There will be rough patches, some very hard, where you feel like you're under a rock under 10 feet of garbage under a truck. You'll realize what is important in a partner, what you want out of life, what's important to you. You'll learn which people are worth keeping in your life, how much more one sincere relationship is worth than ten superficial ones.

Think about the people that have come into and gone out of your life, and the ones that stayed. They've stayed for a reason. Think about those you learned from, the ones that inspired you, and the ones you aspired to never be like.

All of what you have faced is important. It's all been leading up to this moment, and all the moments to come. I believe that all you have chosen to do and not do and the experiences you have faced up until now will help you make better choices in the future, but you'll never stop growing and learning. Never stop growing, never stop playing and laughing and loving.

So be patient, 16 year old me. You're going to be just fine. Here's to the next 26 years.

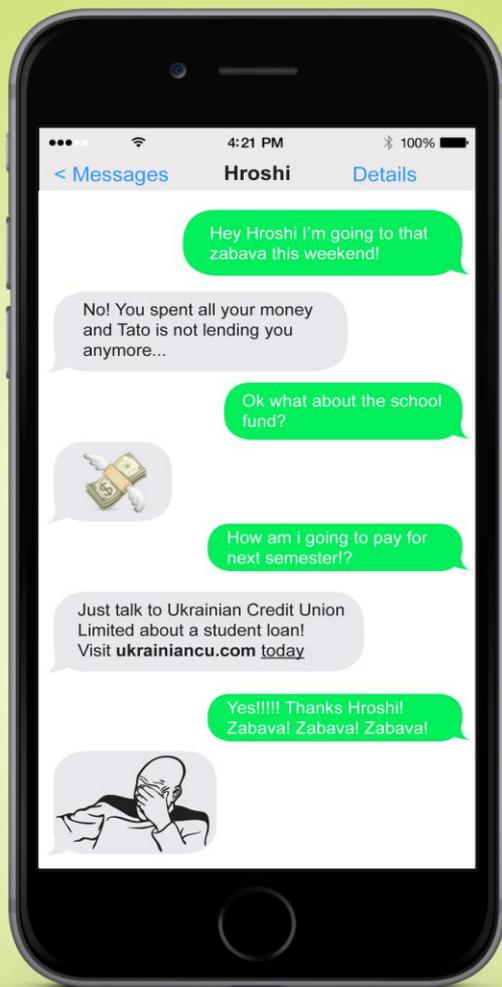
*I never worry about the future; it comes soon enough - Albert Einstein*

Tamara Soltykevych  
Edmonton, Alberta





# If your hroshi could talk, what would it say?



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## The Final Countdown

These days, it has become the norm to post big life changes and updates through Facebook statuses and other forms of social media. I thought it might be nice to write an open letter - to address everyone I know and don't know, and not to bore you as you scroll down the newsfeed of engagements, job promotions, breaking news updates and re-shares of that one meme we've all come to love/hate so much. Ultimately, as great as social media is sometimes, I really just want to express what I feel, and not have these feelings measured in the amount of likes, hearts, thumbs up, and thumbs down.

So, without further ado, here it is:

Finally, the time has come. The past four grueling years of no sleep, sweat, torture, tears, beers, late nights and early mornings, never-ending group projects, dress rehearsals, show weeks, tech weeks galore, opening and closing nights, blackout days and nights (courtesy of real good decision-making), caffeine-fueled days, the-i-lasted-a-whole-day-without-eating-and-now-im-going-to-faint days, essays, midterms, finals, classes, field trip days to cool industry places, rant sessions at the corner Starbucks, endless paperwork, and a giant loan that you should probably start paying back pretty soon with the non-existent money that you've earned from your fine arts degree.

However, regardless of all of this - I was able to meet some of the most wonderful, talented, and lovely human beings. Whether we met through my program, students' club, or the countless organizations that I've been honoured to be a part of- you have all enriched my life in ways I never thought possible.

To my choir ensemble (Prolisok Youth Ensemble), dance company (Arkan Dance Company) and marching band (Baturyn Concert Marching Band) - thank you for giving me the contacts and experiences to move forward confidently in my life. These are the dysfunctional family-type environments I so cherish, where you are accepted and welcomed with open arms, no questions asked. I'm so lucky to have been surrounded by so many wonderful and talented people, some of which I still call good friends #blessed.





To KONTAKT and the whole team - thank you for allowing me to attempt to have a journalism career on the side. It's been such an honour to report on so many interesting events happening in the city and our booming youth hromada, and to make our voices heard. The hours spent editing all of that content into a finished product that doesn't make us sound like we're idiots is truly unreal #talent.

To the biggest party club in Canada (USC@Ryerson) - thank you ALL for being the coolest humans to collaborate with on all of our various initiatives. I didn't realize how big a part of my life this students' group had become until we welcomed our incoming executive, and I (sadly) began to realize my time with the club was slowly coming to an end. I'm so excited to see all of the cool events and headlines you guys will make in the future years to come #boozecruise2k16 #sportsing.

To the group of dedicated Ukrainian Canadian students across Canada - what a kickass team! It was such a pleasure to hear all the different voices from across the nation, and to help coordinate a massive national conference in the Prairies #SUSK'd.

To the RTS student body - I'm forever indebted to you all for making the last four years of my life such a weird (but wonderful) rollercoaster ride. To all of the dancers and actors I got the chance to work with - I wish nothing but the best for you all in your future endeavors, whether they be artistic or not. To my fellow production colleagues - I can only hope and wish that I can work with you all again. You truly are some of the most brilliant, talented, and hilarious individuals I have ever met. Thank you for putting up with my lateness, loudness, Ukrainian-ness and drunkenness. I'm very fortunate to have met people with whom I hope I will stay friends, and continue to collaborate with. I'm just starting to realize now as I'm sitting here in the prod office, late in the evening writing this article, that I will actually sort of miss you all. So many hashtags inserted here it's #unreal #swag.

To all of my friends, old and new, who have supported me through this crazy time in my life- you rock. To the family- I will stand by you if you stand by me. To all of the people I've met through various organizations, shows, conferences, zabavas,

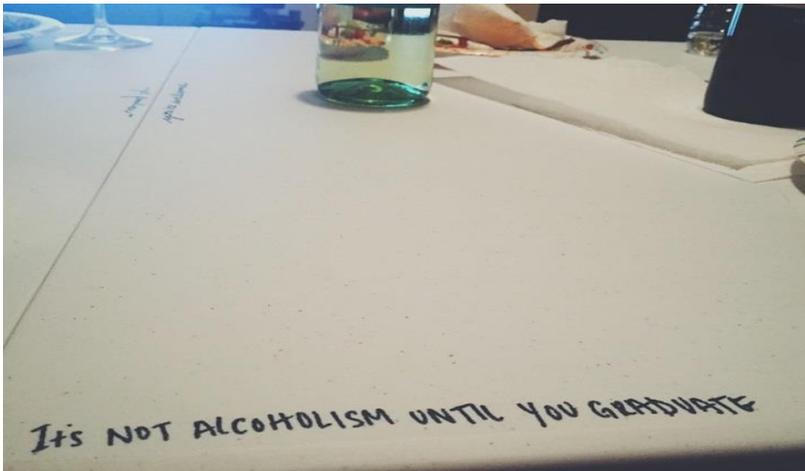


etc. - I hope we stay in touch. To everyone who's no longer in my life, for better or for worse - I hope you're doing well and that luck is on your side.

And finally, to my parents - thank you for supporting me endlessly throughout my entire academic life, for having hope that dropping out may actually result in a better outcome than staying somewhere where I was miserable. Thank you for always having my back, when no one else did. There are probably not enough thank you's in the world to express my gratitude to you both.

Finally, to everyone - thank you for being a part of my life, for whatever amount of time that is/ was. You're all gems, and I love you all.

\*standby sound fade out, curtain in and lights fade to black on a five (5) count...GO\*



Inga Bekbudova  
SUSK Media Director



## Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts Ukrainian Wedding Fair

The Ukrainian community in Canada is definitely unique. We sing songs that seem bizarre to our non-Ukrainian friends (On the mountain there are two oaks...), we eat food that makes others both jealous and confused (verenyky and uzvar), and our wedding ceremonies make the Lord of the Rings trilogy on DVD seem short. While we have all of these different traditions and cultural events, we rarely have collaborated on the most important event in our lives (according to our baba's), our weddings.

On April 16th, the Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) hosted the first ever Ukrainian Wedding Fair. The event featured a vendor marketplace for wedding dresses, traditional jewelry, photographers, various wedding venues, and catering companies. Sessions also ran throughout the day about Ukrainian wedding traditions including what you need to embroider a rushnyk, how to prepare a Korovai, and what has changed with Ukrainian weddings over time.

I applaud ACUA's work with the Ukrainian Wedding Fair and being able to bring new energy, excitement, and knowledge to the Alberta community about Ukrainian weddings. It is critical that our community preserve and share our culture and all of its traditions.

Cassian Soltykevych

SUSK President





Do you want to be heard? Do you have something you want to share? Submit it to [student@susk.ca](mailto:student@susk.ca) today!

