

UNWLA Supports Women's Studies with Endowment

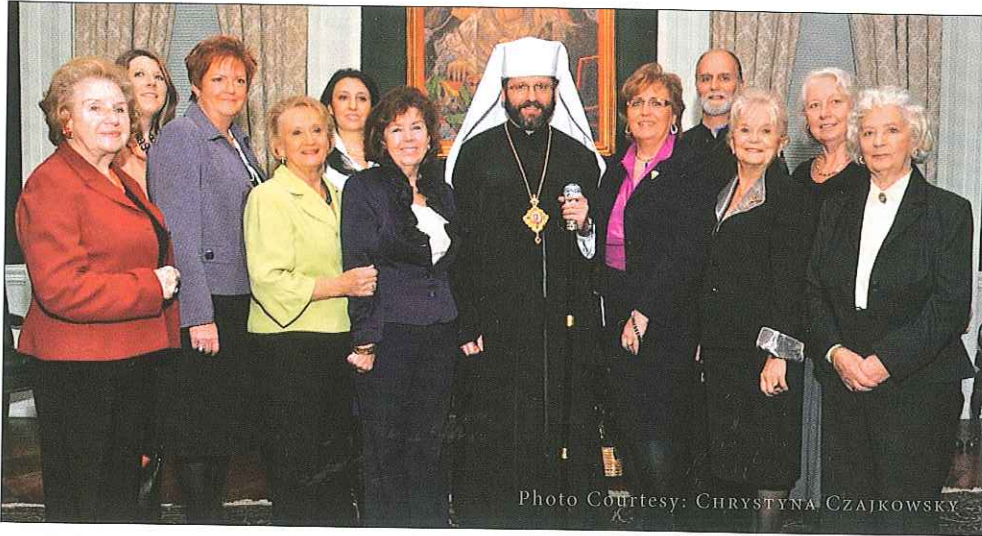


Photo Courtesy: CHRYSTINA CZAIKOWSKY

▲ Members of the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America met with Ukrainian Catholic Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk in the office of Fordham President McShane in November 2011.

their important roles at all levels of society," commented Marianna Zajac, the president of the UNWLA.

"We are convinced that the women's studies lectureship is necessary. The Ukrainian women in North America, through this endeavor, hope to bring a sense of discovery and enlightenment to women in Ukraine and have a significant impact on the Ukrainian family, and within the professional, political and business settings. Education is the only viable tool towards this end," she concluded.

With this groundbreaking collaboration between the UNWLA and UCU, the UNWLA is in a 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 87 years ago, have strongly promoted and emphasized education. This is attested by the UNWLA's work

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The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) has partnered with the Ukrainian Catholic University to launch a Women's Studies (WS) program at this institution of higher learning.

The program, sponsored and funded by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, will begin on September 3,

2012, with an inaugural lecture to initiate the 2012-2013 academic year at the only Catholic university on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

"In the context of today's political and human rights situation in Ukraine, the UNWLA realizes that it is vital to help women achieve a higher level of equality, respect and influence by enhancing

UCU Prepares for Consecration of New Residence

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learning communities, like the collegium."

Dr. Dobko visited UCEF in Chicago in May and gave an update on other upcoming plans at UCU. "We are working on gaining accreditation from Ukraine's Ministry of Education for three new master's degree programs: innovation and entrepreneurship, social pedagogy, and media communications," he said. "We have to develop if we don't want to lag behind," he emphasized. "For example, today it would be more difficult for the Lviv Theological Academy to become UCU." The academy, the university's predecessor, was revived in 1994, before transforming into UCU in 2002.

In conclusion, Dr. Dobko noted "The role of the UCEF is critical to help us reach the goals that we have set for ourselves." ❖



▲ Students and staff will be moving into this soon to be completed collegium (residence) after it is consecrated on August 26.

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with establishing pre-schools in the US, its highly developed and effective scholarship fund and its publication of books such as "A Candle in Remembrance" (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's cooperation with UCU in Women's Studies is an important investment in the future of Ukrainian women.

Since May 2011 when the concept was approved and endorsed at the 29th UNWLA Convention, the members of the organization have raised close to \$80,000 toward the \$100,000 endowment.

"The Women's Studies Program at UCU is a logical continuation and modernization of the best traditions of the Ukrainian women's movement, in Ukraine and the diaspora. Ukrainian women have always been right beside men as participants in the national liberation movement, as creators of Ukrainian religious,

educational, and economic institutions. In the conditions of modern, independent Ukraine, women have assumed the burden of the economic rescue of their families. We all know how often when women have been unable to find work in Ukraine; they have been forced to become migrant workers to pay for their children's education. All this has led to the rise of very difficult social problems,"



▲ The UNWLA-UCU initiative includes: Dr. Oksana Kis, program coordinator, Prof. Olena Dzhedzhora (UCU), Marianna Zajac, UNWLA president, and (standing) UNWLA members Lidia Bilous, Dr. Marta Kichorowska-Kebalo, Sofia Hewryk.

commented Prof. Olena Dzhedzhora, the director of UCU's International Academic Relations Department.

The program's coordinator will be Dr. Oksana Kis, who holds a doctorate in history with a specialization in ethnology and who during this past academic year, as a Petro Jacyk Scholar, taught a course on Women in Post-Socialist Transformation in Ukraine, Poland and Russia at Columbia University in New York City.

She is also the president of the Ukrainian Association for Research in Women's History.

She has taught courses on women's history at UCU in Lviv since 2005. In her new role as coordinator for the WS program, she will be responsible for the overall functioning of all aspects of the program including the advanced planning of courses, the recruitment of WS lecturers and will act as a student advisor. She will also organize monthly colloquia and recommend library acquisitions for the WS program. The WS program will be offered for credit in the history department of UCU. ✠

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