



INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES OECUMÉNIQUES ~ UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE D'UKRAINE
ІНСТИТУТ ЕКУМЕНІЧНИХ СТУДІЙ ~ УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ КАТОЛИЦЬКИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
INSTITUTE OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES ~ UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE INSTITUTE OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

1) OPENING OF THE NEW SPECIALIZATION IN MEDICAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES



In January of 2010, the Master's Degree program in Ecumenical Studies (MPEN) will open a **new specialization in "Medical-Psychological social assistance for dependent persons"**.

At the moment, the Institute is working on this program in cooperation with the International federation, "L'arche, L'arche-Kovcheh in Ukraine and the L'viv Polytechnic National University. The main purpose of this program is similar to a program that was successfully realized in France for many years, but nevertheless takes into consideration the peculiarities of the Ukrainian context and the needs of Ukrainian society.

2) OPENING OF THE FOURTH ACADEMIC YEAR WITHIN THE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES



In February of this year, the opening of the academic year was celebrated within the Master's degree program of Ecumenical Studies. This is **the fourth class** of new students for the program since the program was established in 2006 by the Ukrainian Catholic University, L'viv National University of Ivan Franko, and other European Catholic Universities.

More than forty new students will attend Ecumenical theology and foreign language courses. Among the students that began studying in the program, there are those also studying within a variety of different disciplines in addition to their work within the the Master's program in Ecumenical Studies such as journalism, foreign languages, international affairs, philosophy, and economics. In addition to this, there are students from the L'viv art academy, graduates of an Orthodox seminary, and members of particular religious orders.

The aim of the Master's program of ecumenical studies is to give a quality higher education that integrates the intellectual riches of a modern, humanistic education with the values of theology and spirituality, which would assist in furthering inter-religious dialogue. This semester, the students had the opportunity to attend the lectures of **Father Deacon Didier Rance** (France) on the topic of Ecumenical Hagiology and a course entitled Introduction to Protestantism, taught by **Reformed Pastor, Heleen Zorgdrager** (Netherlands).

3) THE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS



In March, the students of the Master's degree program had the opportunity to meet with **the students of the Protestant Theological Institute of Cluj, Romania**. This institute belongs to the Hungarian Reformed Church in Transylvania and is one of the oldest and most renowned Reformed theological institutes in Europe.

The aim of the Romanian-Ukrainian student meeting was to acquaint each other with each others' respective religious traditions and share the relative experience of each group within the social ministry of their churches. The program of welcoming foreign visitors not only involved formal meetings but also informal periods for meeting and discussion as well as visits to Churches and cultural centers within L'viv.

4) MEETING THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE, VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO



During his visit to L'viv on the 28th of May, 2009, **the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko**, visited the Ukrainian Catholic University where he met university administrators and students. A student of the Master's degree program in Ecumenical Studies, Olha Rubel', made a presentation on the Master's Degree Program in Ecumenical Studies, stressing the uniqueness and the ecumenical spirit of the program which gives the opportunity to students from different Christian traditions to expand their knowledge within the religious sphere.

5) DISTANCE MASTER'S PROGRAM IN ECUMENICAL STUDIES



From September, 2008, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies has offered the first distance learning program in Ecumenical Studies in Ukrainian (with a specialization in religious journalism) and English (with the specialization in Ecumenical Studies). This program is offering an interdisciplinary and inter-confessional approach to religious issues through online studies.

Please visit the respective websites of these programs:

<http://www.iesdistance.org.ua>

<http://www.ukr.iesdistance.org.ua>

6) COMPETITION “REPORTERS OF HOPE IN UKRAINE”



In May of this year, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies held **the competition, “Reporters of Hope in Ukraine”** – the competition was for journalists who are ready to bring evidence of hope to Ukrainian media through the power of the pen and the word and thus to conquer the atmosphere of despair, weakness, and apathy.

Reporters of Hope in Ukraine is a competition of the best article, news report, or visual program that proposes the best solution to social problems. For participants within this competition, the aim of journalism is not only to inform the public of important issues of modern society but also to give news concrete answers and to show the ways of solving problems as well as encouraging people to be active in solving those problems.

The competition was based on an example of a similar project that has already been successful for five years in France. (www.reportersdespoirs.org).

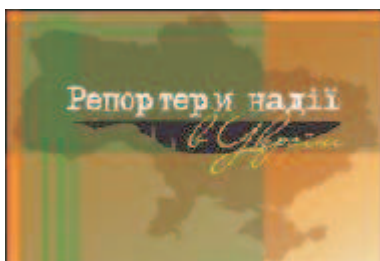
In Ukraine, the students of the Master’s program of Ecumenical Studies of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University and L’viv National University of Ivan Franko worked on the project.

The task of the competition was to encourage journalists to write engaging material that would not only inform the public of problems, but offer methods of solution. Moreover, the aim of the projects were to stimulate every Ukrainian reader, listener, and viewer not to be a passive consumer, but to have influence on the information space by addressing the dissemination of information from mass media, and giving their perspectives on such topics.

In all, 714 projects appeared in the competition. These projects were based on materials from all over Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The topics of these journalistic projects were diverse: ecology, healthcare, politics, economy, culture, society, and religion. Here we find a number of propositions of how to overcome the crisis and also ideas of the improvement of the economical, ecological, and social situation of the country. These materials included some stories about disabled persons who, despite their limitations, live a full and dignified life as well as other inspiring stories.

The materials of the competition will be assessed by an expert jury, which will consist of famous Ukrainian journalists.

On the 27th of May, 2009, **the winners of the first Ukrainian competition of “Reporters of Hope in Ukraine” were awarded with diplomas and gifts.** These nine authors took the first, second, and third places in three categories: television, radio, and publication (print and internet). The diplomas of the competition were also given to the other authors and producers of the final projects.



7) INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL SEMINAR ON THE COMMON DATE OF EASTER



On the 15th of May, 2009, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies organized **an international, inter-confessional seminar on the topic, “The Common Date of Easter is Possible: The Aleppo Consensus of 1997”**.

The seminar was organized within the framework of the Master’s degree program of Ecumenical Studies of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies with the participation **Rev. Dagmar Heller** (Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Germany), professor of the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey and representative of the commission Faith and Order of World Council Churches in Geneva; **Fr. Dr. Milan Zust SJ** (Catholic Church), representative Pontifical Council for the Promoting of Christian Unity (Vatican); and **Dr. Kostjantyn Sigov**, director of the Center of St. Clement Center in Kyiv, and representative of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate). **Walter Cardinal Kasper**, head of the Pontifical Council for the Promoting of Christian Unity and **Metropolitan Antony Antony Scharba** of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (USA – Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople) sent letters of blessing to the participants of the seminar. The seminar also gathered the representatives of the main Christian Churches of L’viv: the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow and Kyiv Patriarchates), Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Roman Catholic Church, Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Armenian Apostolic Church, and Protestant and Evangelical Churches.

The participants of the seminar supported the consensus given in Aleppo in 1997 during the meeting organized by the World Council of Churches which proposed to calculate the common date for the celebration of Easter. The participants of the seminar also supported the proposition to promote the information about this consensus and organize more meetings on the topic within universities, parishes, and the mass media with the aim of creating an

atmosphere of trust among Christians who belong to different confessions and to promote the appearance of the fruits of ecumenical dialogue.

<http://www.ucu.edu.ua/fr/chronicles/article;3922/>
http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/eng/ies_activity/one.easter/

8) PUBLICATION OF THE EDITIONS OF THE IES MAGASINE



Within the framework of this project, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies prepared and published a special edition regarding the **common date of Easter together with the magazine, “Dorohoju Molytvy” (The Way of Prayer)**. It is already the second common work of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies with this magazine. The first joint project was the special January edition regarding the issue of Ecumenism and Christian unity.



9) SECOND ECUMENICAL SOCIAL WEEK IN LVIV, OCTOBER, 5 – 10, 2009



From the fifth to the tenth of October, 2009, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University, together with L'viv city administration, the regional council, and regional-state administration will organize **the second Ecumenical Social Week**.

After a successful beginning last year that became a relatively unique phenomenon within Ukraine, the idea of this ecumenical social week gained great resonance and support from Ukrainian society and from abroad.

This year, topics dealing with social responsibility will be discussed during the proceedings. Special attention will be given to the following two topics that still maintain great importance even today – **“The Healing of the Wounds of the Past”** and **“The Development of Social, Cooperative Projects together with Western and Central Europe.”** In this context, a special stress will be placed on the role and place of Ukraine in the process of further integration into the European Union – as in the political and cultural sense as well as in the sense of religious agreement and cooperation. A broad variety of religious intellectuals and representatives of the political and social sector of Ukraine in addition to numerous guests from abroad were invited to take part in these events. According to the previous agreement with the L'viv city administration and within the framework of the second ecumenical social week, **the forum of social investments** will be held.

www.esw.org.ua

10) THE SPONSOR'S PROGRAM



During his visit to the United States, **the director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Antoine Arjakovsky**, met many collaborators and friends of the Institute among whom, Bishop Antony Scharba, honorary president of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, agreed to be a sponsor for one of the students of the master's degree program in Ecumenical Studies and find forty other sponsors who are ready to cover tuition-related expenses for the students of the program, which from 2009-2010 is 1000 USD for the entirety of the program. Other individuals also agreed to be sponsors such as Fr. Michael Plekon, priest of the Orthodox Church in America, Mykhaylo Haliv (New York), and others. For further information visit: <http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/ukr/alumni/reporter/working.group/>.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, we invite you to contact the Institute of Ecumenical Studies:

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ies@ucu.edu.ua

If you are contacting from the USA, please use the following address:

Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation
2247 W. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, Il 60622 – 4828

- Make your check out to the *Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation*.
- Include a separate note that their preference or intention if possible is for your monetary donation to go to the Ukrainian Catholic University (Institute of Ecumenical Studies).
- Also mention the specific program of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies that you would like to support.

In case you do not want to receive any more newsletters from the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, please send a refusal email to ies@ucu.edu.ua