The Siena College Teacher Training Program for Teachers of English in Ukraine

The Siena College Summer Teacher Training Program for Teachers of English in Ukraine was developed in 1992 by Professor Lydia Tarnavsky (Modern Languages Department at Siena College in Albany, NY) and financed by Americans for Democracy in Ukraine, Inc., a local civic organization based in Albany, NY The Program's objective was to train English language teachers in Ukraine in a new teaching methodology and to facilitate the integration of instructional technology into their schools' curricula.

The specific goals of the Program were: (1) to offer teachers workshops in an alternative to the established methodology; (2) to give teachers a materials resource base for implementing the new methodology; (3) to provide teachers with membership in a professional support group and, thus, initiate professional dialogue among teachers; and (4) engage Siena-trained teachers in the training of local colleagues.

To date, the program has fulfilled its four objectives. Siena College Teacher Training Workshops were presented to teachers in eight Ukrainian cities, each in a different oblast (state): Buchach (Ternopilska oblast), Dnipro (Dnipropetrovska oblast), Kovel (Volynska oblast), Kropyvnytskyj (Kirovohradska oblast), Myrhorod (Poltavska oblast), Odesa (Odeska oblast), Oxhtyrka (Sumska oblast), and Uzhhorod (Zakarpatska oblast). At the conclusion of the workshops, Americans for Democracy in Ukraine funded materials and technology resource centers in all of the 8 cities. The Siena-trained teachers organized into professional English Teacher Associations, registered with local authorities. Associations from the 8 different cities/oblasts (states) began networking with each other, sharing teaching experiences and expertise. They organized and led methodology workshops for their local colleagues.

Following is a list of some of the Teacher Associations' pedagogical activities and professional achievements and awards through the years.

**Association Teachers:**

• introduced new courses into their school curriculum, e.g., health and sex education (AIDS); principles of a democratic society; social responsibility and the environment; social and community leadership; and volunteerism, to name only a few;

• introduced new teaching/learning concepts such as Flipped Classroom into their classroom setting; integrated instructional technology into their classrooms using the following programs: OneNote, Office Mix, Skype and Sway (from Microsoft 365), Mystery, Nearpod, Padlet, Google Apps, Learning Apps, Google ClassRoom, and HangsOut; trained teachers in the Simple and Intuitive Classroom Management System for Teachers (Smrt);

• guided students towards independent and self-directed studies through student certification in the Simple and Intuitive Classroom Management System for Students (Smrt) program, which allows students to register at sites which give them access to university lectures/assignments and involves therr in conversations with university instructors;

• engaged students in international PenPal Projects to help them explore worldviews;

• involved students in global webinars which discuss topics such as: Human Trafficking, Role of Women in Society, Medical Ethics, Religion and Social Values (schools are members of the Generation Global Program founded by Tony Blair.);

• mentored students to consistently be first and second prize winners in the national English Language Olympics and English Language Research competitions;

coached students to win in the FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange Program) competition, the reward of which is a year's study in the U.S. (many students became FLEX alumni);

involved students in U.S. and European school exchanges;

organized, developed, and managed English language day and week summer camps for students of English in Ukraine;

managed, maintained, upgraded and kept current Association resource centers, which house instructional technology, teaching materials and read n g materials/reference resources for students and teachers.

**Association Teachers:**

• authored, co-authored, or contributed materials to the following publications:

Strategies for Teaching English using Music — authored

Sound Mind — Sound Body. AIDS Education Manual — contributed materials — authored by Helen Petrozzola (United Nations Staff Member in Ukraine),

Leadership is Action — A Teacher's Manual for Developing Leadership Skills in Teens — coauthored with Stephanie Richard (Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine),

Student Centered Learning — an article made available to all district teachers co-authored with Peace Corps volunteers Erien Shrenke and Caroline Kaufman,

Articles — authored by Association teachers published in referred journals, such as Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) English Language publication, and other professional publications;

• won: Excellence in Teaching awards from the U.S. Ministry of Education and American Council for Collaboration and Language Study (ACCELS); Partner in Education Program (PIE) awards funded by the U.S. Freedom Support Act; Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) awards sponsored by the U.S. Council; the most creative essay competition "Ukraine and Europe: twin cities";

• were honored when one of their members, was chosen as semi-finalist in the international competition Global Teacher Prize (sponsored by the Varkey Foundation) which involved over 20,000 teacher competitors from over 27 countries;

• received grants from: the U. S. TEAL Foundation for AIDS education in Ukraine (through Siena College); the educational arm of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine (PAS) to initiate and develop the program Help Train Rural Teachers; the Peace Corps to conduct an 18-week course Business English, Business Ukrainian and Computer Science and establish a Computer Science room in the center;

• became lead teachers for the Face To Faith project funded by Tony Blair Faith Foundation and promoted International Video-conferencing;

• received the Outstanding and Silver Generation Global Certificates from the Tony Blair Faith Foundation for engaging students in monthly global conferences;

• were awarded the title of Distinguished Teacher of Ukraine — a presidential nomination; winners of the All Ukrainian Teaching Contest sponsored by theMinistry of Education and Science in Kyiv; nominated as "Teacher of the Year by the Ministry of Education in Kyiv; received national and European prizes for e Twinning projects (an online community for schools in Europe which allows schools to find partners and collaborate on projects);

served on the board of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL, Ukraine) and as oblast leaders for the organization; were registered members of TESOL and of the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL); presented papers at both organizations' conferences which hare published in the conference proceedings;

participated in the "English Teachers as Change Agents" program, a program which trains teachers to play a role in what transpires not only in the classroom, but in a student's life; networked with the Peace Corps Team Teach Project;

were involved in the Kyiv Ministry of Education "Democracy for Schools Program and, as exemplary pedagogues in the program, were invited to present their classroom activates to the Ministry in Kyiv;

worked in cooperation with the local Ministry of Education to introduce regional and interregional colleagues to the newest trends in education by offering teaching methodology workshops at their centers;

were invited by the Ministry of Education to become member teachers of the National Independent English Committee which reads and evaluates essays written by students as part of the National Independent English Test;

organized annual Association Conferences attended by association preside and association teachers to share new teaching methods and experiences;

maintained an Association Facebook page to communicate pertine-: information regarding professional development opportunities.

Over the past 25 years, the Siena College Teacher Training Program in partnership with the Buchach, Dnipro, Kovel, Kropyvnyckyj, Myrhorod, Odesa, Oxhtyrka and Uzhhorod Association teachers have made a significant contribution to the development of English language education in Ukraine and have helped shape the minds of countless students. Americans for Democracy in Ukraine continues to support the initiatives of the Associations.

***Lydia*** *Tarnavskr*

*Ph. D., director of ADU programme.*

**BUCHACH ASSOCIATION**

The history of Buchach Association began in 2004 when Nataliya Tylyatynska and Halyna Savchenko visited Dnipropetrovsk and got acquainted with our American colleagues and members of other Associations.

Next year in 2005 Buchach hosted Association members from all the eight centers. It was the year when the Association was founded. Thanks to Taras Shepeliavy Buchach was chosen as another new association. Taras was born near Buchach in the village of Zhiznomir. It was his will. The teachers from Buchach schools and Association teachers from 7 centers took part in the conference. They were from Okhtyrka, Myrhorod, Odesa, Dnipro, Uzhhorod, Kovel, Chernihiv and Chernivtsi.

Natalia Tylyatynska was chosen as the president of Buchach Association and since 2006 the teachers of English in our district have become the most active members of this organization.

Every year our association members take part in annual international conferences, seminars and other methodological events. They improve their language skills, widen their outlook, cooperate with other associations, take part in different international projects, learn how to involve our students into global worldwide programs.

Such conferences were held in Odesa (2012), Uzhhorod (2013), Buchach (2015),Dnipro (2016), Kropyvnytskyi (2017), Myrhorod (2018).

The VI International Conference of Siena Colledge/ADU-Associations of Teachers of English in Myrhorod, June 27-29. The topic of the Conference «Effective methods and skills for teaching English in the new Ukrainian school». The motto of the Conference: Teach, Learn, Collaborate. The symbol- Red Apple, the symbol of International teaching.













