

SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021



COVID-19 Notice

In compliance with the government's policy [New York State on Pause](#), the main office of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States has suspended all scheduled face-to-face events, effective of March 14, 2020. The main office will be closed until further notice.

In this Issue:

**UKRAINIAN AMERICAN
WOMEN IN SCIENCE**

**WINNERS OF THE 2020
PLATON KOSTYUK AWARD**

WINTER POEMS

PAVLO GINTOV'S
PERFORMANCE:
SERHIY BORTKEVYCH'S
MUSIC

THE UKRAINIAN
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
FESTIVAL

MEMBER OF THE MONTH:
YURIY TARNAWSKY

MEMBER NEWS



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN SCIENCE

February 11 is International Day of Women and Girls in Science. To celebrate the achievements of Ukrainian American women in science, the February issue features short interviews with **Anna Nagurney** and **Larissa Alexandra Pohorecky-Dolinsky**.

[Anna Nagurney](#)

John F. Smith Memorial Professor in the Department of Operations and Information Management in the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Why did you decide to become a scientist?

I have always loved mathematics as a child, and had a lot of support from both my father, Roman Bobiak, who was an electrical engineer, and from my uncle, Stanley Jarosz, who was an award-winning civil engineer and bridge designer based in NYC. To me mathematics signified the absolute truth, and early on in college at Brown University I discovered Operations Research and a love for networks and numerous applications, from congested urban transportation networks to supply chains, and I have continued my passion for the subject to this day.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My work on variational inequalities and network systems has garnered a lot of attention, which is very gratifying, from my election as a Fellow of 3 scientific societies to several international awards. As for the greatest professional achievement, I would say that chairing the PhD dissertations of 22 PhD students, all of whom are very successful, is definitely towards the top!

What advice would you give to young women interested in pursuing a career in science?

Recently, I had the honor of being interviewed for an article, now published in a scientific journal, on precisely this question, along with several other females. The article can be viewed [here](#).

I would say that one should always nurture one's curiosity and that being in Science you are like a detective and solving mysteries. This is challenging but also so much fun since solving scientific problems is so important (and also rewarding). There is nothing like the "aha" moment when a problem you have been working on, sometimes for a long time, you actually figure out the solution to. In my field of Operations Research you can do much good and that is very rewarding. Also, my work on perishable product supply chains (food, blood, pharmaceuticals, and vaccines), which have been impacted in the COVID-19 pandemic is now highly relevant and has gotten a lot of media attention. I like the fact that scientific research can also influence policy and believe that is quite powerful.

I was also one of 44 women in STEM, featured in the [STEM Gems](#) book, which focuses on giving girls role models.

Larissa Alexandra Pohorecky-Dolinsky

Professor Emerita, Center of Alcohol Studies, Rutgers University

Why did you decide to become a scientist?

My father was a veterinarian, and while as a child I never saw him treat animals, I was fascinated by the many exotic instruments he had in his office. He instilled in me my love of animals.

When I was finishing my postdoctoral training at MIT in the late 1960s, I was searching for an interesting area of research that was not "overcrowded." While browsing through the scientific literature in my areas of interest, I stumbled on two interesting topics that were either ignored (alcohol), or were not as "crowded" at the time (stress). Both areas of research, of course, became hot topics in subsequent decades.

My first "real" position was to collaborate with Dr. Jay Weiss (Rockefeller University) on his animal model of stress. Concurrently I started researching my own line of research on alcohol effects in an animal model.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

I contributed to the literature by analyzing the effects of stress on the ingestion of alcohol in a social animal model. I have close to 180 publications and several book chapters, and I organized and chaired two international symposia on the interaction of alcohol and stress. One was at Rutgers (June 1982), and the other one in Helsinki, Finland (June 1986). Also I was invited to chair three other international meetings (Chicago, 1977; Sweden, 1983; Japan, 1988). I also served on the editorial boards of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, *Alcohol*, *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, and *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*.

What advice would you give to young women interested in pursuing a career in science?

My advice to young women interested in pursuing a career in science is first of all do not waver in your selected goal/interest – be persistent. Get all the facts/information about your goal, and then work hard.

Check out the last page of each issue of the weekly *Science* magazine. This page is reserved to the personal story of a scientist from various fields and at various levels of their careers. Since late last year, they enlarged the scope of their coverage to include stories by undergraduate/graduate students who describe their problems and victories in pursuing their goals.



**WINNERS OF THE 2020 PLATON
KOSTYUK AWARD**

The Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States, jointly with the [Kostyuk Foundation](#), annually awards the prestigious [Platon Kostyuk Award](#) to young biomedical scientists working in Ukraine. On 18 December 2020, the 2020 award ceremony was held via Zoom to celebrate accomplishments of young Ukrainian scientists. [Oleh Kryshtal](#), director of the [Bohomolets Institute of Physiology](#), National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, made the opening remarks.

[Mariia Rybak](#), junior fellow at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, received the 2020 Platon Kostyuk Award for her cutting-edge research on protein biosynthesis and the development of new anti-tubercular medications.

Among the finalists of the 2020 Platon Kostyuk Award were also [Tetiana Drevytska](#), senior fellow at the Bohomolets Institute of Physiology, and [Tetiana Dumuch](#), assistant professor in the Department of Histology, Cytology and Embryology at [the Danylo Halysky Lviv National Medical University](#).

The award ceremony is available for viewing [here](#).

ONLINE WEBINAR: LITICA

WINTER POEMS



Oksana
Lutsyshyna

Serhiy
Zhadan

Marjana
Savka

Vasyl
Makhno

**SATURDAY,
23 JANUARY 2021**

12:00 (noon), New York

19:00 (7 PM), Kyiv



Moderator:
Prof. Vitaly
Chernetsky
(University of
Kansas)

Online Webinar

WINTER POEMS

Poetry exists, is written, and is read regardless of changing seasons, but during the wintertime, poems speak to us in a special way—perhaps through the whiteness of snow, or the smell of spruce and pine needles, or through Christmas traditions. On 23 January 2021, The Shevchenko Scientific Society hosted a poetry reading with **Oksana Lutsyshyna**, **Marjana Savka**, **Serhiy Zhadan**, and **Vasyl Makhno**. The event was moderated by **Vitaly Chernetsky**, Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Kansas, and Learned Secretary, Shevchenko Scientific Society of America.

Watch online

For further information, click [here](#).

MUSIC
AT THE INSTITUTE

UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE of AMERICA and
SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
present

Music of
**Serhiy
Bortkevych**

Sunday, January 24 at 2:00pm

Pavel Gintov, piano

UIA 2 East 79th Street New York, New York
212-288-8660 www.ukrainianinstitute.org

PAVLO GINTOV'S PERFORMANCE: SERHIY BORTKEVYCH'S MUSIC

On 24 January 2021, the Shevchenko Scientific Society in collaboration with Ukrainian Institute of America held a special online and in-person concert, featuring music by Serhiy Bortkevych (Bortkiewicz). This concert is a part of the 2020/2021 season of the Ukrainian Institute of America's MUSIC AT THE INSTITUTE (MATI) series, directed by Solomiya Ivakhiv. It is available for online streaming [here](#).

[Pavlo Gintov](#), winner of numerous international piano competitions, performed Bortkevych's music. In an interview with [Virko Baley](#), Ukrainian American composer and pianist, Gintov recalled how he developed interest in Bortkevych's music.

As a professional musician in Ukraine, he had never heard of the composer and his work.

For the first time, I encountered his music in America, here in New York, a few years ago. The thing is that I was looking for a piece by a Ukrainian composer that was somehow related to Crimea because in my concerts I like to talk about the music and about the composers...And I saw a cycle called Crimean Sketches by a composer whose last name looked Polish. It was truly magnificent music and a true ode to the nature of Crimea. Then I decided to look up this composer...I learned that he was in fact from Kharkiv, and he was a Ukrainian composer who had been forgotten for many, many years. I ended up recording a whole CD of his music because I was so inspired by it and I really loved his style.



U K R A I N I A N
C O N T E M P O
R A R Y M U S I C
F E S T I V A L

THE UKRAINIAN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Ukrainian Contemporary Music Festival, co-organized by the [Ukrainian Institute](#) and sponsored by [Razom for Ukraine](#), will be held on March 5-7, 2021. Among the festival's [partners](#) are the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States, the Ukrainian Institute of America, the Ukrainian Museum, and the [United Help Ukraine](#).

The opening concert will showcase diverse approaches to contemporary music in Ukraine, ranging from noise music and cartographic compositional techniques to a series of post-modern approaches. In addition to young artists, preeminent Ukrainian composers [Victoria Polevá](#) and [Oleh Bezborodko](#) who employ various avant-garde and post-minimalist techniques, will perform on March 5.

The Festival will also include a panel discussion on curating a music festival. **Liubov Morozova**, a musicologist and the artistic director of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra, and **Christopher Gibbs**, the James H. Ottaway Jr. Professor of Music at Bard College and Co-Artistic Director of the Bard Music Festival, will discuss how to engage audiences with previously unknown works and diversify concert hall repertoires.

For details and the ticket information, click [here](#)



MEMBER OF THE MONTH: YURIY TARNAWSKY

Hometown: White Plains, NY

Current Position: Retiree, IBM Corporation,
Columbia University

Professional Interests: Transformational-Generative
Grammar, Natural Language Processing, Literary
Theory, Innovative Writing

Having been active in the Ukrainian Diaspora community in general and as a writer in particular, once I became a scientist, first as electrical engineer and then computer scientist and linguist, it was natural for me to feel I should join the society. It was a decision based both on patriotic and scientific grounds. The benefits, so to

speak, were both professional and social.

I was able to promote my literary and scientific works (doing literary readings and having my PD dissertation and books of literary essays published) and meet with member colleagues at after-event receptions.

In 2019 I published two English-language novels with JEF Books, both of which had been many years in the making—[Warm Arctic Nights](#) and [The Iguanas of Heat](#). The first is a fictionalized semiautobiographical account of my childhood and the second an ostensible suspense story which is actually a deconstructional study of a sterile marriage. *Warm Arctic Nights* was published the same year by Tempora in an authorized Ukrainian-language translation by [Maksym Nestelieiev](#) under the title [Tepli poljarni nochi](#).

A German-language version of the novel, [Warme arktische Nächte](#), translated by Christian Weise, on which I also collaborated, was published by Edition Noëma/ibdem-Verlag in 2020.

For a full profile, click [here](#)

MEMBER NEWS

Renata Holod, Curator, Near East Section, Penn Museum and Professor Emerita, History of Art Department, University of Pennsylvania, received the 2020 Middle East Studies Association (MESA) [Award for Mentorship](#) in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to the training and support of others in Middle East Studies. She published a book chapter “What’s in a Name? Signature, Maker’s Mark or Keeping Count: On Craft Practice at Rayy,” in [The Seljuqs and their Successors: Art, Culture and History](#), eds. Sheila Canby, Deniz Beyazit, and Martina Rugiadi (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020) and authored a forward to the edited volume *City in the Desert, Revisited: Oleg Grabar at Qasr al- Hayr al- Sharqi, 1964 -1971* by Christiane Gruber and Michelle Al-Ferzly (Ann Arbor, MI: Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 2021). Dr. Holod is currently working upon the monograph, *The Last Kurgan: A Thirteenth Century Nomadic Leader’s Burial in the Black Sea Steppe* (co-authored with [Oleksandr Halenko](#), [Yuri Rassamakin](#) and Warren T. Woodfin).

[Roman Kuc](#), Professor of Electrical Engineering, School of Engineering and Applied

Science, Yale University, published the article "[The Evolution of Bat Robots](#)." 2020. *Acoustics Today*, 16(4), 30-38 (with Rolf Müller).

Myron Stachiw, Independent Scholar and historical consultant, contributed several entries on Ukrainian vernacular architecture, including "Ukraine-Cultures and Habitats," "Ukrainian Churches," "Ukrainian Carpathian Region-Cultures and Habitats," "Crimea and southern oblasts-Cultures and Habitats," Podilia-Cultures and Habitats," "Slobozhanshchyna-Cultures and Habitats," and "Ukrainian vernacular architecture of the northern Great Plains, North America- Cultures and Habitats" in the forthcoming [Encyclopedia of the Vernacular Architecture of the World](#), 2nd edition, ed. Marcel Vellinga (London, UK: Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2021). Overall, the encyclopedia will feature 3,000 illustrated entries written by the world's leading scholars of vernacular architecture and material culture.

Vasyl Makhno's *Eternal Calendar* and **Oksana Lutsyshyna's** *Ivan and Phoebe* were shortlisted for [the 2021 Taras Shevchenko National Prize](#), awarded for outstanding achievements in literature and arts.

Please let us know about your professional accomplishments, and we will announce them to our members via the English-language newsletter and social media. We welcome information about your recent articles, books, research grants, awards, international collaborations, or career moves. To fill out the form, please click [here](#)

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Mailing Address:

Shevchenko Scientific Society
63 4th Ave.
New York, NY 10003-5202

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