

NEWSLETTER



The Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University, No. 5, July 2011

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies celebrated its 7th anniversary

On Wednesday, June 22, at the Ukrainian Catholic University, ceremonies marking the end of Doctor Antoine Arjakovsky's term as director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies were held.

During the seminar "The 7th anniversary of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies: Summary of activities and prospects for development," an adviser to the Mayor of Lviv, Bohdan Pankevych, on behalf of Mayor Andriy Sadovyi awarded Dr. Antoine Arjakovsky the Golden Arms of Lviv for his significant contribution to spreading of ecumenism and Christian values in the public sphere.

During the occasion, a summary of the IES's activities at UCU was given and a film about the institute and its projects was shown.



"I want to thank God that seven years ago He gave us an idea in person of Antoine Arjakovsky to establish the IES at UCU," said the president of the IES, Rev. Ivan Dacko. "Now Antoine is handing on



his heavy yet well-used baton to his successor 'so that all may be one.'" In his turn, UCU Rector Rev. Borys Gudziak, PhD, thanked Antoine Arjakovsky for all the work that has been done and expressed his wish that there be great ambitious projects which require development and which would be implemented, and stressed the importance and value of friendship in the ecumenical movement. Bishop Venedykt, auxiliary bishop of the UGCC in Lviv, expressing his gratitude to Antoine Arjakovsky, said: "In the 11th century, our Church was shattered with a great

disaster – separation. This wound has been bleeding up to the present. The task and calling given by God is to witness about unity, in particular on the ground of the UGCC. Antoine Arjakovsky is a special example of unity. We thank you that you have tried to awaken this spirit of love, to remind us about our identity and calling."

For the seven years of the institute's existence, Antoine Arjakovsky has tried to adhere to this position: "I believed that the establishment of the IES was God's will and I began to serve and to work for unity. Now I am leaving because the time has come for the IES to start a new period, because I have already fulfilled my mission in Ukraine – there are many people at the IES with excellent ecumenical experience."

It should be noted that an IES fund of more than 450,000 US dollars has been established thanks to the support of numerous donors, in particular the organizations l'Œuvre d'Orient and l'Arche. The other sponsors of the IES are Bradley Foundation, Renovabis, Kerk in Actie, Communicantes, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the World Council of Churches, the UCEF in the USA, and many other donors. In addition, on October 1st, during the Ecumenical Social Week, the first meeting of the executive committee of the institute's donors will be arranged. Halyna Bokhonko will carry out the functions of the director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

Antoine Arjakovsky is returning to France, since a spiritual revival is underway there. "I was invited to Paris to the Collège des Bernardins which was created in 1245. I will work there as Research Director for "Freedom, Society and Peace". I want to revive that which is urgent today – the relations between democracy and spirituality. But I will also keep contact with the Ukrainian Catholic University and be a member of the new executive board of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies that will meet regularly in Lviv."

The first defense in the English-speaking DMP in Ecumenical Studies

On June 20 the Distance Master's Program of the IES (DMPES) for English-speaking students for the first time held the defense of a degree thesis. The defender was Rev.

Laurent Cleenewerck, of the USA. Rev. Cleenewerck is an Orthodox priest ordained in 2004 by Archbishop Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in America. Since 2007, he has served as pastor of St. Innocent Orthodox Parish in Eureka, California. He received a licentiate in theology and an honorary doctorate in applied sciences. He studied at Saint Tikhon Orthodox Seminary. He teaches theology and international administration at Humboldt State University in California. He is the author of "His Broken Body: Understanding and Healing the Schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches."

(2007) The book is a comprehensive study of historical and theological reasons for the division between the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodoxy. In 2009, he entered the DMPES for English-speaking students. He completed the whole program and successfully wrote a master's thesis on the subject: "Methods in Ecumenical Dialogue. Lessons from Critical Thinking, Diplomacy and Physical Sciences." His academic supervisor was Antoine Arjakovsky, director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies. His thesis was reviewed by Doctor of Theology Michael Petrowycz. The examination committee was headed by Doctor of Philosophy Volodymyr Turchynovskyy.



After the successful defense, Antoine Arjakovksy invited Rev. Laurent Cleenewerck to teach at the English-speaking DMPES.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/announcements/1964>

Graduates of MPES work on declassified materials of SBU in Kyiv

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies has started working with the Central Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), Kyiv. Experts from the Institute for Church History of UCU are invited to participate in the project. The cooperation will last for five years, so students of MPES have an opportunity to work with declassified but not published materials of the Security Service of Ukraine. As a result, researched materials will be published. Thus, even this year, three graduates of MPES prepared master's theses on the basis of the SBU materials:



Nadiya Leshchuk: "Atheistic propaganda in western Ukraine: Forms, methods, results and consequences."

Oksana Puzhakovska: "Ways of communication between imprisoned and repressed clergy and believers of the Greek Catholic Church with the example of Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj."

Ivanka Rudakevych: "Special features of the repressive policy of the Soviet power regarding the Roman Catholic Church in western Ukraine at the end of and after World War II."

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/05/12/1963>

Preparation for the 4th Ecumenical Week is underway!

The 4th Ecumenical Social Week "Reforms Through Trust" will be held between September 27 and October 2nd, 2011. Political engagement is not the goal of the forum. Instead, it aims to unite social and civic organizations, churches, civil authorities, educators, and youth associations around current issues. It will concentrate on community participation in the reform process in Ukraine. The ESW in September and October will be preceded by information days held in various cities of Ukraine.



This year the forum will be visited by experts from Ukraine and abroad, among whom will be prominent public figures of the world. The planned events include conferences and panel discussions as well as a folk concert, an exhibition of social organizations that are members of the project "The Observatory of Successful Initiatives," and the Day of Trust, prepared jointly with the Christian ecumenical community of Taizé (France).

The 4th ESW will be held in partnership with the Lviv City Council, the Lviv Regional Council and Administration, the Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv Polytechnic National University, and the expert support of the World Bank in Ukraine. Further information on the website www.esw.org.ua

Defense of master's theses of 2011 at MPES



On June 20 – 21, students of MPES defended their master's theses. These are students in the areas of journalism and Christian ethics who for a year have researched various topics, based on an ecumenical approach. Their research work elucidates the ecumenical aspect of teaching Christian ethics in schools, draw attention to the role of religious culture in mass media, etc. A new direction of research of students of MPES was to study and process declassified materials from SBU archives. The chairman of the honorary committee was Oleh Turij, Vice Rector for Research of the Ukrainian

Catholic University. This year, 14 graduates of MPES and one graduate of DMPES received their degrees.

Director of IES Antoine Arjakovsky participated in the Global Christian Forum

On January 25–26 in Istanbul, Turkey, during the Global Christian Forum (www.globalchristianforum.org) there were consultations on the subject "The main trends and changes in world Christianity." Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at UCU Antoine Arjakovsky was a participant of the forum from Ukraine. He shared his impressions.



"I was invited to Istanbul at the Global Christian Forum as an ecumenical expert," said Antoine Arjakovsky.

According to him, the consultations "The main trends and developments in world Christianity" united over 30 people from around the world. There were four

representatives from the Orthodox Church: two persons from the Russian Orthodox Church, namely the representative of the Moscow Patriarchate at the World Council of Churches and International Organizations in Geneva Archpriest Mikhail Gundyayev and Deputy Head of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Abbot Pilip (Ryabykh); and representatives of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, including Metropolitan Gennadios, the right hand of the Patriarch.

"So, the discussion was relaxed. We agreed that at the beginning of October 2011, the 2nd Assembly (The Global Christian Forum) will be held in Indonesia (the 1st Assembly was in Nairobi, Kenya in 2007), " concluded Antoine Arjakovsky.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/02/14/1530>

Beginning of academic year of Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies

On February 14, the official opening of the academic year of the Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies was held in the UCU conference hall. This year, 35 students were



enrolled in MPES, 23 of whom chose to specialize in Journalism, three students choose Christian ethics and nine students chose "Medical, psychological and social support of people with disabilities."

It should be noted that these are believers of various denominations. This is the sixth admission of MPES.

New students of MPES were greeted by honored guests of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies: Rostyslaw Kramar, a Poland-based journalist of Radio Svoboda, lecturer at Warsaw University and translator; Professor Yosyp Los, the head of the Foreign Press and Information Section of the Journalism Department at Ivan Franko National University in Lviv and an honored journalist of Ukraine; and UCU Vice Rector for Academic Work Pavlo Khobzey.

At the end of the event, the students of MPES received student identification cards.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/02/16/1528>

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies calls for a joint celebration of the Resurrection of Christ on April 8, 2012

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies continues to support an initiative for the joint celebration of Easter. Today Christians of the world celebrate the great feast of Easter on different dates, which is an obvious sign of divisions that are tearing apart Christian denominations. On April 4, 2010 and April 24, 2011, Easter in religious calendars coincided accidentally. This was a precondition for the holding in 2009 of an ecumenical seminar organized by the IES. Participants supported the consensus reached by the Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches in 1997 in Aleppo. Therefore, the IES urged to support the initiative for a joint celebration of Easter on April 8, 2012, the day that corresponds to the rules and method of calculation that were the subject of consensus in Aleppo.



Thus, this initiative has involved over 500 people from all over Ukraine and the world and supported the call for a single date of Easter. The caption “I support the call for the celebration of Easter on one day under the rules set by consensus in Aleppo, April 8, 2012, everywhere where Christians will be blessed by bishops and higher church authorities” was sent to the IES address, and those willing were able to support the call in the social network [Facebook](#).

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/yedyna-data-paskhy>

Abraham H. Khan on the Theology School in Toronto as an experiment of broad ecumenism

On 17 February in the conference hall of UCU, there was a meeting with Professor Abraham H. Khan from the University of Toronto, Canada. At the invitation of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Abraham H. Khan read a lecture on the topic “The Theological School of Toronto as a broad ecumenical experiment: How many differences in unity?”

As Professor Abraham H. Khan pointed out, the Theological School of Toronto was founded 40 years ago and has 7 colleges, which issue a joint diploma of the University of Toronto. This union of colleges is located on a huge university campus and is the largest ecumenical consortium of theological education in Canada.



“The Theological School brought together representatives of various religious denominations: Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Methodists, Reformed, Jews and Muslims,” emphasized Abraham H. Khan.

The professor also added that for many years ecumenism referred to Christianity, but it cannot have narrow limits: “Ecumenism must relate to religious practices around the world. This is an opportunity to reflect on new configurations, models of understanding.”

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/02/17/1531>

Journalist from France Michel Staniul visited the Institute of Ecumenical Studies

The visit of French journalist Michel Staniul lasted from May 2 to May 5. The guest arrived from France at the invitation of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies. During his visit, Mr. Staniul gave three lectures for students of MPES and shared his journalistic experience.



In his first overview lecture “Media in France,” Michel Staniul told students about the general state of newspapers in France, about the importance of the regional press and presented the structure of French publications.

The second lecture of Mr. Staniul concentrated on legal aspects of media activities in France, including legal protection of journalists in the country and the responsibility of a journalist for published information.

The final lecture with the participation of Michel Staniul took place in the form of discussion (questions and answers) and was rather informal. Michel Staniul talked about his life and journalistic work, about his spiritual experience.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/05/06/1952>

The first graduating class of the 1- year certificate program “Medical, psychological and social support of people with disabilities”

On January 29 in the UCU conference hall, graduates of the 1-year program “Medical, psychological and social supports of people with disabilities” were awarded their certificates.

This is the first graduating class of the certificate program, in which 15



students attended nine modules totalling 250 hours and received certificates issued by the Ukrainian Catholic University and the International Federation L'Arche.

The graduates were welcomed by: Iryna Rohovska, assistant director of the IES and administrative director of the program; Oksana Vynyarska, academic director of the program; Nina Hayduk, head of the Social Work Department and assistant professor of Sociology and Social Work at the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences of Lviv Polytechnic National University; Oleh Romanchuk, psychotherapist, child psychiatrist, head of the Child Development Department at the Training and Rehabilitation Center Dzherelo; Sister Lukia Murashko, head of the L'Arche community. The guest of honor was Michelle Dormal, educational trainer of the International L'Arche Federation, supervisor of the program.

During the celebrations, the graduates produced a kind of a report. The young people presented a film about the moments of their learning and growth on the subject "dance therapy" entitled "Towards goodwill." They also presented a mini-performance "The Little Prince."

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyiny-instytutu/2011/02/01/1329>

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies organized a seminar "Simulation methods: A bridge to better understanding of people with special needs"

On May 17, as part of "The week of creativity of people with disabilities," the seminar "Simulation methods: A bridge to better understanding of people with disabilities" was organized by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at UCU.

The purpose of the event was to present one of the methods of training instructors for the certificate program "Medical, psychological and social support for people with disabilities." The seminar was conducted by Oksana Vynyarska, coordinator of "Medical, psychological and social support for persons with disabilities," who described simulation methods, where they are used, and on whose experiences they are based.

During the workshop participants were able to find themselves in situations where one can experience problems that arise in the daily life of people with disabilities. Thus, blindfolded or in special glasses that simulate weak eyesight, members poured water into a glass, tried to unwrap candy wearing work gloves, and so on. Thanks to such individual and group exercises the seminar participants received a new experience and more understanding of the behavior people with special needs and will be able to apply this experience in dealing with disabled people. The participants of the seminar were specialists of social services agencies and volunteers of social services, specialists in various fields, members of families with disabled persons and students of socially-oriented schools.



The IES introduced a new course at DMPES for English-speaking students

On April 14, 2011, students and teachers of the Distance Master's Program of Ecumenical Studies had an opportunity to listen to the online lecture "Christological Terminology of the Council of Chalcedon (the year 451): Ousia, physis, hypostasis, prosopon." The webinar was held as part of a new course for English-speaking students introduced by the IES.

The lecture in English was read by Professor Oleh Kindiy, doctor of theology at the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology of the Ukrainian Catholic University.



Professor Oleh Kindiy presented a brief history of the main Christological arguments, paying particular attention to theological terminology used at the councils of Nicaea, Constantinople, Ephesus and especially Chalcedon.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/04/19/1928>

During a webinar of DMPES Olena Kulyhina told about the activities of the Church Data Center

On May 4, the webinar "Methods and practices of religious journalism" was conducted for students of DMPES.



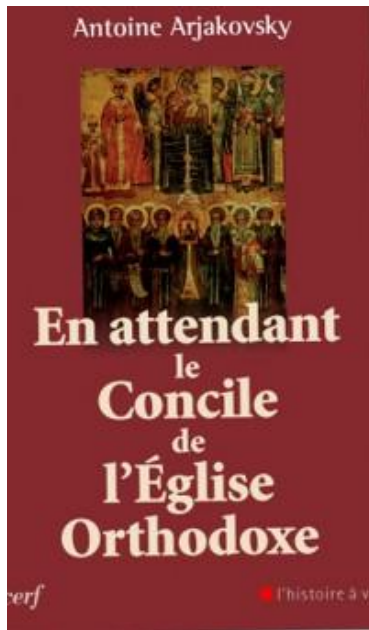
An online lecture was read by Olena Kulyhina, who is an expert on church PR, PR manager of various religious projects and events, organizer of conferences and seminars on religious journalism, and teacher of the course "Methods and practices of religious journalism" at DMPES.

During the webinar Olena Kulyhina described the features of church communication centers (data centers). The task of these centers (both at the all-church and regional level) is to regulate the flow of information in a particular religious organization or community. She highlighted the main mission, the task of the center and the ways of implementing the tasks. At the end of the lecture, Olena Kulyhina talked about the personal features of employees of media services, noting that these people have to be religious people, professionals, or to aspire to this, and be people with a wider vision of things.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/05/06/1941>

A new book of Antoine Arjakovsky "Waiting for a Pan-Orthodox Council" in French

In France, Antoine Arjakovski published the book "Waiting for a Pan-Orthodox Council." The texts included in this collection are lectures which the author read from 2004 to 2010 in various places. The collection comprises four chapters. The first one is titled "Aspects of Orthodox Christian thought." It briefly outlines the main stages of preparation for the Pan-Orthodox Council from the historical perspective, tying them with the general evolution of



Orthodox thought after the Second World War. The second chapter "Towards practical ecumenism" considers one of the most controversial issues of Orthodoxy, which will be a subject of special attention during the council, namely: the legitimacy of the ecumenical movement for Orthodoxy and relationships of Orthodox churches with the whole Christian world.

The third chapter "Common features of the social doctrine of the churches" concludes that the Orthodox churches, each one with their own tempo and way, seek ecumenism, not only doctrinal but practical. The fourth chapter "The future of ecumenism in Ukraine and Russia" does not address directly the theme of the next council. However, the author believes it has its place in this book since it is suitable for the consideration of certain issues of the future council (such as the issue of the ecumenical movement or a common calendar), based on local experience.

Also, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies is preparing translations of Antoine Arjakovsky's book "Waiting for a Pan-Orthodox council" into the Ukrainian and Russian languages.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/04/06/1877>

London meeting on interchurch families



On February 26, the London Meeting 2011 of the Association of Interchurch Families was held at St. Andrew's Church in London. The special guests of the event were: Commissioner Betty Matear, territorial president of women's ministries in the Salvation Army, free churches moderator, and one of the presidents of the Association of Interchurch Families; and Professor Antoine Arjakovsky, Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies.

The event was organized by the Association of Interchurch Families, which helps couples who belong to different Christian denominations and those involved with them through their ministry. Its mission is to support a network and information service for interchurch families; it is meant for parents who are raising children, for the clergy, priests, relatives and those others who in any way serve interchurch families.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/03/09/1709>

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies organized an ecumenical retreat

On March 25-27, 2011, in the village of Berehy, Pustomyty district, an ecumenical retreat was held under the guidance of Fr. Ihor Petsyukh of the Ukrainian Catholic University. The theme was "The School of Prayer."

At Holy Transfiguration Women's Monastery of the Order of St. Basil the Great, the first- and second-year students of the Master's Program of Ecumenical Studies, students of the Distance Master's Program of Ecumenical Studies, and graduates and staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at UCU listened to spiritual talks. The participants had an opportunity to listen to teaching on the Prayer of Jacob. The next day, after prayer together at the Divine Liturgy, which was celebrated



by Fr. Ihor Petsyukh and Fr. Roman Fihas, the ecumenists listened to a number of valuable teachings for the Lenten period. Important ecumenical experience was the instructive teaching of a priest of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and a teacher of Liturgy in the seminary of the UAOC, Fr. Volodymyr Hensyor, on the Prayer of Ephrem. After the Liturgy of the Holy Cross on Sunday, the ecumenists finally listened to two more important talks of Fr. Ihor: "Hear, O Israel" and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

In conclusion, Fr. Ihor Petsyukh, giving a spiritual lesson to all present, candidly added: "Do not be afraid that the world will 'shower' you with troubles; you can be different."

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/03/30/1867>

MPES students travel to castles of the Lviv Region

On May 8, students of the MPES went on a tour of the Pidhoretskyi and Oleskyi castles along with Ms. Helen Zordrager, representative of the charity foundation Kirk in Aktie and the Mission of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands, and Michel Staniul, a French journalist.



The trip began with the Divine Liturgy in the Church of St. Michael, where students and teachers of the MPES prayed together. Then there was a guided tour of Oleskyi Castle and a visit to Pidhoretskyi Castle.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/05/12/1961>

Director of the IES Antoine Arjakovsky took part in the 44th General Assembly of the Catholic National Commission on Ecumenism in Belgium



Director of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies Antoine Arjakovsky was the Orthodox speaker at the 44th General Assembly of the Catholic National Commission on Ecumenism in Belgium, held in late November 2010. His report was devoted to the main theme of the gathering: "Becoming a Christian: The connection between faith and the sacrament of entering the Church."

In particular, he spoke about the issue of baptism in the Orthodox Church and ecumenical relations. The meeting concluded with a discussion.

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novini-institutu/2011/02/08/1386>

The IES issues an online edition "Spirituality"



The Institute of Ecumenical Studies continues to publish the online edition "Dukhovnist" (Spirituality). Each month readers of Ukraine can read interesting and relevant articles on social and religious themes and learn about world events and phenomena.

It has been issued in Russian and Ukrainian since October 2010. Since then the project has been successfully developing, engaging in cooperation not only new authors but students of journalism at the IES as well.

“Spirituality” was established by the IES of UCU together with the social and political newspaper “Vysokyi Zamok” (High Castle) as an online edition on the website of “Vysokyi Zamok.” Every day the website of VZ is visited by about seven thousand people. Therefore, all interested are able to also visit the page of “Dukhovnist” and learn more about the spiritual life of Ukraine and the world.

More about the edition can be found on the website:

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/novyny-institutu/2010/11/08/1047>

Everyone who wishes to become a partner and / or sponsor of the IES, and / or support our students by becoming their “godparents” (the annual cost of educating one student is 500 euros), please contact the Institute of Ecumenical Studies

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