

ОБІЖНИК - NEWSLETTER

ТОВАРИСТВО УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ІНЖЕНЕРІВ АМЕРИКИ – НЬЮ ЙОРК
UKRAINIAN ENGINEERS' SOCIETY OF AMERICA – NEW YORK BRANCH



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From the President's Desk

Well, we're rolling into another summer season and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy time during their summer travels.

The new New York City board has begun meeting and working on various initiatives. Most noteworthy is that we're moving forward with plans to establish a regular lecture schedule as of the Fall. Attendance will be open to UESA members and the general community. We hope to target a range of topics including taxes, general finance, computer and internet issues, engineering topics, and new scientific areas such as "bio-technology." We will also try to make these lectures qualify for the Continuing Education credits licensed professional engineers in New York State will need to collect as of 2004 in order to keep their licenses valid.

You'll also note in this issue that UESA was listed as a co-sponsor on two recent lectures held at the Ukrainian Institute. These events provided various ideas on how UESA can work with other organizations to augmented its own schedule and on how we can develop our own lecture series. It also showed that it is possible to attract an audience for contemporary topics.

On the social front, we've decided to take a slightly different approach to the traditional "Summer Picnic" that may have taken place in year's past. Even though everyone tends to get spread out over the summer months, it is often the case that several UESA members will attend similar functions such as the Verkhovyna Festival or Miss Soyuzivka weekend.

As a result, we strongly encourage our members to schedule a time at these events to get together for a round of "refreshments." It doesn't have to be a whole day affair. Just meet for 15 minutes before the start of a zabava, for example, to have a toast to a

pleasant evening. Bring along your friends and introduce them to other UESA members. Over time we'll hopefully be able to restore the "tovarska zustrich" to an event everyone looks forward to.

Finally, I'd like to remind our members about a few things. **First of all, if you have not already done so, please do not forget to send in payment for last year's dues.** Full members pay \$35, retired members pay \$20 and student members pay \$15 per year. Additionally, you have the option of making a donation to aid several UESA projects. There is also a "general donation" line if you would like to voluntarily pay "back-dues" which were lost track of over time.

Next don't forget that the UESA local newsletter, the web site and the national newsletter are always looking for stories on the professional and personal accomplishments and events. Please send it in so that we may share it with our members.

Until next time.....

Marco Shmerykowsky, PE
Марко Шмериковський

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2002 membership dues**



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Seminar on the Estate & Tax Reform

On May 5, 2003 the New York Independent Women's Alliance (NYIWA) held a seminar titled "Estate & Tax Reform: Creating and Preserving Wealth" at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City. The seminar was also sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA), the New York Chapter of the Federalist Society, and the New York chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America.

The guests were greeted by Chrysanna Woroch of the New York Women's Alliance and then the speakers were introduced by moderator Wilma Moody. The speakers at the event included Patricia Soldano, Dick Patten, Charles Mooney and Karen Bailey.



Chrysanna Woroch of the NYIWA presents the seminar's speakers (left to right) Mr. Dick Patten, Ms. Patricia Soldano, Mr. Charles D. Mooney, Esq. And Ms. Karen Bailey

Mr. Patten, who is the executive director of the American Family Business Institute, was the evening's first speaker. He began by briefly reviewing his personal background which began with helping to his father grow their family business to the point where they eventually became Eastman Kodak's largest reprographics customer on the West Coast and the third largest business of its type in the nation.

Mr. Patten continued to describe how the Inheritance Tax, or "Death Tax" as he referred to it, puts family businesses at a competitive disadvantage with their publicly owned competitors. Not only do these taxes often force families to sell off their businesses and farms to pay the required estate taxes, but they also have a ripple effect on the economy as the employees of these family owned businesses lose

their jobs. Ultimately, Mr. Patten contends, the federal government realizes a net reduction in the funds it collects as result of the Estate Taxes.

Mr. Patten also raised some interesting statistics:

- 89% of U.S. businesses are family owned
- 50% of the jobs in the U.S. are provided by family owned businesses
- 70% to 87% of family owned businesses do not survive several generations under family ownership.

The next speaker was Ms. Soldano. She is the owner of a financial management company which manages family assets and coordinates estate planning and generation succession efforts.



Some of the attendees listening to the presentations

Ms Soldano continued the discussion about how the inheritance tax generates no net revenue for the federal government due to the extensive compliance and collection costs which are incurred. She also attempted to emphasize how nearly 50% of all estate taxes come from estates which are valued at less than \$5 million. Although, this number seemed "high" for the average person, she emphasized that all assets of an estate are considered as taxable. This would include real estate, home furnishings, automobiles, retirement funds, bank accounts, family heirlooms etc.

The next speaker was Mr. Mooney who is a partner of the New York City Law firm McCanliss & Early LLP. His practice includes law in the areas of estate planning, taxation and nonprofit organizations. His presentation covered the topic of techniques for preserving a family's wealth across generations. He discussed items such as the "gift tax" and "generation skipping."

The final speaker of the evening was Ms. Bailey. She serves as a policy analyst for the Americans for Tax Reform Foundation (ATR). The ATR was formed to work towards the idea of creating a system in which taxes are simpler, fairer, more visible and lower than they are today. They seek to eliminate forms of "double taxation" which includes items such as the capital gains tax, the inheritance tax, and the alternative minimum tax.



Ms. Bailey speaking on the "investor tax cuts" as Mr. Patten and Ms. Soldano listen

Ms. Bailey talk focused on the "double taxation" of stock dividends and the tax cuts proposed by Bush White House. She stressed that 60% of the American population can be classified as "investors" because of the fact that in addition to ownership of individual stocks, numerous Americans have their retirement savings invested in stock based 401K like plans. As a result, she contends, that the taxation of dividends is actually an additional tax on the working middle class.

The taxation of dividends does not only affect "rich people" but also people such as herself who are just beginning to save money into retirement plans. Further, she noted, that many retirees are dependent on dividend income due to their retirement savings plans.

In general, although this tax seminar focused on what may be termed as the "conservatives" view point on issues such as the inheritance tax and other forms of "double taxation" in did raise various interesting points and perspectives.

Seminar on Bio-Terrorism

On May 15, 2003 the New York Independent Women's Alliance (NYIWA) held a seminar titled "Bioterrorism: Actual Risks & Methods of Preparedness – Research to Vaccination" at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City. The seminar was also sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA), the New York City Office of Emergency Management, and the New York chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America.

The evening began with welcoming remarks from Chrysanna Woroch of the New York Independent Women's Alliance. She then proceeded to introduce the evening's speakers which included Michael Berkowitz, Kimberly Kohlhausen, Cathey Falvo, MD, and Robert Rothberg, MD.



Attendees at the Ukrainian Institute

The first speaker was Deputy Chairman Michael Berkowitz of the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), The OEM was established on 1996 to ensure interagency coordination before, during and after disasters or emergencies such as

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the September 11th tragedies.

Mr. Berkowitz reviewed various aspects of New York City's preparedness to both biological and natural disasters and emergencies. He discussed the emergency medical assistance plans which were put in place prior to the September 11th tragedies and how these plans were actually used during the days following the attacks.

He also extend the discussion beyond the area of biological and medical emergencies to touch on natural emergencies such as hurricanes. Though a series of computer projected images, Mr. Berkowitz discussed how various low lying areas of New York City are vulnerable to the "storm surge" from a hurricane.

A "storm surge" refers to the "dome" of ocean water propelled by the winds and low barometric pressure of a hurricane. Storm surge from hurricanes have been known to destroy large buildings and communities close to the coastline.

Large areas of southern Queens, southern Brooklyn, the lower east and west sides of Manhattan, and the perimeter of Staten Island could all suffer damage from a hurricane's storm surge. In addition, storm surge from a strong hurricane would not be limited to waterfront properties and could conceivably push miles inland in some areas. New York City's unique geography — located at a "bend" in the coastline between New Jersey and Long Island — makes it especially vulnerable.

Mr. Berkowitz concluded by discussing some of the personal measures citizens should arrange in order to be prepared for an emergency. Additional details are listed at the OEM's web site at :

<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/oem/home.html>

The next speaker was Kimberly Kolhausen who is an independent ethics consultant and professor of humanities at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, New York.

Ms. Kohlhausen presented a fictionalized scenario simulating a covert smallpox attack on the United States. The scenario, titled "Dark Winter", was the first such exercise of its kind and was prepared by the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies in May of 2002. It was constructed to examine the challenges senior level policy makers would face if confronted with a bio-terrorist attack initiating outbreaks of a highly contagious disease.



Ms. Kimberly Kohlhausen speaking about "Dark Winter" which is a fictionalize scenario simulating a biological attack on the United States of America

The goals and objectives of this scenario where to 1) confront senior leaders with the complex challenges of a biological attacks on the United States, 2) to examine state and federal reaction to a crisis that is simultaneously local and national in scope, to evaluate options for containing the spread of a lethal contagious disease, 3) address information management needs and the role of the media, and 4) to handle the ethical, political, cultural, operational, and legal challenges.

The scenario begins with some two dozen patients reporting to hospitals with an illness which is quickly confirmed as smallpox. Immediately issues regarding containment and vaccination surface. Also, the country must determine if it is at war.

Within a week the original two dozen cases have multiplied into 2,000 cases in 15 states. Public fear grows, sporadic violence begins to occur, travel restrictions are instituted and economic disruption begins to occur. The participants realize that the current vaccine reserves cannot contain the epidemic.

Within two weeks of the original outbreak, the epidemic explodes. 14,000 cases in 25 states are reported to the Center for Disease Control and thousands are dead. The U.S. medical system becomes completely overwhelmed, interstate commerce completely collapses and the national security council is forced to discuss the need for martial law.

The lessons learned from the scenario showed that our leaders are unfamiliar with the implications of

bioterrorist attacks, the available policy option and their consequences, that the lack of sufficient vaccines and therapies severely limits the management options, that the US healthcare system lacks “surge” capacity, and that the federal and state priorities may be unclear, differ or conflict.

As an exercise, the scenario revealed many important items which our leader must consider in order to have adequate preparedness in the case of such a biological attack.

The next speaker was Dr. Robert Rothberg. He is the site director of the New York University Hospital Center Tisch Hospital Emergency Department and serves as chairperson of the hospital’s emergency preparedness committee.

Dr. Rothberg discussed the emergency preparedness plan for the NYU-Tisch Hospital in light of a chemical and/or biological emergency due to anthrax, smallpox, nerve agents, and similar items.

The NYU-Tisch Hospital emergency department is a 23 bed, 911 ambulance receiving hospital with 30,000 annual visits. It is staffed with emergency medicine, board certified emergency physicians 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.



Dr. Falvo discussing how germs become weapons

The lecture concluded with a discussion by Dr. Cathey Falvo on why certain organisms are of concern with respect to being used as biological weapons. Dr. Falvo is a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at New York Medical College (NYMC) and a professor of practice at the School of Public Health, NYMC. She is also director of international and public health at NYMC.

The doctor discussed the basic medical issues behind the such diseases such as anthrax and smallpox and how they can be weaponized. Anthrax, for example, most commonly occurs in wild and domestic animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats, camels, antelopes, and other herbivores), but it can also occur in humans when they are exposed to infected animals or tissue from infected animals. The disease is caused by spore forming bacterium.

Smallpox, as another example, was last seen in the U.S. in 1948. It is highly contagious, has a 30% fatality rate, is spread by inhalation and was “weaponized” by the Soviet Union and other countries during the Cold War.

In general, the seminar provided a sobering look at the very real dangers and effects which can result for the release of “weaponized” biological and/or chemical agents within the populated areas of the United States.

Notes on People

- NYC Board Member Adrian Berezowsky has recently graduated from the Cooper Union School of Architecture. He will peruse his graduate studies at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law.
- Andrey Mykyta has recently graduated from the Cooper Union School of Engineering with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He will pursue his graduate studies at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
- NYC Board Member Ivan Durbak recently competed in and won Tryzub’s 16th annual Spring Tennis Tournament which was held at Tryzubivka in Horsham, Pennsylvania during the weekend of May 3-4. Mr. Durbak is a five-time men’s champion of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USACK).

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<i>Board Member:</i>	Wasył Kinach, PE
<i>Board Member:</i>	Ivan Durbak
<i>Board Member:</i>	Adrian Berezowsky



Keep Us Informed!!!

Please send news items, articles, information about our members and other interesting information to the following address:

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