

## ET CETERA (есеї, роздуми, враження)

DOI: 10.2478/лccc-2023-0007

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### QUALITY EDUCATION FOR FOREIGNERS AT THE CHERKASY STATE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY



On May 17, 2023, at the Cherkasy State University of Technology, teachers, students and guests gathered at a round table on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the faculty for work with foreign students (now the Educational and Scientific Center), an event in which everyone had the opportunity to join online share festive moments.



Cherkasy State Technological University became one of the first institutions of higher education in Ukraine to introduce studies for foreigners. The preparatory faculty for working with foreign students was created in the Cherkasy branch of the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute (KPI) in 1988. Foreign citizens came to Cherkasy from different parts of the world. The number of foreigners in 1988-1990s reached 120-140 people, and they studied only by state order.

Over the years of its existence, more than 3,000 foreign students from 80 countries of the world, including China, Vietnam, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Nepal, India, Palestine, Jordan, countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, studied at Cherkasy State University of Technology (from Argentina, Peru, Bolivia), Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Israel, Germany, Turkey, who not only received a quality education, but also carried with them a part of Ukrainian culture to different corners of the planet. Several foreign graduates continued their studies at the graduate school of ChSTU and conducted their candidate theses.

Five years ago, at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the faculty, about 20 former foreign graduates gathered together in the walls of their native alma mater to remember their student years. Thus, former students who came from different parts of the world, namely from Peru, Palestine, Cameroon, India, Morocco, Syria, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon and other countries, recalled life in the dormitory, how they met Ukrainian girls, successes and learning problems. They also remembered their teachers with gratitude and thanked them for «teaching them how to live». By the way, many of the present graduates stayed in Ukraine and have Ukrainian wives. One of them is Jean Mark from Cameroon, a former student of the Faculty of Information Technologies and Systems, a regular participant in many cultural events, a graduate of ChSTU, who is now successfully working in England, in the field of IT technologies, says: «We are all from different countries, but we are united».

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by the Cherkasy State Technological University. Therefore, I thank all my teachers for teaching us, for being patient. Each teacher gave what he had so that we could acquire the knowledge we have today».

Celebrations and ceremonial events took place throughout the week. This is an excursion to the Cold Ravine (*Kholodny Yar*), and an excursion to the city of Cherkasy, which has become a second home during the years of study, and meetings with teachers and fellow students, and of course, a wonderful and unforgettable concert, which was built as a journey through different countries from where the students came. Students talked about their native countries, showed videos, sang national songs and performed folk dances. Of course, everyone also sang Ukrainian songs together: «Chervona Ruta», «You tricked me», «Flowing water into the blue sea».



This year, at the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the faculty, about 30 students were able to join the round table online, and some even visited their home university at such a difficult time. They are graduate from Lebanon – Anani Hassan, graduate (and now university teacher) from Mauritania – Mekuria Kelkai Demessie, Akmiradova Aylar – from Turkmenistan. Thanks to technical progress, graduates of different years and teachers had the opportunity to share memories, achievements, news, warm words of gratitude and congratulations, emotions and smiles.



At the meeting, they flipped through an album with old and new photos on the screen, recalled their years of study, interesting stories, recalled past concerts, and sang together songs that are not forgotten over the years.

Tetiana Isayenko presented a new conversational textbook for foreigners «Welcome to Ukraine» (authors: Larisa Piatkovska, Olena Pchelintseva, Tetiana Isaienko, Olena Denga, designer-illustrator Viktoriia Kudrevych), encouraging foreign graduates not to stop improving the Ukrainian language, so that very soon - after victory, they did not experience language barriers on the hospitable Ukrainian land.

Graduates of the faculty of work with foreign students return to their homeland as highly qualified specialists. Many of them turned out to be good organizers of enterprises, businessmen, and politicians. After graduation, foreign students do not lose contact with our faculty, university and teachers.

Many foreign graduates have become representatives of our educational institution in different countries of the world. Returning to their homeland, students create associations of former graduates, celebrate traditional Ukrainian holidays together, and help graduates find employment.

The positions that graduates hold after graduating from our educational institution indicate the quality level of education they received. Here are just a few examples.

Riad Walid Mustafa (Palestine) is the president of the Association of Foreign Graduates of ChDTU, he created the page of ChDTU graduates on the Internet. Describing himself at the meeting:



After completing my studies in Cherkasy in 1995, I went to Palestine and began working at Birzeit University, one of the oldest universities in the country. I was employed in the Continuing Education Department, where I held the position of IT support for over a year. During this time, I also started providing training at the center and continued to do so until 2008, serving as the primary trainer for both the private and public sectors as well as with students. In 2008, I underwent an intensive course in Germany and obtained prequalification in soft-skills training. This qualification allowed me to take on the role of managing the entire lifecycle of training programs at the Center, catering to various target groups, ranging from senior Ministry personnel to illiterate youth, in both governmental and private institutions. My responsibilities encompassed training needs assessment, curriculum development, and training delivery, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the training programs. Since 2011, I have been working as a Freelance Consultant and International Trainer, specializing in soft-skills training. I have conducted training sessions in Palestine, the Middle East, and Europe, expanding my reach to different regions.

In his welcoming speech, Riad Mustafa said:

Now I really feel the city of Cherkasy with you. It is very nice to see graduates whom I have not seen since university days! The words I heard from the teachers and staff were as warm as it was 30 years ago, when I was attending courses that not only gave me knowledge, but also taught me how to adapt in this life, now I travel a lot to different countries, and when I meet old graduates, I always meet them with intimate feelings, because our native university united us into a one big family.

Mohammed Aroggy (Palestine – Ukraine) – editor-in-chief of the newspaper «Ukraine Today» in Arabic; Mohammad Hamzeh from Lebanon, he studied at the Cherkassy State Technological University majoring in computer networking and graduated in 2005 with a master's degree. Now he is an Ambassador in The International Organization for Peace and Development (NGO-IGO-support United Nations) (The Representative of The Global Coalition for Children's Rights in Europe). Mohammed sent his congratulations, where he said: «I really love our university and our teachers and everyone who worked with us and helped to achieve success».

And despite all the challenges of our time, long distances, different cultures, languages, all graduate students and teachers are united by their native university and love for Ukraine, for Cherkasy, for their alma mater – Cherkasy State Technological University!

## **Резюме**

**Деньга Олена**

### **ЯКІСНА ОСВІТА ДЛЯ ІНОЗЕМЦІВ В ЧЕРКАСЬКОМУ ДЕРЖАВНОМУ ТЕХНОЛОГІЧНОМУ УНІВЕРСИТЕТІ**

17 травня 2023 року в Черкаському державному технологічному університеті за круглим столом із нагоди 35-ї річниці від дня створення факультету по роботі з іноземними студентами (нині Навчально-науковий центр) зібралися викладачі, студенти та гості події, до якої мали нагоду доєднатися онлайн всі охочі розділити святкові миттєвості. Завдячуючи технічному прогресу, випускники різних років та з різних країн мали нагоду поділитися спогадами, досягненнями, теплими словами вдячності і привітань, співали разом пісні, які крізь роки не забуваються.

Черкаський державний технологічний університет став одним із перших закладів вищої освіти України, що запровадив навчання для іноземців, – підготовчий факультет по роботі з іноземними студентами був створений у 1988 р. За ці роки в Черкаському державному технологічному університеті здобули вищу освіту понад 3000 іноземних студентів з 80-ти країн світу, зокрема з Китаю, В'єтнаму, Лівану, Сирії, Іраку, Непалу, Індії, Палестини, Йорданії, Аргентини, Перу, Болівії, Гани, Азербайджану, Туркменістану, Грузії, Ізраїлю, Німеччини, Італії, Туреччини тощо.

Випускники факультету повертаються на батьківщину висококваліфікованими спеціалістами. Багато з них виявили себе талановитими

організаторами підприємств, бізнесменами, політиками. Посади, які випускники обіймають після закінчення нашого навчального закладу, вказують на якісний рівень освіти, яку вони отримали в Черкасах. Після закінчення ЧДТУ іноземні студенти не втрачають зв'язок з нашим університетом і Україною – вони створюють асоціації колишніх випускників, разом святкують традиційні українські свята, допомагають працевлаштуватися випускникам, а після 24 лютого почали активно допомагати Україні пережити складні ці часи. Незважаючи на всі виклики нашого часу, на воєнний стан, на великі відстані, різні культури, мови, всіх студентів-випускників і викладачів об'єднує любов до України, до Черкас, до альма-матер – Черкаського державного технологічного університету!

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