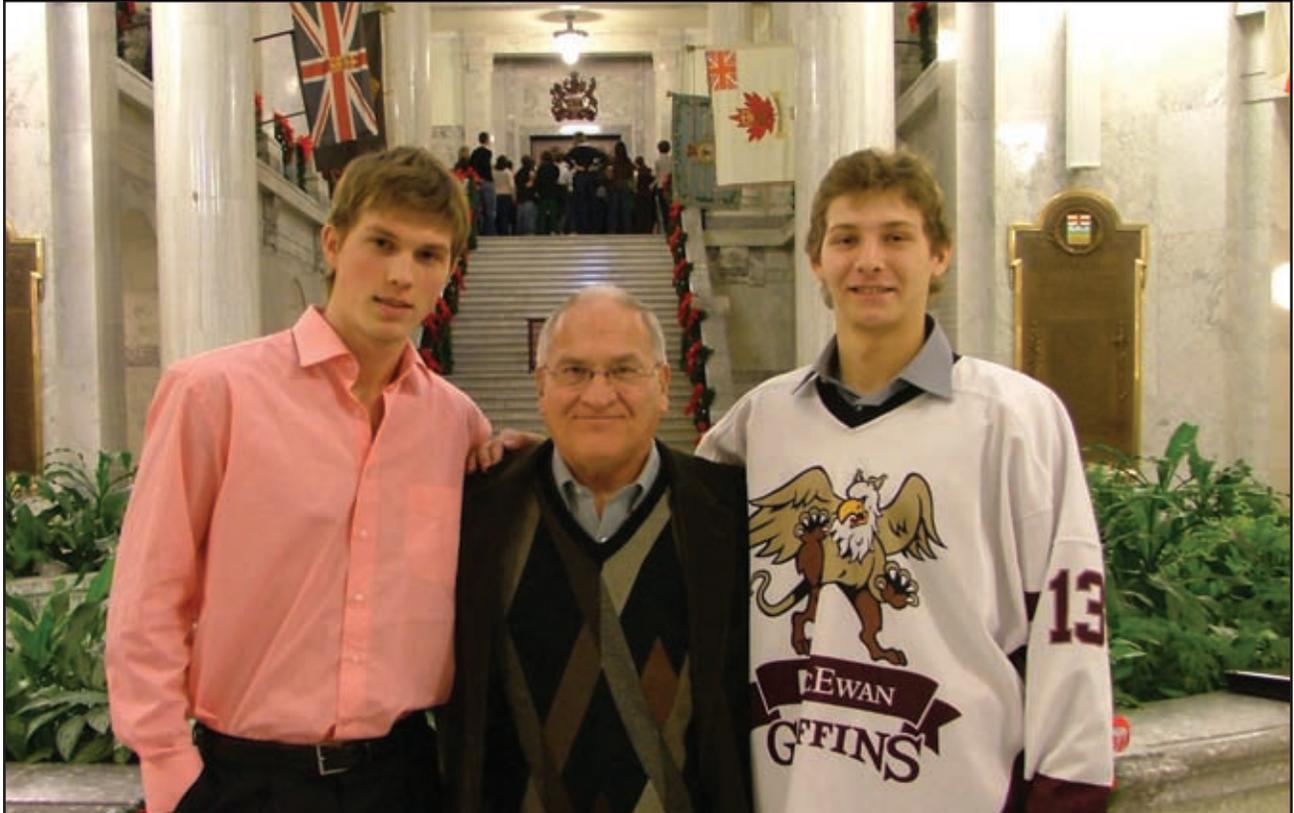


# The Winning Goal

A newsletter from the Eugene Kinasewich Fund  
Volume II, Number 1 — Winter, 2008



## Like Gene, His Fund Keeps Shooting for Continued Success



Bob Kinasewich, Gene's younger brother, is flanked by Oleg Koval (left) and Artem Zemelyev in the rotunda of the Province of Alberta Legislative Building in Edmonton. Artem graduated from Arlington Catholic H.S. last year and is now wearing Gene's #13 while playing for the Griffins. Oleg, who followed a year in Kentucky with two years at Vermont Academy, developed a passion for art, which enabled him to be accepted at several arts colleges. He will pursue art and play hockey at Grant MacEwan.

A new school year is underway and a new batch of success stories is being written at prep schools and universities across the country. Of particular interest to the friends of the late Gene Kinasewich are the stories that feature 19 student-athletes from the Ukraine who are being supported by the Eugene Kinasewich Fund.

These stories are inspirational. And they beg for happy endings that are expected but not guaranteed. They also represent just a fraction of what can be done for so many others in the future.

Read them and decide for yourself.

### Oleksii Koval

Oleksii led the way for the boys and girls from Druzhba as the first student sponsored by the Kinasewich Fund to graduate from high school and matriculate to college. He did the near impossible when he attended Albany Academy, earned nearly perfect grades in his first year studying in English, applied to colleges and was accepted at Hobart.

Now in his junior year, Oleksii is an excellent student with a 3.60 GPA. He is studying business and plays varsity hockey. He wrote in a note to the board of the Kinasewich Fund:

"I feel very thankful to the Gene Kinasewich Fund for being chosen for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Without them I would never have gotten where I am today. I never realized how much

work was put into education here in America. I feel a strong desire to help other students come and study in America. Because of this many more children will get the opportunity to do what I have done and hopefully this chain will continue into future generations"

*At right: Oleksii Koval presents the flag of Ukraine in a "hall of flags" at Hobart and William Smith Colleges' convocation honoring the national flags of all their international students.*



### Vika Mykolenko

"When Victoriya ('Vika') Mykolenko matriculated in the Tenth Grade at Southfield School in September, 2005, her English reading comprehension tested at a fourth-grade level. Thirty-six months later, she matriculated as a freshman at Brown University. She is a credit to Gene, and in a perfect world he would have lived to see

(Continued on Page Two)

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THE  
EUGENE KINASEWICH  
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*Gene Kinasewich cuts in on the Boston College goal and wins the 1963 ECAC Championship for Harvard in overtime. We're not in "OT" but we could use a big assist. Won't you take the time to give to the Kinasewich Fund today?*

## Vika Mykolenko's Story

(Continued from Page One)

what she becomes.

"Vika's story cannot be told without mentioning Lev and Cathy Byrd, who have hosted and supported her since she first arrived in United States. As Vika wrote in a recent e-mail to the Byrds, 'For me knowing that you care and think of me is the best gift I can get as it motivates my little steps to a great accomplishment that someday I will achieve. And it would not have been the same if you weren't there.'"

David A. Mittell, Jr.



Vika Mykolenko, above center with Cathy and Levy Byrd, is a freshman at Brown University. The Byrds hosted Vika from her first arrival in the United States.

## Sasha Romanenko, Igor Yegorchev, and Dima Naida



Sasha Romanenko (Hebron), Igor Yegorychev (Brewster) and Dima Naida (Hebron) are pictured above after a D-II prep playoff game which occurred in their first year of prep school sponsored by Gene's Fund. Hebron won this game 7-6 in the final seconds - but only after then sophomore Yegorychev had tied the game for underdog Brewster with just two minutes to play. Their years at prep school gave them the opportunity to master English so they could read and write at a college level, continue their education and extend their hockey playing career. All three have moved on to college - Romanenko is a sophomore at Manhattanville and Yegorychev and Naida are attending The University of New England.

### Sergiy Sorokolat

Sergiy Sorokolat (below) played goal on the hockey team and had a 3.80 GPA during his freshman year at Manhattanville. As notable as this was, Sergiy believes he can do better. Sergiy chose to write a note to the board about his experience performing community service:

"As a Duchesne Center Scholar, I was required to do thirty hours of community service to maintain my scholarship. One of the programs I participated in was the Burke Wheelchair Games at the Burke Rehabilitation Center. I am ashamed to say, but I never thought that physically disabled children could be so competitive and passionate during athletic competitions. They were so competitive that I thought that if all athletes would compete with the same passion I saw in these people, new world records would appear more frequently. It was amazing! Never in my life have I felt such happiness and excitement for another's achievement."



### Artem Gumenyuk

Artem Gumenyuk (at right) is currently in his second year at Manhattanville College. He writes, "My first year in college gave me a lot more experience that I have gained from being in prep school for two years. Now that in college you have to pretty much be on your own and take care of yourself, whether in prep school you were taken care of. The whole new life opened in front of me when I came to Manhattanville College, with its multinational community I had chance to interact not only with Americans but with students from different Latin American, African, European and from other regions countries. Doing a community service for my school was big part of my life after studying and playing hockey.

"Being on the hockey team in Manhattanville was not only about playing hockey, Coaches were pushing us to give back to the community providing us with lots of community services. The one event that especially stayed in my memory is the one where we had to supervise and help out organizers as a referees at so called Burke Wheelchair Games, participants were mostly children with different types of inabilities and had to use wheelchairs that competed among each others between the different age groups. I saw such kids with inabilities that still wanted to compete and live their lives and for me it was a great experience for my future life. From the experience that I got when I interacted with the kids, I should not in any way feel bad about my life. If I will have problems with studying or being away from my parents and so on, because I am healthy and I have my two arms and two legs, I can walk, whether the kids

### Liza Ryabkina



In pure hockey terms, no one has made a more immediate impact than Liza Ryabkina, now a Harvard sophomore. In her first year, Ryabkina was a key player on a Crimson squad that won Beanpot and ECAC titles. This fall, she earned ECAC Player of the Week honors when she recorded her first collegiate hat trick in a 6-4 win at Princeton. Normally a defenseman, Ryabkina produced her hat trick while playing up front.

that I saw have to use wheelchairs for the rest of their lives. I am very grateful for the opportunity that I got to take part of the "Burke Wheelchair Games" it opened my eyes for lot of things in my life that before I took for granted. Because of this particular experience I am pushing myself harder in school and on the Ice Rink.

"With my first year as a freshman behind, I am looking forward into another three years at Manhattanville College. I feel very fortunate to be at this college and I realized that I am very fortunate to be healthy, educated and I am able to help others."



### **Pasha Kozhokin**

Pasha Koshokin is now a freshman at Norwich University. He attended the Canterbury School and played for the Boston Bulldogs. He submitted the following before starting the year at Norwich.

"A lot of my classmates at high school did not know what they wanted to study in college. I did. I wanted to master engineering. I have done very well in mathematics and science courses at Canterbury School. It helped me choose a path I want to take.

"However, there was a problem. None of the schools that accepted me had engineering programs. I had to make a decision whether I should go to college and try to study something other than engineering, or take a year off from school, play junior hockey and re-apply a year later. I chose to wait another year.

"Junior hockey fills the gap between high school and college hockey. It prepares players for a more competitive level. It prepared me as well.

"I started the year with the New England Junior Huskies whose rink is in northern Massachusetts. While playing hockey in the afternoon, I took an American History course at a local community college. The course kept me reading and writing in English, which paid off when I took the SAT test a few months later. I got the highest score I had ever had. My improvement was tremendous, and it gave me a better chance of getting into a good college bringing me a step closer to my goal.



"In November, I changed teams. I became a Boston Bulldog with new faces, new demands, and new coaches. I had to adjust and fit in as soon as possible, because their season was going full steam. The kids on my new team were very nice to me, and I felt I was in the right place. I enjoyed working with the Bulldogs' coaching staff very much, and especially with the head coach Mike Addesa. 'Big Mike,' as a lot of people called him, had at least a PHD in ice hockey. I don't think there is one thing in this sport he doesn't know. I had a lot of fun playing for him. At the same time he demanded a lot. He was unhappy with every player who did not play at his best every game and every practice of the season. One of his quotes that stuck in my memory is, 'You have no idea what it takes to play college hockey!' He used it very often, and for the most part he was right. Being on the Bulldogs helped me to learn 'what it takes,' and I am ready to play college ice hockey.

"I have been accepted to Norwich University. It is a great college with an engineering school. The hockey coaches are counting on me and I am looking forward to playing there for the next four years.

"I am grateful to Gene's Fund for its support this year. I made a very risky decision, and could have ended up not getting into an American college at all. But with the Fund's support, I was able to earn a spot at Norwich.

"I am planning to go to a graduate school after my graduation. I also hope that one day I will be able to help kids in Ukraine the way Eugene Kinasevich's Fund helps me today."

### **Oxana Tkachenko**

One of the younger students benefitting from the Gene Fund, Oxana Tkachenko has shown her athletic versatility on the Southfield Tennis team. Oxana was a freshman at Southfield where she had a fantastic first year studying in the United States. Oxana ascended to 1st player on the tennis team and also played soccer at Southfield. She is currently a sophomore at the White Mountain School. Oxana is the third young lady to be sponsored by Gene's fund and is also the grand niece of Gene Kinasevich. David Mittell Jr. explains his introduction to Oxana:

"In 1973, Gene Kinasevich invited me to go to the Soviet Union, including Ukraine, with Tim Taylor, on the legendary tour by Boston-area high school hockey all-stars. Twenty-seven years later, I invited Gene to go to Ukraine, where I was doing a story on one of orthopedic surgeon George Whitelaw's medical missions.

"There, on May 24, 2000, he met his first cousins Anton and Stephan Kinasevich for the only time, and we all met Anton's seven-year-old great granddaughter, Oxana Tkachenko. Even then, Oxana's charm, intelligence and gift for leadership were apparent."



**Oxana Tkachenko, (top row, at left) rose to 1st Player on her Southfield School tennis team. She is now at the White Mountain School.**

### **Vlad Garik and Yegor Bezuglyy**

Vlad Garik and Yegor Bezuglyy are the newest students to be sponsored by the Gene Fund and the generous contributions of their host parents Jennifer Lynch and Mike O'Leary. Jennifer has been the driving force behind bringing both Vlad (who is at Hebron Academy) and also Biza (a junior at Needham High School) to the United States. Jennifer and Mike host Biza in their home while he attends Needham, and Vlad during vacations and long weekends.



**Vlad Gavrik (right) is one of two new students being supported by the Kinasevich Fund this year. A junior at Hebron Academy, he is joined by Yegor Bezuglyy, who is attending Needham High School.**

Roman Khromushkin



A number of the student-athletes were fortunate to experience the thrill of winning team championships. One such beneficiary was Roman Khromushkin (top right, just below head coach Larry Cockrell.) This was a big victory for Kents Hill second-year coach Cockrell, who moved Khromushkin from forward to defense to best utilize his skating, quickness, and puck-retrieval abilities.

Alex Mykolenko



Alex Mykolenko (right), with Skidmore College co-captains Teddy Gowan (left) and Ted Levine, was named to the ECAC East All-Rookie Team last season.

## Appreciation for Gene's Vision and The Role of the Coach

It is so exciting and rewarding to see Gene's vision come true. Dmytro Naida, currently at the University of New England, describes it well: "Mr. Gene Kinasevich had a dream to help us get an education in the United States. He believed that cultural exchange and the opportunity for education was a way to improve ourselves as young people, and to help other people in Ukraine when we go home. I believe in this idea too, and I do not have to wait until I go home to do something about it. I believe I will have success in my life because Mr. Kinasevich and the people just like him who help me. I feel that I have to give back something that Mr. Kinasevich can be proud of. I have a lot to share with other students at the University of New England. I want to help people achieve their goals in life the way other people have helped me."

There are so many people who have contributed to the success of the Fund and all its goals that singling out one person or one group of people is difficult. On the hockey side, coaches play a key role with these student-athletes, not only in the obvious teaching that takes place on and off the ice but also in the equally important role of helping to place the student-athletes in prep school or college. Allow us a modest "hats off" to two such coaches.



Ivan Oliynyk holds up his Boston Bulldogs jersey with coach Mike Adessa. Like most of the prep and junior coaches, Coach Adessa has been extremely helpful in advancing the careers of the Ukrainian student-athletes.

Almost four years ago, Coach Mike Adessa accepted an invitation on behalf of the Boston Bulldogs to play against the Druzhba Hockey Club in an exhibition game hosted by Yale and Tim Taylor. Gene Kinasevich attended the game and it turned out it was the only loss the Druzhba club, a midget aged team, experienced in a 23 game tour against prep and junior aged teams. It was their thirteenth game in thirteen days.

Coach Adessa was impressed with the caliber and unique style of play of the Druzhba club and introduced Druzhba to Lance Lofaro at HNIB - and the Druzhba club was invited to play five exhibition games in a tournament later that summer. This became the opportunity to showcase and place a number of the students in prep schools.

Coach Adessa's involvement did not stop there. When Pasha Kozhokin, a strong student at Canterbury, decided to try to go to an engineering school, coach Adessa took Pasha for a year while he applied to engineering schools. Pasha was recruited to Norwich and is playing hockey there this year. This year, Ivan Oliynyk is a Bulldog, and Coach Adessa, along with assistants John Anderson and Bernie Sanford, will attempt to mold him into a college level player.

Tim Taylor (right), a founder of the Kinasevich Fund and the former Yale Hockey Coach, is currently in his second year of assisting USA Hockey with its National Team Development Program in Ann Arbor, MI. From the beginning of this endeavor, he has supported the students by his attendance at their games and special events, as well as providing counsel in so many other ways. Tim, like others associated with the Fund, works equally hard to deflect any credit for what he does.



Coaches like Mike and Tim, along with the host families we identify in the student-athlete roster on Page Six, are the real heroes who bring Gene's vision to life. In this newsletter, we wish to convey a special thanks to them all. Without them, these wonderful stories presented here would not happen.

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

The Fund is entering into its fourth school year. Please take the time to read this newsletter, and learn more about the activities of the Fund's students and their thoughts about all they have experienced. I hope you will find them as interesting and uplifting as we do.

This letter is a fund raising appeal. I know these are difficult economic times, but we cannot use this as an excuse to abandon these worthy students.

We are helping nineteen Ukrainian students complete their education in the USA and Canada. Fifteen are in college, two in prep school, one in high school, and one in junior hockey expecting to enroll in college next year. These students have been awarded scholarships and stipends from the various schools and colleges they attend. However, they also need additional money for transportation, visa fees, medical insurance, lab fees, and other out of pocket costs. Only with the Fund's help are the students able to accept the scholarships and grants they have worked so hard to achieve.

In the three and one half years the Fund has been in existence, the students have received more than **\$2,000,000 in scholarships!** Thanks to the generous support of people like you, we have been able to pay more than \$700,000 for tuition and expenses. **THUS EVERY DOLLAR PAID BY THE FUND HAS LEVERAGED THREE DOLLARS IN SCHOLARSHIP AID!**

Our budget for this school year is \$175,000. We have paid grants so far of \$85,000. **We need to raise a minimum of \$115,000 for this year and another \$400,000 to complete our funding obligations to support the group of students through college.**

Because we are a totally volunteer organization, every dollar you give goes to funding the incremental needs of the students we sponsor.

Please help us meet our budget for this year by sending the enclosed envelope with your donation so together we can continue to achieve Gene's vision.

Thank you so much for giving this appeal and newsletter your attention.

With best regards,  
Bill Beckett, President

## Student-Athlete Update

Name 2008-09 Grade/School/Team  
(Previously attended school in parentheses.)

Yegor Bezugly Junior, Needham High School  
Host Family: Mike O'Leary & Jennifer Lynch

Vlad Gavrik Junior, Hebron Academy  
Host Family: Mike O'Leary & Jennifer Lynch

Artem Gumenyuk Sophomore, Manhattanville College  
(South Kent School) - Host Family: Mario Pereira

Danil Guryev Freshman, Neumann College  
(South Kent School) - Host Family: Tom & Nicole Aroksaar

Roman Khromushkin Fr., University of New England  
(Kent's Hill School) - Host Family: Drew & Tracy Loutit

Oleg Koval Fr., Grant MacEwan College  
(Vermont Academy) - Host Family: Bob Kinasewich

Oleksii Koval Junior, Hobart College  
(Albany Academy) - Host Family: Tom & Angela Sheehan

Pasha Kozhokin Freshman, Norwich University  
(Canterbury School) - Host Family: Dennis & Claudia O'Donnell

Roman Krivda Sophomore, Norwich University  
(Trinity-Pawling School) - Host Family: Sarah Greene

[Note: His ECAC East Champion team is shown below.]



Alex Mykolenko Sophomore, Skidmore College  
(Northwood School) - Host Family: Leo Rempal

Vika Mykolenko Freshman, Brown University  
(Proctor Academy) - Host Family: Lev & Cathy Byrd

Dima Naida Sophomore, University of New England  
(Hebron Academy) - Host Family: Dennis & Claudia O'Donnell

Ivan Oliinyk Senior, Boston Bulldogs Juniors  
(Winchendon) - Host Family: Frank & Donna Agostino

Sasha Romanenko Manhattanville College  
(Hebron Academy) - Host Family: Sandy & Linda Milley

Liza Ryabkina Sophomore, Harvard College  
(Berkshire School) - Host Family: Paul & Joan Parsons

Sergiy Sorokolat Sophomore, Manhattanville College  
(South Kent School) - John Greason & Janet Koupash

Oxana Tkachenko Sophomore, White Mountain School  
(Southfield School) - Host Family: Leonora Thomas & Daniel Abrams

Igor Yegorychev Freshman, University of New England  
(Brewster Academy) - Host Family: Mike & Nikki Murphy

Artem Zemelyev Freshman, Grant MacEwan College  
(Arlington Catholic High School) - Host Family: Mike & Jane Byrne