



Kinasewich Fund Update: Sergiy Sorokolat, Manhattanville Class of 2011

Among the many success stories of the Kinasewich Fund in the five years of its operation, Sergiy Sorokolat has been a singular standout. Now in his third year at Mahattanville, he has distinguished himself in the classroom, on the ice, and in his contributions to the community. His journey has been one of accomplishments born of dedication, commitment and relentless hard work.

In February of 2005, when Sergiy decided to apply to schools in the US as a Kinasewich Fund student, there was no assurance that he would realize this goal. Application deadlines had passed and positions on teams—especially for goalies—had long been filled. Yet, as goaltender for the visiting Druzhba 78 midget team from Kharkiv, Ukraine, he had lost only one of the 23 games he had played in 25 days that month. More importantly, by then he had met Gene Kinasewich and in him had found a champion.

In September, 2005 Sergiy began his American education as a third year student at the South Kent School where he starred as goalie on the ice hockey team. He faced significant challenges studying in English, but was absolutely committed not just to succeed, but to excel. **By the time Sergiy graduated he had proven to be a standout in every arena. He was not only the MVP on the Varsity Ice Hockey team, but also won the George D. Knopf Science Prize, the Senior Art Prize and the Senior Prize for Mathematics. In addition, he was awarded the James S. Johnson Cup as the “sixth form student who enriches our community by using all of his talents to their fullest.”** In many ways Sergiy’s experience at South Kent, and the impact he made on the South Kent community, mirrored Gene Kinasewich’s transforming experience at Deerfield Academy.

Fast forward to November, 2009, Sergiy Sorokolat is the heart and soul of the Manhattanville Valiants ice hockey team. A news article late in his sophomore year noted that Sergiy “earned the conference’s Goaltender of the Week honor on four separate occasions this season,” and that “his career 1.191 goals against average makes him the only netminder in program history to average less than two goals against in over 500 minutes on the ice.” He is deter-



mined to at least maintain that level of success this season and would love to see those records bested.

Although hockey is central to his life at Manhattanville, Sergiy has made a strong commitment to his academic program. A business major, he has maintained a 3.72 GPA while meeting his commitments as an athlete and also contributing significantly as a volunteer in the community.

As a Duchesne Center scholar, Sergiy is committed to doing thirty hours of community service per semester as a prerequisite for maintaining his scholarship. He has met this



From left, Sergiy Sorokolat, Sasha Romanenko, and Ricky Broderson.

requirement by volunteering in two settings: at the Burke Wheelchair Games for disabled youths and in the Introduction of Nintendo Wii in a local senior center. He describes his involvement in community service as “a unique and priceless experience.”

Volunteering with disabled young athletes was an eye-opener for Sergiy who found their commitment and passion in competition to be a revelation. “Never in my life have I felt such happiness and excitement for another’s achievement. It was a tremendous experience for me dealing with young athletes at the Burke Wheelchair Games.”

As a volunteer in the Nintendo Wii program Sergei has worked with senior citizens using wireless technology to engage in a variety of sports and games. He introduced the residents to playing virtual golf, tennis, baseball, bowling and even boxing. During a boxing match one senior remarked, “Wow! I never thought that I could throw an uppercut at my age, especially against such a young opponent!” As Sergiy observed, “It was very pleasant to watch, cooperate, cheer and even debate with some of the seniors during the virtual sport activities. I could truly say that all of them have young, emotional and competitive souls and I think it is so great that they can take sport activities, even in their old age.” He is looking forward to volunteering in other senior homes with the Nintendo Wii program in the near future.

It is clear that Sergiy’s education has been enhanced by his experiences volunteering with physically challenged athletes and the elderly. In his words, “I had not expected to have these experiences as part of going to college. They have been very rewarding for me personally. I truly think that the Duchesne center has helped me understand that sometimes a small thing can make a big difference.”

Sergiy’s hockey coach, Keith Levinthal says: “Sergiy is a remarkably mature young man. He works in the Library which speaks for itself. Not only is he a great student, but he is also one of the best goalies in the country. In our program, we talk everyday about being excellent students, good citizens on campus, and contributing members of our community. Sergiy is the role model for this vision.”



The Eugene Kinasevich Fund, Inc.

c/o William H. M. Beckett
 104 Congress Street - Suite 304
 Portsmouth, NH 03801
 (603) 766-4444
 attorneybeckett@yahoo.com

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Gene Kinasevich slips the puck past Boston College goaltender Tom Aprille to win the 1963 ECAC final in overtime.

The Eugene Kinasevich Fund: How It Began

The Eugene Kinasevich Fund was established by Gene and his friends and family to foster opportunities for educational, cultural, athletic and artistic exchanges from and between Ukraine and North America - in recognition of Gene's contributions to humankind and lifelong interest in helping young persons have better lives.

Inspired by the cultural impact of his own educational and athletic experiences, Gene appreciated not only the individual benefits of his own opportunities but also how understanding differences and shared goals could contribute to a safer world with greater economic opportunity for all.

One of Gene's efforts in this regard was his work with a hockey club from Eastern Ukraine called Druzhba (which means "friendship"). Many times from approximately 1995 to January 2005, Gene helped arrange for travel, billeting and competition in North America for youth from this club. During their January 2005 tour, the high school aged children of the Druzhba'78 Hockey Club from Kharkov, Ukraine played against a number of prep school teams and were exposed to the concept of combining education and sport.

During the winter of 2005, Gene and friends worked with the student-athletes of Druzhba to develop opportunities to continue their education and pursue their passion for hockey, opportunities that would not be available to them in Ukraine. A number of these student-athletes wrote applications for admission to prep school. After Gene passed away and the Kinasevich Fund was formed, the Druzhba project was the first project embraced by the Fund.

The Kinasevich Fund currently supports 19 students from Ukraine. During the 2009-2010 school year, 16 students are attending colleges and three are attending prep schools. The fund has made commitments to support the progress of these applicants in several ways. The fund has committed to provide grants to those students admitted to school for expenses including travel, insurance, books, lab fees and certain other non tuition related expenses. In certain instances, the Kinasevich Fund may also provide significant scholarship support as well.

How You Can Help

The generosity of the many host schools along with Gene's friends, family, teammates and classmates have made this effort the tremendous success that it has been. It costs an average of \$10,000 per student per annum in this age of \$50,000 prep school and college fees.

Any help you can provide to assist us in this most gratifying project would be greatly appreciated." Please make your check payable to The Eugene Kinasevich Fund and mail to:

The Eugene Kinasevich Fund
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 Portsmouth, NH 03801