

Contact: Katerina Tsetsura
Gaylord Family Professor of Public Relations and Strategic Communication
Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication
tsetsura@ou.edu

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Gaylord College and the College of International Studies Host Ukrainian Journalist for Exhibition, Panel Discussion

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the media are invited to attend the exhibition opening and panel discussion. Media inquiries and requests for interviews can be directed to Katerina Tsetsura at tsetsura@ou.edu.]

NORMAN, OKLA. – The Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication and the College of International Studies at the University of Oklahoma will host a photo exhibition and panel discussion in Norman related to the war in Ukraine on April 17-18. The featured guest is Tanya Gordiienko, a Ukrainian journalist, activist and doctoral student at National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy School of Journalism in Kyiv.

Gordiienko, currently a visiting researcher at Purdue University in the Brian Lamb School of Communication and Purdue Policy Research Institute, worked for a number of Ukrainian news media outlets before joining nonprofit organizations Detector Media and Media Development Foundation. Media Development Foundation was created before the Euromaidan protest movement in 2013 as a response by independent journalists to the Yanukovich regime's repression of the press. The organization provides tools and training for sustainable media development and helps media organizations facilitate access to trustworthy information in their local communities. With the start of full-scale military aggression by Russia, the organization has shifted its efforts to save independent journalism in Ukraine.

Gordiienko will speak on Tuesday, April 18, as part of a panel discussion, "Journalism in Times of War," set for 1:30 p.m. in Gaylord Hall Auditorium, 395 W. Lindsey St. Other panelists include Mike Boetcher, a former war correspondent for CNN, NBA and ABC, and OU faculty. The discussion is free and open to the public.

Also related to Gordiienko's visit is a photo exhibition, "Ukrainian Grit and Hope." The exhibition, which runs April 18-21, features photos by Gordiienko's husband, photojournalist Vitalii Nosach, documenting the war and its impact on daily life in Ukraine.

An opening reception for OU faculty, staff, students and members of the media will be held Monday, April 17, in the Gaylord Hall rotunda space (first floor) at 5 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

As a man of military age, Nosach is required by law to remain in Ukraine, but he was able to provide a statement about his work via video:

“Covering this war, I saw how much grief one country can bring to another,” he said. “The grief is of such a scale that it is difficult to comprehend. Tens of thousands of lives lost and millions destroyed. Many other millions of separated families, thousands of blown-up homes, and entire cities ruined. I saw crimes against humanity that will be left unpunished. I would like the audience to understand that there are people and countries against which it is necessary to fight. This is a struggle against pure evil.”

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About the David L. Boren College of International Studies

The College of International Studies at the University of Oklahoma is a comprehensive global college that conducts and offers international research efforts and partnerships, undergraduate and graduate degree programs, regional and thematic outreach centers and institutes, a wide range of study abroad opportunities, and a vibrant international student community. Learn more at cis.ou.edu.

About the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication

The Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma is committed to preparing the next generation of media professionals. The college offers five undergraduate majors in advertising, creative media production, journalism, professional writing and public relations, providing students with a diverse and engaging educational experience. In addition to its undergraduate offerings, Gaylord College features graduate and Ph.D. programs, as well as an online master's degree. These advanced programs are designed to nurture academic excellence, adapt to diverse learning needs and inspire innovative thinking among students. For more information, visit ou.edu/gaylord.