

President Jim, Fellow Rotarians and guests

Today I would like for a brief moment to place each of us in an event that hopefully none of us would ever have to encounter.

But first let me begin with my day., Kathy Demerost and myself have attended two of our stay in school “schools” to share our 25 year old successful programme to help kids .Side bar...Kathy did an outstanding presentation. Yes she did!

Now all this brought out my teacher mode. When I saw in Sofia’s bio the term Philology and as a science teacher I asked myself...Is this a miss spelled word which I initially thought was the case. So all out there, who knows the term Philology ? Please put your hand up. Ouch I guess I am not alone..

So then let me define Philology.

**Philology** (from Ancient Greek 'love of word') is the study of language in oral and written historical sources. It is the intersection of textual criticism, literary criticism, history, and linguistics . Philology is also defined as the study of literary texts the establishment of their authenticity and their original form, and the determination of their meaning. A person who pursues this kind of study is known as a **philologist**. .Hmmm...so you ask so what.

Well folks let me begin to tell you so what.....

Our speaker today is Sofia Oseredchuk a 2024 graduate of the Ukrainian Catholic University with a degree in Philology. Her time at UCU was one of the most important in her life, offering not only a quality education and career opportunities but also instilling the core values that continue to guide her.

Sofia's professional journey started in the IT sector. She then joined the administration at Ukrainian Catholic University, working in the Alumni Relations Office, where she worked with her team to organize events and projects. During the early days of the war, like many UCU students, she volunteered.

After graduation, Sofia moved to Calgary to reunite with her family. She currently works as an Office Assistant at Continental Logistics. Passionate about culture, literature, and art, Sofia is also exploring Canadian history and traditions. She dreams of furthering her education in Canada

Today she will share a tiny bit about a student's challenges in the middle of an ugly war.

Ladies and Gentlemen...please join me in welcoming Sophia Oseredchuk.