Dear Dr. Tsependa:

Thank you for your very kind letter. Know that your friends at East Tennessee State University stand in solidarity with Ukraine and with our colleagues at Precarpathian National University, as you defend yourselves against the Russian invasion.

We value the special partnership between our two universities. I remember fondly my time in Ivano-Frankivsk and I commend all of the members of your faculty with whom I had the pleasure of working, including (to name a few) Tanya Blyznyuk, Olena Budnyk, Roman Poznanskyy, Inna Chervinska, Lybov Prokopiv, Yuri Moskalenko, and others. I also recall meeting you in 2013 and again in 2018, when I was able to hear your excellent presentation at the Appalachian Studies Association conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

I am continuing to work to raise awareness about the situation in Ukraine, to raise funds to assist your students and the refugees in your region, and to encourage our leaders to do more. Please let us know if there are other ways in which we may be able to help.

I have kept our university president, Dr. Brian Noland, fully informed of the situation with our partners in Ukraine. He supports our efforts and stands in solidarity with you also. I expect that he will soon communicate with you directly to express his support.

Our hearts go out to all those who have suffered loss and who are in danger from this war. We hope that it ends soon and we look forward to resuming our valuable partnership with your university. We stand with Ukraine!

Sincerely Yours,

Ron Roach