

# The Peter Jacyk Centennial



*From left: George Rupp, president of Columbia University; President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine; and Peter Jacyk (1995).*

**W**hen Ukraine regained its independence in 1991, Peter (Petro) Jacyk and his foundation recognized the importance of institutionalizing Ukrainian studies in the academy. As the foundation's mission statement reads, in part: "The primary objective is to develop a network of educational programs and academic centers in world-renowned universities devoted to the scholarly interpretation and dissemination of information about Ukraine and Ukrainians." It is no understatement to say that the Petro Jacyk Foundation's pioneering support in 1995 made possible the establishment of the Harriman Institute's Ukrainian Studies Program.

Over the years, many visiting faculty and postdoctoral fellows from a wide range of fields—including art history, history, political science, literature, and music—have come to the Harriman Institute as Petro Jacyk Fellows. Olena Martynuk, an art historian, is the current Petro Jacyk Postdoctoral Research Fellow, which is now a two-year appointment.

On September 30, 2021, the Petro Jacyk Foundation celebrated the centennial of the birth of its founder, which featured remarks from Harriman director Alexander Cooley.

We are honored to join the Petro Jacyk Foundation in this celebration. Jacyk's achievements as a philanthropist and community activist gave new life to scholarly institutions through his educational foundation, helping new generations of scholars do remarkable things. We are grateful for the Petro Jacyk Foundation's support, which reestablished and grew the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia at a critical juncture. This funding helped create a lively center of discussion of Ukraine's past, present, and future and a welcome place where scholars and political figures from Ukraine interact and collaborate with their North American counterparts.