

Recollecting the Course of Ukrainian Studies in North America: The Oral History Project of Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI)

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Ukrainian Studies as a field of academic scholarship in North America was initiated at Harvard University in the late 1960s. Within a decade, the program begun there by Professor Omeljan Pritsak and supported by the Ukrainian Studies Fund grew to encompass three Harvard chairs in the humanities, a seminar series, a research institute, library collections, publication programs, a large summer school for college students, tens of graduate students, and numerous research fellows and staff members. What were the circumstances in which all this took place, and who were the people who brought all this about? How were those who took part affected by the experience, and what was the impact of that on the development of Ukrainian Studies both at Harvard and at other educational institutions in North America? The HURI Oral History Project, begun in 2017, set out to address these and related questions through interviews with individuals who took part in the process that began at Harvard, including scholars, administrators, students, fellows, staff, community members, and fund-raisers. The presentation will describe and discuss the Oral History Project from this perspective, offering some general findings and observations based on interviews conducted to date.