



Welcome to the second issue of the *Harriman Magazine*. We are pleased with the response from students, alumni, and friends of the Institute about our inaugural issue and are eager to share the next one with you.

At Harriman we cherish our traditions and legacy, but we are also proud of our commitment to inform public debate on the issues of the day. It is in this context that we are reviving the long tradition of the Harriman Lecture and welcoming Sergei Guriev to deliver a public address to the Harriman Institute on February 12, 2014. Previous speakers in the series have included Mikhail Gorbachev, Imre Kertesz, Helmut Schmidt, and Katherine Verdery.

As many of you know, Sergei has been one of Russia's most prominent public intellectuals focusing on economic and political issues. Few in Russia can match the breadth of his activities in public life and academia over the last 15 years. A much sought after commentator on political and economic issues, Sergei also served as an adviser to President Dmitry Medvedev and counseled Alexei Navalny in his recent bid for the Moscow mayoralty. In addition to his role as a public figure, Sergei has excelled in academia. From his position as rector, he helped turn the New Economic School into a world-class center for teaching and research. Under pressure from the Investigative Committee of the Russian government for his role in the report from President Medvedev's expert council that evaluated the legal basis for Mikhail Khodorkovsky's second trial, Sergei left Moscow in May for Paris. We are excited to feature an interview with Sergei about the trajectory of his career, the political and economic situation in Russia, and his reasons for leaving in May 2013, as our cover story for this issue.

In concert with our ongoing "Sochi Olympics and Sport in Russia" events series, where we have been tackling the issue of LGBT rights in Russia, among other topics, we have an article about the Sochi Olympics in the context of the history of LGBT rights in Russia, by our alumnus Matthew Schaaf, currently a program officer in the Eurasia department at Freedom House.

But our coverage is not just limited to Russian politics. We are lucky to have an excerpt from the final chapter of Padma Desai's recently published memoir, *Breaking Out*, about her adjustment to American life both as an individual and an academic after she emigrated from India. She is the Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Comparative Economic Systems and director of the Center for Transition Economies.

We also highlight three of our alumni: Holly Decker ('13), who was the recipient of the newly instituted Director's Prize for Dedication and Service to the Harriman Institute; Eli Keene ('11), who works for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Kazakhstan; and Mark Pomar ('76), president, CEO, and director of the U.S. Russia Foundation. And last but not least, we have a profile on Radmila Gorup, senior lecturer, Slavic Department, who retired in May 2013 and who will be dearly missed by the Harriman community.

We hope you enjoy our second issue and would love to hear your thoughts about the magazine and ideas for future stories.

Timothy Frye
Director, Harriman Institute