



I am delighted to write my first note of introduction for *Harriman Magazine* and honored to be taking over the directorship from Tim Frye. I am deeply grateful for his many years of thoughtful and highly effective leadership. Under Tim the Institute went from strength to strength, affirming its global reputation as a leading center of scholarship and a vibrant hub for Eurasia-related issues. I am looking forward to continuing our long tradition of supporting academic excellence and encouraging research, investigation, and debate on a wide variety of regional issues and challenges.

Two pressing and interconnected regional challenges we face today are the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the deteriorating relationship between Russia and the United States. Both have played important roles in shaping our programming and the contents of this issue. We are fortunate to publish a feature profile of Maria Turchenkova, our 2015 Paul Klebnikov Russian Civil Society Fellow, who started covering the events in Ukraine during the Maidan protests and spent nearly a year traveling across the country, including the separatist Donbass region. A few of the photographs printed here with her profile come from the exhibit of her work last spring mounted by the Harriman Institute.

Also in April we welcomed President Obama's former adviser on Russian and Eurasian affairs, and former U.S. ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul, to deliver our annual Harriman Lecture. Dr. McFaul is a renowned Russia scholar and chief architect of the "reset" policy that defined U.S.-Russia relations during President Obama's first term. He became ambassador at the peak of the 2011–12 protests in Moscow and stepped down from the post just weeks before Russia's annexation of Crimea. In our interview with him, Dr. McFaul offers some invaluable insights into the Ukraine crisis, the president's Russia policy, and current developments.

We continue to mourn the untimely death of our dear friend, faculty member, alumna, and former Harriman Institute director, Catharine Nepomnyashchy. It has been difficult starting a new academic year without her inspirational presence. In her memory, we are reprinting her essay about Vladimir Nabokov and the detective novel.

We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas for future stories.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Cooley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alexander Cooley
Director, Harriman Institute