

# The Carl R. Proffer Initiative

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



For over 50 years the University of Michigan's Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES) has promoted interdisciplinary research and training on Russia, Central Europe, and Eurasia.

Representing faculty and students from over 20 departments and schools in the humanities, social sciences, and professions, CREES is pleased to announce the **Carl R. Proffer Initiative**, dedicated to keeping Russia central to research and teaching at this world-class university.

This initiative builds on U-M's rich legacy as a leading U.S. center for the study of Russia and coincides with the 75th anniversary of the birth of U-M Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures Carl R. Proffer (1938–84). In 1971, with his wife Ellendea, he founded the legendary Ardis Publishers and the acclaimed journal, *Russian Literature TriQuarterly*. These publishing ventures put Ann Arbor on the map as the home of the foremost Western publisher of Russian literature, including reprints and translations of classics as well as works banned by the Soviet authorities. Thanks to Carl and Ellendea Proffer, U-M gained renown for its scholarship on dissent in the Soviet Union and as a haven for Russian writers and artists, including Nobel Laureate Joseph Brodsky, who was poet-in-residence at U-M from 1972–81.

Carl Proffer had a boundless passion for Russian literature, the art of translation, and the free exchange of ideas with Russia's literary giants and public intellectuals. Today there is a resurgence of interest in Ardis in the U.S. and Russia and a renewed need to advance mutual understanding between these two great cultures. It is particularly timely to honor Carl Proffer and Ardis Publishers' consequential role in promoting Russian literature in the West and fostering Russian-American relations. Our aim is to permanently assure that future generations of U-M undergraduate and graduate students continue to learn about Russia's past and present and its significance in world affairs.

**TO EXTEND THE MEMORY** of the Proffer and Ardis legacies, U-M's preeminence in Russian studies, and collaboration with Russian scholars and authors in perpetuity, we propose to launch **The Carl R. Proffer Initiative at the University of Michigan**.

The initiative includes the following named endowment goals:

- A named **Carl R. Proffer Fund** to support programs that bring together prominent scholars, activists, artists, experts, and practitioners on and from Russia to engage in interdisciplinary activities with U-M students and faculty. With sufficient resources the fund could support visits by post-doctoral fellows, translators, and Russian writers to U-M as Proffer Fellows or Proffer Scholars-in-Residence.

*Goal: \$250,000 – \$2,000,000*

- **The Carl R. Proffer Graduate Fellowships Fund** offering fellowships towards tuition and expenses to incoming students who intend to focus their graduate work on Russian studies, particularly Russian literature and Russian-American relations.

*Goal: \$1,000,000*

- **The Carl R. Proffer Endowed Faculty Fund** that will recruit and support U-M and visiting faculty specialists on contemporary Russian literature and culture to teach and conduct research. Faculty supported by this fund would be designated Carl R. Proffer Professors.

*Goal: \$2,000,000*

## TO MAKE A DONATION

visit [www.ii.umich.edu/crees](http://www.ii.umich.edu/crees)

and click on the "Give online" link

or call **734.764.0351**.