

# Eugene R. and Elinor R. Kotur Trust Scholarship

## Providence Association administers philanthropists' fund designed to assist Ukrainian students

Eugene Kotur was born in Lviv, Ukraine on Feb. 12, 1912. His father immigrated to America, hoping to unite his family at a later date. Unfortunately, this plan failed when World War I hostilities began in Europe.

At a very early age, Eugene suffered the inevitable privations as the war intensified. His situation worsened perceptibly when Galicia (Western Ukraine) became a Protectorate of Poland, and along with other wartime deprivations, Eugene's home life deteriorated with periods of starvation. Luckily, the family was finally reunited and settled in Elmira, New York. Eugene began to attend public schools and eventually enrolled in college through the availability of a scholarship grant.

After graduation, Mr. Kotur became a schoolteacher. During World War II, Kotur served with distinction and with his proficient fluency in English, Ukrainian, Russian, and German, entered the diplomatic corps. After the war ended, Eugene married Elinor Brouger of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Soon afterwards, the Koturs settled in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

Eugene expanded his public service career by becoming an adviser/consultant for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, concentrating his efforts in Departments of Public Welfare. His professional services applied to both federal and state levels of welfare. Elinor Kotur, meanwhile, was employed by the United States Navy Depot and later succumbed to cancer. After her untimely death, E. Kotur decided to retire in 1974. He began to travel extensively, was a voracious reader, and remained active in civic organizations, especially those which had a senior citizen orientation.

During a serious illness in his seventies, Mr. Kotur lost most of his vision and part of his hearing. Despite this impairment, he faced his daily challenges as he had many times before. To compensate for his deficiencies, he used the Library of Congress Talking Book System to communicate with people and friends. It was during this period that Eugene Kotur established a \$250,000 Scholarship Trust Fund and empowered the Ukrainian Fraternal Association (UFA) as administrator of this generous endowment. After the UFA merged with the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in 2009, the latter organization became administrator of the program.

During his declining years, Mr. Kotur lived in a residential care facility. Two months after his 80th birthday, Eugene R. Kotur died on Apr. 18, 1992.

The Scholarship Trust Fund



Ivan Antoniv.



Anna Potapenko.



Taisa Maria Hnateyko.



Alina Volobuyeva.



Olena Bolonna



Mychajlo Kosyk.



Andrea Romanka Kolinsky.

is designed to service Ukrainian students currently enrolled in colleges and universities. The acquired initial grant of \$250,000 by the Kotur family represents the basic capital and remains intact in a managed financial program. Only the accrued interest is be used for annual scholarship distribution.

An application and more information about this scholarship may be requested by writing to: Providence Association, Attn: Kotur Scholarship Committee, 817 N. Franklin St., Philadelphia, PA 19123-2004.

The following are the **eligibility requirements:**

- Applicants must be of Ukrainian ancestry.

- Applicants must currently be enrolled in a full time undergraduate or graduate program.

- Applicants must be enrolled in one of the following

universities or colleges only:

Brown University, California Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon, University of Connecticut, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, Washington University in St. Louis, Harvard University, Haverford University, Indiana University, John Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, McGill University (Montreal, Quebec), Michigan State University, Yale University, Notre Dame University, Oberlin College, Purdue University, Princeton University, Rochester University, Swarthmore College, Tulane University, University of California (Berkeley), University of California (Los Angeles), University of Chicago, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Toronto, University of Washington (Seattle), University of Wisconsin (Madison), Vanderbilt University, Williams College.

The Providence Association congratulates the following seven Eugene R. and Elinor R. Kotur Trust Scholarship winners and wishes them a multitude of God's blessings in their future careers — *Mnohaya Lita!*

Student name	Educational institution
Ivan Antoniv (Ridgewood, NY)	Dartmouth College
Andrea Romanka Kolinsky (Newington, CT)	University of Connecticut
Mychajlo Kosyk (Philadelphia, PA)	University of Pennsylvania
Olena Bolonna (Mississauga, ON)	University of Toronto
Alina Volobuyeva (Kharkiv, Ukraine)	Washington University in Saint Louis
Anna Potapenko (Philadelphia, PA)	University of Pennsylvania
Taisa Maria Hnateyko (Philadelphia, PA)	University of Pennsylvania

## Statement of Support for Autonomy and Freedom of Education

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students to choose between disciplines. Universities allowed philologists to become philosophers and medical doctors to become writers.

This mobility is exactly what makes today's world media so rich, productive, and inspiring. In our time, the best journalists are often university-trained historians; the best writers may be former scholars of physics; and poets can be former medical doctors and engineers.

To impose a strict yoke on the university system, disallowing universities to run themselves and shape their own priorities and mobility system is to strangle the idea of higher education and to plunge Ukraine into backwardness. Ukraine will not become independent unless it allows for independence of its university system. Take it away and Ukraine will turn into an agrarian addendum of the Big Brother, as it had been for centuries.

This is precisely what is at

stake — the independence of Ukraine on an intellectual level. This is exactly what the opponents of pro-European reform are trying to suppress. Intellectual independence and mobility is what scares them most.

What kind of a writer are you if you have a medical degree, they would say to the writer and politician Yuriy Shcherbak and would not allow him to attend the graduate school of journalism. Why are you trying to get to a music conservatory with your medical institute diploma, they would say to Ihor Shamo and would prevent him from becoming a great Ukrainian composer. Who are you to defend your Ph.D. on the history of cinema if you received your Master's Degree in German Philology, they would say to the Ukrainian thinker Vadym Skurativsky.

It should be crystal-clear that it is up to the individual to decide which school to attend, what area of study to follow, and how to apply one's intel-

lectual capacities. It is up to a university to decide how to structure undergraduate and graduate education. Even the best-educated authority cannot be a specialist in all the branches of knowledge. Therefore, it is the university as a sovereign intellectual institution that should make decisions about its development.

This is what reform is all about — and this is what we support. The independence of Ukraine begins with an independent mind and with intellectual mobility. Only the sovereignty of universities can make true Ukrainian independence happen because it is the independence of the mind that can set the individual free.

*Marta Farion, President, Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation of America, USA.*

*Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, The Crown Family Professor, History Department, Northwestern University, USA.*

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