

Karen Dawisha

For most students, exposure to foreign lands or populations is limited to what's mentioned in their lectures. But, occasionally, they read that one great book, spend that one great semester abroad, or come in contact with that one great professor...

Karen Lea Dawisha, one of the foremost experts on post-Communist Russia and the former Soviet states, was named this past year to Miami's new Walter Havighurst Professorship in Russian and Post-Soviet Politics.

And while her career is repleat with honors, appointments, and fellowships, it was Dawisha's knowledge of experimental education that influenced her use of the Havighurst gift. She literally transformed the center into a Russian village, complete with authentic food, dress, and architecture. She explains: "Everything we know about educational theory tells us that experiential learning is the most intense-and the most transforming."