



# POLI SCI *at Miami*



Fall 2001

## Imagining Russia

Inaugurates THE HAVIGHURST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN & POST SOVIET STUDIES

Waiter Havighurst, professor emeritus of English at Miami who died in 1994, was committed to improving understanding between the peoples of the United States and the former Soviet Union, and the realization of his dream was initiated March 22-April 1, 2001 when "Imagining Russia," a festival of all things Russian for the inauguration of the new Havighurst Professorship and Havighurst Center, reached across the University and out to the world.

"Imagining Russia" was heralded in mid-March by the construction of onion domes atop Harrison Hall - looking all the more Russian for the gray skies in the background. From a design based on those of a Russian Orthodox Church, the domes' project was a team effort overseen by Miami University's Department of Physical Facilities. The domes stayed up until after commencement in the spring and will reappear for subsequent major events planned by the Center. (For the record, the domes measure 15 feet in diameter and stand 19.5 feet tall, including the crosses, and weigh 5,000 pounds each. They were designed by Graham Obermeyer and Partners of Cincinnati and built by Rick Buck Construction and other local contractors.)

Dr. Karen Dawisha, newly appointed Walter E. Havighurst Professor in Russian and Post-Soviet Politics, and Director of the new Havighurst Center, delivered the



Dr. Karen Dawisha

inaugural lecture. "Mirror and Mask in America's Image of Russia," recalled Havighurst's hopes to remedy what he saw as the mutual misunderstanding that marked the almost 200 years of relationships between the U.S. and Russia.

Dawisha explored the causes of the misunderstanding, seen not only by Havighurst but also by scholars of Russian history and politics, and intertwined her analysis with the history of Miami, Oxford, and southwest Ohio from the beginnings of the 19th century to the present.

Had the 1917 editorial staff of the *Miami Student* somehow heard Dawisha's lecture, they no doubt would have made

somewhat different editorial choices. On November 28, the *Student* reported that "students heard about the Bolshevik Revolution in chapel where the chaplain informed them that the Provisional Government contained men who were 'sane, but with little power' and that the Bolsheviks... were 'insane with the amount of their power still to be determined.'" The article was placed on the front page... next to an even more prominent piece entitled "Large Crowd of Miami Rooters to See Annual Cincy Game Tomorrow."

Dr. Dawisha graduated with honors in Russian and Political Science from the University of Lancaster in England and received her Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. She has served as an advisor to the British House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. As an International Affairs Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, she was a member of the Policy Planning Staff and the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs of the U.S. State Department (1985-87). Until the summer of 2000 she was a Professor in the Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland and had served as the Director of its Center for the Study of Post Communist Societies. A list of her publications and the full text of "Mirror and Mask" can be found on the Center's web site at [www.muohio.edu/havighurstcenter](http://www.muohio.edu/havighurstcenter).

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## Some of the other events of *Imagining Russia* were:

- "The Past, Culture and Future Course of Russia," a lecture by James Billington, Librarian of Congress since 1987 and one of the most eminent historians of Russia
- An *a cappella* performance by Chorovaya Akademia, founded in Moscow in 1989 under the direction of Alexander Secov
- Saturday Art, a display of student work on the theme of *Imagining Russia*
- A workshop and display for students and area educators sponsored by the School of Education and Allied Professions
- History and demonstration of Ukrainian Easter Eggs by Nancy K. Henderson who teaches the ancient folk art and who has been decorating eggs for 18 years
- An exhibition of Russian Revolutionary Architecture by the Architecture Design Studio students of Professor Sergio Sanabria
- MU soloists and vocal ensembles in a Recital of Russian Music
- Stories and Crafts from Russia, a program for children in grades 3-5 at Oxford Lane Public Library
- "What's so funny, ex-comrade? The humor of Post-Soviet Russia," a lecture by Emil Draitser, Professor, Russian Division, Hunter College of CUNY
- Russian Chess Grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov's lecture and simultaneous chess exhibition
- Moscow Nights, now based in Cleveland, led by Vitaly Bezrodnov at the Gates-Abegglen Theater, a program centered around the masterpieces of Russian folklore and folk music
- The DeSaint-Rat Collection of Russian art at the Miami University Art Museum
- The Veronika String Quartet playing Shostakovitch, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky at the Art Museum
- Dancing with Daniel Ducoff of the Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band
- Russian food in the dining halls
- King Library displays of Russian treasures from the Special Collections and the papers of Walter Havighurst from University Archives
- An academic symposium that united scholars from Miami, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Harvard, Princeton, Moscow State University, Carnegie, European University in St. Petersburg, Pittsburg, Michigan, Maryland, Stanford, Texas, Howard, and other universities and research organizations
- Russian photography, "Twilight of the Soviet Union," by Igor Osatuke
- Mini Maestros Club for Kids presenting "Peter and the Wolf," Woodwind Quintet of the Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony Orchestra, at Lane Library
- "Russian Architecture: Golden Ring of Ancient Towns," a slide presentation by Galina A. Pritchnikova, professor at the Volgograd State Academy of Architecture and Building in southern Russia
- A colloquium on contemporary Russian politics that brought to Harrison Hall Nodari A. Simonia, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences, premier Institute of World Economy and International Relations in Moscow, and Stanislav Rouronok, Associate Professor at the School for Public Administration at Moscow State University



For more pictures of the domes, go to <http://www.muohio.edu/~muawwocwis/russia.html>.

Dawisha organized a special course for M.U. students that enlisted Russia specialists from many University departments and incorporated many of the events of the festival. Fellows from the Havighurst Center have also offered courses in the Departments of Political Science and History.



Ms. Maureen Nimis

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