

# Cincinnati teacher earns first Miami Russian studies award

By Jen Roppel

OXFORD PRESS

Cincinnati Public Schools teacher Svetlana Reed is the first recipient of the Havighurst Outstanding Teacher of Russian Studies award.

The award is for exemplary Russian language teachers, open to all grade levels, kindergarten through 12th-grade, said Karen Dawisha, director of Miami University's newly established Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies.

The annual award was created in conjunction with the education department, Dawisha said, and will be given to only one educator each year.

"They did a national search and selected a teacher in the Cincinnati Public Schools," Dawisha said.

Reed, a Russian native, said she has been teaching Russian in the district's bilingual magnet school, the Academy of World Languages, since 1987.

She said she was recognized because of the outstanding achievement of her pupils.

"I prepared many students who became quite fluent," she said. "This is absolutely a unique program. I have 5-year-olds all the way up to eighth grade."

Reed said that learning a language is easier for young children than for teen-agers and adults, which is why her students are able to compete and succeed in national Russian language competitions and earn collegiate credit.

"Kids' minds are very open. The kids' minds are like sponges. They don't have all the baggage adults carry. When you do it starting in kindergarten and you see actual results. For me as a professional it is very rewarding to see that," she said.

Reed said that across the nation more schools need to adopt bilingual programs.

"I just hope that people will understand the value to become bilingual and that foreign languages would be chosen for elementary schools and would be in the curriculum of every school.

"We are now a multicultural and global society. You need to know more than one language," she said. "You can get on a plane and in a couple of hours you can be in a different country and not know the language," Reed said.

To highlight the achievements of her Russian language pupils, Reed said she will bring about 20 6-, 7- and 8-year-olds to Miami as part of the Imagining Russia celebration from March 21 through April 1 to celebrate the inauguration of the Miami University Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies.

Reed will showcase her students during a "Teachers

## Grandmaster to test skills of local chess players

OXFORD PRESS STAFF REPORT

Do you think you're the best chess player around? If so, your chance to test your luck against one of America's strongest

Chess Grandmasters is coming up.

Gregory Kaidanov, grandmaster, will visit Miami University on March 28 and will be playing a 25-board simultaneous matches against members of Miami's chess club and other local players.

Any local residents who are interested in testing their skill on the chessboard against Kaidanov should contact Clyde Brown, (529-2014), faculty adviser to the chess

club. Brown sees this as a great opportunity to learn from the best.

The deadline to apply is today, March 15.

"This is the chance of a lifetime for chess players," Brown said. "It is like playing golf with Tiger Woods, tennis with Martina Hingis, basketball with Wally Szczerbiak, or hockey with Wayne Gretzke."

The chess match will start at 6 p.m. on March 28 in 12 Harrison Hall. An informal talk presented by Kaidanov will take place at 2 p.m. the same day in the Bystrom Room in the Shriver Center. Both events are free and open to the public.

"Imagine Russia" workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 24 in McGuffey Hall. Teachers from throughout southwestern Ohio and eastern Indiana will be in attendance.

Other Art exhibitions, musical performances and workshops to highlight the 11-day event include:

■ "Imagining Russia" foyer exhibition at the Miami University Art Museum. Featured will be a selection of early 20th century prints, watercolors and illustrated books with a theme of Russian folk tales and stories. Admission is free. An exhibition reception is 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

■ "Imagining Russia" student exhibition sponsored by the department of art's "Saturday Art" program. An exhibition reception is 9 a.m. Saturday, March 24, in the art building with Russian refreshments.

■ "Twilight of the Soviet Union," in Harrison Hall, home of the Havighurst Center. Featured will be photographs by Igor Osatuke, a Ukrainian native who lives and works in Oxford.

Other displays include Russian icons and items from area collectors at the Hiestand Galleries, School of Fine Arts, a display of work by students of Jean Vance in the Center for Performing Arts and "Russian Treasures from Miami University Libraries Special Collections" on the 3rd floor, King Library.

Musical performances will also be a part of the festival with all events free and open to the public.

Performances include:  
■ 9 p.m. Thursday, March 22: Learn Russian folk dances to the accompaniment of Daniel Ducoff of the Yiddishe Cup Klezmer

Band in Alexander Dining Hall. The band also will perform at 10 p.m. Friday, March 23, at the Shriver Center as part of Miami's "After Dark" program.

■ 7 p.m. Friday, March 23: Performance by Choravaya Akademia in Kumler Chapel. The a cappella male choir was founded in Moscow in 1989.

■ 7 p.m. Saturday, March 24: Recital of Russian music by the Miami University Chamber Singers in Souers Recital Hall, Center for Performing Arts.

■ 8 p.m. Thursday, March 29: Performance by Moscow Nights in Gates-Abegglen Theatre, Center for Performing Arts

■ 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31: Performance by the Veronika String Quartet at the Miami University Art Museum.

Teachers from throughout southwestern Ohio and eastern Indiana have been invited to "Teachers Imagine Russia," a workshop from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24, in McGuffey Hall on the campus of Miami University.

Workshop sessions 9:30 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. include: "A Flash History of Russia," by Miami history professor Robert Thurston; "The Russian Revolution - A New Approach," by Tim Dugan of Princeton High School; "Imagining Russia Through Children's Literature," by Brenda Dales of teacher education and Vandalia-Butler public schools; and "The Russians are Coming - To Cincinnati Public Schools" by Lana Reed of Cincinnati's Academy of World Languages.

For more information, call the center at (513) 529-3303. A detailed festival schedule is available online, [www.muohio.edu/havighurstcenter](http://www.muohio.edu/havighurstcenter).