

Five to study in Moscow

For most students, studying abroad usually means strolling along the sunny streets of Mexico surrounded by "mariachi" music, or maybe sampling pastries in a French restaurant with a view of the Eiffel Tower in the window.

But for five University students, study abroad next fall will mean glimpses of Byzantine-style buildings, and Muscovites in black fur hats bustling through a snow-covered Red Square.

The five students, Kurt Engelmann, Carolyn Zeller, John Cooney, Kris Lou, and Charlene Bell, were among 34 students selected from across the nation to study during the 1982 fall semester at the Pushkin Institute in Moscow.

The program is one of the two major Soviet-study programs offered to North American undergraduate students, and is sponsored by the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

The students will study the Russian language, political system, and Soviet culture at the institute from Sept. 7 to Dec. 18. Classes are held five days a week with an additional day set aside during the week for excursions to Leningrad, Tallin, and other points of interest in the Soviet Union.

Students from all over the world will study at the institute and be taught by Soviet faculty who speak only Russian in class. In fact, most of the faculty at the institute don't know English.

Each applicant to the pro-

Breaking the stereotypes

gram must have at least two years of college Russian. After that, an applicant submits an essay in Russian, as well as one in English, then the student must pass a two and a half hour exam on the Russian language which is administered by ACTR officials.

The lengthy application process is necessary to ensure the best students are selected and it is required by the people who fund the scholarships, says Russian Prof. John Beebe.

As a member of the Board of Directors of ACTR, Beebe receives regular progress reports on Oregon students attending the Pushkin Institute. Beebe says University students have consistently placed in the upper 25 percent among the American contingent on application scores. Beebe also noted that since the University first participated in the ACTR program just two years ago, the University has placed at least one student each term at the institute.

Fruim Yurevich, instructor of advanced Russian, feels the University's outstanding placement record at the Moscow institute has helped to make the University's students "more visible" and "nationally competitive" for Soviet study abroad programs.

Because of that, it isn't surprising to Yurevich that students from the University's

Russian program, considered "modest" by some standards, are able to hold their own at the Moscow institute while competing with students from such prestigious institutions as, Harvard, Cornell University, Bryn Mawr, and Northwestern University.

Yurevich has seen six of the seven students who started this year in his fourth-year Russian class go on to either one of the nation's two major Soviet study programs in Leningrad or Moscow. Not all of the students have been Russian majors. Yurevich finds that although the job market is slim at best for Russian majors, many students find that a command of the Russian language is a definite career asset.

Kurt Engelmann, a recent graduate with a B.A. in general history, is one of Yurevich's fourth-year Russian students helping to "disprove the myth"

of the difficult Russian language.

As he reflected on his upcoming trip to Moscow, Engelmann remarked, "I'm looking forward to the trip because since we were young Americans have been given the '1984' stereotype of the Soviets as brainwashed and propagandized people. I'm interested in knowing how true these stereotypes are, while at the same time, becoming fluent in the language."

By Charlene Bell

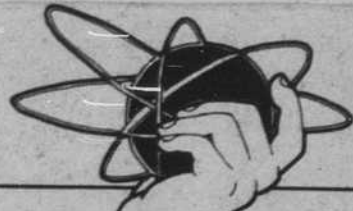
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says. "It appears to be good legislation... and the faculty is responding to it," Graham adds.

In between the committee appointments and the climax of the dead week proposal effort, SUAB researched the effect that changes in curriculum core clusters would have and started its lobbying effort, Prothe says.

Spring term has been "wrapped around elections" but the Board still managed to discuss at length campus parking problems and a proposed Lane Transit District bus pass, and to distribute a survey on the "LTD proposal."

As for this summer, Graham says that most Board members will be gone and that SUAB activity will be minimal.

Dan Allen, SUAB's new chair who will be in Europe this summer, says he is "not going to do anything drastically different" than this year's SUAB leadership. He does, however,

plan to promote "cohesiveness" and "try to keep the energy going" so that members attend a high percentage of SUAB, University Senate and Assembly, and faculty-student committee meetings.

Allen appears optimistic about the projects that the Board can and will undertake.

"Its primary source of power is the sheer number — having 18 members," he says.

Next year's board will lobby in the Legislature and work with the ASUO Executive and Student University Relations Council in such efforts, continue to work with the administration on on-campus problems and projects, and work with the Office of Student Advocacy.

"The more we do, the more people will know about SUAB," Allen adds.

By Dane Claussen
Photo by David Corey

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