Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies

POINTS OF PRIDE

- GSS boasts cutting-edge research (12 sole-author books in last five years) and teaching in the Humanities at the undergraduate and (in German Studies) the graduate level, increasingly across traditional disciplinary boundaries (in collaboration with CIBER, European Studies, Film and Media Studies, Jewish Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and Women and Gender Studies).
- This year, innovative work in online course development in GSS has resulted in the acquisition of a lucrative grant for UF (DOD Grant of $625,324.00). GSS faculty have also obtained numerous prestigious individual grants (NEH, Alexander von Humboldt, Max Kade, the Howard Foundation, DAAD, etc.).
- Russian enrollments and majors are growing and currently meet or exceed national averages among peer- and top-10 programs in Russian. Russian language enrollments already meet or exceed the national average. In terms of demand, the foundation is present for a graduate program in Russian Studies.
- GSS has new growing programs in the Less Commonly Taught European Languages Polish and Czech.
- GSS faculty and graduate students are extremely active in organizing, participating in, and securing funding for interdisciplinary conferences that bring scholars of national and international reputation to UF: one of many examples is the upcoming “Imaging the Unimaginable” conference on Auschwitz (http://www.jst.ufl.edu/images/imagingPoster.jpg).

VISION & GOALS

GSS will continue to pursue its cutting-edge work in interdisciplinary research and teaching. At the same time, it will continue to explore new ways of employing new technologies and media both to reach a broader spectrum of students and to embellish language-culture learning. German Studies will continue to seek grant opportunities (such as that already obtained) to promote its ongoing online initiatives. These initiatives will in turn mesh with and enrich the theoretical interest in media and cultural studies at the undergraduate and graduate levels, resulting in the production of new knowledge and synergies. Russian Studies aims at a cutting-edge M.A. program specializing in advance-level training in language, literature, and cultural studies. The program will feature a unique, cross-cultural immersion component at its partner institute in Moscow, and will draw on the strong research productivity of the Russian Studies faculty, and on resources in Czech and Polish Studies and in the Center for European Studies. Polish (since 2004) and Czech Studies (since 2005) have become nationally competitive programs, and will seek further growth on the basis of more than a dozen new courses on language, literature, politics, and film, which are integrated into the East-Central European Studies Certificate and minor degree programs.

CRITICAL NEEDS

- A tenure-track appointment in Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL), to compensate for a first retirement in German Studies this year and to assist with the online initiatives in German Studies.
- A tenure-track assistant professor in German Medieval and Early Modern Studies to work in collaboration with the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, to compensate for a second retirement in German Studies this year and for the involvement of the current chair of GSS, who is also co-director of MEMS, in administrative duties.
- A full time lecturer in Russian to accommodate the growing enrollments in Russian and to bring Russian Studies closer to being in a position to offer an M.A. in Modern Russian Studies.
- Competitive graduate stipends to ensure we can attract top students, and a level of travel support that will enable GSS faculty and graduate students to increase their national & international visibility.
- “Metrics” that gauge departmental productivity in terms of commitment to and excellence in interdisciplinary research and teaching, conferences organized, and productive new initiatives (such as the online projects ).