



English professors Dr. Paul Orlov, Dr. Carol Kessler and Dr. Richard Betts who have all visited/taught in Slovakia, chat with Milena Stulrajterova, visiting professor from Slovakia.

Slovakia Connection Enriches PSU Delco

By Cynthia Moore

Here at Penn State Delco, there is a connection to the Eastern European country of Slovakia many students are not aware of. There are several professors here who have been to Slovakia and there is currently one visiting professor on campus.

Milena Stulrajterova is from the town of Banska Bystrica in Slovakia. She is an English professor at the University of Matej Bel in the center of Slovakia. There she teaches other professors how to speak the language. Milena will be here for one month only, but it is her second time to America.

In the time that Milena has been here at school she has sat in on some of Dr. Paul Green's music lectures. The classes hold a big interest for her because she would like to use jazz and rock and roll to teach her students in Slovakia about American culture.

When asked about the most noticeable differences between students in her country and ones here at Delco, Milena said, "They look exactly the same, but, well, the students here are a lot less patient." When in class, students here start to pack up their bags when they decide the lecture is over, not when the teacher is

finished. It seems in Slovakia students are glad to stay in class late to hear what the professor has to say.

Another big difference is the availability of the professors here on campus. "If a student needs to get in touch with their professor they can use E-mail or leave a message on voice mail. In my country that is not possible." Milena added.

Dr. Richard Betts, Assistant Professor of English, will be teaching in Slovakia at Matej Bel University for three weeks next month. He also hopes to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Slovakia for two semesters during the next academic year. He also taught English at Matej Bel during the spring '95 and spring '96 semesters.

Dr. Carol Kessler, Professor of English and Women's Studies, has also taught in Slovakia. She spent the '95-'96 academic year as a Fulbright Scholar teaching English there.

Since Campus Executive Officer Dr. Ed Tomezsko established the faculty exchange program with two Universities in Slovakia, he and Dr. Paul Orlov, Associate Professor of English, also have visited the Universities, and eight professors from Slovakia have visited Delco.

New Methods for Recruitment

By Paul Basilio

Fewer students are walking the hills and halls of Delco this semester. Don't worry, though. University Relations, the Financial Aid office, and the Admissions office are hard at work on this problem.

The offices are working on a new ad campaign to catch the interest of potential new, transfer, and adult students. Information about the new business degree being offered and recent television coverage should lure prospective students to Delco.

"We're hoping to ride the wave of excitement and visibility [caused by the Channel 10 coverage of the campus on January 13]," commented Director of Enrollment Management Deb Erie.

Delco has hired a photographer to update its promotional brochures.

New services being offered include an Instant Decision program which allows a student who has submitted complete transcripts to know whether they are accepted to PSU within 48 hours, and a telecounseling program in which current Delco students call prospective students and describe their Delco experience.

Ms. Erie added, "Timing is key. You must contact students at the right time, before other colleges get a chance to."

The new ad campaign and services target high school students, other college transfer students, and adults returning to school.

With the publicity about the new degree, the television coverage, the new programs being offered, and a little bit of luck, Delco will be crowded again in no time.

PSU Meets the 'Real World'

By Erin Lulevitch

"We didn't learn much about "real" life in high school," said student Jen Parisi (4 semester, Recreational Therapy). So, what makes college any different? The answer is one most Delco students aren't likely to know.

The answer is the campus Advisory Board. This particular group of individuals composed of prominent business leaders, community members, select staff, and student representatives, seeks to bridge the gap between college and the "real" world. In the words of Administrative Assistant Francine Stackhouse, the board "acts as a liaison to many of the external constituents, be it the community or the government. They also promote visibility in the community for the University."

Essentially, the board convenes

three times a year to exchange information. Together they discuss business changes that affect the job world and report on what requirements prospective work seeking graduates will be expected to fill, as the job market continues to change. This, in turn, enables the campus to prepare students better for the "real" world.

In addition, the board is also responsible for locating financial support for physical needs (such as the construction of new campus buildings) and scholarships for campus students.

The next meeting for the Advisory Board is scheduled for April 15. At that time the board plans to acknowledge and honor current scholarship providers and student recipients.

Attendance Update

Enrollment Numbers Lower for Fall 1997

By JoAnne Johnson

Despite the fact that Delco has been basking in the excitement of its new-found status as a leader in soon-to-be Commonwealth College, the Spring 1997 semester enrollment has dropped noticeably since the fall.

This is a trend throughout every one of Penn State's campuses, though. Deborah Erie, Director of Enrollment Management, commented, "There is always a decline in enrollment from fall to spring. This semester's decline is an average of the past three years' decline." Student enrollment usually drops from fall to spring because some students decide to drop out, take a break, or transfer.

Although this spring semester is nearly 400 students short of Fall 1996's number, the enrollment of students in Spring '97 compared to Spring '96 is higher.

"Total enrollment is up 1.2% compared to Spring 1996," said Erie.

"The projected numbers for this semester do not include those who are scheduled, but not registered," added Campus Registrar, Joyce Rigby. According to the Office of the Registrar, approximately 345 students are scheduled, but are not yet in registered status.

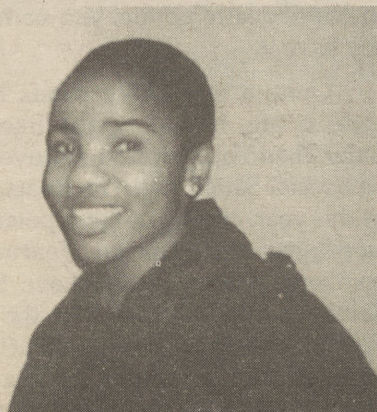
Because of the decline in enrollment, those attending classes this spring may notice a decrease in class size, perhaps allowing the instructors to be more aware of the students in their classes.

Second semester liberal arts major, Jamie DiFrancesco said, "Considering many of my friends transferred this semester, I definitely notice the difference in classes; there just seems like there is something missing."

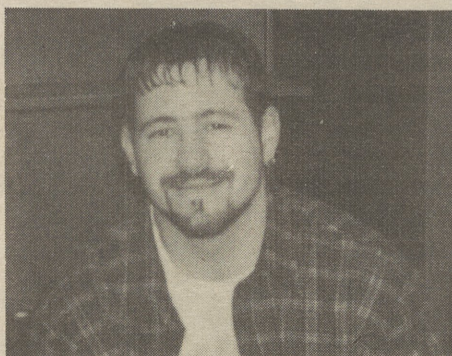
Others disagree, including 2nd semester liberal arts major, Chris Rudai, "I'm kind of surprised at the fact that there are less students, because classes seem larger this semester."

Photo Survey: What's Your View on Ebonics?

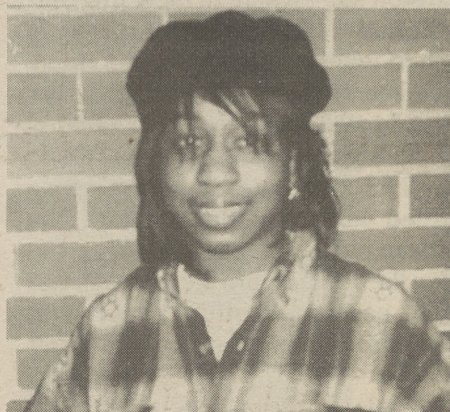
By Erin Lulevitch



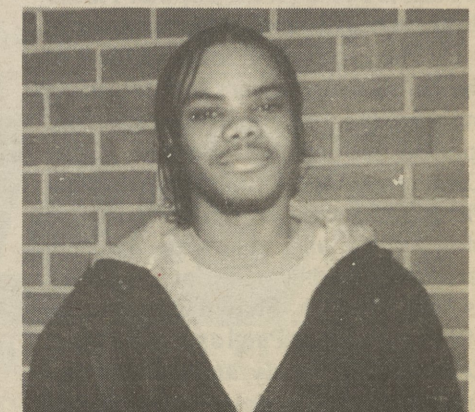
"I had to learn to speak English when I came to this country. If people spoke Ebonics [when I moved to America] how would I have ever learned to speak properly?" — Evelyn Wilson (Semester 4, Nursing).



"I have a negative view of it. All it will do is build onto the bridge of racial tension that is already so prevalent in today's society. It is unfortunate that the gap between the races is as big as it is. This will only make it bigger." — Joe Lommano (Semester 4, Speech Comm.).



"I think it's a form of uneducating the society all over again. I don't think it's a dialect. I feel like it's a form of parody to the English language." — Betrina Barkley (Semester 2, Landscape Contracting).



"I feel that it's a waste of time because it's not a language, it's a form of slang. I doubt Ebonics will help people to get jobs." — Jermaine Kennard (Semester 4, Business).