

Personal Statement of Academic Goals (Ileana Alexandra Orlich)

My primary responsibilities as an Assistant Professor have been (1) to offer Romanian language and literature and culture courses at undergraduate and graduate levels and to develop students' awareness of the countries of the former Communist bloc; (2) to create and foster affiliations for Romanian Studies with other academic units on campus; (3) to start and develop a summer program in Romania; and (4) to maintain an active research agenda in the field of Romanian Studies and Comparative Literature with emphasis on Central Eastern Europe.

Research

My research focuses on Romanian literature and culture, with an emphasis on gender issues, and on Comparative Literature that brings together the East and the West. Among my publications are comparative essays on Henry James and Maupassant; Henry James and Oscar Wilde; the Pulitzer Prize winner and Yugoslav-born poet Charles Simic and French Surrealism; the Romanian-born poet Andrei Codrescu and Walt Whitman; Romanian and American Women Poets; the contemporary Romanian novelist Augustin Buzura and Solzhenitsyn; Buzura and Joseph Conrad; the contemporary short-story writer Răzvan Petrescu and James Joyce; and the Romanian poet Marin Sorescu and Romanian folk ballads. Some of these articles have been reprinted, such as the essay on Simic, which was included in the latest edition of *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, one of the premier collections of educational and reference materials published by the Gale Group. My other publications include entries in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* and book reviews in literary journals.

Two of my most recently published books are first time English translations of individual works from the canon of Romanian literature and critical commentaries, in which I combine a feminist perspective with textual criticism. The first book, *Haia Sanis*, focuses on the erotic triangle and the configurations of female homosociality in a Jewish community in Moldova; the second, *Ciuleandra*, which was completed with partial funding from ASU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Research Travel Grant, examines gender and class anxieties and the complicity of male homosocial and heterosexual desires. My third book, *Silent Bodies: Re-Discovering the Women of Romanian Short Fiction* (New York: Columbia University Press), discusses the shape of the male homosocial spectrum and its effects on women. I am submitting the manuscript of a fourth book, *Artistic Truth and Artful Deceit: Henry James and Oscar Wilde*, to Ohio State University Press, which has expressed interest in publishing it after reviewing one of its chapters. I have also completed a translation with critical commentary of Ion Slavici's novel *Mara* which will be published by Editura Fundației Culturale in Bucharest, Romania, in December 2002.

I am currently working on a fifth book, *Constructions of Gender: Allegorical Fertility in Modern Romanian Literature*, and will submit this manuscript in the spring of 2003 to Columbia University Press, which has expressed interest in it. I will continue my research with a book on the Romanian Avant-garde, a project for which I gathered substantial material from a paper on James Joyce and the Avant-garde poet Tristan Tzara that I gave at the Joyce International Conference in Trieste. Another current project is translating for the National Theatre in Cluj, Romania, Tom Stoppard's play *Travesties* scheduled to premier in 2003.

For the past ten years, I have presented every year papers and organized/chaired sessions at the MLA, American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) and Southern Comparative Literature Association (SCLA) annual conventions. Among the international conferences at which I presented papers are those in Trieste, Italy; Iasi, Cluj, and Bucharest, Romania; and Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Most of these presentations have been published or are forthcoming in scholarly journals.

Teaching

I created the Romanian language program and designed and taught all its classes at all levels of instruction (Beginning, Intermediate I and II, and Advanced). Each semester I teach five courses and offer individual instruction for independent study projects. I also created and taught seven new literature and culture courses focusing on Pre/Post Communist Europe, at the undergraduate and graduate levels: Literature and Culture, Literature and Politics, Literature and Film, Modern Drama, Women's Literature, Feminist Political Writing, and Stalinism in European Literature and Film. For the summer program in Romania I developed interdisciplinary courses that are cross-listed with Humanities, Political Science, English, Women's Studies, History, Psychology and Chicana/Chicano Studies for both undergraduate and graduate students.

My dedication to teaching and mentoring is reflected in my annual evaluations and rapport with students. In April 2001 I received the Associated Students of ASU Centennial Professor Award (\$20,000). The average of my teaching evaluations has been 1.2 on a 5-point scale, 1 being the highest. Students that I mentored have received national fellowships, including two Fulbright Fellowships in Romania and two Friends of the Department of English scholarships, and have been accepted in doctoral programs at such universities as UCLA.

I consider teaching a rewarding professional experience, take great pride in my students' achievements, and plan to continue my active involvement in their academic development.

Service

I am a former President and current Executive Committee member of the Romanian Studies Association of America, one of the Allied Organizations of the MLA, and an active member of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences. As a member of the Southern Comparative Literature Association Board, I organized and coordinated at ASU its annual international conference in 2000. For this project I benefited from the support of ASU's College of Liberal Arts, Department of Languages and Literatures, Department of English, Women's Studies, and Chicana/Chicano Program.

I have served on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee and am a member of the Russian and East European Consortium. For the past three years, I have been President of Alpha Mu Gamma, the Honorary Society for foreign language students. In the last year, I directed two MA theses and served on the committees of four others.

The Romanian Summer Program at ASU (which I have expanded to include a cultural visit to six Central European capitals) has achieved national exposure and has drawn undergraduate and doctoral students from UCLA, Northwestern, University of Texas at Austin, University of Idaho and Ohio State. Last year I hosted a group of actors and academics from the Babeş Bolyai University in Cluj (Romania) to give a series of free performances complete with a workshop for the ASU students.

I have been a guest speaker promoting the Romanian Program at ASU at the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, the Romanian Pentecostal and Orthodox churches in the metropolitan Phoenix area, the Romanian Cultural Center in New York and the University of Arizona in Tucson. I was a keynote speaker addressing women's issues and cultural transitions in Central Eastern Europe on the ASU campus and abroad, and have been invited to speak on Romanian academic education at the forthcoming NAFTA conference hosted by ASU.

Furthermore, as an affiliate of Women's Studies (which awarded me a Summer Research Grant in 2002), the Humanities Program, and Chicana/Chicano Studies, and as a member of the Women's Faculty Association at ASU, I have cooperated with colleagues from other departments and programs to further teaching, research, and service.