

political situations, but it begins and ends by celebrating the unknown, the experience of adventure and of the “infinitely improbable,” a term she adapted from Hannah Arendt.

At the time of her passing, she was at work on several new projects, including a film about the refugee camp in Vienna where she stayed after leaving the USSR. She is survived by her parents, her husband, Dana Villa, the Packey J. Dee Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, and by her devoted students, who are preparing a collection of her works for publication.

WILLIAM MILLS TODD III  
*Harvard University*

## Teresa Lynn Polowy, 1953–2015

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Teresa (Terry) Lynn Polowy, professor of Russian and Slavic Studies at the University of Arizona. A brilliant scholar, teacher and mentor, Terry passed away on November 25, 2015. She will be remembered in death as she was in life: a kind and charismatic person of great integrity who embodies the ideals of our profession. During her twenty-five years of teaching at University of Arizona, Terry worked with countless students, fostering interest and passion in Slavic languages and cultures.

Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Terry moved to Tucson in 1990 where she began her long and fruitful career in the UA Department of Russian and Slavic Studies. Serving multiple terms as Head of the department up until last year, Terry proved to be an excellent administrator who enjoyed the respect of her colleagues and staff. While Head, she coordinated partnerships with the community, including a tutoring program for high school students learning Russian and an internship for UA students to work with Holocaust survivors. She tirelessly fought for new hires in times of shrinking budgets and ever-changing hiring priorities of higher administration. Always calm in the face of adversity, always friendly and happy to talk, even though it was increasingly difficult in her last year, she maintained high spirits, striving to keep the department a cohesive unit in the face of constant external pressures on morale. In curricular matters, she aggressively developed and promoted successful online courses. And she also supported with enthusiasm yearly celebrations of Slavic culture open to the public—readings, music, and lectures in which students and faculty participated.

Terry's contribution to the field of Slavic Studies includes many articles, translations, presentations, reviews, and a full-length study of the popular Russian writer, Valentin Rasputin. Her monograph, *The Novellas of Valentin Rasputin: Genre, Language and Style* (1989) was one of the first works to examine this author in depth. A pioneer in the field of gender and Russian literary studies, Terry authored groundbreaking work on the portrayal of alcoholism in female-authored texts from the Soviet and post-Soviet periods.

Terry was an innovative teacher and inspiring mentor who encouraged her students to challenge themselves and actualize their potential; she was also an exemplary colleague who enjoyed the respect and confidence of all of us. The Russian and Slavic Studies Department at University of Arizona, along with countless friends and colleagues, will remember her legacy and the impact she made on our field and on the lives of those she knew.

A fund has been established in honor of Terry's memory. Gifts to The Teresa Polowy Memorial Fund will go to the study of Slavic languages and literature for University of Arizona students. Gifts can be made payable to "UAF/Teresa Polowy Memorial Fund" and sent to:

UA College of Humanities  
Attn: Development Office  
PO Box 210067  
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DEPARTMENT OF RUSSIAN AND SLAVIC STUDIES  
*University of Arizona*