

A Notable Woman – Alexandra Kaminska



Alexandra Kaminska's love of languages spurred her early career as an international multilingual interpreter and translator. Her skills at speaking French, Russian, Polish and German gave her the opportunity to serve at the United Nations' Atoms for Peace conclave in Geneva, Switzerland, and later teach in American higher education.

As a student at the University of Geneva, Kaminska's role at the peace conference garnered positive recommendations from American participants. They helped her secure a teaching job in the United States in 1958, and after serving three years at Monmouth College in Illinois, Kaminska arrived at UWSP.

She was the first professor at UWSP to teach Russian, and she completed her Ph.D. in comparative literature in 1972 at the University of Maryland. Kaminska taught French and comparative literature at UWSP, later translating an old French comedy for publication as a book entitled *The Indiscreet Lover*.

A native of Poland, Kaminska taught in that country's higher institutions, high schools and on the university level before going to Switzerland to study translating and interpreting. The daughter of an impressionist artist, she was born in a small village but later lived in Paris, Vienna, and several Polish cities. She retired from UWSP in 1979.