

# Carolina!

## USC students work in Russia

From Staff Reports

Glasnost, the fall of Gorbachev and the Soviet Union's collapse: through it all, USC professors shuttled in and out of the constantly changing country to set up the one-of-a-kind programs and research efforts emerging today.

The plans put in place amid the political turmoil are now providing business training for students and a wealth of insights for geologists, USC officials said.

USC's Earth Science and Resources Institute, for example, is working with the Russian Academy of Sciences on geology and oil exploration projects, said Steven Schamel, institute senior associate director.

"It would have been impossible two years ago to think about talking to Russian scientists about their mineral resources," said Schamel, who has made four trips in less than two years. "People used to get arrested for talking to Western scientists."

Researchers aren't the only ones making the trip. Ten business students are now working for new Russian-American firms in the country. International business professor James Kuhlman first visited Russia when Stalin was in power more than 20 years ago, and he's not surprised by the nation's transformation.

He returned four times this year to place USC interns with Russian-based companies in the first such program by an American university.

Kuhlman said it has been fascinating to watch the rapid changes through the eyes of the USC students in the program.

"It's an enormously wealthy country with its human and natural resources, but it's not very developed, it's untapped," said Kuhlman, the J. Willis Cantey Professor in International Business and Economics at USC. "That's the exciting thing from a Western perspective; to go in there and help them tap it. The country is growing and our students are growing with it."

More interested in science than Russian studies, Doug Williams, a geology professor, has made 11 trips to Russia since 1979 to set up research on Lake Baikal, the world's largest and deepest lake.

After overcoming Soviet bureaucracy, he now has to maintain an organization of 40 Russian scientists who have seen their paychecks shrink to nearly nothing because of the nation's staggering inflation rate.

"Researchers in Russia make less money than bus drivers, so the economic incentive is to leave science," Williams said. "With the inflation, what they make in a month is enough to buy, maybe, a pound of cheese and a couple of pounds of tomatoes."

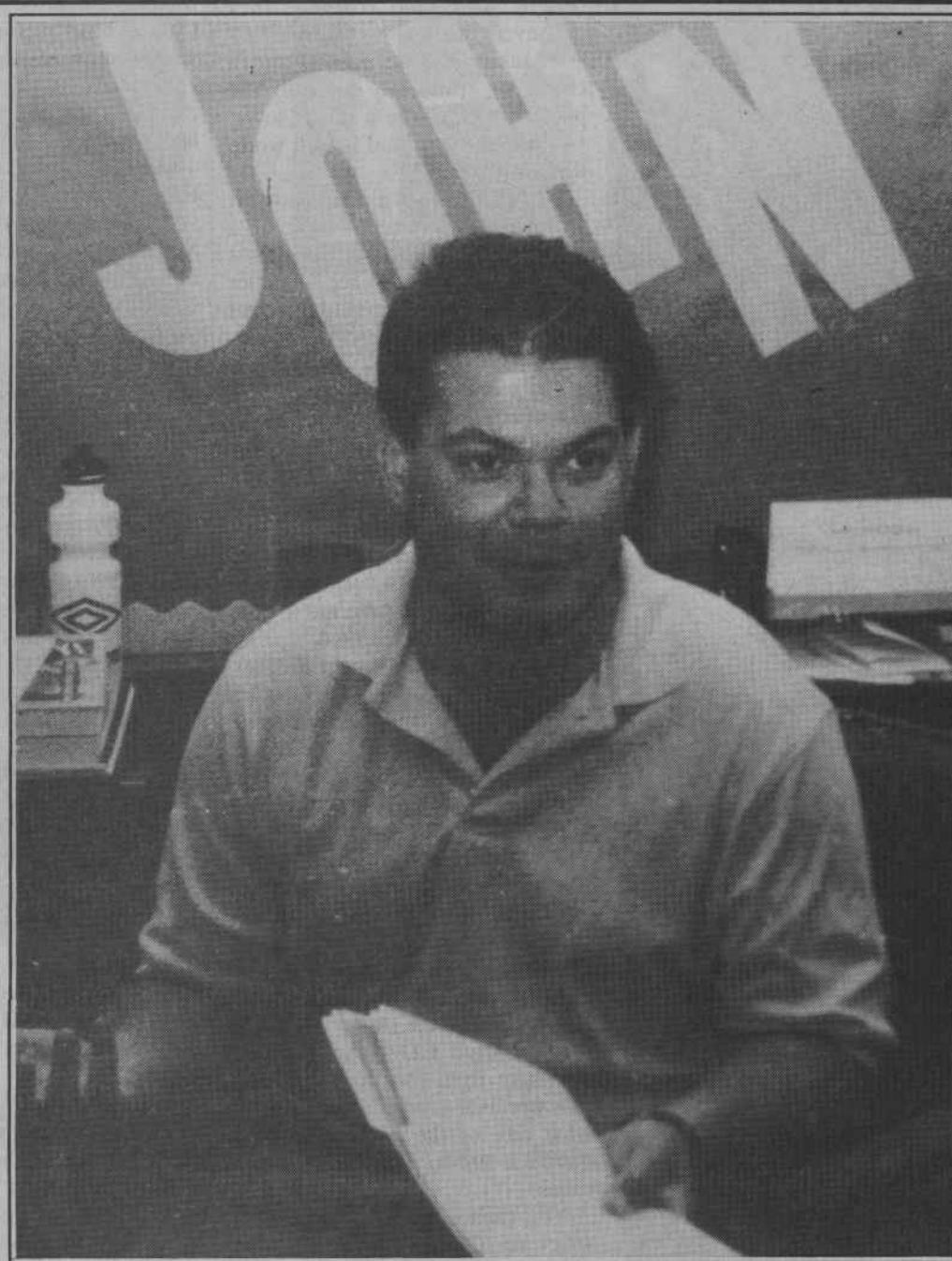
Williams, who spent July and part of August at Lake Baikal, said the scientists, despite their struggles, are profiting from the link with USC researchers.

"They want journals, new supplies, new equipment, printers — things that our undergraduates have access to. A senior scientist over there has read about these things, but has never had a chance to work with them until now," he said.

Schamel said the Earth Sciences Institute's researchers now have access to a large part of the world. Westerners have never studied before. Their Russian research partners, including some who have visited Columbia, seem extremely interested in learning about the practice of science in America. Most American computer technology, for instance, was off-limits in Russia until very recently, he said.

Williams, who expects his research to last five years, said Lake Baikal will yield new information about the earth's long-term weather trends. Near Siberia, the lake's bottom provides 20 million years of geological clues. Most North American lakes were formed by the last ice age, 20,000 years ago.

Kuhlman said he expects such research efforts to grow as Russia makes the generation-long transition to capitalism. Over the next 20 years, he said, the students now working in Russia will likely become the leaders of that nation's slowly emerging business community.



Lea Clayton/The Gamecock  
CPU President John Cunningham

## CPU President Expresses himself

### Cunningham shows dedication, diversity

By STEPHEN BROWN  
Staff Writer

John Cunningham, president of the Carolina Program Union, greets wide-eyed students every day to the busy programming office, a place where group effort results in campus-wide events.

His three years of dedication and team spirit have prepared him for the difficult job.

He began as a member of CPU's Contemporary Sounds Committee, was its chairperson, and became programming union vice-president before beginning his current term of office.

"Through CPU I've made a lot of my best friends, and I've learned about school and community," he said.

The poignant presentation of the AIDS Quilt last year opened his eyes. He enjoyed the visit by CNN journalist Catherine Crier and Cockstock, an all-day outdoor music festival, as well.

Comedian Bertice Berry pulled Cunningham on stage and dressed him in a Tina Turner wig during one memorable performance.

This year each CPU officer must attend at least one third of the union's programs. The officers have worked out a system through which at least one of them is present at each event.

As president, Cunningham easily meets the minimum ten hours a week he must spend in the office.

"Because I don't impose a lot of structure on myself," he said, "I like the system of designated office hours."

CPU goals for the year are to reach more people, increase membership, educate people about CPU's function on campus, collaborate with other organizations, and tap the resources which will help touch the Carolina Community.

In addition to his CPU presidency, Cunningham serves as Homecoming treasurer and is part

of Leadership Council, Student Orientation, and the Parent's Weekend Steering Committee.

To help him with time management skills, Cunningham always carries his Mortar Board Planning Calendar. "I never let it leave my hands," he says. "I often have nightmares about losing it."

Last year the CPU office was understaffed, but currently all positions are filled. Said Cunningham, "This year we are lucky to have an incredible staff. I couldn't be more satisfied."

Cunningham claims that life is a constant learning experience. He prefers to spend time with other people. One time during college he and some friends went to Charleston at 11:30 p.m. on a whim and returned early in the morning the next day.

Cunningham's favorite celebrity is Madonna who is "very open with her opinions and pushes acceptance for groups of people

who don't get the proper respect."

His love for Madonna has prompted him to send her cards at all the major holidays and invite her to his graduation. "She's the one for me. If she ever comes to Columbia, I'll be on the front row."

From Dallas-Fort Worth, he moved to the humble town of Simpsonville, SC, and became the valedictorian of Hillcrest High School after three years there. Being part of the big USC campus opened his mind to many new ideas.

"Simpsonville is not exactly the cultural hub of the universe. In small towns people tend to be alike, but here I've learned about people who aren't like me. During my first two years, my mouth popped open at what I saw on campus, but now it takes a lot to shock me."

Cunningham does not like "leading from above." Being part of the

crowd allows him to truly savor the experience of leadership.

Cunningham knew he would be an English major since the tenth grade.

"It's a very human major," he said. "You learn a lot about people and their societies together through literature."

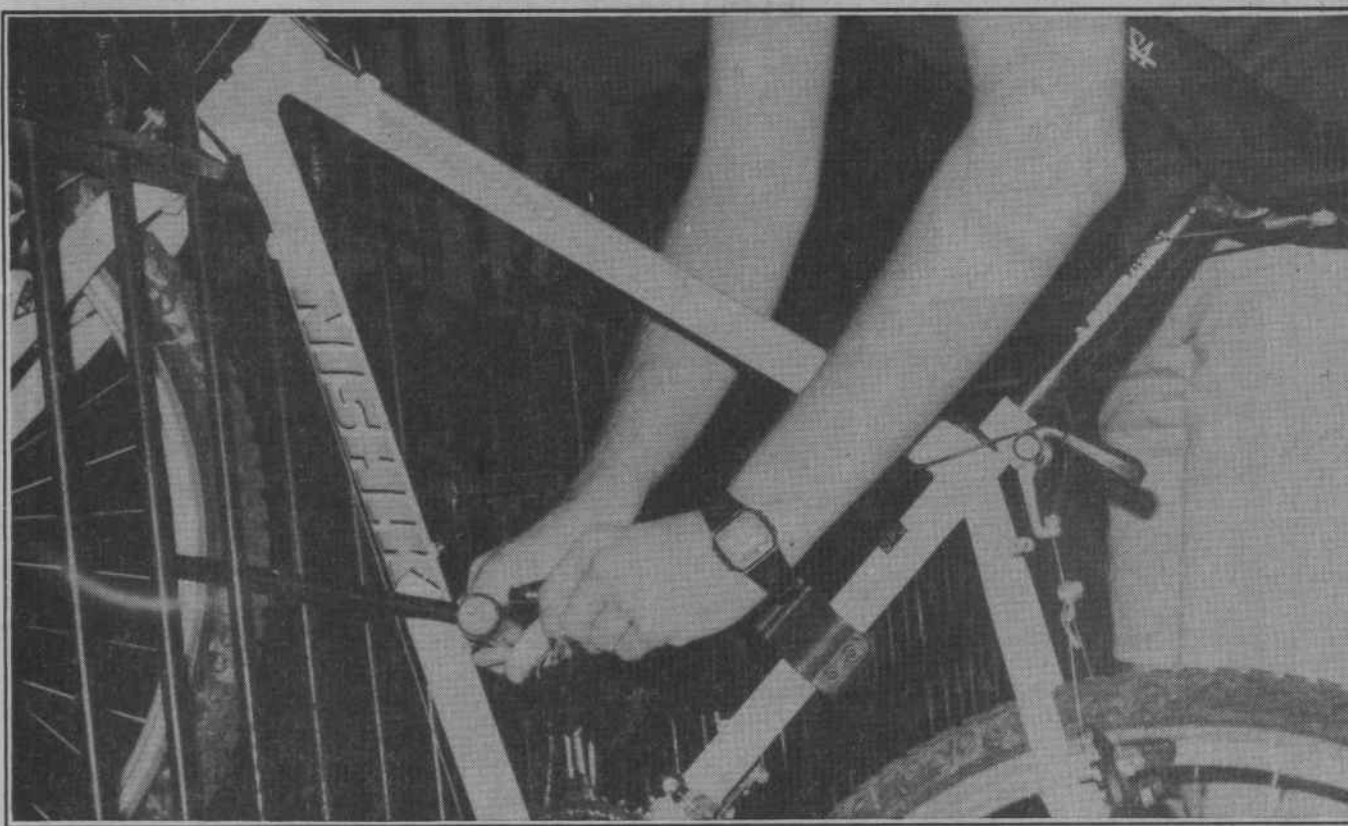
He particularly likes T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* and Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.

Returning CPU members are very committed to diversity, a goal Cunningham has stressed to the committee chairs.

"The direction of the organization should be steered by its membership," he said.

When he looks back on his USC years, Cunningham hopes he will "remember other people's successes as much as my own. If people would spend half as much time talking and twice as much time listening, we might all learn some valuable lessons."

## Proper care, locks keys to prevention of bicycle theft



Lea Clayton/The Gamecock

Students are strongly encouraged to keep their bicycles locked with a U-lock to discourage thieves.

By CHRIS MULDROW  
Staff Writer

Consider this scenario. You drag yourself out of bed 10 minutes before your early morning class and sprint down the stairs, counting on your trusty Schwinn to fly you across campus in time.

When you reach the post where you locked your bike the night before, all you find is a broken chain.

Your bike has been stolen. "We probably see at least five people a week who say they're replacing a stolen bike," Jim Buser, owner of Cycle Center in Five Points, said. "There are people down here who steal anything."

Students who are getting bicycles to travel across campus have been worrying about the possibility of theft.

"I'm terrified of getting a bike stolen," freshman Amy Coppler said. "I wasn't going to bring a bike, but I got on campus and decided I needed one. My parents are looking for a bike at home, but now I'm not sure."

Buser said his store's biggest sellers are U-shaped locks which are considered more effective in protecting the theft of bicycles.

"If you leave your bike on a cable-type lock, it's not a question of whether your bike will be stolen or not. It will be stolen eventually," Buser said.

"The U-locks are harder to cut through. A cable lock might have a 50-50 chance of being stolen. A U-lock cuts it down to about a 10 percent chance," he said. "We tell people that if they don't pay for a lock now, they'll pay for a bike later."

According to Buser, thieves are not only taking bicycles but wheels, seats, bicycle bags and even handlebars.

"We went through 75 seat posts and seats last year," Buser said. "With wheels and seats on a quick-release mounting, it's easy to take them."

Buser said if people would lock their bikes through the front wheel and the frame while attaching

their seats with bolts instead of quick-release fasteners, they would cut down on theft.

USC's Law Enforcement and Safety Director Carl Stokes said 32 bicycles have been reported stolen since January.

Only two bicycles have been reported stolen since August, Stokes said.

Stokes attributed the relatively low number of bicycle thefts this semester to students taking better care of their bicycles.

"I think one per month for two months is a good number," Stokes said. "People are locking their bikes, playing it tight, and not leaving them lying around."

Stokes also recommends the U-shaped lock available for \$26 from the Parking and Vehicle Registration office.

Some students are already

watching their bicycles.

"I lock my bike everywhere I go," freshman Joey Jeffcoat said. "I always take everything out of my seat bag and lock my wheel to the rack. I also bring my bike into my room at night sometimes."

Buser said taking bicycles inside at night thwarts would-be thieves.

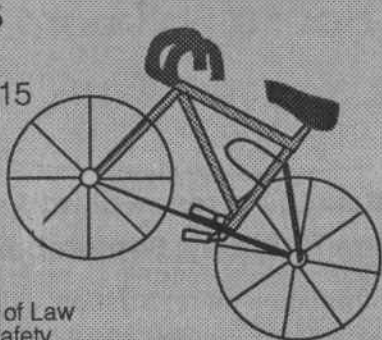
"Most of the thefts are either late in the day or at night," Buser said. "During the day, while people are in classes, many of the accessories are taken. At night, however, the people have all kinds of time to work on the locks. They can spend an hour on the lock at night, and it's very easy to strip a bike of wheels and other parts."

People who use their bicycles less frequently and own less expensive bicycles are not immune to thefts. Buser said those cheaper bikes are often easier victims for thieves.

"Most of the bikes you see stolen are low-end models," Buser said. "People don't think the bikes will get taken because they're cheaper, but they're wrong."

- Jan. 1, 1992 - Sept. 15 - 32 reported thefts
- Aug. 27, 1992 - Sept. 15 - 2 reported thefts
- A U shaped lock is the best protection for your bike.

**Carl Stokes**  
Director of Division of Law Enforcement and Safety



Kristin Buehlman/The Gamecock