

Obituary: June Pachuta Farris (August 2, 1947-July 27, 2018)

By Diana Greene

June's death on July 27, 2018 is a great loss to Slavic scholars, Slavic librarians, and to AWSS.

In 2012, June was the first librarian to be honored with the AWSS Outstanding Achievement Award, which recognizes the work of a scholar in Slavic Studies who has also served as a mentor to female colleagues in this field. The AWSS citation stated in part, "The entire profession has been enriched by June's unassuming yet dedicated commitment to helping scholars wherever they work—whether formally, through her many published bibliographies on subjects as diverse as Dostoevsky and Czech and Slovak emigres, or informally through her willingness to respond to countless queries from individuals. June's services to the field of women's and gender studies make her an especially deserving recipient of this award."

June's bibliographies are an invaluable gift to Slavists. She edited and compiled "An Integrated List of the Annual Bibliography of Dostoevsky Studies: *Journal of the International Dostoevsky Society* for the Years 1985-2007," with citations from 2008 to the present available in print and on the Dostoevsky database. For us in AWSS, her passion for bibliography by and about Slavic, East European, and Eurasian women, and women writers has allowed scholars to advance our field immeasurably. With Irina Liveazanu, Christine Worobec, and Mary Zirin she produced the two-volume *Women and Gender in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia: A Comprehensive Bibliography* (Routledge, 2007). From 1999, June's quarterly, and later semi-annual, and annual "Current Bibliography on Women and Gender in Russia and Eastern Europe" was published in The AWSS *Women East-West* Newsletter, her last bibliography, for January-June 2018, appearing in Volume 7, issue 1.

June received her Bachelor's degree in Russian and French from Case Western Reserve, her Master's in Slavic Studies from Ohio State University, and her Master's in Library Science from the University of Denver. She was fluent in Russian, Czech, French, and conversant in most Slavic languages, as well as Greek. From 1973-1986 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she was a Slavic Bibliographer, and from 1982, as Ralph Fisher recounts in his memoir, she directed the Slavic Reference Service. Starting in 1986, June was Bibliographer for Slavic, East European, Eurasian Studies, and General Linguistics at the University of Chicago's Regenstein Library, where she built a superlative Slavic, East European, and Eurasian collection. In addition to her many presentations on AAASS/ASEEES panels, and her leadership of various CLIR (Committee on Libraries and Resources) subcommittees, June published on several aspects of Slavic librarianship. These included articles on Russian serials, the archives of Czechs and Slovaks abroad, Slavic Studies librarianship in the USA and Canada, and "Sources of Study of Russian Women Journalists," an essay that appeared in Barbara Norton and Jehanne Gheith's *An Improper Profession: Women, Gender and Journalism in Late Imperial Russia* (Duke University Press, 2001).

On a personal note, June was the most intellectually generous person I have ever known. She shared her deep expertise in Slavic research and bibliography on SEELANGS, Slavlibs (the Slavic librarians' email list), and personally with any scholar or fellow librarian who sent her a Slavic query. She also mentored many of us in Slavic librarianship, as attested in the outpourings of warm and grateful remembrances of her posted on Slavlibs. June guided and mentored me as well. Patiently, and over many years, via my often-clueless email queries to her, she taught me basic and then more advanced Slavic research strategies. I will miss her, and our yearly 6:30 a.m. Friday breakfast at ASEEES more than I can say. In our last email interchange, just a week before her death, I mentioned my Russian women novelists project. June ended her response with, "Keep on writing!" I feel that this is her message to all of us in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Women's Studies, a field to which she contributed so greatly to make our research and writing possible.