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## Professors in Profile: Srbijanka Turajlić

Tungett, Lynne; Turajlić, Srbijanka

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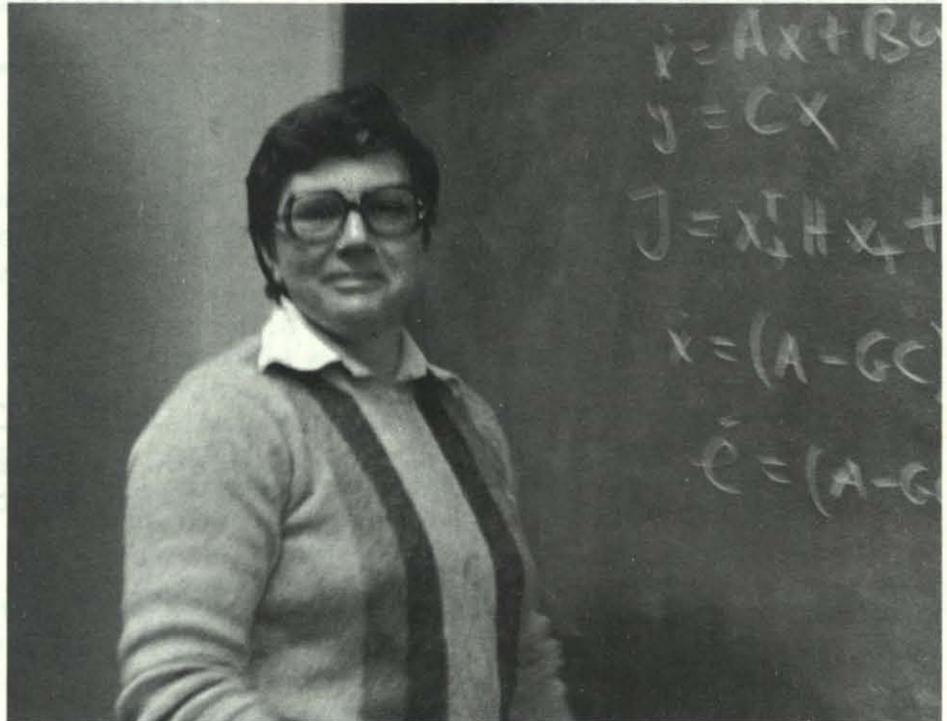
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## Professors in Profile: SRBIJANKA TURAJLIĆ

by Lynne Tungett

In keeping with the International Focus this month, I had the pleasure of talking with Professor Turajlić who is on a one year sabbatical from Belgrade University in Yugoslavia. She is on staff here at NPS with the Electrical Engineering Department. Professor Turajlić teaches two sections of linear optimal control systems. She comments, "It is a challenge to come to a foreign country and teach in a new language." She has been learning English since the second grade but said it is entirely different to teach a whole course in it. She kind of chuckled and said she finds the words come much easier during the second section of her class. In Yugoslavia there are three languages and two alphabets. One of the alphabets is similar to ours and the other is Cyrillic. Serbocroatian is Turajlić's native language and is the language the majority of the people in her country speak.

Srba, short for Srbijanka, Turajlić has attended Belgrade University since she was eighteen years old.



Professor Turajlić on a year sabbatical from Belgrade University, Belgrade Yugoslavia

Here, she received all her degrees and now works. Turajlić holds a bachelors, masters, and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering with a major in adaptive control systems and control theory. Belgrade University is where she even met her husband, Steven, who is a professor in computer numerical analysis. Harriet Rigias, Electrical Engineering Department Chairman, met Professor Turajlić at an Academy of Sciences conference in Europe. After their meeting, Turajlić was invited to be an instructor in the United States. Trajalic said that on the average, two professors from Belgrade University come to teach somewhere in the U.S. each year. Her goal while here is to learn and see as much as possible and in return do something useful for the academic community.

Since arriving in August, Professor Turajlić and her family have enjoyed seeing the local sights of the Monterey area. As a family they like to watch American television and were fascinated by the Presidential debates and election activities. She also said they enjoyed the task of house hunting.

They are now settled in a Pacific Grove home complete with a garden in the backyard. Professor Turajlić was glad to find a home with a yard so her daughters would have a place to play. A special smile came across her face when she spoke of her two daughters, Mila, age 5 and Nina, age 6. Mrs. Turajlić has been very pleased with our public school system. She said her daughters have been warmly received despite the language barrier. The girls were recent participants in the Pacific Grove Butterfly Parade and are members of a Brownie Troop. She went on to praise the teachers and other adults who give their spare time to insure that kids have fun. Professor Turajlić noted that her first impression of Americans is the willingness of people to be helpful. She elaborated that she has seen people exhibit a trust and confidence in one another that is very commendable.

Professor Turajlić, on behalf of everyone at the Naval Postgraduate School, I hope that your year in this country will be an enjoyable and fruitful experience for you and your family. □

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