Indiana University Department of Comparative Literature

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Fall 2006

Vol. 17

Alumni Newsletter

From the chair

Department of Comparative Literature meets the world

aving written an essay for a forth-coming volume of *Teaching World Literature*, I want to explain why I did such a thing. After all, I do not teach world literature. Like other comparatists of my generation, I was taught, however subtly, to sneer at the teaching of "world literature" as the enterprise of monolingual English department types who taught foreign works in translation, without benefit of an acquaintance with the original languages and cultures.

Why, then, would I write such an essay? And why do I choose this occasion to confess having done so? It seems an appropriate time to try to sum up the changes that have taken place during my watch — changes that include a shift in the Department of Comparative Literature's posture vis-à-vis literatures from the world beyond Europe.

In the most general terms, my tenure as

chair has been a time of rebuilding. After several years during which our department was not authorized to hire tenure-track faculty, we have begun hiring talented younger scholars and teachers who are breathing new life into the department: Vivian Nun Halloran, Miryam Segal, Akin Adesokan, and Eyal Peretz.

Another new member of the faculty, **Bill Johnston**, was already at Indiana University Bloomington, but since his "other career" as a distinguished translator of Polish literature was not related to his original IUB appointment, he decided to move half of his teaching responsibilities to comparative literature. Once here, he began to play a major role in reinvigorating the translation studies program.

Paul Losensky also joined our department from within IUB, by dint of moving part of his affiliation. Although this happy shift took place under the auspices of David Hertz, BA'76, BS'77, MA'79, my predecessor as chair, it needs to be included in this list because it is an important part of our movement beyond our roots in the European tradition.

Finally, during the coming academic year, we hope to hire a comparatist with expertise in East Asian, or East Asian and European, literatures and cultures.

Although my essay offers a sort of theoretical defense of world literature courses in which the instructor cannot read several of the texts in their original language, the broad trend reflected in the recent additions to the faculty has to do not just with the teaching of world literature courses per

se, but in more general terms, with new approaches to the teaching of the literatures of the world. In one sense, of course, there is nothing new about our department's engagement with the world. Starting with a base in the most conspicuous and influential European literatures, the department developed pioneering courses in Asian-Western and Arabic-Western literary relations, and in African literatures. But these approaches tended to be tethered in Europe or taught by faculty members whose training had been in European literary traditions. More specifically, our expertise tended to be centered in the literatures that have been linked to what has been called the "great powers" conception of comparative literary study.

What we have been doing, with several of the recent additions to the faculty, and with an impressive group of adjunct faculty members as well, is cut the tether or shift its locus. Our world now includes Persia, India, and the Caribbean. The African content is getting broader coverage, not only in terms of cultural geography, but also in terms of the variety of media being studied. We now offer courses exploring relationships between cultural areas that do not include Europe — for example, Caribbean literature in relation to African and black American literature, and South American literature in relation to North American literature. Even in the European context, we have witnessed the redefining of cultural geography in such a way as to highlight supranational and subnational objects of study, such as literatures

(continued on back page)

Professor emeritus celebrates 90th

Henry Remak, MA'37, professor emeritus of comparative literature, germanic studies, the Hutton Honors College, and West European studies, turned 90 years old on July 17. He is pictured below in August with his wife, Ingrid.



We are pleased to announce that upon Professor Oscar Kenshur's retirement at the end of the fall semester 2006, Professor Eileen Julien will assume the duties of chair of the IUB Department of Comparative Literature.

Faculty News

Retired faculty

Professor Emeritus **Salih Altoma** authored the 2005 book *Modern Arabic Literature in Translation: A Companion*. This work features not only a comprehensive bibliography, but also chapters covering such topics as fiction, drama, poetry, and Iraqi literature.

- Professor Emeritus **Willis Barnstone** has a book forthcoming: *Sweetbitter Love: The Poems of Sappho* (in Greek and English), published by Shambhala Publications.
- Professor Emeritus Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch continues to work as a translator. Most recently, he collaborated in the creation of the new international, English-language edition of the *Spiegel*. He also translated Schorsch Kamerun's radio drama *Hollywood Elegies*, based on Bertolt Brecht's poems of the same title, for the North German Broadcasting Corp. He is currently translating a book about Viennese composer Alban Berg.
- During the spring semester, Professor Emeritus **Matei Calinescu** taught CMLT-C641 Literature in Intellectual and Cultural Contexts: Understanding Modernity: Historical & Intellectual Backgrounds.
- Professor Emeritus Eugene Eoyang, PhD'71, continues to be an active scholar and teacher. He is the editor of Intercultural Explorations: Papers from the XVth Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association, Leiden, in press with Amsterdam: Rodopi. His article, "An Erotics of Theory: Technological Paradigms for Comparative Literature," is featured in Cybernetic Ghosts: Literature in the Age of Theory and Technology, published by Brigham Young University Press. He had two articles appear in IU's Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature: "Mutability Around the World" and "The Theme of Mutability in Three Chinese Poems." He is also the author of "The Ethics and Aesthetics of Literature: a Comparative Perspective,"



In October 2004, Eoyang was presented with the Teaching Excellence Award from Lingnan University. He was also the chief organizer of the 17th Triennial Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association, Aug. 8–15. Eoyang has been invited to be a Lam East-West Institute Fellow at Hong Kong Baptist University, from 2005 through 2008.

- Professor Emeritus **Harry Geduld** has published *The Purim Spiel and Other Stories*, a collection of 30 short stories.
- Professor Emeritus **Ingeborg Hoesterey** has been busy writing a book review for the *Yearbook of Comparative*and General Literature and attending the American Comparative Literature Association meeting at Princeton University.

Faculty

Sumie Jones's essay "We Readers of Erotic Fiction" was a featured article in *Kokubun-gaku Kaishaku to Kansho*, the leading journal on Japanese literature, published in Tokyo. Her paper "Making the Most of the Breach in the Dike: Accommodations of Cultural Studies to East Asian Comparative Literature" appeared in the journal *Textxet*: *Studies in Comparative Literature*, edited by Professor Emeritus Eugene Eoyang, PhD'71. She has also been granted a National Endowment of the Humanities matching grant of \$20,000, which is to be added to her NEH collaborative 2003–07 research grant.

- Professor Eileen Julien's article "The Extroverted African Novel" is forthcoming in English from Princeton University Press. The article was published in Italian in *Il Romanzo*, edited by Franco Moretti. Following a symposium in Stockholm in 2004, Julien was invited to participate in a small international committee that met in Paris in October 2005 to consider the challenges of doing a transcultural literary history.
- Professor Rosemarie McGerr has received a College Arts and Humanities Institute research fellowship and a travel grant through Research and the University Graduate School New Frontiers Humanities Research program. The awards support her work on her edition of the medieval dream vision, *The Pilgrimage of the Soul*.
- Visiting faculty member Aiko Okamoto MacPhail accepted the position of adjunct assistant professor in the Depart-

ment of French and Italian at IU.

• Angela Pao was elected to the executive committee for the MLA Drama Division. Her essay "The Ocular Proof: Colorblindness and Spectatorship" recently appeared in Colorblind Shakespeare: New Perspectives on Race and Performance, edited by Ayanna Thompson and published by Routledge. Last spring, Pao taught a graduate seminar on European and North American ethnic minority and diasporic literatures at the University of Lisbon as part of the department's longstanding Lisbon exchange.

New faculty

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new faculty members.

- Professor Akinwumi Adesokan, who joined the department in the fall of 2005, received his PhD in 2005 from Cornell University. His dissertation was titled "Worlds That Flourish: Postnational Aesthetics in West African Videofilms, African Cinema, and Black Diasporic Writings." He began his writing career as a journalist and critic in Nigeria. In 1996, he won the Association of Nigerian Authors' Prize for Fiction for his first novel, Roots in the Sky, which was published in 2004. In 1998, he received the PEN West Freedom-to-Write Award, honoring "writers who have produced work in the face of extreme adversity and have defended freedom of expression and fought against censorship." He co-edits Glendora Review: An African Quarterly on the Arts and has published chapters in African Drama and Performance and The People's Poet: Emerging Perspectives on Niyi Osundare. His areas of research include 20th-century African, African-American, and African diaspora literatures and cultures; global postcoloniality; African cinema and contemporary global cinemas; nonfiction prose; and cultural theory.
- Eyal Peretz joined the department this fall. Peretz received his PhD in comparative literature from Yale University in 2001 and has taught literature at Harvard University. His book, Literature, Disaster, and the Enigma of Power: A Reading of Moby Dick, was published by Stanford University Press. He has completed a second book manuscript, "Becoming Visionary: Brian De Palma's Cinematic Education of the Senses." Peretz co-edited the forthcoming Claims of Literature: The Shoshana Felman Reader.

Student News

Graduate news

Laila Amine, MA'05, presented a paper, "A Pantomine of American and French Society: Race, Identity, and Surveillance in Danzy Senna's *Caucasia* and Leila Sebbar's *Sherazade*," at the American Studies Association annual meeting in November.

- Chantal Carleton will be in France for a year on our Nanterre Exchange Program.
- In December 2005, Shawn Connor was elected assistant moderator for the IU Bloomington Graduate and Professional Student Organization. In addition, he serves as co-chair for the GPSO Campus Affairs Committee. Connor's paper, "Beauty in the Eyes of the Beheld: The Humanizing Pageantry of Latin American Women's Prisons," was accepted for presentation at the 2006 American Comparative Literature Association Conference.
- Rebecca Disrud presented a paper, "Party of One," at a Virginia Woolf Conference in Portland, Ore. She also received a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship from IUB for the summer of 2006.
- Jamie Ferguson accepted a tenuretrack position as assistant professor of the Department of English and the Honors College at the University of Houston. Ferguson will be teaching courses in Renaissance literature and literary and philosophical texts of the West.

In 2005, Ferguson received a Francis Bacon Foundation Fellowship for a twomonth residency at the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif.; a short-term Residential Fellowship for Individual Research from the Newberry Library in Chicago; and a grant from Leila Vennewitz Literary Translation Fund from IU Bloomington's Lilly Library to attend the 2005 Summer Residency Program at the Banff International Literary Translation Center. In the spring of 2005, he delivered papers at three conferences: "Reluctant Evangelists: Controversies around the English Recusant Bible," at the 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, in Kalamazoo, Mich.; "Elizabethan Bible Translation and Lyric Sequences," at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting in Cambridge, England; and "Faith in the Language: English Bible-Translation and Lyric in the 1530s," at the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting.

In the fall of 2004, he organized and chaired a panel, "Making It Auld: Archaic Translation and Philology," at the American Literary Translators' Association annual meeting, and he gave a talk, "Everything in

Students participate in 'sexy' symposium

On April 20, 2005, eight graduate students participated in a symposium, "Border Crossings: Gender and Sexuality in the Arts." Based on papers submitted in Professor Sumie Jones's C546 Sexuality and the Arts course, the symposium was sponsored by the Department of Comparative Literature, the Department of English, the Kinsey Institute, and Instructional Support Services. Professors Douglas Hofstadter (College Professor of cognitive science and computer science; adjunct professor of history, philosophy, psychology, and comparative literature) and Joss Marsh (associate professor of English) served as faculty discussants.

It was a great experience for the participants and a great success. There were many attendees from a variety of departments, and the papers were interesting, thought-provoking, and, if we may say so, sexy!

The first panel, "Image," was co-chaired by Chantal Carleton and Rebecca Disrud and featured presentations by Diana Dunkelberger, Kristen Reed, MA'04, Nicole Tobin, and Selah Wyche. The second panel, "Text," was co-chaired by Reed and Dunkelberger and featured presentations by Lily Li, Carleton, Michael Lewis, and Disrud. In organizing the conference, Jones received enormous assistance from master's student Nicole Tobin, who served as the symposium's communications coordinator. Tobin handled publicity for the event and helped with the organization.

its Place: Towards an Historical Anthology of Polish Poetry in Translation."

- Chai-li Kao was awarded a \$15,000 scholarship from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation.
- Kathryn Johnston was awarded the Iranian Studies Fellowship from the IU Department of Central Eurasian Studies for \$12,000.
- **Angela Pocarelli** served as lecturing fellow in Italian Studies at Duke University.
- Joanne Quimby, MA'00 (comparative literature), MA'00 (Japanese) was awarded the annual IU College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation-Year Fellowship for \$15,000.
- Kristin Reed, MA'04, received a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for summer 2006.
- Mira Rosenthal presented a paper titled "The New York School and Contemporary Polish Poetry" at the City University of New York Conference on Contemporary Poetry. She also presented a paper, "In Search of (Creative) Diversity: New Perspective in Polish Literary and Cultural Studies Abroad," at the University of Toronto Conference. Her poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in Ploughshares, Notre Dame Review, Seneca Review, and American Poetry Review. Rosenthal edited a special issue of Lyric Poetry Review on new Polish poetry in translation, available at www.lyricreview.org.
- Matt Rowe has been investigating the work of the mainly French group Oulipo, which translates roughly into "workshop for potential literature." He has been invited

- to present papers on Oulipo at graduate conferences at the University of Chicago, the University of Wisconsin, and IU's Department of English. In October, he joined a small workshop at Princeton, hosted by Oulipo scholar and translator David Bellos. Oulipo president Paul Fournel and members Harry Mathews and Hervé Le Tellier gave readings and led writing workshops and discussions on the role of formalism in literary creativity. Rowe was able to study Portuguese under the auspices of a Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for the 2005-06 academic year. Rowe hopes to use his new language skills to bring authors such as Osman Lins and Fernando Pessoa into his research.
- Hanwei Tan accepted a position as assistant professor at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.
- Chantal Carleton, Edward Chamberlain, MA'06, Arianne Hartsell, MA/MLS'05, and Nicole Tobin presented papers at the Twentieth-Century Literature Conference in Louisville, Ky., in February 2005. Their panel was "Looking at Gender/Sexuality Through Comparative Arts."
- Nicole Tobin will be in Spain for a year of teaching English as a second language.
- Naomi Uechi, MA'98, was offered a position as a visiting lecturer of comparative literature at IUPUI through the Future Faculty Teaching Fellows program. She received an Emerson Society Research grant and a Research-in-Aid grant for her dissertation.



Recent graduates and award winners

We extend our heartiest congratulations to our graduating students for all their accomplishments, as well as any other accomplishments we may have overlooked.

2005 MA

Cielle Amundson, BA'02, MA'05 Amanda Briggs, MA'05 Arianne Hartsell, MA/MLS'05 Michael Schlie, MA'05

2005 PhD

Cathleen Cameron, PhD'05 David Kaplin, MA'98, PhD'05 Paul Nelson, PhD'05

2006 MA

Edward Chamberlain, MA'06

2006 PhD

Raghad Al-Hussamy, PhD'06 Mark C. Harper, PhD'06

Spring 2006 awards

Graduate recipients

- Michael Schlie, MA'05, Gilbert V. Tutungi Award for the best master's project
- Laila Amine, MA'05, Associate Instructor Award for excellence in classroom teaching
- Kunio Hara, Newton P. Stallknecht Memorial Award for best graduate essay in a comparative literature course

Undergraduate recipients

- Daniel Bulla, BA'06, Outstanding Senior Award
- Luke Winnikates, BA'06, Ann Geduld Award for outstanding undergraduate student in comparative arts

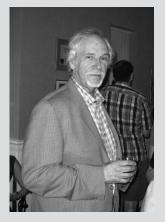


Literature buffs mingle at the spring graduation and awards reception



Graduate students, from left, Michael Dalton, Diana Dunkelberger, Chantal Carleton, and Matt Rowe

AT NEAR RIGHT —
Professor and
department chair
Oscar Kenshur
AT FAR RIGHT —
Graduate student
Nicole Tobin, left,
with Melody Li







Professor Sumie Jones and Visiting Lecturer Jeff Johnson, right, entertain a guest.



From left, Assistant Professor Akin Adesokan, graduate students Laila Amine, MA'05, Cenida Alvis Barranco, Michael Thomson, Professor Eileen Julien, and Outstanding Senior Award winner Dan Bulla, BA'06

Photos courtsey of Mariam Ehtesham

Alumni News

1960s

Linda K. Weinstein Becker, BA'67, received an EdD in higher education administration from the University of Massachusetts in Boston in 2005.

Ronald W. Thornton, MA'67, PhD'79, published his paper "More on Basque vis-à-vis Eurasiatic" in *Mother Tongue X* in 2005. He is a professor of English at Otsuma Women's University in Tokyo. He and his wife, Naoko (Fuwa), MA'67, PhD'73, live in Kamakura, Japan. She is a professor of English at Japan Women's University.

1970s

Upon completion of a novella, **Isabel R. Feldman**, BA'71, received a master's degree in English with an emphasis on creative writing from Queens College in New York.

Carmen O. Menéndez, MA'72, is a professor at the University Politecnica de Madrid in Spain. She is the author of *Glimpses: Existential Ideas in Literary Fiction: A Comparative Study*, self-published

in 1998. She is also the author of the Dictionary of Real Estate Business and the co-author of the Dictionary of Architecture, Urbanism, and Construction. Her article "Thatching with Green Broom in Spain" appears on www.thatch.org. Her poetry is featured at www.fishousepoems.org. Menéndez received her master's in romance philology from Madrid Complutense University in 1968, a PhD in architecture from Madrid Polytechnic University in 1998, and a PhD in general linguistics from Madrid Autonomous University in 2004.

1990s

Hanadi Al-Samman, MA'92, PhD'00, accepted a tenure-track appointment in Asian and Middle Eastern languages and cultures at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Al-Samman will be teaching courses in contemporary Arabic literature and history and culture of the Middle East.

Jeffrey Bardzell, MA'94, PhD'04, accepted a position as an assistant professor in the School of Informatics at IUB in 2005.

Christian Moraru, MA'95, MA'96, PhD'98, is up for a full professorship

at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. His recent writing is *Memorious Discourse: Reprise and Representation* in *Postmodernism*, published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press in 2005.

Mary Dezember, MA'97, PhD'00, was promoted to the rank of associate professor at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology at Socorro.

David Kaplin, MA'98, PhD'05, accepted a one-year appointment as a visiting assistant professor of English at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis. He will be teaching courses in romanticism and the Victorian age, British writers from Wordsworth to the present, and literary analysis.

Kevin West, MA'98, Cert'00, PhD'04, is an assistant professor at Stephen F. Austin State University in the Department of English and Philosophy. He and his wife, Camilla, just added another member to their family, a son named Nick.

2000s

Austin Busch, MA'00, PhD'04, accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in the English department of the State University of New York in Brockport. He teaches early world literature.

Steven DiMattei, MA'00, MA'05, will be defending his dissertation, "Tupos et Typologie Dans le Christianisme Ancien. Une Critique de L'image de Paul en Tant Que Fondateur de L'exégèse Typologique," in November 2006, thus completing his doctorate from the Sorbonne [the University of Paris].

He has two recently published articles: "Paul's Allegory of the Two Covenants (Gal. 4.21-31) in Light of First-Century Hellenistic Rhetoric and Jewish Hermeneutics," in New Testament Studies in January 2006; and "Rereading Aristotle's De Interpretatione 16a3-8: Verbal Propositions as Symbols of the Process of Reasoning" in Ancient Philosophy in June 2006. He has two forthcoming articles: "Moses' Physiologia and the Meaning and Use of Physikos in Philo of Alexandria's Exegetical Method," in The Studia Philonica Annual in November 2006; and a French version, "Quelques Précisions sur la Physiologia et L'emploi de Physikos Dans la Méthode Exégétique de Philon d'Alexandria," in Revue des Etudes Juives in January 2007.

Samantha Karn, Cert/BA'01, JD'04, is an associate in Barnes & Thornburg's Indianapolis office. She practices in the litigation department. Prior to joining the firm, Karn clerked for the Supreme Court of Rhode Island.

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Only IUAA members may search for jobs and mentors, so activate your membership today!

Contact the IUAA membership department at iuaamemb@indiana.edu or (800) 824-3044.



From the chair

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of stateless minorities (Yiddish literature, for example), or the literature produced by immigrants or exiles. And yes, we have added a course on world literature before 1500, which brings together texts from the Mediterranean basin, East and West Asia, and South Asia.

Opening ourselves to an ever-wider world has in no way required us to turn our back on the great European traditions. Many of us still teach and write about the great canonical works of European literature and thought, and we are enhancing our strengths in these areas as well. What we have done, though, is follow out the logic of our discipline, which is to compare, explain, and make accessible an ever-wider array of cultures and forms of expression.

— Oscar Kenshur

We want to hear from you! Fill out the form on this page and send it in. We'll publish your news in a future issue of Encompass.

Encompass

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Department of Comparative Literature Chair.....Oscar Kenshur

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Comparative Literature: What's new with you?

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