

## Indiana University Department of Comparative Literature

College of Arts &  
Sciences Alumni  
Association

# Encompass

Spring 2002

Vol. 14

## Alumni Newsletter

### Understanding of Hobbes changes as world changes

**O**n the morning of Sept. 11, I was scheduled to teach a class on Hobbes's *Leviathan*. When the class was finally held a couple of days later, we did talk about the assigned text, but with a new inflection, generated by a new understanding of Hobbes's thought.

Although we were far removed from the events of the English Revolution, we now had an existential grasp of why Hobbes felt that nothing was a greater threat to peace than the fanatical certainty that one has private knowledge of what one is obliged to do in order to achieve salvation.

Weeks have passed, and I'm now writing in my still-new capacity as chair of the Comparative Literature Program, with words of greeting to alumni and friends.

“*I increasingly think of comparative literature in other terms, as a locus of diversity, a champion of tolerance and cosmopolitanism.*”

But I find that even the way I think about this department, and my role in it, is affected by the events of Sept. 11.

I used to think of comparative literature as a kind of free space, a charmingly indefinable academic unit where the normal disciplinary rules did not apply.

But now I increasingly think of comparative literature in other terms, as a locus of diversity, a champion of tolerance and cosmopolitanism.

Indeed, when I see the eagerness with which colleagues in other departments express their desire to be affiliated with comparative literature, it becomes all the more evident that our attractiveness lies in something beyond a mere openness to innovative approaches or a mere absence of constraints. It lies in a complex of cultural values that bring us together and inform all our undertakings.

So it is as someone who is grateful for the opportunity to serve as chair of such a department that I send you my greetings.

— *Oscar Kenshur*

### Spring reception honors staff, faculty, students

**T**he annual spring reception was held on Friday, April 27, in Ballantine Hall. Even though it was the last day of classes for the semester, the reception was well-attended by faculty and students, along with invited guests from other departments and the administration. Thanks go to **Michele Andrews**, **Sarah Mote**, and **Tracy Lassiter** for decorating the room in festive red and white balloons.

**David Hertz**, former chair, welcomed everyone to the reception and congratulated the department on a successful year. He announced faculty accomplishments, including Professor **Paul Losensky's** tenure, promotion, and TERA teaching award. See “Faculty news” on page 2 for more news about our department's faculty achievements.

Professor **Ingeborg Hoesterey** announced the undergraduate awards, and Professor **Giancarlo Maiorino** announced graduate student awards and accomplishments. See “Student notes” on page 3 for details.



*Special thanks to our associate instructors for their hard work in 2000-01:*

**Michele Andrews**  
**Burcu Bakiouglu**  
**Theodore Bouabre**  
**Austin Busch**  
**David Kaplin**  
**Patrick Kingsman**  
**Monique LaRocque**  
**Mark Minster**  
**Sarah Mote**  
**ImedNsiri**  
**Ioana Patuleanu**  
**Adam Rovner**  
**Adriana Varga**  
**Kevin West**  
**Matthias Westphal**

# Faculty news

## Faculty activities

**Eugene Eoyang** was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce. He published an article titled "From the Imperial to the Empirical: Teaching English in Hong Kong" in *Profession 2000*.

**Joan Hawkins** received tenure with the IU Department of Communication and Culture and published her book, *Cutting Edge: Art-Horror and the Horrific Avant-Garde* (University of Minnesota Press).

**Sumie Jones** co-edited a special issue of the magazine *Poetica* on comparative literature for the International Journal of Linguistic-Literary Studies. In celebration of "50 years of Comparative Literature," Jones organized the graduate symposia "Reading Gender and Modernity: Japanese Literature, Film, and Music" (April 2000) and "Gender, Sexuality, and Visuality in the Arts" (December 2000). The latter was repeated at the Kinsey Institute (March 2001). She has published several articles, including "What Is 'Religion' and What Is 'Literature' in Japanese Culture in the End of the 20th Century?" in *Religion and Literature in Japan* (Kyoto International Research Center for Japanese Studies, 2000); "Overtext: Toward a Theory of Postmodernity in Early Modern Literature" (in Korean translation) in *Critica, Journal of the Korean Association of Theory and Criticism* (Seoul, 2000); and "The Mystery of Kitagawa Utamaro's 'Fishing under the Bridge'" in the newsletter of the Mizuta Museum of Art (Sakado, Japan, No. 6, 2000).

**Oscar Kenshur's** 25,000 word essay, "Virtue and Defilement: Moral Rationalism and Sexual Prohibitions in the *Lettres Persanes*," appeared in the December 2001 issue of *SVEC* (Voltaire Foundation, Oxford). He was appointed an advisory editor of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*.

**Paul Losensky** was promoted to associate professor, with tenure. At the international workshop "Patronage in Indo-Persian Culture" (Paris, March 21-23, 2001), he presented a paper titled "Building a Career: Architecture in the Life and Poetry of Kalim Kashani." In April, he presented a revised version at a three-day seminar on Islamicate aesthetics in South Asia (Chapel Hill, N.C.). At the conference "Comparative Arts and Interdisciplinarity: What Was ... What Is ... What's Next" (Bloomington, April 5-8), he presented "'The Equal of Heaven's Vault': The

Design, Ceremony, and Poetry of the Hasanabad Bridge in Isfahan." His translation of three Persian ghazals appeared in the latest issue of *Beacons: The Journal of Literary Translation of the American Translators Association*. Losensky was also appointed to the editorial board of the new journal *Eurasian Studies*.

**Breon Mitchell** edited the sixth annual issue of *Beacons, the Journal of Literary Translation of the American Translators Association*. He has been appointed director of the Lilly Library.

**Anya Royce** is a Chancellor's Professor of anthropology and received a Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship for a writers' residency program in Liguria, Italy, for fall 2002.

**Suzanne Stetkevych** was on sabbatical for 2001. She spent the first six months in Cairo and Alexandria on an NEH-funded research grant from the American Research Center in Egypt for her project, "From Text to Talisman: Manuscript, Print, and Performance Traditions of al-Busiri's Mantle Ode." In January, she presented "Renunciation and Gratification: Caliphal Authority and the Poetics of Gender" at the American University in Cairo. In May, she presented "From Text to Talisman: al-Busiri's Mantle Ode in Praise of the Prophet" at a seminar of the American Research Center in Egypt. While in Cairo she also served as Islamist-in-residence at ARCE. Her monograph, *The Poetics of Islamic Legitimacy: Myth, Gender, and Ceremony in the Classical Arabic Ode*, is forthcoming with the IU Press. She continues to serve as editor of the *Journal of Arabic Literature* (Leiden, E.J. Brill; [php.indiana.edu/~jal](http://php.indiana.edu/~jal)).

**Gilbert Chaitin** was appointed resident director of the Wisconsin-Michigan-Indiana "Academic Year in Aix-en-Provence" program for 2002-03.

**Eileen Julien** participated in a conference on "Africa After Gender? An Exploration of New Epistemologies for African Studies" at University of California at Santa Barbara in spring 2001. She presented "Modernity and Multiple Imaginaries in Literature and the Arts: The Example of Senegal" at an African studies seminar at the University of Iowa and also as the Taft lecture at the annual Cincinnati conference on Romance Languages and Literatures. At the annual African Literature Association meeting in Richmond, Va., she gave a paper on fieldwork and literature and presented the Fonlon-Nichols Award to Somali writer Nuruddin Farah.

## New and visiting faculty

We welcome the following professors to the Department of Comparative Literature as adjunct faculty members:

- **Dov-Ber Kerler**, Dr. Alice Field Cohn Chair in Yiddish studies at the Department of Germanic Studies and the Borns Jewish Studies Program;
- **Michel Chaouli**, assistant professor of Germanic studies;
- **Rosemary Lloyd**, Rudy Professor of French and Italian studies;
- **Deborah Cohn**, assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese;
- **Edith Sarra**, associate professor of East Asian languages and cultures and adjunct in gender studies; and
- **Purnima Bose**, whose research interests include differential nationalisms (with an emphasis on South Asia and Ireland); post-colonial studies; feminism; and cultural studies.

**Maria Lourdes Cancio-Martins** joined the department for fall 2001 as a visiting lecturer from the University of Lisbon, Portugal. She taught a graduate seminar titled "Utopia: History and Structure." She also presented the lecture "Paths and Detours of Utopia" in October.

This year we are pleased to have two additional visiting scholars, **Young-Soon Lee** from Pai Chai University in Korea and **He Ping** from Sichuan University in China.

## Faculty honors

**Professor Angela Pao**, who accepted the position of director of undergraduate studies, received an award from the overseas conference fund from the Office of International Programs to support her travel to the 2001 annual international conference of the International Federation for Theatre Research, "Transactions: Culture and Performance."

Professors **Eileen Julien** and **Ilinca Zarifopol-Johnston** were awarded the President's Arts and Humanities Initiative in the 2000-01 competition. Julien received the award for her book project, *Modernity and Multiple Imaginaries in Literature and the Arts*. Zarifopol-Johnston's project is a book titled *E.M. Cioran: Portrait of the Philosopher as a Young Man*.

Professor **Paul Losensky** was given the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Recognition Award for the 2000-01 academic year.

# Student notes

## Student activities

Last summer, PhD student **Austin Busch** presented his paper titled "Livy's Ethical and Ethnographical Reversals: The Romans and the Gauls in *Ab urbe condita* 5" at the American Classical League Institute, held at IU Bloomington. He read another paper called "Statius' *Silvae* 2.1 and Flavian Family Values" at the conference of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, held this year in Provo, Utah.

PhD student **Naomi Uechi** presented a paper titled "Frank Lloyd Wright's Transcendental Reconciliation Between Nature and Culture" at the Comparative Arts and Interdisciplinarity Conference (IU, April 2001) and another paper titled "Walt Whitman's 'Song of the Universal' and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West, Arizona," at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference (Northern Arizona University, June 2001).

In March 2001, **Nikita Nankov** published a book (in Bulgarian) called *In the Hall of Mirrors*, a collection of seven long studies on Bulgarian and European modernism in comparative perspective. Nankov's book won a grant from the Swiss foundation for culture Pro Helvetia, Réseaux Est-Ouest.

Last October, **Patrick Kinsman** presented a paper titled "Godard: Postmodern Modernist?" as a part of a panel discussion at the Modernist Studies Association meeting in Philadelphia. In March, he read a paper called "John Howard Lawson and *Blockade*" at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association regional meeting in Albuquerque, N.M.

MA student **Tracy Lassiter** spent part of last summer (May-June) helping establish a library in Bungoma, Kenya.

PhD student **Paul Nelson** presented a paper titled "Two Medieval Tales of Mother-Son Incest: Alfonso X's *Cantiga XVII* and Don Juan Manuel's *Exemplum*

*XXXVI: Evolution of a Social Conscience?*" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (San Francisco, July 6-9, 2001).

## Student awards

### Undergraduate

**Jennifer Holt** and **Joe Pusateri** received the Outstanding Senior Award for academic achievement and scholarly potential.

**Erik Gibson** and **Oliver Hildebrandt** received the Ann Geduld Award, which recognizes the most outstanding comparative literature undergraduate in film and interarts studies.

**Gina Zambori** received the Mary E. Campbell Award, which is granted every four years to an exceptional student in the humanities.

**Jennifer Holt** was elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

**Oliver Hildebrandt** was selected for induction into Gamma Kappa Alpha, the national honor society for college students of Italian.

### Graduate

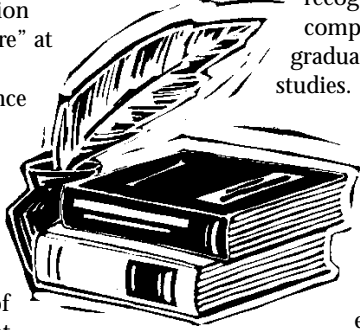
The U.S. Department of Education awarded both **Thomas Cooper** and **Adriana Varga** the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship for the 2001-02 academic year to do research in Hungary. Varga will spend half of the year in Romania.

MA student **Tracy Lassiter** won a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for the study of Xhosa for 2001-02.

Distinguished Teaching Awards were presented to MA student **Sarah Mote** and PhD student **Adriana Varga**.

The Gilbert V. Tutungi Award for best master's project was awarded to **Joanne Quimby**.

MA student **Kristin Matosian** won the Newton P. Stallknecht Memorial Award for best essay.



## Degree recipients

The following students were awarded degrees in 2001:

### MA's awarded

- Michele Andrews — October
- Hui Luo — March
- Sarah Mote — October
- Kristin Motosian — October
- Susanna Shelton, MAT — September

### PhDs awarded

- Katrina Boyd — June
- Ahmed Alami Idrissi — November
- Monique LaRocque — August
- Neepa Majumdar — June
- Eric Metzler — April



## Encompass

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# Alumni notebook

## 1960s

**Larry A. Goldberg**, MA'65, was selected by the students at the University of North Carolina to receive a 2001 student undergraduate teaching award of \$5,000. He joined the UNC English department in 1997. He lives in Chapel Hill, N.C.

## 1970s

**Eugene C. Eoyang**, PhD'71, chair and professor of English at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, also is a professor of comparative literature and East Asian languages and cultures at Indiana University. In March, he was a featured speaker at the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce's "World Speak" conference in London. His e-mail is [eoyang@ln.edu.hk](mailto:eoyang@ln.edu.hk).

**Bonnie A. Beckett**, MA'72, PhD'77, MA'79, is senior aviation analyst at the U.S.

General Accounting Office in Washington, D.C. She specializes in writing reports and testifying about aviation safety for Congress. She is still keeping her hand in teaching, most recently by designing a class for aviation safety inspectors. She lives in Arlington, Va., and can be reached at [bonnie\\_beckett@hotmail.com](mailto:bonnie_beckett@hotmail.com).

**D. Rodger Cunningham**, MA'72, PhD'80, won the 1987 Weatherford Award in Appalachian studies for "Apples on the Flood: Minority Discourse and Appalachia." He continues to publish in the field and has four articles in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*. He is a professor of humanities at Sue Bennett College in London, Ky. He can be reached at [brorges@earthlink.net](mailto:brorges@earthlink.net).

**William F. VanWert**, MA'72, PhD'75, received Temple University's Faculty Award for Creative Achievement for 2000-01. He teaches English, creative writing, and

film at Temple and lives in Philadelphia, Pa.

**Nancy A. Watanabe**, PhD'75, is a visiting professor in the comparative literature program at the University of Washington. She is also the recipient of the Pacific Rim research grant from the university. She wrote "Native Vision: Yeats's Tower and Walcott's Harbor" in *W.B. Yeats and Postcolonialism*. She lives in Seattle.

**Dale B. Lawrence**, BA'79, published *Hoosier Hysteria Road Book* (Diamond Books), a guidebook to Indiana high school basketball. He lives in Indianapolis and also writes to say that he is better known in that city as a singer-songwriter-guitarist for the band Vulgar Boatmen.

## 1980s

**Margaret J. Warner**, BA'86, is a librarian at the University of Maryland's University College

in Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany. Her e-mail is [mwarner@aiug.de](mailto:mwarner@aiug.de).

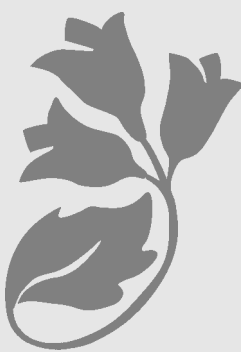
## 1990s

**Daniel Simon**, MA'94, PhD'00, began as the acquisitions editor for literary studies and paperbacks at the University of Oklahoma Press in September 2000. He won the 2000 A. Owen Aldridge Prize from the American Comparative Literature Association and the journal *Comparative Literature Studies* for the best graduate student essay of the year. He lives in Norman, Okla., and can be reached at [dsimon@ou.edu](mailto:dsimon@ou.edu).

**Liedeke Plate**, PhD'95, is an assistant professor at Utrecht University's department of literary studies in the Netherlands. She can be reached at [Liedeke.Plate@let.uu.nl](mailto:Liedeke.Plate@let.uu.nl), and has a Web site at [www.let.uu.nl/~Liedeke.Plate/personal/](http://www.let.uu.nl/~Liedeke.Plate/personal/).

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# Alumni

(continued from page 4)

**Paula Willoquet**, PhD'99, was appointed assistant professor of film studies in the communication department of the School of Communication and Arts at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. She edited a book, *Peter Greenaway's Postmodern/Poststructuralist Cinema* (due out in July 2001 from Scarecrow Press). She is also editing a book of interviews with Pedro Almodóvar titled *Pedro Almodóvar: Interviews* for the University Press of Mississippi.

## 2000s

The dissertation of **Aiko MacPhail-Okamoto**, PhD'00, was named runner-up and awarded honorable mention in the competition for the first Bernheimer Prize of the American Comparative Literature Association. She is currently a visiting professor at the University of Illinois in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.

**Jeffrey Di Leo**, PhD'00, was given the Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial

Achievement by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. He has two books coming out this year: *Morality Matters: Race, Class, and Gender in Applied Ethics and Affiliation: Politics, Prestige, and the Academy*. He and his wife, **Nina Vandervoort**, MA'97, are the parents of a baby boy. Congratulations!

**Lynne Dahmen**, PhD'00, has been a visiting lecturer in the department. She taught a course, Introduction to Popular Culture: Genres and Modes, for the fall 2001 semester. She recently was asked by the Peter Lang Publishing Co. to submit her dissertation manuscript, "The *Roman de*

## Best wishes to our newlyweds



Aymen El-Haj, who is working on his PhD dissertation in comparative literature, was married last summer in France, where he and his wife, Isabelle, now live.

*Silence* and the Narrative Traditions of the 13th Century," for publication.

**Monique LaRocque**, PhD'01, defended her dissertation, "Decadent Desire: The Dream of Disembodiment in *A Rebours*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and *L'Eve Future*" in June. Upon receiving her PhD, LaRocque was offered a teaching and administrative position at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. She is an assistant professor in university studies and the associate director of Winter Term in academic affairs.

**Eric Metzler**, PhD'01, completed his dissertation, "The Miracle of the Pregnant Abbess: A Medieval Tale of Sexuality, Spirituality, and Authority" in April. He began working as an instructional consultant for the Kelley School of Business in July 2000. On Nov. 1, 2000, he accepted a promotion to associate director of instructional consulting at the school. He is also teaching part time for the Liberal Arts and Management Program and is involved in several campuswide initiatives for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, as well as part of the Woodrow Wilson initiative for re-envisioning the PhD.

**Katrina Boyd**, PhD'01, works in the University Division at IUB.

**Neepa Majumdar**, PhD'01, is a visiting lecturer in the Department of Communication and Culture at IUB.

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Many thanks to those who contributed to the Department of Comparative Literature this year

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*In memoriam* — We fondly remember Joan Parsons Wang, who died last July. She taught at IU from 1964 to 1991. Her memorial service was held at Beck Chapel at Indiana University in October 2001. She was a dear friend and a consistent supporter of the Department of Comparative Literature.

We welcome Ken Beckley as the new president and CEO of the Indiana University Alumni Association!

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