News from the chair

‘Hail and farewell’: Watt steps down as chair

As I write this notice, my last as chair of the English department, I am reminded of the opening paragraph of George Moore’s three-volume autobiography *Hail and Farewell* in which he describes living in a garret while completing his novel *Esther Waters* and then, his work done for the day, meeting friends later in the evening, drinking glasses of grog, and talking about literature until two or three in the morning. The life he describes sounds entirely alluring, and after five years as chair I look forward to similar labors — the writing, that is, not just the drinking with friends until the wee hours of the morning, although I hope to enjoy some of this activity as well.

The English department has changed considerably during my tenure as chair. For example, we’re not as large as we used to be, as we have lost wonderful colleagues to retirement — irreplaceable colleagues, in fact. I miss them. And, like most large institutions these days, the levels of bureaucracy and paperwork have now grown out of control. I won’t miss them.

But some things remain the same. Our faculty and students remain enormously productive and dedicated. Please refer to the columns on recent faculty achievements and student activities later in this newsletter, and you will quickly see what I mean. Several of my colleagues have won enormously prestigious awards this past year: Deidre Lynch received a Guggenheim Fellowship, Tony Ardizzone was named Chancellor’s Professor, and Mary Favret received a national award from the Keats–Shelley Association for writing the best article in 2005 in romantic studies. Our younger colleagues Ellen MacKay and Shane Vogel have won distinguished postdoctoral fellowships for next year, MacKay at Cornell and Vogel at Emory, following Ivan Kreilkamp’s receipt of the Harrington Fellowship at the University of Texas last year. These are all highly competitive national fellowships, and it speaks volumes that our younger colleagues have been so successful in winning them. And, of course, many of my colleagues have published wonderful books, poems, articles, and stories this year, with many more to come.

Thus, at a time of enormous challenges for humanities departments, we carry on. And we do so committed to the tasks of teaching and writing. For the next year, I’ll be on sabbatical trying to do a lot of the latter.

Hail to my successor, George Hutchinson, and to you — farewell. It has been a great pleasure to write this letter for the past five years, and I wish you all continued success.

— Stephen Watt

Hunting for Hutchinson

Beginning in July, Department of English chair Stephen Watt will be stepping down after five years of faithfully serving the English community at IU. George Hutchinson, currently the Booth M. Tarkington Professor of Literary Studies, will be filling the position. Hutchinson first came to IU in 2000, after teaching at the University of Tennessee for almost 20 years. He received his AB at Brown University, and his MA and PhD at IU, so returning to Bloomington was a homecoming for him.

Hutchinson was approached several times as a possible candidate for department chair, which is typically a three-year position. A chair selection (continued on page 3)
Retiring faculty
Prolific professor plans to assist IMP after retirement

One way to gauge the breadth of Jeffrey Huntsman’s interests is to pay a visit to his office in Ballantine Hall. The door is festooned with clippings illustrating mangled grammar, tortured logic, and inadvertent humor (“File Shows Man Who Killed Five Before Killing Self Had Problems”). Enter the book-lined room and you will find paintings; musical instruments; parts for computers and other electronic gear; a gleaming sword for dramatizing medieval battle scenes; a carton of Ramen noodles for quick suppers before choral rehearsals; a mounted animal hide next to a sign from a “Licensed Wisconsin Fur Farm;” a roll-top desk piled high with papers; a threadbare Persian rug on the floor; and a couch much the worse for wear from countless students who have lounged on it while consulting their polymathic mentor.

It is not hard to find a subject about which Huntsman will speak passionately and knowledgeably — nature will do, and so will food, physics, language, vintage sports cars, turquoise jewelry, or bluegrass mandolin, along with a daunting range of literary works, from medieval mystery plays to postcolonial fiction. By his own account, he is interested in “about everything in the world except economics.” On a recent trip, he read books on cosmology, neurology, and mathematics, as well as the latest novel by Philip Roth.

Drama was his first love. After moving from his native Massachusetts to Maine during junior high school, he remained in the north woods to study at Bowdoin, where he threw himself into the college theater program, serving as director, actor, set designer, and even costumer. In the summer following his junior year, he performed with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival in Richard III, Measure for Measure, and Much Ado About Nothing, an experience that confirmed his passion for everything from script to greasepaint. That summer he also encountered living Native American cultures for the first time, in the art and settlements of the Hopi and Navajo, an encounter that would profoundly shape his scholarly and teaching interests.

Following ROTC training at Bowdoin, he served in the U.S. Army during 1964–66, most of that time in Manhattan, Kan., where he helped to found a civic theater. When he completed his military service, he stayed on in Manhattan — “The Little Apple” — to earn a master’s degree in linguistics at Kansas State University in 1967. His master’s thesis, like his undergraduate honors thesis, dealt with medieval drama. From Kansas, he moved to the University of Texas for doctoral studies in English language and linguistics, completing his PhD in 1973.

Meanwhile, he had begun his career in the Department of English at Indiana University as a lecturer in 1970. When he arrived, the department was well-supplied with scholars in medieval and renaissance drama, the fields closest to his heart. So Huntsman began teaching courses in Chaucer, English Language, Linguistics, and Native American Literature. He soon created English L364 Native American Literature, making this class a formal part of the IU curriculum; except for a course taught at Berkeley by the Kiowa writer, N. Scott Momaday, this class was the first offering of its kind anywhere in the world.

Drawing on his polyglot knowledge, Huntsman also created English G603 Celtic Languages and Literature. He was among the first in the department to teach courses on science fiction, focusing on visions of alternative societies and emphasizing work by a new wave of female writers in the genre. He was likewise a pioneer in the application of computers to research in the humanities. In the early 1970s, he began using computers to develop a database of medieval dictionary manuscripts. Computer languages, like natural languages, came easily to him, so he quickly learned programming, and he taught himself to build and repair these newfangled machines. Before there was even a label for information technology consultants, he served many colleagues as an unofficial cyber guru.

Early in his career at IU, Huntsman experienced what he recalls as one of the pivotal moments in his intellectual development: he envisioned sentences moving not in the mere two dimensions of the page but in four dimensions, including that of time. This insight enabled him to perceive, in any sample of language, larger patterns stretching across historical periods and across seemingly disparate fields of inquiry. He has sought to help students perceive these patterns by drawing analogies from science, music, film, philosophy, technology, and other domains, as well as from literature. He treats the classroom as a kind of theater, where one arrives with a script but counts on improvising in response to the intellectual flow. His wide-ranging analogies baffle some students, who complain that he is “always going off on tangents,” while the more imaginative students follow his cross-disciplinary leaps with exhilaration.

Huntsman is drawn to people who hold, as he says, “more than one world in their heads,” people who straddle languages, cultures, or philosophies. Thus his interest in translation; in bilingual dictionaries; in speculative fiction; in the postcolonial literature of such anglophone countries as New Zealand (including the indigenous Maori) and Australia (including the Aborigines). Thus his interest in the Individualized Major Program, where he has been active since 1971; his service as an early director of the summer Groups Program; his efforts through the Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching to enhance education in diversity and global citizenship; and his championing of Native American studies through the Modern Language Association. In such efforts, he seeks to exemplify an ideal voiced by the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm: “Service is the rent we pay for living on earth.”

Huntsman recently took on two new Individualized Major Program students,
Recent faculty awards, books

Judith Anderson

Tony Ardizzone
Award: Chancellor’s Professor, Indiana University, spring, 2006.

Catherine Bowman

Tony Ardizzone

Linda Charnes

Margo Crawford

Mary Favret

George Hutchinson

Joshua Kates

Ivan Kreilkamp

Deidre Lynch
Award: John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.

Ellen MacKay
Award: Cornell Society for the Humanities Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Richard Nash
Awards: NEH Summer Fellowship, 2005; British Academy Fellowship, 2005.

Alvin Rosenfeld

Scott Sanders

Samrat Upadhyay

Shane Vogel
Award: Postdoctoral fellowship, Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, 2006–07.

Nicholas Williams

Hunting

(continued from page 1)

committee was formed, composed of members of the English faculty. This committee interviewed several fine candidates within IU, and then polled the rest of the department to receive their input. The selection committee then recommended Hutchinson to the dean. The dean approved, and Hutchinson is well on his way to becoming a fantastic department chair. He states that he welcomes the “opportunity to serve the department in an interesting and exciting time,” and that the currently young staff contributes to this enthusiasm.

Many professors will soon be retiring, and the new faculty hiring procedures will give Hutchinson the chance to help shape the department. Plans are under way to revamp the undergraduate curriculum, and Hutchinson says he is looking forward to being a part of that change.

Hutchinson currently teaches courses in Modern American Poetry and Literature, African-American Literature of the 19th and 20th Centuries, and the Harlem Renaissance.

He also leads a course in the Jazz Age, which focuses on the literature, art, and music of that exciting time period. Hutchinson has also had a book published this spring by Harvard University Press. Titled *In Search of Nella Larsen: A Biography of the Color Line*, it examines author Nella Larsen’s life and fiction and how the meaning of her works is often lost amid the issue of color and race.

He is also editing many other books, such as *The Cambridge Companion to the Harlem Renaissance*, and is co-editing books on Walt Whitman and black America, as well as African-American literature and editorial theory.

Hutchinson is greatly anticipating his role as new department chair and is pleased to have been chosen.

— Beth Belcher
and he hopes to continue serving IMP long after he retires. Among his other post-retirement plans, he aims to complete several scholarly projects, including a study of Native American drama, a book on the Celtic qualities of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, and a comprehensive study of medieval dictionaries. He also aims to spend more time outdoors, pursuing his love of nature; more time in his garage, restoring old English sports cars; and more time making music with the Unitarian Universalist choir and the Bloomington Chamber Singers. In all he does, may he flourish.

— Scott Russell Sanders

Widely published hoopster known as team player

At one time or another and for nearly two generations, many young faculty and doctoral students in English have found themselves in the HPER gymnasium around noon. And, as they walked to their next class or contemplated lunch at the Union, they may have recognized out there in the jumble of basketball players a tall, fit man with a jump shot honed to perfection and, increasingly these days, a bounce pass that approaches artistry. That basketball player is Gene Kintgen, who has not only been a fixture in the noontime game for 30 years, but has also served the university — especially the university’s graduate students — with energy and distinction.

Born in Jamaica, N.Y., and growing up on Long Island, Kintgen dabbled in a number of sports, basketball and golf among them, before enrolling in Princeton, from which he graduated with honors, and then matriculating at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, from which he received his master’s and doctoral degrees. While at Madison, Kintgen cultivated his interests in linguistics, the history of the English language, and literature. Indeed, in 1968, as he was applying for academic positions and completing his dissertation while on fellowship at Linacre College, Oxford University, one of the faculty with whom he studied wrote in his letter of recommendation that Kintgen was “equally at home in linguistics and literature.” His dissertation, directed by the nationally prominent scholar Frederic Cassidy, suggests precisely this expertise, as it concerned the phonological, morphological, syntactic, and lexical couplings in Old English poetry.

Before arriving in Bloomington in the fall of 1969, Kintgen had already placed an article on Robert Browning in the distinguished journal *Victorian Poetry* and embarked almost immediately upon an ambitious career as a scholar and teacher. As a young faculty member, Kintgen began publishing widely on topics related to stylistics and to Old English and the literature of this period, placing articles on Old English poetry and stylistics in such leading journals as *College English*. His first book, the widely used textbook *Transformational Grammar and the Teacher of English: Theory and Practice*, co-authored with Owen Thomas, appeared in 1974, the year after Kintgen was promoted to associate professor. More books and edited anthologies were to follow: *The Perception of Poetry* (1983); *Perspectives on Literary History* (1988), edited with Barry Kroll and Mike Rose; *Reading in Tudor England* (1995); and *Literacy: A Critical Sourcebook* (2001), edited with Ellen Cushman, Barry Kroll, and Mike Rose.

As the latter titles in this list suggest — and those of several influential articles such as the annotated bibliography “The Psychological Study of Language and Style” (1978) with David Bleich, Bruce Smith, and Sandor Vargyas; and “Carlos Reads a Poem” (1983), with Norman Holland, arguably America’s most influential psychoanalytic critic at the time — his intellectual interests began to expand in the later 1970s and early 80s to include cognitive psychology, reader-response criticism, and literacy, the latter constructed more broadly than mere competence with standard English or the ability to comprehend written English at some basic level of proficiency. Rather, “literacy,” or the practice of reading, implies a broader cultural determination and the interpretive procedures sanctioned at a particular historical moment, one premise of his 1996 book, *Reading in Tudor England*.

The psychoanalytic foundation of Holland’s work in such books as *The Dynamics of Literary Response* complemented Kintgen’s expertise, leading not only to their collaboration but also to Kintgen’s work in the 1980s on linguistic perception and reading processes. These interests evolved in the 1990s in Kintgen’s work on cognitive approaches to literary studies, particularly his seminal 1993 essay, co-authored with Joseph Bizup, in *College English*, “The Cognitive Paradigm in Literary Studies.”

Kintgen’s rich and varied career at Indiana took yet another turn at about the time he was promoted to the rank of professor in 1982; that is, his keen interest in graduate education led to his tenure as the director of graduate studies in English, a post he held from 1979 to 1986. During this period Indiana was one of the largest PhD programs in the country, so administering it was no small feat. Indeed, as data published in 2005 by the Modern Language Association of America confirm, since 1966 the Indiana University English department ranks third in the country in terms of producing PhDs in the field. Only the University of California—Berkeley and Columbia have produced more doctoral holders during this period.

This administrative experience led Kintgen to a position as associate dean of the University Graduate School, a post he held from 1987 to 2005 before being named as acting co-associate vice president for academic affairs and co-dean of the Graduate School. The promotion was richly deserved, as Kintgen has made graduate education his primary interest and served the university’s students with great vigor and success. The many contributions he has made include the chairing of committees on revalidation and reinstatement, on non-academic employment for PhD students, on the credentialing of graduate faculty, and his co-chairing of a campuswide committee in 1999 that studied the rising indebtedness of the university’s graduate and professional students.

This last committee, which met the entire academic year and studied what has become a national epidemic, established important guidelines for graduate directors across the campus to follow when endorsing loan applications. The insistence by Vice President George Walker that Kintgen consider himself a utility infielder and not limit himself solely to graduate school affairs led to his central role in administering the Strategic Directions awards and the later Arts and Humanities awards established by President Myles Brand.

Kintgen has also been instrumental over the years in maintaining the Preparing Future Faculty Program and, more recently in the English department, in participating in a three-year study sponsored by the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate. The latter committee has promoted major reforms in qualifying examinations, in graduate student support, and other matters central to the important enterprise of revising a PhD program to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The former program remains, after more than a decade, a vital source for “professionalizing” doctoral students by providing them with training about the jobs they will one day assume as teacher-scholars.

It is difficult to imagine a colleague (continued on page 5)
Faculty news
(continued from page 4)

more dedicated to graduate students and their education. It is difficult to imagine an English department without Gene Kintgen, without his wisdom, good humor, and exquisite sense of collegiality. Fortunately, at least for the time being, those guys in the noon basketball game will still have him on their team. He’s been absolutely great on ours.

— Stephen Watt

Imaginative innovator also known for his cooking

Lee Sterrenburg is retiring this year after 37 years of service to the English department of Indiana University. His loss will be felt especially keenly by those of his colleagues and graduate students who have benefited directly from the acuity of his reading. Sterrenburg has long demonstrated that most valuable ability to “get inside” the intellectual and theoretical position of someone else’s argument and offer particularly valuable criticism. And we will all miss the integrity of his commitment to individual learning. Sterrenburg did not teach in bulk, he taught a great many individuals, both inside and beyond the department, within the major and through his many hours with the Individualized Major Program.

Sterrenburg earned his BA from the University of Wisconsin (1963) and his MA (1966) and PhD (1973) from the University of California at Berkeley, where he wrote his dissertation under the joint direction of Frederick Crews and Uli Knopfmacher. He began teaching at Indiana as a lecturer in 1970, converting to a tenure-track position after defending his dissertation in 1973.

Arriving in the department in the early ’70s, Sterrenburg was at the forefront of a group of young faculty who sought to energize the department with respect to dramatic changes taking place in critical theory. Early in his career, Sterrenburg developed what remains the most popular (among faculty and graduate students alike) course offering in our doctoral program: L680 Special Topics in Literary Study and Theory. Moreover, the way in which Sterrenburg originated that course could well serve as a model for the department today as it seeks to re-imagine its graduate curriculum. Beyond simply developing a course, Sterrenburg organized a four-year lecture series, “Beyond Aestheticism,” that brought important theorists to campus. Involving both his colleagues here at Indiana and these visiting lecturers in collaborative pedagogy, he coordinated the graduate syllabus with the current work of the visiting faculty. The cumulative effect was to involve faculty and graduate students alike in learning the new contours of the discipline as it was being transformed in those less placid times.

It is this truest sense of imaginative intellectual innovation that his colleagues will miss most. Sterrenburg’s career has been marked by his substantial contributions to intellectual exchange that occurs outside the institutional box of lecture halls and course numbers, and, especially, he has been committed to intellectual exchange that is stimulated — rather than discouraged — by responsible recognition of disciplinary difference. The most difficult challenge facing interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary investigations is to recognize continuously how the borders of our disciplinary difference serve to stimulate as well as inhibit. Notably, he was instrumental in the department’s developing the first doctoral minor in literature and science in the country. Throughout his career — with his work for Victorian Studies, the multi-disciplinary Darwin seminar established here in the early ’80s; the Science and Literature Affinity Group that developed in the late ’80s; the Center for 18th-Century Studies that grew up in the ’90s; and with his teaching collaborations with Dan Willard and Don Whitehead in SPEA and biology — Sterrenburg has always been a remarkably valuable colleague in facilitating conversations across disciplinary boundaries and always finding ways that bring graduate students and faculty together into a genuinely democratic community of learning. It is hardly surprising, then, that among his colleagues and his former students, he has inspired not only profound admiration, but deep and genuine friendship; and it is equally unsurprising that those feelings are not limited to his department, but are distributed across the campus.

Indeed, the campus is much too small a habitat. Sterrenburg may have begun his career as a psychoanalytic theorist, but the commitment to theory soon led to a much larger, more political, and more socially responsible commitment to how theory matters in the world. Many who know Sterrenburg from his recent work know him primarily through his commitment to environmentalism and the history of ecology. For Sterrenburg, the library is not the only archive, and all who know him, both in the classroom and beyond it, know him as dedicated environmentalist, an avid birder, and an experienced traveler. When Sterrenburg teaches travel writing, as often as not, he has direct knowledge to set against the representation being studied. Whether it is photographing Blue-footed Boobies on the shores of the Galapagos or Przewalski’s Horse on the steppes of Kazakhstan, Sterrenburg has followed with attention the footsteps and observations of the nature writers and travel writers who occupy a central role in his classroom.

But for many of us, what we will miss most are Sterrenburg’s dinners: world-class cooking, fine wine, and intelligent conversation that knows the library, and also what lies beyond it. He has been an extraordinary colleague and remains an extraordinary friend.

— Richard Nash

New faculty

Fleissner moves from Ivy League to Big Ten

One of the newest additions to the faculty, Associate Professor Jennifer Fleissner, has traveled from coast to coast throughout her life. She began her academic career on the East Coast, where she got her BA in English at Yale University. She started off as pre-med for two years before deciding that she wanted to focus on literature and writing. She went on to get her PhD at Brown in 1998. Fleissner then jumped to the West Coast to UCLA, where she taught in the English department there for seven years.

Fleissner is heavily influenced by her mother, a novelist. Fleissner’s first book, Women, Compulsion, Modernity: The Moment of American Naturalism, focuses on women as symbols of modernity, which is a subject of great interest to her. She has several articles forthcoming on this theme, one, “The Biological Clock: Wharton, Naturalism, and the Temporality of Womanhood,” is scheduled to appear in American Literature. Fleissner has written record reviews that appeared in The Boston Phoenix, Minneapolis Citypages, San Francisco Bay Guardian, and Spin. She is also contributing a piece to the Blackwell Companion to...
American Fiction, 1900–1950, which will focus mainly on the modern woman’s story, particularly the neglected middlebrow fiction of American writers such as Sherwood Anderson, Booth Tarkington, and Robert Grant. Her current book project, *Novel Appetites: Eating and Meaning in Modernizing America*, looks at food consumption in the context of various types of literature produced in the 20th century.

This year she is teaching a graduate class on America in the 1890s. Some of her favorite novels to teach are *The Marrow of Tradition* by Charles W. Chesnutt and *The Country of the Pointed Firs* by Sarah Orne Jewett, which her students tend to enjoy. Fleissner has an interest in 19th-century psychological writings and tries to apply them in her classes.

For example, she taught a class at UCLA called Writing Compulsions that dealt with different models of compulsive behavior in psychological and literary writings from the 19th century to the present. Some of the early psychologists on her syllabus included William James and Pierre Janet. To engage her students in the texts, she began the class by asking for basic reactions to a scene, a character, and the way a story is told. She then used her students’ reactions to move toward a more global understanding of the manner in which the book was written. This method helps them learn that the things they have noticed on their own actually have larger and more significant consequences than they previously realized.

Fleissner’s future plans include spending time with her and husband Joshua Kates’s newest addition to their family, a baby boy, as well as teaching and pursuing scholarship.

— Jenni Mulder

Tennessee native Gayk scales the hills of learning

Tennessee native Shannon Gayk feels right at home in the hills of Bloomington. After completing her undergraduate work at Duke, Gayk headed to northern Indiana’s Notre Dame for her graduate degrees. Now that she is settled farther south, Gayk says that she loves IU and that the faculty members have been “really wonderful” in helping her adjust. She enjoys all Bloomington and IU have to offer, including the Lilly Library and the parks and trails around town.

Gayk is a member of the Lollard Society, which studies religious culture in the Middle Ages in England. She specializes in 15th-century religious literature, a subject that she finds exciting, as it is newly emerging in the world of medieval literature. She enjoys studying the social and religious impulses of the Reformists, and she is most interested in the time period between Chaucer and Shakespeare, saying it is often skipped over in today’s classrooms.

Gayk also studies the relationship between literature and art and their connection to the medieval church. Gayk’s forthcoming article “Images of Pity: The Regulatory Aesthetics of John Lydgate’s Religious Poetry” will be featured in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, published annually. This article touches on Gayk’s other academic interests of images and icons in texts. Her dissertation concentrates on these images and the ecclesiastical defense, through literature, of their usage. She is currently revising her dissertation for publication as a book and has given presentations at conferences such as the Vagantes Conference at Notre Dame, Lollardpalooza at the University of Nebraska, and at the MLA Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. In May 2006, she presented and organized sessions — including “Literary Renovations in Middle English Texts: The Old Made New?” — at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Between conferences, Gayk also teaches such courses as Literary Masterpieces, Chaucer, and British Literature from a variety of centuries. She particularly enjoys teaching the historical context of medieval literature, looking at different translations of Chaucer, and delving into the nuances of meaning in Middle English.

Outside of the rigors of academic life, Gayk finds time to enjoy the outdoors. She loves to be outside; aside from running, she also hikes in her spare time. She has high praise for the students at IU, stating that she has enjoyed their engaged attitude in the classroom, and she looks forward to teaching more in the fall.

— Beth Belcher

Kates is still searching for the perfect slice in Bloomington

Now spending his second semester at Indiana University and still seeking out the perfect pizza, Joshua Kates is no stranger to teaching, and hardcore teaching at that. With a PhD in comparative literature and specializing in literary theory, philosophy and literature, modernism, and Shakespeare, Kates has taught at an array of institutions. He has worked as a visiting associate professor at UCLA and as a visiting assistant professor at the State University of New York at Binghamton. Also included in the list is St. John’s College, which Kates emphasizes is “not a religious institute, but a four-year great-book-style undergraduate college where all students take philosophy, math, ancient Greek, French, and laboratory science, and all faculty teach in those areas.” In addition, Kates has also taught at various experimental colleges such as Deep Springs.

Kates says the main reason for coming to Bloomington and accepting a job at Indiana University was because it “was a place where my wife (Jennifer Fleissner — also a professor at IU) and I could be together.” However, with the birth of their son Ezekiel — fondly known as Zeke — about
three months ago, they have changed from their previous status as a duo and are now a happy family of three. Kates also finds the English department to be an exciting place with a vibrant quality, and he believes it will provide him with a greater opportunity to focus on his own work, which includes two book-length projects. One is a book of essays on Jacques Derrida’s later thoughts and writings on politics, and his other project focuses on the history of 20th-century Anglo-American literary criticism. However, these will not be his first works; last year, Kates published his book Essential History: Jacques Derrida and the Development of Deconstruction, which explores Derrida’s articulation of language and philosophy.

Due to the wide range of teaching he has done, Kates has a knack for showing different audiences why difficult and complex meanings are important, especially in the context of society. He also has a wide range of interests, in academia and otherwise.

When asked about his future, Kates says he wishes to settle into the department and to get to know people. As a newcomer to IU and as a new father, he adds that there is a lot to get used to, but they are all good things. However, the New York gastronomic snob that he is, Kates laments that he does not find the pizza quite up to par and has taken to making his own at home. That aside, he says with a smile, “I’m very pleased to be here. I’m not just saying that.”

— Susan Yang

Faculty awards and happenings

Ardizzone named Chancellor’s Professor

Professor Tony Ardizzone has been awarded the title of Chancellor’s Professor this year. The title of Chancellor’s Professor is given to professors who have achieved local, national, and international distinction in teaching, as it relates to research or creative activity, as well as the interaction between teaching and research. This position includes a cash award of $2,500 each year for the next three years. It also includes a grant of $5,000 to be used during the next three years on a project of Ardizzone’s choice that demonstrates how teaching and research are mutually reinforcing. He is currently a professor of English and teaches courses in Creative Writing, Ethnic American Literature, and 20th-Century American Fiction.

Ardizzone was born on the north side of Chicago. He received his undergraduate degree with honors at the University of Illinois in 1971. He continued his graduate work in English at the University of Illinois in 1973 and later went to Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he received his MFA. He has taught at several universities, including Bowling Green State University, Old Dominion University, and the Vermont College of Norwich University.

Ardizzone has published six novels and four anthologies of short fiction, including the volume The Habit of Art: From the Indiana University Fiction Workshop (2005), as well as several personal essays that have appeared in more than 40 literary magazines. He has won numerous awards for his fiction, including the Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction; the Milkweed National Fiction Prize; the Chicago Foundation for Literature Award for Fiction; the Pushcart Prize; the Lawrence Foundation Award; the Bruno Arcudi Literature Prize; the Prairie Schooner Readers’ Choice Award; and the Virginia Prize for Fiction. He has also been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1985 and 1990 and, most recently, the Tracy M. Sonneborn Award in 2005.

Ardizzone has been involved in various campus literary festivals. He serves as a board member of the City of Norfolk Commission on Arts and Humanities and on the board of directors of the Associated Writing Programs. He founded the AWP Intro Journals Project, where he served as managing editor until 1991.

Ever since Ardizzone was young, he had an interest in writing. He started writing a lot in high school and continued throughout college. Although he did not expect to become a professor, he soon found teaching to be convenient for him. It gives him flexibility in his writing schedule, so he can write in the morning, teach in the afternoon, and do other work. As a professor, he has more control over his schedule, which he enjoys. He recently completed writing a novel, The Whale Chaser, which splits its setting between Chicago and Vancouver Island during the late ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s, as well as the contemporary period. He is currently working on a collection of short stories, based in Rome, and is looking forward to further travel there to continue his research.

— Jenni Mulder

Farris plans to continue role as director of composition

Christine Farris has served in administrative positions for IU’s English department going on 12 years, with interruptions. She served six years as director of composition, starting in 1994, was acting chair in 2000, was associate chair from 2000 to 2001, and came back as director of composition in 2003. This position, she explains, is subject to change when the chair changes, but George Hutchinson is in no hurry to replace Farris, and it is easy to see why.

Farris has seen many positive and productive years for the composition program. In conjunction with the Preparing Future Faculty initiative and the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate, the composition program has “tried to bridge the separation of teaching and scholarship, and of composition and literature, in several ways.” One of these was the design with literature faculty of the L503 proseminar that extends the composition pedagogy course (W501) into the teaching of literature. In March of this year, the assistant directors of W131 (advanced graduate students who collaborate with the director on course design and administration) put together a panel on the writing and reading of visual representation involving history. Analysis of visual as well as written texts is an important part of the first-year program, but “one of the challenges of giving composition a content is that it’s hard to drop down into critical conversations experts are having without a context.”

Farris has been training graduate assistant instructors at IU since 1992, and in that time she feels the department has made more of that program in terms of what teaching has to do with the PhD. IU’s graduate students are improving their first-year teaching evaluations, teaching portfolios, and job placement. Farris has written and presented on these changes, and she says that IU has become nationally recognized for its rigorous program.

Farris has several projects on the horizon. The composition program is in the process of assembling a custom reader to correspond to the kind of assignments the program asks of students. This custom reader will include essays with critical lenses and “portable concepts,” essays that model analytical and argumentative strategies, and
articles that provide historical and social context. Farris, who was promoted to pro-
фессor last year, also has a book project she is excited about. With renewed federal in-
terest in assessment and standardization in higher education, she will embark upon an
ambitious research project, studying what
college writers need to know and looking
at programs around the country. She wants
colleges and departments to be able to
respond to the government with data about
what faculty in diverse areas want students
to be able to do when they read texts and
make arguments and how composition
programs are achieving those goals. Farris
feels that if colleges are not prepared to
answer with more than anecdotal opinion,
they could be vulnerable to things like the
SAT writing test or other standard uses of
evaluation that they may not want to see
put in place.

Farris hopes to travel, doing case studies
of different kinds of writing programs and
looking at patterns. “I don’t want to see
‘No College Student Left Behind’ just put
in place because we didn’t have anything
from the discipline to talk back with about
how and why we teach writing.”

Emily Houlik-Ritchey

Lynch wins a Guggenheim

In a few months time, work at IU will
come to a temporary standstill for
Deidre Lynch. Grading will come to a
withering halt, and papers will be read
another time. Instead of a classroom full
of students, the only thing receiving her
undivided attention will be her computer
screen. As one of the recipients of the
prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for
2006, she has been awarded a year off from
university-related responsibilities so that
she may focus on her scholarly work with as
much peace and quiet as needed.

Since 1925, Guggenheim Fellowships
have been awarded annually to those who have
“demonstrated exceptional capacity
for productive scholarship or exceptional
creative ability in the arts.” The purpose of
these fellowships is to assist the develop-
ment of scholars and artists so they may
pursue their own research and artistic
creations. It is awarded to professionals inall fields, with the exception of the per-
forming arts, and is designed specifically
toward those who have already proven their
ability and made a mark in the academic
and artistic arena.

The grant consists of a sufficient amount
of funds for the recipient to give up a year
of teaching. Lynch, an associate professor
in the IU English depart-
ment, teaches 18th- to 19th-
Century British Literature.
She appreciates both the
monetary resource and time
off so that she may have the
opportunity to explore her
work. Not that she doesn’t
enjoy life at IU and all that
it entails. Lynch admits,
“People who are writers
find it hard to find time
to do their writing,” especially
when committee meetings
and grading are involved.
She believes the year off will
be a wonderful reprieve for
her to work on her book.

Her plans for next year are
simple: to sit down at a com-
puter and write. She hopes
to add more substance to her
book At Home in English:
A Cultural History of the Love of Literature,
which is currently half-drafted.

For Lynch, one of the other appeals
of the grant is that she is not required to
stay in the vicinity of her home institu-
tion. Thus, in consistence with her love
for British literature and the British library
(and partially because of her fear of being
pounced upon unawares and dragged to an
IU meeting), she is thinking of abscond-
ing to London and spending the duration
there. Lynch says that receiving the fellow-
ship is an incredible gift, adding, “A lot of
amazing people have won it, and it’s excit-
ing to be in that same category.” This list
of amazing people at Indiana includes our
colleagues Pat Brantlinger, Larry Clop-
ner, Susan Gubar, and Kevin Young.

Emily Houlik-Ritchey

MacKay receives Mellon
Postdoctoral Fellowship

Having been given an opportunity to
jump on her second large project,
Ellen MacKay can now easily turn her
passion into work. MacKay has received
a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at the
Cornell Society for the Humanities and
will be temporarily relocating next year to
Ithaca, N.Y., to continue her research. The
Mellon Fellowship allows postdoctorates
to do research in one focused area of the
humanities. MacKay, who earned her BA in
theater from Barnard College and her PhD
from Columbia in theater and English, will
spend the year at Cornell working on her
second book, Submersive Nationhood: An
Eccentric History of the Sea Spectacle from
Nero to Wagner. This book will examine
“aquadramatics” from the classical age
all the way up until the 1930s. MacKay is
particularly interested in the apprehension
of underwater “spectacle,” and how the
politics of not thinking (and instead, simply
feeling) might operate. During the fellow-
ship, MacKay will also be teaching a course
called Toxic Theatre, which will investigate
the way theorists of performance since
Plato have described the theater as an infec-
tious medium. The course will be a seminar
designed for advanced undergraduate and
erly graduate students, a mixed audience
that MacKay is excited about teaching.

Within her field of theater studies,
MacKay’s specialization is early modern
drama, specifically “Shakespeare and his
cohorts.” Her first book, which she is cur-
rently completing, is called Persecution,
Pestilence and Fire: Anti-Histories of the Early
Modern English Stage. In it, MacKay tends
to focus on the real and painful feelings
that drama inspires and on how, exactly, a
theatrical experience can be historically
preserved. The book “argues that the theater
is understood to be a catastrophic enter-
prise in early modern England” and that
“the ephemerality of the form is the best
evidence of its disastrous nature.”

While at IU, MacKay has taught courses
on drama from the medieval period to the
Restoration and beyond, including Early
and Late Plays of Shakespeare, Elizabethan
Drama and Its Background, and graduate
seminars on the early modern stage. In the
future, she hopes to teach theater theory,
honors seminars, and perhaps a course
relating politics to theater. Looking toward
the future and the fellowship, MacKay
states that she is glad she will have “time
to focus on research” and that being able to
circulate ideas in an interdisciplinary setting
will be exciting.

Susan Yang

(continued on page 9)
When she is not working hard on drama, MacKay likes to relax by shopping at thrift stores, watching horror movies, and spending time with her dog, Zoe.

— Beth Belcher

Miller calls all kindred spirits with conference

Conferences have come and gone in the long history of Indiana University, but come this fall, one of a new breed will surface. Kindred Spirits: The Relationship between Human and NonHuman Animals will, just as the title aptly describes, explore the multidimensional relationships between human and nonhuman animals. Scheduled for Sept. 7–9 at the Indiana Memorial Union, this interdisciplinary conference, for IU at least, will be one of a kind. “Nothing like this has ever been done,” says Alyce Miller, the program chair and the one responsible for putting the conference together. Miller is currently a professor of English and creative writing in the English department, as well as a part-time attorney.

The idea for the conference began to take form when Miller’s interest in animal law led her to imagine bringing together lots of thinkers, researchers, and activists. She applied for a New Frontiers Grant sponsored by IU. Miller explains, “I envisioned this as a chance for the university to support an interdisciplinary conversation around a topic that is very much in the limelight right now.”

Topics at the conference will cover an entire spectrum, including veterinary ethics, religious attitudes, definitions of the animal, the legal status of animals, animal welfare, animal rights, and our ethical and moral obligations to animals. The featured speaker will be Donna Haraway, and other featured presenters include Carol Adams and Paola Cavalieri. Miller says she has been getting e-mails from all over the world and has received nearly 200 proposal submissions for inclusion in the conference program.

The audience is expected to be exceptionally diverse, with people from various disciplines attending, even those who do not work in direct relationship to animals. This conference is not just intended for the academic elite, but the nonacademic as well, and many of the sessions will be open to students and the public. A registration fee for the conference will be charged for those who will participate in all social and food events. More information can be found at the Kindred Spirits Web site at www.indiana.edu/~kspirits.

Miller will not be speaking, but she will be introducing people and might moderate a panel. On her role at the conference, she says with a laugh, “I feel like the mother of the bride, putting all the pieces together.”

— Susan Yang

Nordloh finishes second term as judicious DUGS

Ballantine Hall was only 5 years old when David Nordloh arrived as a graduate student in 1964. Nordloh became a member of the IU English department faculty in 1968, and he served his first three-year term as director of undergraduate studies, also hailed as DUGS, in 1997. When that term was over, he went back to his other responsibilities at IU. Then in 2003, he accepted the position once again. Now, as the second three-year term comes to a close, Nordloh states with a smile, “It all ends this mid-summer.”

Though all the duties associated with his position are too many to list, some basic obligations include helping to prepare the teaching schedule for each semester, supplying students with advice and support, and addressing any issues that may arise in the completion of a degree. Nordloh is in charge of determining transfer decisions and the applicability of other schools’ English courses to IU. He also oversees the job of providing both on-campus and off-campus internship opportunities for English majors. Another crucial part of his task is to support and provide the undergraduate adviser, Mary Kay Rother, with the resources she needs to serve the students better. “She is really the heart of the undergraduate office,” he says. “The DUGS may come and go, but Mary Kay is the continuing presence.”

Of course, recognizing that nothing is perfect, Nordloh admits there are always lumps to smooth out. One of the challenges of the department is finding ways to offer graduate students more opportunities to teach undergraduate literature courses. Since parents paying for an IU education want “real” teachers in the classroom (by which they mean tenure-track faculty), creating those opportunities means assuring that graduate students are professionally equipped to teach as well as their faculty mentors do. Nordloh believes that integrating the department’s undergraduate and graduate programs is crucial to the success of both. Another predicament of the English department, in his view, is that the faculty is too successful. Not that he isn’t proud, but faculty success has a serious consequence: while awards and fellowships made to faculty are a clear indication of quality and terrific opportunities for the individuals, they are also likely to mean that the recipients will not be in the classroom teaching students. However, perhaps the biggest challenge for the department is to retain its consistent identity and its special character, mixing scholarly strength with an open and welcoming personality, even as it continues to add new courses and areas of interest.

In addition to being the director of undergraduate studies, Nordloh is an associate dean of faculties. “I like to joke that I write messages to myself, and then I go to another office and answer them.” He admits that it is a challenge to juggle both of these jobs. After his retirement from IU, his plans include moving to North Carolina, where he can be closer to family. Chief among his current professional activities, and one he’ll continue after retiring, is editing the annual review series American Literary Scholarship, published by Duke University Press. And he will keep on cultivating his interest in the book as a physical object. With a smile he says, “I’ll have enough to do.”

— Susan Yang

Rasmussen wins Lieber Award

With her philosophy that teaching is interactive, Celia Rasmussen has gone from a successful associate instructor to one of several assistant directors for W131 Elementary Composition. After completing her undergraduate work and receiving her BA at the College of William and Mary, Rasmussen moved on to receive her MA from IU and has been teaching here while pursuing her PhD. In recognition of her exceptional brand of teaching, she has been chosen in a campuswide competition for the Lieber Memorial Teaching Associates Award. The Frederic Bachman Lieber Award, established (continued on page 10)
Faculty news
(continued from page 9)

in 1954, recognizes outstanding teaching and is the university's most distinguished prize for success in the classroom. Rasmussen has been teaching students for six years and is “very excited” to have been honored with the Lieber Award and recognized for her achievements. The nomination process involved a recommendation from a current faculty member, the submission of a teaching portfolio, and a philosophy of teaching essay. Rasmussen states that she has won small departmental honors before, but this honor is the first time she has received a major award.

Rasmussen’s teaching philosophy focuses on “interacting with individual students to sustain complex thought.” She sees education as a process where students can work together with their teacher, the texts that they are reading, and their classmates for the most comprehension possible. “I try to consider not only the needs of the class as a whole, but also, as much as possible, the needs of individual students,” she affirms. Rasmussen frequently promotes multiple forms of learning to encourage her students to grow, and her two most effective methods are collaboration and personal accountability. In asking students to respond to a text in their own words, and thereby fostering a class discussion, Rasmussen is able to become a class moderator, rather than a lecturer, and she lets the students do the talking. She is also a strong advocate for individual accountability and feels that taking responsibility for one’s own work is one of the best ways to thrive at a large university like IU.

In her free time, Rasmussen volunteers at the Monroe County Public Library in the Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners program. She is also active in IU’s Groups Program, in which first-generation college students are given an early opportunity to adjust to college living. Rasmussen states that “teaching Groups was one of the most rewarding experiences” she has had at IU. “My students were so interested that I think I fed off of their intellectual curiosity; the experience really renewed my own enthusiasm for teaching.” Rasmussen is currently working on her PhD and her dissertation on 18th-century British literature, and she hopes that in a few years she can continue in her track to teach higher education.

Associate chair likens job to emergency room

Why does associate department chair Kathy Smith like her job? “This may sound melodramatic,” she says, “but it’s like being in an emergency room.” Neither the challenges of problem-solving nor the administrative responsibilities phase Smith. She enjoys identifying problems and working to solve them: “What I like most about this job is, finally, its ‘infinite variety’ — that is, the opportunity it affords me to do a number of different things: teach undergraduates (a marvelous enterprise in itself), work with and occasionally mentor graduate students, solve some of the small problems of my colleagues, make the trains run on time, have a bit of an influence on ‘the big picture.’ As Dr. Phil would say, ‘it’s ALL good.’”

Smith describes her position as a day-to-day problem-solving office that provides support to faculty, graduate associate instructors, and students. Working with a variety of people on a variety of tasks provides plenty of challenges, but it also keeps the job interesting. In addition to helping address classroom issues that come up among professors, students, and parents, Smith often operates as the department liaison to other campus offices. She schedules teaching assignments, prepares the annual budget proposal for the associate instructors, coordinates visiting lecturers, and teaches courses. She admits this list “looks sort of daunting,” but she has always enjoyed administrative work. The biggest challenges Smith faces involve juggling all the details and having sometimes to “settle for doing multiple things satisfactorily rather than terrifically.” Because of the nature of the position, “there’s always more you could do, or things you think you could do better.” Despite the difficulties of the position, Smith has, by all accounts, done a great job. Steve Watt said, “I couldn’t have chaired the department without her — she is the best.”

Smith’s administrative career began during her graduate studies at the University of Missouri at Columbia, where she was assistant director of lower division studies and co-director of the Writing Lab. One of the reasons she likes administrative work so well is because it puts her in a position where she can see and participate in the big picture of the department. She describes it as a locally focused job that maintains a broad perspective. At IU, she has served as associate chair for five years, beginning in 2001 when Watt was appointed chair. The new chair, George Hutchinson, asked her to stay on: it was a request she was happy to accept. “It has been a joy working with Steve,” Smith reflects. “I will miss him, and I’m looking forward to working with George.”

In addition to serving as associate chair, Smith is the composition program coordinator and director of basic writing and special programs. Her three positions have allowed her to use her organizational and administrative skills, as well as to continue to teach. She did her graduate work in Renaissance poetry, logic, and rhetoric, and her favorite class to teach here at IU is 17th-Century Poetry. But she teaches a range of poetry and composition courses, including Introduction to Poetry, Elizabethan Poetry, Elementary Composition, Basic Composition, and Topics in Reading and Writing.

Smith feels that the ultimate obligation of being associate chair is to be present — both to allow the chair to more easily focus on his or her other responsibilities, such as scholarship, and to be available when problems and challenges in the department arise. “If a problem comes up at 5 p.m., somebody’s here. If a problem comes up at 8 — well, forget it, nobody’s here at 8, but my job is to be present, to address those needs as they arise.” The hours may not be as long for the English department ER as they for the hospital ER, but faculty, associate instructors, and students know that when a problem arises, Kathy Smith is there.

— Emily Houlik-Ritchey

Vogel awarded fellowship at Emory University

Shane Vogel will not be performing literary feats here at IU next year. He has been awarded an interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellowship from Emory University and will spend the year there writing his book Against Uplift: The Cabaret School of the Harlem Renaissance. Vogel will teach one class next spring, Modernism and Performance, but other than that, he has the opportunity to devote all his time to researching Emory’s archives and to writing.

Vogel’s book, a revision of his dissertation, examines “how writers and performers made use of Harlem’s cabaret to imagine alternatives to the narratives of racial uplift and sexual respectability offered by the Harlem Renaissance’s leading organizers.” In addition to performers, such as Duke Ellington, Lena Horne, Ethel Waters, and (continued on page 11)
Ada “Bricktop” Smith, Vogel is interested in the way literary writers, such as Langston Hughes, draw on performance in their art. He sees these two different traditions working toward the same ends. These artists and performers critiqued the politics of representation by the organizers of the Harlem Renaissance, which were invested in advancing positive images of African Americans. These performers and writers, he argues, constituted a subterranean literary countertradition within the Harlem Renaissance. Current studies do not do this justice, Vogel thinks, because they fail to adequately take performance into account.

This is where Vogel comes in: he completed both his MA and PhD in performance studies at New York University. He has already brought this interdisciplinary approach to IU’s English department, teaching courses in three areas of focus: dramatic literature, performance studies, and modern drama; queer studies and gay and lesbian studies; and American studies/culture/literature. Vogel considers the most important part of his diverse interests to be the way these three areas interrelate. Emory’s interdisciplinary post-doctoral fellowship therefore fits Vogel and his book project perfectly.

Vogel’s original dissertation won two prizes: the Dean’s Outstanding Dissertation Award, New York University (2005), and the Michael Kirby Memorial Prize for Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University (2005). We can expect great things from Shane Vogel and Against Uplift when he gets back to IU in 2007.

— Emily Houlik-Ritchey

Steve Watt steps down as department chair

For the last five years, Steve Watt has occupied a ladybug-infested corner office on the fourth floor of Ballantine. His time as chair has been busy as the department acquired the journal College English; obtained a full-time secretary and annual budget for the creative writing program; hired 13 faculty and promoted or tenure 12 more faculty; and participated in the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate. Although it has been challenging in many respects, Watt feels that in his time as chair, he has seen the department flourish in many respects.

Watt’s favorite parts of being chair have been recruiting younger faculty and helping his colleagues obtain funding for their projects. Those aspects have been “two satisfying things” he has been able to do: “It’s great fun seeing colleagues do well and seeing graduate students do well.” The positive challenge of this job is “trying to manage a highly achieving, highly motivated faculty, to balance their research needs and ambitions with the department’s teaching needs.” He has also enjoyed working with his fellow administrators, especially the former dean of the College, Kumble R. Subbaswamy. Watt has often worked with Dean Subbaswamy and says, “I really admire his dedication and intelligence.”

But there have been many bumps along the way, as well. Even in the last five years, Watt has seen challenging changes in the way the department has been able to recruit senior faculty, retain faculty, and obtain funding. He attributes these changes in part to the demography of current large English departments, dealing with the massive retirement of senior faculty hired during the Vietnam War era, for whose positions departments are finding it difficult to find replacements. English departments, unfortunately, often find themselves competing with growing science departments to retain faculty positions. Nevertheless, Watt is optimistic and happy to see, in the face of these difficulties, how many outstanding faculty the department has hired in recent years.

Watt will be spending time in Ireland this summer, giving a lecture, and then he will return to Bloomington for his sabbatical. He has by no means neglected his own work during his stint as chair, and his recent publications include Understanding Literature (2002), and the popular anthology Ian Fleming and James Bond: The Cultural Politics of 007 (2005). He has also written three Cambridge Companion chapters, a type of writing he enjoys because of the challenge it presents: they are literary and critical essays accessible to advanced undergraduate students. As such, they require clarity of prose and argument. He describes them as “good exercise for prose style.”

Watt has three book projects in the works that he is excited to complete now that his term as chair is winding down. He is writing a textbook anthology on the history of drama, finishing a book on contemporary Irish writing, and completing his third and final collaboration with Cary Nelson, professor at the University of Illinois. These books have been on graduate education and the profession: Academic Keywords (1999) and Office Hours (2004), which Watt also managed to finish while serving as chair. The final book, The Anguish of English, is in process. “It’s great fun writing together. We laugh all the time,” Watt says about his collaboration with Nelson, “It’s nice to have a writing partner who can tell you exactly what he thinks. And I can tell him exactly what I think.” Their goal with The Anguish of English, Watt explains with a grin, is to become universally despised in English departments across the country.

Watt has enjoyed administrative work, and other administrative positions are also appealing to him. But he is pleased right now to be going back to being a full-time scholar and to resume teaching when he gets back from his sabbatical.

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New Wertheim Fellowship assists two PhD students

This spring, friends of our late colleague, Albert Wertheim, have generously stepped forward to fund another gift in his name. Two years ago, his family and friends endowed an annual prize to be given, in alternate years, to an outstanding undergraduate or graduate student conducting research in drama and theater history studies. Both areas, of course, were especially fecund ones for Wertheim, who wrote The Dramatic Art of Athol Fugard: From South Africa to the World (2000) and Staging the War: American Drama and World War II (2004), the latter of which was published shortly after his death.

Because of an initiative at the IU Foundation to match the income generated by donations earmarked for graduate student support, this new gift of $250,000 will support both a substantial 12-month dissertation-year fellowship for a doctoral student working on dramatic literature or theater history and, eventually, a second annual fellowship to support another graduate student. An additional goal of this gift is to provide support for the recipient’s professionalization by encouraging the department to sponsor either a scholarly conference or journal in drama and performance studies and employ the Wertheim Fellow as a panel moderator, speaker, or editor. This aspect of the gift also resembles another of Wertheim’s keen interests, as he encouraged graduate students to attend professional conferences and share their scholarly work with their peers. In fact, he often traveled with them and offered his encouragement by participating in the same meetings.

The English department wishes to express its gratitude to Bloomington actor and director Martha Jacobs and her husband, chemistry professor Ted Widlanski, for making this fellowship possible. For her part, Judy Wertheim was “delighted” to learn of this “wonderful gift” that honors her late husband in such an appropriate way.

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Graduate student placement 2005–06

• Jason Arenstein, PhD early American, contract position, St. John’s, Queens, N.Y.
• Jessica Baldanzi, PhD 20th-century American, tenure-track, Goshen College
• Victoria Elmwood, PhD 20th-century American, postdoc, Tulane
• Jamie Ferguson, PhD early modern, tenure-track, University of Houston
• Matthew Johnson, PhD composition, tenure-track, Southern Illinois, Edwardsville
• Jacqueline Jones LaMon, MFA poetry, tenure-track, Adelphi University
• Amy Locklin, MFA fiction, Marian College
• Tobias Menely, PhD 18th-century British romanticism, tenure-track, Willamette University
• Brook Miller, PhD Victorian studies, tenure-track, University of Minnesota–Morris
• Sarah Murphy, PhD 20th-century British, tenure-track, Jacksonville University
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Alumni news
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14, is a freshman at Olympia High School.” McIlrath is an attorney at GrayRobinson in Orlando, Fla.

In May, Cynthia S. Haggard, BA’75, MAT’80, EdD’86, received the Myrtle Wandless Endowment Award from the Alpha Eta chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. The award honors distinctive service in the field of education. She lives in Exton, Pa.

John K. Smeltzer, BA’75, JD’80, has been elected a director at the law offices of Sommer Barnard in Indianapolis. He is a member of the law firm’s business and real estate groups. Also, he is corporate counsel to the Professional Golfers Association of America, Indiana section; the Indiana Golf Association Inc.; and the Indiana Golf Foundation. Smeltzer lives in Carmel, Ind.

Michael Martone, BA’77, published three books in 2005. Unconventions: Attempting the Art of Craft and the Craft of Art, a book of essays, was published by the University of Georgia Press. Michael Martone, a memoir in contributor’s notes, was published by FC2. Rules of Thumb: 73 Authors Reveal Their Fiction Writing Fixations was published by Writers Digest Books. Edited by Martone and Susan Neville, Rules of Thumb includes contributions by IU professors Scott Sanders and Alyce Miller. Martone is a professor in the department of English at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Paul E. Vogelgesang, BA’77, is the author of The Millionaire’s Manual (A Workbook for Wealth), published by Trafford Publishing on Sept. 9, 2005. His second financial book is forthcoming in 2006. Vogelgesang is also working on two environmental novels based on northern Indiana. He can be reached at paulvogelgesang@earthlink.net.

Michael D. Main, BA’79, MLS’81, works at Summit Information Systems in Corvalis, Ore. He is a technical writer and lives in Newport, Ore.

1980s
Janet Brennan Croft, BA’82, MLS’83, of Norman, Okla., is head of access services for the university libraries at the University of Oklahoma. Her book, War and the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien (Prager, 2004), won the Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies for 2005.

Sally Barr Ebest, PhD’84, is a professor of English at the University of Missouri, St. Louis. She published two books in 2005: the fifth edition of Writing from A to Z (McGraw Hill) and Changing the Way We Teach: Writing and Resistance in TA Development (Southern Illinois University Press). In 2003, she and her husband co-edited Reconciling Catholicism and Feminism? for Notre Dame University Press, and she spent full 2004 teaching at Missouri’s London program.


Jane E. Hilberry, MA’87, PhD’88, teaches literature and creative writing at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

Her book of poetry, Body Painted, was published in 2005.

Erin Tener Hollinden, BA’87, of Bloomington, Ind., was named outreach coordinator for the Sycamore Land Trust.

Julie A. Katz, BA’87, is a principal at Welsh & Katz in Chicago. She is the chair of internal communications for the Chicago Area Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Eric J. Sterling, MA’87, PhD’92, is a professor of English at Auburn University in Montgomery, Ala. He recently won the university’s Distinguished Teaching Professor Award. His book Life in the Ghettoes During the Holocaust was published by Syracuse University Press.

Glenn A. Steinberg, MA’88, PhD’94, is an associate professor of English at the College of New Jersey in Trenton.

Anne C. Zender, BA’88, MA’90, is vice president of communications at the American Health Information Management Association. She lives in Chicago.

1990s
Jennifer A. Werby, Cert/BS’90, writes, “I am a cantor [at Temple Sinai] in Delray Beach, Fla., singing full time and teaching voice. I have a wonderful husband, Barry, and a dog. I miss IU and Hoosiers very much. Any Hoosiers in Florida — feel free to get in touch!” Werby can be reached at jenwerby@yahoo.com.

David A. Altenhof, BA’91, MIS/MLS’03, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., is a circulation librarian at the King Library of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Ann M. Fox, MA’91, PhD’98, is an associate professor of English at Davidson College, where she also heads the gender studies concentration. An American Association of University Women American Postdoctoral Fellow in 2003–04, she was granted tenure at Davidson in 2005. Fox lives in Davidson, N.C.


Lisa M. Ruch, MA’91, is the director of the Communications and Information Technology Program at Bay Path College in Longmeadow, Mass. She is also an assistant professor.

Allison E. Joseph, MFA’92, is an associate professor in the English department of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where she was awarded the Judge William Holmes Cook Endowed Professorship. Joseph was also named the 2005 Faculty Woman of Distinction by the University Women’s Professional Advancement organization at the university. She is editor and poetry editor of the Crab Orchard Review. She and her husband, Jon C. Tribble, MFA’91, MA’92, live in Carbondale.

Andrew U.D. Straw, BA’92, MS’95, JD’97, is a research assistant in the education faculty of the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He performs research and writing on critical literacy from a post-structuralist perspective. He has two children, Ava and Manu, with his wife, Paola Voci, MA’97, PhD’02, who teaches Chinese at the University of Otago. He can be reached at andrewudstraw@yahoo.com.

Ziaaddin Mollabashy, BA’93, joined Barnes & Thornburg as an associate staff attorney in the business, tax, (continued on page 15)
Alumni news (continued from page 14) and real estate department in Indianapolis. His address is zia_mollabashy@hotmail.com.

Elizabeth K. Underhill, BA’93, MIS’97, is senior application analyst/release manager for Boeing. She develops requirements and manages the release process for an access-controlled, Web-accessible digital library of maintenance and repair information for Boeing aircraft. She lives in Bremerton, Wash.

Hamish S. Cohen, BA’94, JD’01, has joined the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg as an associate in the Fort Wayne, Ind., office.

Dara Kates Levan, Cert/BA’96, writes, “I have a 10-month-old daughter, Madeline — yes, spelled just like the savvy, sassy girl in the book. And I have a 3-year-old, Todd. I have my own private practice, specializing in pediatrics in Plantation, Fla. I also edit non-fiction material. I use my BA professionally and personally. I’d love to connect with alumni in my area.” Levan can be reached at speakwrite@bellsouth.net.

Dawn A. Marchese, BA’96, teaches art at H.O.P.E. Christian Academy in Bloomington, Ind. She writes that she particularly values her role as a mentor for her students and adds, “Thanks, IU, for teaching and encouraging us ‘less-conservative’ students to become important for other teen rebels!”

Jennifer S. Morrison, BA’96, of Carmel, Ind., works for BSA LifeStructures, an architecture and engineering firm. She completed a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with an emphasis in biomedical engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in December. She writes, “Eventually, I plan to go back to school and either get an MBA or enroll in a master’s program in which I can utilize the Purdue School of Electrical Engineering and IU School of Medicine while conducting research at Riley Hospital for Children to work with pediatric cochlear implants.”

Eric R. Pfefflinger, MLS’96, MA’97, is a playwright, novelist, and contributor to National Lampoon.com. His first novel, The High-Impact Infidelity Diet, co-authored with Lou Harry, was published in November. The book’s film rights have been optioned by Warner Brothers and the Team Todd producing team, responsible for the Austin Powers films and Memento. Pfefflinger lives in Toledo, Ohio, with his wife, Melissa V. Gregory, MA’97, PhD’02.

Beth Burke, Cert/BA’97, of Silver Spring, Md., is pursuing a master of acupunccture degree at the Tai Sophia Institute for the Healing Arts. She is treating patients at the faculty-supervised clinic in Wheaton, Md., and can be reached at bethburke@gmail.com.

Maura E. Johnston, BA’97, MIS’99, is a supervisory air traffic control specialist for the FAA. She lives in Indianapolis.

Melissa A. Federoff, BA’98, MS’02, attended the Women in Games 2005 Conference at the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland. A user research engineer at Microsoft Game Studios, she shared methods that are utilized to increase player satisfaction with games. Her presentation was titled “Researching Your Target Audience: How to Give the Player the Experience You Intend.” Federoff works in Redmond, Wash., and lives in Seattle.

Susan Barker Yeley, BA’99, and Brian D. Yeley, BS’96, JD’99, have moved back to Bloomington, Ind., where he works for the IU Foundation. Their daughter, Anna Grace Yeley, was born on Aug. 24, 2005. Susan planned to look for work in interior design in early 2006 and can be reached at sbyeley@yahoo.com.

2000s

Bryan S. Cameron, BA’00, has begun work on a doctorate in Spanish at the University of Pennsylvania. He can be reached at bryanc@sas.upenn.edu.

Todd Belf-Becker, BA’01, of Marblehead, Mass., graduated in May from the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. He is in practice outside Boston with his father, David B. Becker, BA’72, and grandfather, Norman Becker, DDS’46.

Jessica A. Gerdes, BA’01, of Valparaiso, Ind., is a librarian at the Yellowstone Research Library at Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.

Robert Quinby, BA’02, is pursuing a master’s degree in higher education and student affairs at IU.

Brianne A. McGuirk, BA’04, is attending graduate school at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

Sarah J. Nichols, BA’04, has joined the law firm of Baker & Daniels as a government affairs consultant at its Indianapolis office. She serves as a member of the law firm’s government services department.

Stefani E. Richards, BA’05, of Clearwater, Fla., is a marketing coordinator for Academic Financial Services in Tampa. Her responsibilities include preparing and packaging introductory packets for regional mass mailings; setting and coordinating business meetings for the regional marketing directors; and researching local and national marketing opportunities for the company.
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