

Indiana University Department of Comparative Literature

College of Arts &
Sciences Alumni
Association

Encompass

Spring 2005

Vol. 16

Alumni Newsletter

From the chair

Review coming up in 2005

It is my pleasure to welcome Professor Eileen Julien back to our department after her two-year stint as executive director of the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the African Diaspora at the University of Maryland at College Park. We are looking forward to the renewed vigor she brings to the African component of our curriculum, as well as to the valuable contributions she makes to every aspect of our program. I am also pleased to announce the addition of two younger scholars to our faculty: Assistant Professor Miryam Segal, a joint appointment in Jewish studies and comparative literature, and Jeffrey Johnson, visiting lecturer, who is coordinating our C145/146 courses this year. Like Professor Julien, Professor Segal, whose area of special expertise is modern Hebrew poetry, helps our department to continue its tradition of including in its programs languages, literatures, and cultures from around the world. Johnson, who has extensive experience teaching freshman literature and composition courses, has brought his knowledge to bear in sculpting a fine program for C145/C146 and giving the associate instructors in the course the benefit of the wisdom he has acquired.

The big news for all those interested in the fortunes of comparative literature at Indiana University is that the College has conducted its external review of our department this year. The small news is that dur-

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Spring reception rains awards on budding scholars



Attended by faculty, staff, and students — including, from left, Chantal Carleton, Selah Wyche, and Rebecca Disrud — the comparative literature spring reception was held in the Carmichael Room of Morrison Hall on Friday, April 23, 2004.

The Department of Comparative Literature's annual spring reception was held on April 23 in the Hoagy Carmichael Room of Morrison Hall, as has become tradition. The event was well attended, bringing together current and former faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, staff, and friends of the department for a much welcomed and deserved diversion from end-of-semester stresses.

The reception was kicked off by then-chair **Oscar Kenshur**, welcoming the guests and acknowledging noteworthy departmental achievements. Among those congratulated were **Bill Johnston** for his work on the National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellowship, **Jeff Johnson** on his recent appointment as supervisor of C145/146 for the 2004–05 academic year, and **Jamie Ferguson** for his award of the Greenburg Albee Fellowship. In addition, **Angela Pao** was thanked for her willingness to take on the role of director of graduate studies, **David Kaplin** for taking over the management of the E103 Beauty and the Beast course, and **Gilbert Chaitin** for serving as acting chair of the department while Kenshur is on sabbatical. **Marc Caplan** was also thanked for his supervision of C145/146 during the 2003–04 year and wished well on his future plans.

Pao recognized those graduate students with outstanding teaching and research achievements. The Distinguished Teaching Award went to **Heather Haffner** and **Theodore Bouabre** for their excellent teaching in C145/146. **Kristin Reed** won the Gilbert V. Tutungi Award for the best master's project written in 2003 for her thesis, "Les Guerri-

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Faculty News

Faculty

Distinguished Professor Emeritus **Wil-
lis Barnstone** recently published his memoir. *We Jews and Blacks* was released in summer 2004 by IU Press. The prose is interwoven with Barnstone's poems.

Recent articles by **Gilbert Chaitin**, acting chair, include "France Is My Mother": The Subject of Universal Education in the French Third Republic," forthcoming in *19th-Century Prose*, and "Sand and the Politics of the Thesis Novel: *Mademoiselle la Quintinie's* Evil Empires," forthcoming in a collection of essays on George Sand. His recent public lectures include

- "Le cauchemar de (la) *Vérité*, Ou le rêve du revenant" (on Émile Zola's last novel, *Vérité*, as dream text). Colloque "Approches du récit de rêve." Université de Montréal, April 2004.
- "Feminine Politics: Sand, Musset, and the Art of Conspiracy." University of

Lisbon, February 2004.

- "Pudeur et impudeur de l'identité féminine dans *L'amant* de Marguerite Duras." International Conference on "Modesty, Immodesty, Impudence." Research Center on Creativity and Imagination in Women, Université Michel de Montaigne. Bordeaux, France, January 2004.
- "Quelques représentations romanesques de la République à l'époque de l'affaire Dreyfus: Barrès, France." Doctoral research seminar on "Histoire sociale et culturelle." Topic: "Sociétés en Représentation." Université de Paris-I, May 2003.
- "Images, Identity, and Politics in the *affaire Dreyfus*: Barrès and France." Keynote Speech at the conference on "Language, Literature, and the Imaginaire." University of Ireland at Cork, May 2003.

Professor Emeritus **Claus Clüver** is currently teaching and conducting research at the University of Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

In spring 2004, **Vivian Halloran** published an article, titled "Biting Reality: Extreme Eating and the Fascination with the Gustatory Abject," in the *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies* 4. She also presented a talk, titled "Sunny Side Up: Food, Popular Culture, and the Diner Aesthetic," at the Indiana University Fine Arts Museum.

David Hertz continues to serve on the National Council on the Humanities at the NEH in Washington, D.C. He is currently completing his manuscript on the Italian poet Eugenio Montale. He recently co-edited the 50th volume of the *Yearbook for Comparative and General Literature* with **Eugene Eoyang**.

Eileen Julien co-directed "Contemporary African Literature and Its Contexts," a summer institute for college and university faculty, held in Dakar, Senegal, on June 14–26. She has published "The Extroverted African Novel," in Italian, in F. Moretti's

(continued on page 3)

Spring reception

(continued from page 1)

ers Echeveles de la Folle Vengeance: The Fool and the Inquisitor in Doestoevsky's *The Idiot* and McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*." **James Rasmussen** won the Newton P. Stallnecht Memorial Essay Prize for best essay written in a comparative literature course in 2003 for his work on "Blake's *The Song of Los* and Goethe's *Prometheus*: Rebellion, Violence, and the Ideal Life." **Erin Plunkett** won the C. Clifford Flani-

gan Memorial Colloquium Prize for 2004 for "Authoring Living Epistles: Kierkegaard's Maieutic Method."

Finally, **Vivian Halloran**, director of undergraduate studies, announced the many achievements of the undergraduate comparative literature program at IU, which has grown to 70 declared majors. **Raina Polivka**, who was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, was awarded the Outstanding Senior Award. **Courtney Burke** received the Ann Geduld Award for Interarts Study in Comparative Literature.



Katalin Palinkas, from left, Anita Valverde, and Burcu Karahan enjoy a chat — and refreshments — during the spring 2004 reception.

Encompass

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Comparative Literature and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to ualumni@indiana.edu.

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Faculty news

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Il romanzo, of which an English edition will soon be published by Princeton. She has also published “Reading ‘Orality’ in French Language Novels of Sub-Saharan Africa” in *Postcolonial Francophone Literatures* (ed. Murphy and Forsdick), published by Arnold. (See more in “New Faculty.”)

Professor Emeritus **Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch** published an extensive essay, titled “When Klopstock, England, Defied”: Coleridge Southey, and the German/English Hexameter” in the spring 2003 issue of *Comparative Literature* and gave a paper on the same subject at the annual Wordsworth Conference in Grasmere, England, last August. He has also translated several radio plays for the West German and North German Broadcasting corporations (WDR and NDR, respectively).

Rudy Professor **Giancarlo Maiorino** received the Modern Language Association’s John Russell Lowell Prize for his book *At the Margins of the Renaissance: Lazarillo de Tormes and the Picaresque Art of Survival*. The award was announced on Nov. 22, 2004, and presented at the MLA conference in December 2004. The selection committee for the prize explained in an MLA press release that “*At the Margins of the Renaissance* offers a noteworthy contribution to the history and theory of the novel through its analysis of the ‘picaresque,’ a genre at the margins of accounts of the novel’s development as a form.” The James Russell Lowell Prize is awarded annually for an outstanding book written by a member of the association.

Anya Peterson Royce, Chancellors’ Professor of comparative literature and professor of anthropology, recently published *Anthropology of the Performing Arts: Artistry, Virtuosity, and Interpretation in a Cross-Cultural Perspective*. The book is available through AltaMira Press.

On Leave

Oscar Kenshur is on leave for the academic year, and **Sumie Jones** was on leave for the fall semester.

From the chair

(continued from page 1)

ing this time, I have taken over for Oscar Kenshur, who had the foresight and good taste to take his sabbatical leave in southern France this year. My best wishes to him, to my colleagues, and to all of you for a productive and rewarding year.

— *Gilbert Chaitin*

New faculty

Jeff Johnson joins the department as a visiting lecturer. Johnson holds an undergraduate degree in English from Oklahoma State University, a graduate degree in comparative literature from Purdue University, and a PhD in comparative literature from Indiana University, 2001. Johnson’s scholarly interests include European epic poetry, ancient Roman literature and its afterlife in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, literature of the European Dark Ages, and premodern literary theory, poetics, and rhetoric. He taught C145 and C262 fall semester and was the supervisor for C145/C146. This spring, he is teaching C301 Epic Poetry: Antiquity to Renaissance.

Bill Johnston joins comparative literature as an associate professor. In addition to this new role, he teaches in TESOL and linguistics. Johnston, a native of England, holds an MA in applied linguistics and a doctorate in second-language acquisition. He conducts research in the field of language teacher education and teacher development, specifically in the areas of teacher knowledge and teacher identity. In addition to his research, Johnston frequently gives workshops for language teachers on various aspects of language teaching. He often works with teachers of LCTLs (less commonly taught languages). Last, his other identity is as a translator of Polish literature. He has six books currently in print, with two more in press. Since coming to the United States, he has remained active in promoting Polish culture and is director of IU’s Polish Studies Center. In October 2004, Johnston received the Polish Foreign Minister Award in Warsaw for his work with the Polish Studies Center. From 1999 to 2001, he held a National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellowship.

Eileen Julien has returned to IU as a professor of comparative literature and adjunct in African American and African diaspora studies after two years at the University of Maryland. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in French from Xavier University of New Orleans and the University of Wisconsin, respectively. Her research and teaching interests are 20th-century literature and culture, especially the literatures of Africa, the African diaspora, and Europe in their relationships to one another. Among her recent publications are *Visible Woman; or, A Semester Among the Great Books* (Profession, 1999) and “Terrains de rencontres: Césaire, Fanon, and Wright on Culture and Decolonization” (*Yale French Studies* 98, 2000) and a co-edition titled *Atlantic Cross Currents/Transatlantiques* (Africa World Press 2001). Among her other publications are

“The Romance of Africa: Three Narratives by African-American Women” in *Beyond Dichotomies*, SUNY Press, 2002, and “The Extroverted African Novel” in *Il romanzo*, published by Biblioteca Einaudi in 1999. She is completing a study on “Modernity and Multiple Imaginaries in Literature and the Arts.” Julien has been a Bunting Institute Fellow at Radcliffe College, a Fulbright Senior Scholar, and a Guggenheim Fellow. She was president of the African Literature Association, 1990–91, and founding director of the West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal, 1993–95. She is teaching C400 and C670 Black Artists in Paris this spring.

Miryam Segal is assistant professor of comparative literature and Jewish studies. She received a PhD in comparative literature from the University of California at Berkeley last year. Her research focuses on Hebrew poetry and its interconnections with Israeli nationalism. The recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship and many other honors, she is a highly successful teacher, having taught at the University of Pennsylvania, the Drisha Institute in New York, and the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. She will direct the department’s Hebrew Program beginning in fall 2005.



Adjunct faculty

Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures **Henry Cooper** joins the department as an adjunct. He received a PhD from Columbia University in 1974. His research interests include South Slavic, Old Russian, and medieval Slavic literatures. In fall 2004, he taught a survey course on South Slavic literature and culture and an elementary language course in Serbian and Croatian.

Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese **Patrick Dove** received a PhD in comparative literature from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 2000. His research interests include 20th-century Spanish American narrative, cultural studies, Continental philosophy, Post-Marxism, psychoanalysis, and literary theory. In fall 2004, he taught two Spanish courses on Hispanic literature and culture and also co-organizing a speaker series on multidisciplinary approaches to collective memory of dictatorship in Latin America.

Assistant Professor of History **Jonathan Sheehan** received a PhD from Berkeley in 1999. His research interests include the cultural and intellectual history of early modern Europe, with particular emphasis on the history of religion, science, and scholarship in the 17th and 18th centuries.

In memoriam: Department mourns Ilinca Johnston

Professor Ilinca Johnston died on Jan. 18, 2005, at the age of 52. She had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer five years before. Johnston earned her PhD at Indiana University and had taught for the Department of Comparative Literature since 1990. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Several faculty members and a student shared their memories of Ilinca Johnston for this special section of the newsletter.

Matei Calinescu, emeritus professor

My wife and I were very close to Ilinca during the last months of her life. We had been good friends since her arrival in the United States, almost 30 years ago, where we preceded her by two or three years as émigrés from our native Romania, then under one of the harshest dictatorships in communist Eastern Europe. I had the privilege of having her as a student in my graduate courses, when I was immediately impressed with her brilliant mind and her vital presence in class, with her natural ability to create an atmosphere of genuine intellectual dialogue, rewarding for me and stimulating for the other students. I also regarded it as a privilege to be on her dissertation committee and was not surprised that she got our university's award for the best dissertation of the year. It was published as a book soon afterward. It was, however, as a colleague that I discovered, aside from her qualities as a scholar, her extraordinary commitment to the profession and to her, our, students. She had an unerring sense in spotting talent and encouraging it; she was admired and loved by her students for her generous intelligence, sparkling wit, high standards, and unusual human insight. On a personal level — and I am speaking now of my wife and me — her illness brought us much closer than ever before. Her suffering, over the last few years, was heartbreaking, but her attitude toward it was at the same time uplifting. We learned a lot from her. She was prepared to die but she loved life, almost mystically I would say, as the miracle it is. Her suffering made her keenly aware of this miracle and, for this reason, she did not reject her suffering, but put it to use as a means of understanding. She was, of course, sad when she told me, a couple of years ago: "Before being put to the test (of illness), we live almost like animals." She fought for life, courageously, relentlessly, with dignity and even serenity — for every month, week, hour, minute, and instant. All along, she testified for life, for the divinity of life (which most us ignore or take for granted). When we last saw her, soon after her passing away, she looked frail, emaciated, as someone who had gone through

prolonged pain, not as a passive sufferer but as a witness — that is to say, thinking of the etymology of the word, as a martyr — a martyr of life, for life. She had that look on her now calm face. It had not been in vain. In the existential drama in which we are all caught, she had sacrificed herself for something she believed in deeply: for the miracle of life.

Gilbert Chaitin, professor and acting chair

A productive scholar, a renowned translator, an active member of the department, and a trusted friend.

Ilinca Johnston's disappearance leaves a gap in our professional and personal lives that may in time be covered over but can never be filled.

I first met Ilinca when, in the 1980s, she took my course on the 19th-century French novel. In the course of discussing Victor Hugo's *Notre-Dame de Paris*, I asked the class their opinion of Hugo's presentation of the Gypsies, and especially of their "queen," Esmeralda, the central female figure in the novel. Having grown up in Romania, Ilinca was the only one in the class to have real experience with the Gypsies of Eastern Europe and, thus, the only one to respond to my question. I realized then that she was a very special student, and I soon came to know that she was also a very special person. Her term paper on *Notre-Dame de Paris* for that class manifested her superior sensitivity to literary styles and her own talent for writing, in English as well as in her native Romanian and her near-native French, and it was gratifying to me that it became the subject of the first paper she presented at a professional conference. That paper was so well received that she soon became a regular participant at the annual 19th-Century French Studies Colloquium, and the room was always packed when she gave her talks. She later published a revised version of that talk, and still later it became the nucleus of one of the chapters of her doctoral dissertation and then of her book *To Kill a Text*. Several years later, she incorporated the novel into her ground-breaking Topics course *Beauty and the Beast*, which dealt with modern popular adaptations, in film and cartoons, of literary works considered to be classics.

While she was a graduate student, Ilinca taught Romanian language courses, first in the Department of French and Italian, then in the Slavics department. While her love for 19th-century European literature never



Eileen Julien, left, and Ilinca Johnston

waned, she eventually brought her interest in things Romanian into her research, turning her attention to translating and editing the early works of her compatriot Émile Cioran. Cioran lived most of his life in semi-voluntary exile in Paris and wrote most of his essays in French. Ilinca was the first to translate his earlier writings from Romanian into English, and her translations were enormously successful, praised by the critics and reprinted in paperback editions. She no doubt felt a great affinity with the writer, not only because of the similarity of their experiences in "exile," but also because of her admiration for his style and their shared existential concerns. As a result of her translations, Ilinca was invited to write a kind of autobiography, which became her *Memoirs of a Publishing Scoundrel: Searching for Cioran, Myself*, which she recently submitted to her agent. She had completed another work of translation, *The Last Boyar*, from the Romanian novel *Naufraziul* by Dinu Zarifopol and was working on other articles this past semester.

Twice winner of teaching awards, she was a fine teacher on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She developed several innovative courses, including a graduate course she co-taught with Professor Eileen Julien on the literature of exile from Eastern Europe and Africa. Director of undergraduate studies for several years before her illness, director of graduate studies in 2003–04, elected to our Chair's Advisory Committee numerous times, one of the most active and innovative members of many departmental committees over the years, Ilinca had a deep commitment to the department and to the integrity of faculty governance, as well as to the wider discipline of comparative literature.

Sumie Jones, professor

When Ilinca took over the position of director of graduate studies in our de-

partment, I sent her a message of congratulations since I took it as a sign of her complete recovery. I did advise her not to let herself work too hard for a while. Her response was a very happy one, full of confidence about her health as well as her work. So her death left me in a shock. I will miss her elegantly cheerful presence on our campus.

David Kaplin, doctoral student

From the moment I first met Professor Ilinca Johnston — confident, stylish, and frank — at the comparative literature fall reception nearly a decade ago, I was intimidated, but also mesmerized. As I listened to her talk about her work and her teaching, I soon realized, still with a little trepidation, that I wanted to work with her, not only because of her expertise in 19th-century fiction, but also because I was drawn to her confidence, her style, and her frankness. In teaching her engaging parody class and meeting with me as a member of my exam committee, Ilinca always emphasized content and ideas — what one has to say — as a scholar’s chief concern. Even in the middle of my oral exam, she wouldn’t let me get away with finessing one of her direct questions by stringing together tangential details: “Oh, David,” she exclaimed, “you are giving me such a headache. There is no reason for curtains if there is nothing in the window!” Through that experience and later, with my dissertation prospectus, she helped me develop one of the most crucial skills a scholar must acquire — knowing what questions to ask oneself about literature in order to have something meaningful and original to say. That’s an amazing gift, and I owe a great deal of my own academic confidence to her guidance and example. It’s also an amazing legacy, because that’s how, with great fondness and gratitude, I will remember Ilinca Johnston, every time I realize that I do have something meaningful to say.

Oscar Kenshur, professor and chair

Margot and I learned of Ilinca’s death here in Aix-en-Provence. Being in a lovely place far from Bloomington did not make the news easier to bear. We regretted not being back home to commiserate with Ken, Teddy, and Mathew and the rest of Ilinca’s family, whose grief is beyond our comprehension, and with the many friends who, like us, are devastated by the loss.

I think of Ilinca in many roles: as a dynamic, innovative, and sympathetic teacher; as a brilliant scholar and critic; as a colleague whose deep commitment to comparative literature never flagged, even when she was struggling with her relentless illness; as a charming, dear, and loyal friend.

But the image that most haunts me is that of Ilinca welcoming one into her home or presiding over a dinner or a reception. I’m trying to avoid the word “hostess” because it is so woefully inadequate. She was more like a tutelary spirit ushering one into a magical realm, a place — whether it was the house on Atwater or the converted windmill in Mallorca that she so loved — that was made magical by her graciousness, her energy, her mere presence.

As I look out my window at the cypresses, the tile roofs, the mountains, and the blue sky, all vivid and intense thanks to the famous Provençal light, I think about how vivid and radiant Ilinca was, and how much Bloomington will be darkened and diminished by her absence.

Rosemarie McGerr, associate professor

Ilinca Zarifopol-Johnston was an excellent scholar, a creative teacher, and a gracious, generous colleague. Her memory will remain strong through her scholarship and her influence on her students. Her long-term contributions to our department helped shape our programs of study. Be-

cause she and I often consulted on matters of departmental administration, my favorite memories of Ilinca involve mugs of tea and discussions of undergraduate or graduate policies. Her sense of humor made some of the more mundane aspects of university life more pleasurable. We all will miss working with Ilinca very much. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her family.

Angela Pao, associate professor and director of graduate studies

I first met Ilinca during my on-campus interview at IU. One of the most vivid impressions I had was of walking down Kirkwood to have lunch at the Uptown. There were a few people in the group, but it was Ilinca who was striding along beside me all the way, promoting the virtues of intellectual life at Bloomington. You’ll get so much work done, she said, because it’s like living in a monastery. While Ilinca’s recruiting pitch proved irresistible, “monastic” would not be a word that comes to mind in describing her own rich life, which found constant expression in the many incarnations of her fierce gaze.

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Many thanks to this year’s donors to the Department of Comparative Literature.

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And many thanks to those who contributed to the Department of Comparative Literature this year in honor of Professor Ilinca Johnston. With these gifts, we will establish a scholarship fund in her name. The scholarship will support both graduate and undergraduate students in alternating years. To support the memorial scholarship, please make donations payable to the IU Foundation and send to the Department of Comparative Literature, Ballantine Hall 914, Indiana University, 1020 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405.

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Student Notes

Graduate news

Ola Agbetuyi contributed a chapter, titled "Representing the Foreign As Other: The Use of Allegory in Fagunwa's Novels," in the book *The Foundations of Nigeria* (ed. Adebayo Oyeade, 2003).

Jamie Ferguson passed the PhD qualifying examination in the English department in November 2003. He published 11 poems translated from the Polish in *Carnivorous Boy and Carnivorous Bird: Poems by Polish Poets Born After 1958* and received the College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation of the Year Grant and the Greenburg Albee Fellowship. In the past year, he presented several conference-papers:

- "Faith in the Language: Lyric Mimesis in Fulke Greville's 'Caelica'." 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Open Session on Fulke Greville. Kalamazoo, Mich, May 2004.
- "Coverdale's Psalters: A Proliferation of Originals." Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies annual conference: "Translation or Transmission of Culture." Tempe, Ariz., February 2004.
- "Awkward Resonance: A Comparison of Archaizing and Modernizing Translations of a 16th-Century Polish Sonnet." American Literary Translators Association annual meeting. Cambridge, Mass., November 2003.
- "Satan's Supper: The Language of Sacrament in 'Paradise Lost'." 2003

Conference on John Milton. Middle Tennessee State University, October 2003.

Boutheina Khaldi was awarded the Amin Zaki Scholarship for best graduate student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures for the 2003-04 academic year.

Joanne Quimby has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Abroad Grant for the coming academic year. She has been conducting her dissertation research at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan, since March 2003. In April, she completed her tenure as a Japan Foundation Fellow and, in June, presented a paper at the Asian Studies Japan Conference in Tokyo.

Nicole Tobin received a scholarship from the Council on International Education Exchange. She used the award to study Spanish language and Mexican art in Guanajuato, Mexico, for seven weeks in summer 2004.

Naomi Uechi presented a paper, titled "Emersonian Architects from Ecological Perspectives: Frank Furness, Louis Sullivan, and Frank Lloyd Wright," at the Harvard University Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference last March. In June, she received a Dissertation Research Award from the Office of International Affairs. Uechi's book review, "Toward a New Ecocritical Vision," was published in the fall in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* (University of Nevada at Reno, 2004).

'03-'04 AIs

We extend special thanks to our associate instructors for their hard work in 2003-04:

Burcu Bakioglu
 Theodore Bouabre
 Amanda Briggs
 Chantal Carleton
 Ed Chamberlain
 Shawn Conner
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Undergraduate news

Graduating seniors

Courtney Burke received the Ann Geduld Award for Interarts Study in Comparative Literature.

Nora Flaherty, accepted to seven law schools, decided to attend Marquette University School of Law last fall.

Raina Polivka, winner of the Comparative Literature Outstanding Senior Award, was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and has completed her honors thesis about the re-evolution of gender in French literature and film.

Peter Voakes and **Mitchell Tellstrom**, contributors to the Bloomington local music scene, toured with their respective bands, The Vegetables and The Philippines, in summer and fall of 2004.

In other news

Junior **Jenny Cheshier** acted in the Bloom-

ington Playwright Project's local production of *Sex/Death*.

Junior **Lindsay Serrano** presented a paper, titled "Caribbean Identity and Diasporan Travel," at a Caribbean Studies Association meeting in summer 2004. She was awarded a grant of \$500 by the University Graduate School to underwrite her project. Also active in Union Board, Serrano was instrumental in bringing Cornell West and Sonia Manzano to campus.

Freshman **Tara Zuber** published one of her poems in *Labyrinths*.

A new tradition began this year with the participation of several graduating seniors, along with professors Kenshur, Pao, and Halloran, in the senior luncheon.

Alumni Notebook

1960s

Brenda Deen Schildgen, MA'62, PhD'72, has published three books with Wayne State University Press: *The Rhetoric Canon*; *Time and Narrative in the Gospel of Mark*; and *Power and Prejudice: The Reception of the Gospel of Mark*. Schildgen is a professor of comparative literature at the University of California at Davis.

Mark R. Axelrod, BA'69, MA'77, published *Aspects of the Screenplay* and has been touring the United States, Europe, and Latin America to present lectures on screenwriting. His latest screenplay, "The Brothers of Sigma Zi," takes place in Bloomington, Ind. He is a

professor at Chapman University in Orange, Calif.

Barry Ivker, MA'64, PhD'68, a clinical social worker at Methodist Hospital in New Orleans, is busy with play rehearsals and publishing books of poetry. He and his wife, Frances (Shapiro) Ivker, MA'63, PhD'68, live in New Orleans and can be reached at fran@elvispressley.com.

Judith L. Schroeder, MA'66, retired editor of the *Indiana Alumni Magazine* and vice president of communications of the IU Alumni Association, was married to Edward Mongoven of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in August 2003. She can be reached at jschroed@indiana.edu.

Edward H. Strauch, PhD'69, has been teaching for the past 26 years in Guam, Nigeria, Morocco, Iran, France, and Austria. He is fluent in French, German, and Spanish. He has had some 20 articles in the field of comparative literature and literary criticism published in international journals. Strauch has also had five books published, including *How Nature Taught Man to Know, Imagine, and Reason* and *The Creative Conscience of the Human Destiny*. He lives in Mangilao, Guam, and can be reached at postnet@net.com.

1970s

R. Keith McMahon, BA'74,

writes: "I am chair of East Asian languages and cultures at the University of Kansas and have recently published my third book, *The Fall of the God of Money: Opium Smoking in 19th-Century China*."

Nancy A. Watanabe, PhD'75, recently qualified for inclusion in the 2003-04 edition of the Manchester *Who's Who Registry of Executives and Professionals* after an extensive interview process. She lives in Seattle and can be reached at watann@u.washington.edu.

1990s

Michael Wurth, MA'92, screened his film *The Symposium* at the Hawaii International Film Festival in November 2003. He also has worked as a staff writer for Dinamo Entertainment during the production of films, including *Suicide Kings*. He also teaches English part time for the University of Phoenix.

Karen Seeh, BA'95, recently graduated with her MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In August, she headed to Bulgaria for 14 months, where she is working as a volunteer consultant for the MBA Enterprise Corps of the Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance.

Keith Cartwright, PhD'97, has published another book, *Reading Africa into American Literature*. He is teaching at the College of Roanoke, in Virginia. His other books include *Junkman: A Christmas Pageant* and *Saint Louis: A Wool Strip-Cloth for Seoul Dabo*.

Lucia Sa, PhD'97, writes: "I am an assistant professor of Brazilian literature at Stanford University." She lives in Pacifica, Calif., and can be reached at lusa@stanford.edu.

2000s

At the ACLA meeting in April, **Stephanie Glaser**, PhD'02,

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Congratulations! Recent MA, PhD graduates join comparative literature alumni ranks

• MA 2004

Angela Holzer: PhD student at Princeton University
Anthony Lichi: PhD student at Indiana University Bloomington
Kristin Reed: PhD student at Indiana University Bloomington
Julia Whyde
Amanda Briggs

• MA 2003

Olayinka Agbetuyi
Tracy Lassiter: teaching English at Eastern Arizona College

• PhD 2004

Jeffrey Bardzell: IUIS at Indiana University Bloomington
Shaowen Bardzell: employed at Indiana University Bloomington
Theodore Bouabre: tenure-track teaching position at Jackson State University in Mississippi
Austin Busch: postdoctoral teaching fellow in Stanford University's Introduction to the Humanities Program
Aimee Hall Corrigan: instructor of English literature and language arts at the Wyatt-Edison Charter School in Denver
Mark Minster
Gwen Stickney: tenure-track teaching position at North Dakota State University at Fargo in the modern languages department

• PhD 2003

Robert Bayliss: visiting lecturer at Miami University of Ohio
Margaret Bruder
Thomas Cooper: visiting lecturer at University of North Carolina in Hungarian language and culture
Julia Paulk: tenure-track position at Centre College, Danville, Ky., in the Spanish department
Adam Rovner
Julian Stringer: lecturer at the Institute of Film Studies, School of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, England
Richard Wafula: assistant professor at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya



Alumni notebook

(continued from page 7)

won the 2003 Charles Bernheimer Prize for best dissertation for her study *Explorations of the Gothic Cathedral in 19th-Century France*. Claus Clüver directed her dissertation. Rosemarie McGerr, Rosemary Lloyd, and Sarah Burns (fine arts) served on her committee.

Austin Busch, PhD'04 defended his dissertation, "Convictions and Questions: Philosophy and Muthos in Paul, Mark, and the Senecan," in November. In addition, he has accepted a position as a postdoctoral teaching fellow in the humanities at Stanford University. His appointment is for one year, renewable for up to three years.

Gwen Stickney, PhD'04, has accepted a tenure-track position in the modern languages department at North Dakota State University at Fargo.



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