

# eng THE NEWS IN ENGLISH

A newsletter from the Department of English,  
Indiana University Bloomington  
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COLLEGE OF  
ARTS & SCIENCES

## Letter from the Chair

Patricia Ingham



Patricia Ingham

It is an honor to write to you from the Chair's office, and this year I am especially aware that I stand on the shoulders of giants. In this issue, we remember the indomitable and inspiring example of Mary Burgan (1935-2017), who served as Chair for seven years, from 1987-1994. Don Gray, another illustrious former chair, elegantly reflects on Mary's life and work in these pages. Life in the large Humanities Department at IUB continues to change, but the models of these and other of my predecessors help me keep faith with the many ways that the work we all do still matters.

Amid transitions of all kinds, our writing, teaching, and mentoring lives go on. Collectively, department affiliated faculty published more than a dozen new books this year. Colleagues won prestigious prizes and fellowships. Two of our number (Professors Michael Adams and John Lucaites) rose to the ranks of IUB Provost Professors. Last fall, as every year, we welcomed new student faces to our seminar rooms, classrooms, and lecture halls. A new generation of colleagues have taken up important administrative work: Associate Professor (and Modernist) Judith Brown serves as Director of Undergraduate Studies; poet Ross Gay steps in at a crucial time as Director of Creative Writing with help from Associate Professor, Walton Muyumba; Rae Greiner, Victorianist and Associate Professor advises our graduate students and directs our Graduate Program; Dana Anderson continues to lead as our Director of Composition, and our new colleague, Robert Terrill helms the Rhetoric Program. I am mindful every day of the generosity of these colleagues and especially grateful for the continued assistance of Associate Professor Kathy Smith in all things administrative, and the good counsel of Professor Scott Herring, new Associate Chair. All of us remain grateful for the support of our former members and our many friends. Be well!

*-Patricia Ingham*

## Celebrating Mary Burgan



I met Mary at the end of 1963 when another junior member of the faculty and I interviewed her during the MLA convention. In those spacious years – lots of jobs, lots of applicants: the department added ten faculty members that year – candidates for appointment went through a preliminary interview before some were sent to talk to Joe Barber, then the department's chair. Joe saw in Mary the intelligence and promise that my colleague and I had seen, and Mary joined the faculty of the department in the fall of 1964. But none of us saw all that there was in Mary, even then, and certainly none of us foresaw the range and worth of all that she was to accomplish in her fruitful decades in the academy.

Mary Burgan did it all. She was a strong teacher. She began, as we all did then, by teaching introductory courses in composition and the rudiments of literary understanding. Mary never forgot that English teachers are writing teachers. I remember sitting with her and one of her students in an otherwise empty classroom and watching Mary march back and forth to the board as she outlined, section by section, a plausible argument for the student's dissertation.

*continued on page 6*

# Spotlight on new faculty and staff

Meet the faculty and staff who joined the department in Spring 2016



Freya Thimsen

## Freya Thimsen

Professor Thimsen describes her current project as “a book that traces the arc of various understandings of “democracy” in anti-corporate politics. The arc begins with the most conventional interpretation of “democracy” as being a matter of better electoral politics (things like grassroots campaign fundraising) and makes its way through popular critical non-fiction about corporate rights all the way to protest politics and community sovereignty movements attempting to re-envision democratic forms of life from the ground up. My hope is to show how critical movement opposition to corporate legal rights provides rich resources for imagining democracy in a variety of connected ways that fundamentally share the same logic. Thimsen’s research has been published in *The Quarterly Journal of Speech* and *The Review of Communication*, among other venues. How did she come to her particular areas of interest? “I have always been fascinated by democracy – and not always in a good way! As we have seen lately, sometimes democracy is like a slasher scene that one ends up transfixed by through one’s fingers. I was raised without a television and so I’ve always felt drawn to popular culture and politics with a kind of nostalgic disaffection. I imagine a shared sense of political community I’ve never actually participated in. This is my best understanding of democracy: there is

always something standing in the way of its actualization, but that doesn’t stop people from fighting for it – in fact, it encourages it. The corporatization of public life is simply one of the most powerful contemporary forces getting in the way of democracy and therefore enabling democracy to happen.” This past fall, Thimsen taught *Argumentation and Public Advocacy* and *Feminism and Public Issues*. She enjoys her students, (whom she describes as “thoughtful while being practical and down to earth in a way that contributes to an enjoyable classroom,”) the beauty of the IU campus, and Bloomington’s plentiful sources of caffeine. She looks forward to getting to know IU, Bloomington, and her students better in semesters to come – as she says, hopefully “making friends and influencing people”!



Kayla Pointer

## New Assistant to the Chair, Kayla Pointer

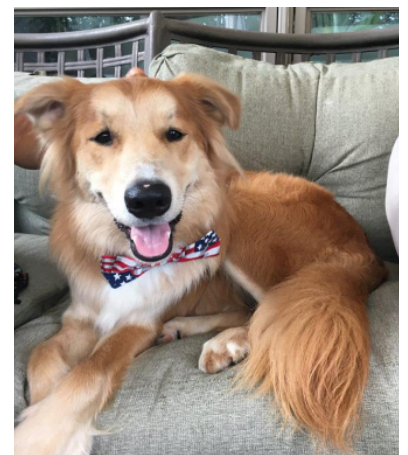
Kayla was born and raised in Bloomington, and Indiana University is her alma mater. She says, “it feels like I’ve come full circle. It’s crazy to think I was taking classes in Ballantine five years ago, and am now working in the same building”. Kayla’s dog, Ziggy has become a staple in the Chair’s Office as well. Not only does he lighten the mood of an ordinary workday, but he helps lower stress levels for faculty and students alike. He’s quite popular with the undergraduate and graduate students of English. Ziggy has ‘office hours’ on Friday from 1-5pm.

## New Undergraduate Advisor, Shauna Melvin

Shauna Melvin has recently taken on the role of Academic Advisor in the English Department. Shauna made the move to Bloomington from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she received an MA in Higher Education and advised for the Psychology Department and for the Ross School of Business. She is passionate about student success and the power of a liberal arts degree. In her free time, she enjoys camping and hiking and is looking forward to exploring the surrounding state parks in the months and years ahead.



Shauna Melvin



Ziggy



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# Graduate student honors, awards, & publications

**Caddie Alford** was awarded the Culbertson Dissertation Fellowship (Jan-Aug 2017).

**Sami Atassi**, “Mapping Representations of the Queen of Mystery’s Middle East: Adaptations, Anxieties, and Geopolitics of Agatha Christie’s *Appointment with Death*.” In *Postcolonial Crime Fiction*, special issue of *The Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* 4. 1 (2016), 23-40.

**Mary Borgo** completed three months of archival research in the UK. Highlights include seeing David Livingstone’s magic lantern at the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, studying the School of Oriental and African Studies collection of juvenile missionary society periodical literature in London, and visiting the Kent Museum of the Moving Image (Joss Marsh and David Francis’s museum) in Deal.

**Julie Chamberlain**, “*Philosophie and Folie*: Translating Suffering in Marie de France’s *Fables*,” forthcoming in *Le Cygne: Journal of the International Marie de France Society*.

**Emily Corwin** published *My Tall Handsome* (Brain Mill Press), select essays in poetry in *The MFA Years*, *Hobart*, *Winter Tangerine*, *Gigantic Sequins*, *Electric Literature*, and *Noble / Gas Quarterly*. She had select book reviews for *Grist Journal*, in addition, her micro-chapbook, *darkling*, was accepted for publication by Platypus Press. Emily received a Pushcart nomination from *Rust + Moth*, as well as a Best of the Net nomination from *Cease, Cows*.

**Tracey Hutchings-Goetz**, “Catching the cat’; or, Feeling the Feline in Enlightenment Sensualist Philosophy,” awarded the Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize by the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS).

**Jennifer Warfel Juskiewicz**, with Joe Warfel, “Expanding the Vocabulary of Mathematical Programming and Digital Rhetoric,” in *enculturation: a journal of writing, rhetoric, and culture*.

**Whitney Sperazza** was awarded a CAHI Graduate Student Research Grant to fund research at the Wellcome Library in London.

**Amanda Zoch**, “Maternal Revision in Middleton’s *More Dissemblers Besides Women*,” forthcoming in an edited collection. “Macduff’s Son and the Queer Temporality of *Macbeth*,” forthcoming in *SEL: Studies in English Literature 1500-1900*.

**The Indiana Review** fostered a partnership with the Union Board and the undergraduate creative magazine CANVAS to begin a generative creative writing workshop for undergraduate students. Indiana Review also partnered with the IU Press on the Blue Lights Books Prize, won this year by **Andrea Lewis** for her story collection *What My Last Man Did*.

If you would like to support the English Department in its many endeavors, please visit the Indiana University Foundation Web site and give now. Go to: [iufoundation.iu.edu](http://iufoundation.iu.edu).

# Faculty books, honors, & awards

**Michael Adams**  
Named Provost Professor  
in 2016 .

*In Praise of Profanity*,  
Oxford University Press

**Scot Barnett**  
ed. (with Casey Boyle),  
*Rhetoric, Through  
Everyday Things*,  
University of Alabama  
Press

*Rhetorical Realism:  
Rhetoric, Ethics, and  
the Ontology of Things*,  
Routledge

**Catherine Bowman**  
*Can I Finish, Please?*,  
Four Way Books

**Jennifer Fleissner**  
Named an American  
Council of Learned Societies  
fellow for 2015-6.

**Ross Gay**  
Won two major awards  
this year: the 2015  
National Book Critics  
Circle Award for poetry  
and the \$100,000  
Kingsley Tufts Poetry  
Award, both for his book

*Catalog of Unabashed  
Gratitude* (University of  
Pittsburgh Press).

**Susan Gubar**  
*Reading and Writing  
Cancer: How Words  
Heal*, W.W. Norton & Co

**Paul Gutjahr**  
*Bestsellers in Nineteenth-  
Century America*,  
Anthem Press

Named Associate Dean for  
Arts and Humanities and  
Undergraduate Education  
in the College of Arts and  
Sciences' Executive Dean's  
office.

Named Ruth N. Halls  
Professor of English.

**Vivian Nunn Halloran**  
*The Immigrant Kitchen:  
Food, Ethnicity, and  
Diaspora*, The Ohio State  
University Press

**Christoph Irmscher**  
Helped compile the  
materials for Daniel  
Aaron, *Commonplace  
Book, 1934-2012*, Pressed  
Wafer Press.

**Karma Lochrie**  
*Nowhere In the Middle  
Ages*, University of  
Pennsylvania Press

**John Lucaites**  
(with Robert Hariman),  
*The Public Image:  
Photography and Civic  
Spectatorship*, University  
of Chicago Press

Won the 2016 Tracy  
M. Sonneborn Award,  
which honors an Indiana  
University professor for  
outstanding research/  
creative activity and  
teaching.

Named Provost Professor  
in 2016.

**Alvin Rosenfeld**  
ed. *Deciphering the New  
Antisemitism*, Indiana  
University Press

**Rebekah Sheldon**  
*The Child To Come:  
Life After the Human  
Catastrophe*, University  
of Minnesota Press

**Nikki Skillman**  
*Lyric in the Age of the  
Brain*, Harvard University  
Press

Awarded the Harvard  
University Press Thomas  
J. Wilson Memorial Prize  
for a first book manuscript  
judged outstanding in  
content, style, and mode  
of presentation, for her  
book *The Lyric in the Age  
of the Brain*.

Named Outstanding  
Junior Faculty for 2016-7.

**Robert Terrill**  
Was this year's recipient  
of the Marie Hochmuth  
Nichols Award for  
outstanding published  
scholarship in public  
address for his 2015 book  
*Double-Consciousness  
and the Rhetoric of  
Barack Obama: The  
Price and Promise  
of Citizenship* (The  
University of South  
Carolina Press).



For more information about our faculty, please visit: <https://english.indiana.edu/about/faculty/index.html>

# Alyce Miller retires

After two decades at IU, Alyce Miller retires, but she's not slowing down at all.

After over two decades in the department and a varied career at IU and in Bloomington, Alyce Miller, an important presence among the creative writing faculty, took early retirement this year. At IU, Miller has been a much-loved teacher and colleague, and she won the Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award in 2015. Students, she says, are what she will miss most about her work at IU.

Her favorite courses were an interdisciplinary Honors College seminar on Animals and Ethics and the graduate *Creative Nonfiction Writing Workshop*. These courses speak to the care and creativity that characterizes Miller's teaching. For *Animals and Ethics*, she invited a range of outside speakers, as well as "several nonhuman animal guests...including pit bulls, a Great Horned owl, a disabled opossum, a ball python, and ferrets." The class' unique curriculum and "amazing students" led to "some of the most complex discussions I've ever had with undergraduates," Miller says. Teaching creative nonfiction, Miller particularly enjoyed the varied backgrounds of the enrolled students and the class' intimate space for intellectual and emotional discovery. "I found that our graduate students, who often identified strongly as either poets or fiction writers, found themselves in uncertain terrain, and that seemed to trigger some of the best writing I saw from them," she says. Another favorite was a graduate literature class, *Assumed Identities*, which took up questions of authorship, identity, and appropriation that have concerned Miller throughout her career.

Miller is, of course, a distin-



Alyce Miller at F. Scott Fitzgerald's grave in Rockville, MD

guished fiction writer and essayist as well as a professor, but her path was by no means straightforward. "I always knew I wanted to write, but had no idea how one became a 'writer'. So I wrote in secret for a number of years" she says. "When my first book was accepted, I began a low-residency MFA program so I could teach at the university level." After she earned an MFA degree from Vermont College in 1995 and got the job at IU, she also trained as a lawyer. She received her JD from IU in 2003 and has since taken on pro bono cases. Speaking of her unusual choice, Miller says, "Teaching full-time and going to law school full-time was one of the happiest times of my life. It was an incredibly rich intellectual experience." Miller has published five books and over two hundred stories, poems, and essays. Her latest work of fiction, the short-story collection *Sweet Love* (2015), won the Ellen Gilchrist Prize. Two other short story-collections *The Nature of Longing* (1995) and *Water* (2008) were also recognized with literary prizes (the Mary McCarthy Prize for Short Fiction and the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction) and a novel,

*Stopping for Green Lights*, came out in 2000. Additionally, Miller's work in animal studies led to the publication of the nonfiction book *Skunk* (2015) in Reaktion Books' *Animal Series*.

Miller now lives in the Washington DC Metro Area, a place she chose for its "Big Water," ethnic and racial pluralism, and urban cultural opportunities." She will miss friends and activities in Bloomington (among them hiking, yoga, and swimming) as well as the wondrous vegan donuts of The Rainbow Bakery. DC gives a daily reminder, since "the whole world moves through here," that, with the exception of native peoples, "we all came from somewhere else, whether by force or by choice." Having recently moved, Miller already feels at home and ready to pursue new work: "Since I'm a writer, the world is my archive. And there is a huge archive here. It would take a lifetime to exhaust all that there is to do in this region."

# Celebrating Mary Burgan

(continued from page 1)

I don't think that Mary expected the student to drop her own plan for her dissertation and adopt the shape Mary was making for the argument. Her point was rather that there was a better shape to be made, and undoubtedly, on further thought, better shapes still, and Mary presumed that the student would think about what Mary had done and find her own way to clarify and fortify her argument.

Mary brought the same precisely directed energy to all her teaching, to big undergraduate lecture courses on fiction as well as to undergraduate courses and graduate seminars in 19th-century British literature and 20th-century British and American women writers. When it came her turn to teach children's and young adult literature, an assignment once commonly distributed among faculty members who studied Victorian literature and who had children, Mary became excited by the intellectual and historical interest of these literary traditions. Two of the graduates of her seminars in these topics, Kara Keeling and Claudia Nelson, became presidents of the Children's Literature Association. Until she left the department, Mary never stopped pressing her colleagues to approve a faculty appointment in the study of writing for young readers (and listeners), on the practical ground that this was a good way for the department to participate in the training of elementary- and secondary-school teachers, and on the perhaps higher ground that these were literatures whose history, conventions, and remarkable texts will deeply reward the study of literary and cultural historians and critics.

Although the department never did appoint someone whose principal interests were in writing for young people, Mary had a way of often getting her way. In the memories that lit the screens on e-mail and Facebook as news of her death began to circulate, words like "steely-willed" and "indomitable" and "formidable" appear frequently. True enough, but these phrases are almost always accompanied by tributes to her kindness and, in Linda Charnes' words, her "personal warmth." Mary was an exceptionally effective departmental chair because she consistently promoted and protected the large claims and requirements of English as a humane discipline while closely attending to the particular needs and possibilities of her students and colleagues. "Introduced to the profession by Mary Burgan," Mary Favret writes, "one should be forgiven for believing the impossible, that the university can be a human community, that education can re-create individuals, and that learning demands an atmosphere of freedom." If I too believe that, and on good days I still do, it is in significant part because I worked with Mary Burgan and colleagues like her as we learned from one another how to participate fully in the academy and our profession.

By the time that Mary left Bloomington in 1994 to become the executive director of the AAUP in Washington, DC, she had created a solid body of writing on literary topics – essays on British and American women writers and on parenting and music in Victorian literature, and her book on gender, illness and identity in the life and writing of Katherine Mansfield. She continued to write on such

topics, on the teaching of Jane Eyre, for example, and on the figure of the city as a human body in Victorian writing. But in Washington she engaged fully, I might say furiously, in large matters of academic policy – academic freedom and the protection of tenure, faculty unionization, the presence of the faculty in campus governance. She went to campuses (Bennington, the University of Minnesota) to speak and to join in faculty protests against infringements of academic freedom; she helped out in drives to turn AAUP chapters into unions; she testified before committees and commissions; she appeared on C-Span. After she retired from the directorship of the AAUP in 2004, in her book *What Ever Happened to the Faculty?* she strenuously argued her case for, and cogently presented her worries about, the central necessity of faculty authority in academic governance. She was certainly right to worry, given the currently enfeebled state of faculty governance. But that very condition makes her argument even more necessary and useful now than it was a decade ago.

For the past five or six years Mary had been writing a history of her family, especially her father's family, beginning with its emigration from Ireland to Savannah in the middle of the 19th century to help build the railroads and canals. She became an accomplished and, in her customary way, an indefatigable historian. She rooted out letters and diaries, got in touch with cousins and other relations whom she sometimes had never previously met, read microfilm copies of old newspapers, found educational and medical records, read local histories, consulted even the headstones in old cemeteries (on which sometimes the name of the county in Ireland from which the deceased had emigrated was inscribed). Every two or three months she would print and send to me a chapter or a long passage of the book in progress, or phone to tell me what she had recently found. (Typescript and telephone: like old times.) I would write back to comment on what she had written, or we would talk for an hour or so about what she had found and how it fit into the story she was discovering. Our very last conversation, late last fall when she had just been moved into a rehabilitation facility, was brief. "I got to get out of here," she said. "I got to finish the book."

Mary did not get to finish the book. She left to her children and grandchildren some wonderfully detailed stories about how their forebears became American, in just the ways promised by the immigrant dream and drive of the 19th and early 20th century. And she left too some accounts of the difficult circumstances in which she grew up, matter that she explored with a growing air of sympathy and understanding. So, in a sense, if she did not finish her book, Mary did complete her story, as in the last pages she wrote she settled into a complex recognition of where she came from and how she came to be who she was.

Mary Burgan was, in the honorific phrase, a woman of parts. She kept all the parts in play, all the time, steadily taking herself and her manifold gifts onto new ground for their exercise, while holding them all together with the conviction that it was not only exciting to learn but that it did people good to know. At a memorial service in Washington Harry Burgan, Mary and Bill's son, said of his mother, "Mom was exceptional, but she never thought she was the exception. She believed everyone had the same potential as her. And she encouraged them." In Mary's view that was what her profession was for, and in her practice of it she fashioned a character and an accomplishment that stand as complicated, rounded, and entire.

-Don Gray

# Karen Ellis Promoted

**K**aren Ellis, the department's undergraduate advisor extraordinaire, received well-deserved accolades from the College of Arts and Science this fall when she was named the College Advisor of the Year. Ellis' work with the undergraduates in the department draws high praise from both students and faculty.

Professor Judith Brown highly commends Ellis for being "incredibly organized, thorough, knowledgeable, conscientious, and kind." She adds, "students love Karen!" Ellis has been an advisor at IU since 2006, and she came to the Department of English in April 2011. She is now moving on to another job at IU, and she will be deeply missed in the department. She writes: "My new job title will be Assistant Director of Advising in the College of Arts and Sciences, and my primary responsibility will be the supervision of 15-18 advisors in the Natural & Mathematical Science disciplines." This continues her work

outside the English Department training new advisors over the last few years.

While she very much looks forward to her new tasks, Ellis says she will miss advising English majors. "I am deeply grateful to the staff and faculty for including me and making me feel at home in the culture and happenings of the department," she continues. The feeling is very much mutual. Paul Gutjahr, former department chair, writes about Karen: "In her time with us, Karen has made herself absolutely central to the life of the English Department, and more importantly to the life of our undergraduate majors. To echo the words of Yeats, the "center would not hold" if Karen was not among us. She is the glue that has held together the daily components of our undergraduate program. She has earned the respect and admiration of all with whom she works, and she was critical in helping make our department a better place for our staff, faculty and

students, as well as a better unit within the university as whole. It is hard to put into words how much we will miss her. I personally will miss her a great deal." We wish Karen all the best in her new position.



Karen Ellis

## Class Notes

### Before 1960

Since retiring ten years ago, **Larry McCoy**, BS'59, MA'65, has published two books. His first is a book on aging, *Did I Really Change My Underwear Every Day?*, and his second, a memoir, *Everyone Needs an Editor (Some of Us More Than Others)*. McCoy is currently working on a book about grandchildren. He lives in Rockville Centre, N.Y.

### 1960s

**Anita L. Werling**, BA'68, MLS'71, spearheaded and led the painstaking renovation of the Delphi (Ind.) Opera House. She is Chair of the Delphi Preservation Society Opera House Advisory Board. The Delphi Opera House opened in 1865 hosting a celebration ball for returning Civil War soldiers. The building sat unused for close to 100 years until the recent restoration. Werling lives in Delphi.

### 1970s

**Paul F. Burnore**, BA'70, MA'75, is the author of *Outside Gravity*, a book of poems about death, grief, and coming to terms with life, published in September 2015 by Portals Publishing. Burnore has taught poetry and literature at IU and three overseas universities and has previously self-published four poetry books. He has served as a Peace Corps Director in Kazakhstan, USAID director of privatization in Russia, IBM software developer executive in Asia Pacific, and managing director of All Hands Volunteers, an international disaster response organization. Burnore's Peace Corps start-up in Kazakhstan in 1993 was the lead story in *Smithsonian* magazine in August 1994. He lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.

In November, the IU Media School presented a 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award in Journalism to **Bonnie J. Brownlee**, BA'72, MA'75. Brownlee spent 25 years in the former IU School of Journalism, serving in various roles,

including associate professor, associate Dean of undergraduate studies, and chair of journalism. Her research focused on the importance of communicating across international boundaries. She also developed and taught multiple travel courses for journalism students. Brownlee was an integral force in the journalism program's reaccreditation in 2015 and in overseeing journalism's transition into the Media School. She lives in Bloomington, Ind.

In March, the University of Missouri Press published *The New Woman Gothic: Reconfigurations of Distress* by **M. Patricia Murphy**, BA'73. Drawing from and reworking gothic conventions, the book explores the controversial "new woman" who emerged during "a tumultuous cultural moment of gender anxiety." Murphy is Professor of English at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, where she teaches British literature and other courses. Her specialty is Victorian literature, particularly the novel. Murphy lives in Joplin.

**Sander W. Zulauf**, MA'73, writes that he will retire in January 2017 after 47

# Class Notes (continued)

years as a New Jersey teacher — 43 as a professor of English at County College of Morris in Randolph. Zulauf lives in Byram Township, N.J.

“I am still teaching at West Chester University,” writes **Cynthia S. Haggard**, BA’75, MAT’80, EdD’86, adding, “I am Chair of the Leadership Foundation for Teacher Educators. I enjoy singing in the Main Line Ecumenical Choir in Paoli, Pa., and attending Philadelphia Orchestra concerts.” Haggard lives in Exton, Pa.

IU Trustee **Patrick A. Shoulders**, BA’75, JD’78, was awarded a 2016 Chancellor’s Medallion from IU Southeast. Shoulders, a partner at the law firm of Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders in Evansville, has been a trustee of IU since January 2002. The Chancellor’s Medallion is the highest honor presented by the Chancellor of IU Southeast for contributions to the economic, educational, and general welfare of Southern Indiana. Shoulders lives in Evansville, Ind.

**Wendy Jones Nakaniishi**, BA’76, writes, “After getting a master’s degree from Lancaster University, England, in 1978 and a PhD from Edinburgh University, Scotland, in 1984, I embarked on an academic career. I have been a resident in Japan since 1984, working full time as a professor at a small private Japanese university. I have published widely in my academic field of English literature and recently completed a crime fiction novel, *Imperfect Strangers*, under my pen name Lea O’Harra.” The book is available in both digital and print formats from Amazon.

**Mary Anna C. Violi**, BA’76, MA’81, is the author

of a book series, *Spirited Constellations*, available on Amazon in e-book format and in paperback. She lives in Mishawaka, Ind., and teaches in the Department of English at IU South Bend.

During the summer of 2015, Wall Street market strategist **Bryan R. Brown**, BA’78, successfully completed the longest unsupported solo kayak descent of Canada’s MacKenzie River watershed. At 2,100 miles, the MacKenzie River watershed is the third largest on earth, after the Nile and the Amazon. Brown’s kayaking portfolio now includes some 7,000 miles of unsupported wilderness travel under some of the most challenging conditions possible. In late 2015, the eco/adventure traveler was inducted into the prestigious Explorers Club. Founded in New York City in 1904, the Explorers Club promotes the scientific exploration of land, sea, air, and space, and its members include Sir Edmund Hillary, Neil Armstrong, and John Glenn. Brown lives in Beverly Hills, Calif.

In February 2016, **Allegra L. East**, BA’78, was named Communications and Marketing Manager for the Polis Center in the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. She is responsible for the planning and implementation of various marketing and communications initiatives to increase the visibility of research projects with which the Polis Center is involved, both in the academic and civic environments. Prior to joining the Polis Center, East worked with the Dallas Mavericks, Pacers Sports & Entertainment, Purdue University, Clarian North Medical Center (now IU Health North), and AUL (now OneAmerica). She previously worked at IUPUI’s Herron School of Art as

development director.

**Clifford W. Garstang**, MA’79, JD’81, is the editor of *Everywhere Stories: Short Fiction from a Small Planet, Volume II*, published in September by Press 53. The book is an anthology of stories set in 20 countries. Garstang is the author of *What the Zhang Boys Know*, winner of the 2013 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Fiction, and the prize-winning linked story collection, *In an Uncharted Country*. Garstang has taught English as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea and practiced international law in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Singapore. He later worked for Harvard Law School as a legal reform consultant in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and from 1996 to 2001, he was senior counsel for East Asia at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., where his work focused on China, Vietnam, Korea, and Indonesia. Garstang lives in Staunton, Va.

## 1980s

**Robyn L. Wiegman**, BA’81, MFA’84, received the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award from the IU Bloomington College of Arts and Sciences in April 2016. She previously served as a professor of English and women’s studies at IU. Wiegman is professor of literature and women’s studies at Duke University.

Cranbrook Educational Community, based in the Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Hills and consisting of Cranbrook Schools, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Cranbrook Art Museum, Cranbrook Institute of Science and Cranbrook House and Gardens, has appointed **Robert “Bob” T. Wilson**, MA’82, as a member of its board of trustees. Wilson graduated from Cranbrook School in 1976 and holds a JD from Boston College Law School. He served as an associate at the Cleveland-based law

firm of Arter & Hadden from 1994 to 1999 before returning to Detroit in 1999 to join the Bloomfield Hills office of Butzel Long, where he practices in the areas of general corporate, commercial contracts, mergers and acquisitions, and arms export control law. Wilson joined the board of governors of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 2007 and is currently serving as board vice chair. He lives in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

**Gregory T. Walker**, BS’83 is a professor of music at the University of Colorado Denver. His 2014-15 season included appearances with the Oberlin Conservatory Symphony and the Detroit Symphony performing the music of his father, Pulitzer Prize-winner, George Walker. In June 2014, Walker inaugurated the three-day interdisciplinary Colorado NeXt Music Fest in Evergreen, Colorado. After touring Nebraska and Wyoming with the Swing Je T’aime gypsy jazz band, 2015 engagements included performances at the Strings Without Boundaries summer program in Wisconsin, Great Britain’s Benslow Music, as well as at the China Agricultural University in Beijing. Walker graduated from IU with a BS in music with English as an outside field.

“I recently celebrated my 30th anniversary with media conglomerate Meredith Corporation, where I had a summer internship in 1984 and 1985 before being hired full-time in 1986,” writes **Katharine Lowry Selzer**, BA’86. She adds, “I’m currently the senior remodeling editor at *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. Selzer lives in West Des Moines, Iowa.

In 2016, the University of Missouri Press will publish *How Robert Frost Made Realism Matter* by **Jonathan N. Barron**, MA’87, PhD’90. Frost stood at the intersection of 19th-century romanticism



and 20th-century modernism, and he enjoyed a popular as well as a scholarly appeal that created his enduring legacy. Barron is director of the Robert Frost Society and edits its scholarly journal, *The Robert Frost Review*. He is also the author of *Roads Not Taken: Rereading Robert Frost*, and is an associate professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

## 1990s

*No Acute Distress*, the second collection of poems by award-winning poet **Jennifer B. Richter**, BA'91, was published in March 2016 by Southern Illinois University Press. The collection explores the subjects of illness and motherhood with compassion and humor. Richter is the recipient of a Wallace Stegner Fellowship and a Jones Lectureship at Stanford University, as well as an Oregon Literary Fellowship. She lives in Corvallis, Ore., and teaches in Oregon State University's MFA program.

**Horace D. Stearman**, PhD'92, writes that he has been named Assistant Vice President for accreditation, planning, and policy at the University of North Texas at Dallas. He lives in Grand Prairie, Texas.

**Rocco L. Versaci**, MA'92, PhD'97, is chair of the Department of English and Humanities at Palomar College in North San Diego. He writes that in 2003 (at the age of 35), he was diagnosed with cancer and spent most of the summer in chemotherapy. In the summer of 2010, he set out alone on his bicycle — which he named "Rusty" — from Ocean Beach, Calif., and two months later wound up at the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He recently finished a book about the ride, *That Hidden Road*, published in October by Apprentice House Press. In October of 2013, he was diagnosed



Professor Robyn Wiegman, 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

with cancer again. After two surgeries, one major surgical complication, and 12 weeks of chemotherapy, his treatment is over and his current prognosis is positive.

In October, Pelekinesis Press published *Right of Capture*, the debut science fiction young adult novel by **Isadora Beeler Deese**, BA'93. The book features shape-shifting creatures and deadly portals created by an energy that exists deep inside two children. It is the first in a five-book cycle. Deese helped coordinate some of the first iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine) competitions at MIT and co-wrote *Adventures in Synthetic Biology* with Drew Endy and the Synthetic Biology Working Group. She is married to writer and historian R.S. Deese, and the couple lives in the Boston area with their three sons and two cats.

"I was ordained by the United Church of Christ in October 2015," writes **Leslie A. Leasure**, BA'93, MFA'04, adding, "I am the program director at the Ignite Institute, which provides spiritually-based leadership development and resiliency training for those working for social transformation, especially

in the areas of economic and racial justice. I am also the creator and curator of the Into the Wilderness spiritual community, which focuses on daily spiritual practice. I blog for both organizations. For more information, go to [www.itwcommunity.org](http://www.itwcommunity.org) and [www.igniteatpsr.com](http://www.igniteatpsr.com)." Leasure lives in Berkeley, Calif.

The University of Oklahoma Press has released *Imagining Sovereignty: Self-Determination in American Indian Law and Literature* by **David J. Carlson**, MA'94, PhD'00. In the book, Carlson explores sovereignty as a discursive middle ground between tribal communities and the United States as a settler-colonial power. His work reveals the complementary ways in which legal and literary texts have generated politically significant representations of the world, which in turn have produced particular effects on readers and advanced the cause of tribal self-determination. Carlson is professor of English at California State University—San Bernardino and the author of *Sovereign Selves: American Indian Autobiography and the Law*.

In October 2013, **Rebecca Gole Geyer**, Cert'95, BA'96, JD'98, opened her own law

firm—Rebecca W. Geyer & Associates—in Carmel, Ind., providing estate planning and elder law services to clients in central Indiana. She is also an adjunct professor of elder law at the IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Geyer, who lives in Zionsville, Ind., was named a member of the *Indianapolis Business Journal's* 2014 class of "Forty Under 40." She is from a long line of IU graduates. Her father, **Richard A. Gole**, BS'67, JD'70; her husband, **Paul E. Geyer**, BA'96, MIS'99; and her mother, **Barbara White Quinn**, BS'67, MS'70, are all alumni of the university.

In January, 2016, **Jennifer Reas Wintergerst**, BA'95, was selected to the Leadership Louisville Center's Bingham Fellows Class of 2016. The Bingham Fellows is the leadership-in-action arm of the Leadership Louisville Center. The Class of 2016 focused its efforts on "Empowering Citizens to Live Healthier Lives," which allowed participants to work together to enhance healthy behaviors in Greater Louisville. Wintergerst is a partner in the Louisville office of the U.S. law firm Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, concentrating her practice in the area of health care law. She lives in Louisville.

# Class Notes (continued)

**Stephanie L. Cassman**, BA'97, JD'00, of the Indianapolis law firm Lewis Wagner, was named the recipient of the 2015 Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana Defense Lawyer of the Year award during the organization's 2015 annual meeting. The award is presented to a licensed lawyer who has promoted the interests of the Indiana Defense Bar in a most significant way in the fields of litigation, legislation, publication, or participation in local, state, or national defense organizations. The DTCI is the professional organization of civil defense attorneys in Indiana, promoting excellence in civil litigation and supporting the administration of justice in the courts and mediation. Cassman lives in Carmel, Ind.

**Douglas B. Lemov**, MA'97, has been named one of 67 Influential Educators Who Are Changing the Way We Learn. The list, curated by education website Noodle, is comprised of teachers, administrators, policymakers, researchers, and activists whose innovations reach learners across the globe. Lemov is the author of *Teach Like a Champion* and the widely read *New York Times Magazine* cover story, "Building a Better Teacher." He lives in Delmar, N.Y.

## 2000s

**Simeon A. Berry**, MFA'02, is the author of *Monograph*, published in 2015 by the University of Georgia Press. The book was selected as a 2014 National Poetry Series competition winner. Berry has been an associate editor for *Ploughshares* and won a

Massachusetts Cultural Council Individual Artist Grant and a Career Chapter Award from the National Society of Arts and Letters. His first book, *Ampersand Revisited*, was selected for the 2013 National Poetry Series. He lives in Somerville, Massachusetts.

California lawyer Marty Burbank and his wife, Seon Chun-Burbank, have pledged to pay for the full college education of 26 kindergarten students at Rio Vista Elementary School in Anaheim, Calif. The Burbanks delivered the news in person to the children in the class of **Teresa "Tessa" Montemayor Ashton**, BA'03, MS'09, where the youngsters also received T-shirts with IU's logo. Ashton, who lives in Fullerton, Calif., said the Burbanks' action—which will cost them about a million dollars—is a lesson in kindness she could never teach.

In January 2016, Indiana law firm Plews Shadley Racher and Braun elected **Daniel P. Cory**, BA'03, as a partner in the firm. Working from the firm's South Bend office, Cory concentrates his practice on environmental, transactional, and complex litigation and administrative matters with a particular focus on environmental litigation and helping clients manage risks on environmentally impacted properties. Cory was the recipient of the Indiana Lawyer's Up and Coming Lawyer Award in 2013 and was selected for inclusion on the Rising Stars list published in *Indiana Super Lawyers* in 2014 and 2015. Cory has also served as an ad-



Professor and book author Rocco Versaci, Ph.D. publishes a book called "That Hidden Road" A Memoir, 2016

junct faculty member at Notre Dame Law School, teaching a course on environmental law and development, with a focus on the redevelopment of former industrial sites. He lives in South Bend.

**Siobhan M. Carroll**, MA'04, PhD'09, is the author of *An Empire Of Air And Water: Uncolonizable Space in the British Imagination, 1750–1850*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. She began the book while studying at IU, making extensive use of the Lilly Library's collection of board games and shipwreck almanacs. In *An Empire Of Air And Water*, Carroll looks at how famous literary works like *Frankenstein* were influenced by controversies over polar expeditions, cannibalism, and climate change. The book examines the early history of flight, cave exploration, naval warfare, and shipwrecks, in addition to anticipating the birth of science fiction. Carroll is an assistant professor in the Department of English at the University of Delaware. She lives in Wilmington, Del.

The debut short story collection, *Children of the New World*, by **Alexander R. Weinstein**, MA/MFA'10, was published by Picador in September 2016. Weinstein is a 2015 recipient of a Sustainable Arts Foundation Award in fiction, and his short stories have been nominated for Pushcart Prizes, received the Lamar York, Gail Crump, Hamlin-Garland, and New Millennium Prizes, and appear in the anthologies *New Stories from the Midwest 2013*, and the 2014 & 2015 *Lascaux Prize Stories*. In 2010 he founded the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing. The institute offers creative writing awards and scholarships to its summer writing program. His recent short stories and translations have been published in *Pleiades*, *Conduit*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, and other journals. Weinstein is an assistant professor of creative writing at Siena Heights University, and he lives in Ann Arbor with his son, Peter.

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