From the chair

Department of Comparative Literature meets the world

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

Why, then, would I write such an essay? And why do I choose this occasion to confess having done so? It seems an appropriate time to try to sum up the changes that have taken place during my watch — changes that include a shift in the Department of Comparative Literature’s posture vis-à-vis that world literature as the enterprise of monolingual English department types who taught foreign works in translation, without benefit of an acquaintance with the original languages and cultures.

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

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

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

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

Although my essay offers a sort of theoretical defense of world literature courses in which the instructor cannot read several of the texts in their original language, the broad trend reflected in the recent additions to the faculty has to do not just with the teaching of world literature courses per se, but in more general terms, with new approaches to the teaching of the literatures of the world. In one sense, of course, there is nothing new about our department’s engagement with the world. Starting with a base in the most conspicuous and influential European literatures, the department developed pioneering courses in Asian-Western and Arabic-Western literary relations, and in African literatures. But these approaches tended to be tethered in European or taught by faculty members whose training had been in European literary traditions. More specifically, our expertise tended to be centered in the literatures that have been linked to what has been called the “great powers” conception of comparative literary study.

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

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

Professor emeritus celebrates 90th

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

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


• Professor Emeritus Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch continues to work as a translator. Most recently, he collaborated in the creation of the new international, English-language edition of the Spiegel. He also translated Schorsch Kamerun’s radio drama Hollywood Elegies, based on Bertolt Brecht’s poems of the same title, for the North German Broadcasting Corp. He is currently translating a book about Viennese composer Alban Berg.

• During the spring semester, Professor Emeritus Matei Calinescu taught CMLT-C641 Literature in Intellectual and Cultural Contexts: Understanding Modernity: Historical & Intellectual Backgrounds.


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

• Professor Emeritus Harry Geduld has published The Purim Spiel and Other Stories, a collection of 30 short stories.

• Professor Emeritus Ingeborg Hoesterey has been busy writing a book review for the Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature and attending the American Comparative Literature Association meeting at Princeton University.

Faculty

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

• Professor Eileen Julien’s article “The Extroverted African Novel” is forthcoming in English from Princeton University Press. The article was published in Italian in Il Romanzo, edited by Franco Moretti. Following a symposium in Stockholm in 2004, Julien was invited to participate in a small international committee that met in Paris in October 2005 to consider the challenges of doing a transcultural literary history.

• Professor Rosemarie McGerr has received a College Arts and Humanities Institute research fellowship and a travel grant through Research and the University Graduate School New Frontiers Humanities Research program. The awards support her work on her edition of the medieval dream vision, The Pilgrimage of the Soul.

• Visiting faculty member Aiko Okamoto MacPhail accepted the position of adjunct assistant professor in the Department of French and Italian at IU.

• Angela Pao was elected to the executive committee for the MLA Drama Division. Her essay “The Ocular Proof: Colorblindness and Spectatorship” recently appeared in Colorblind Shakespeare: New Perspectives on Race and Performance, edited by Ayanna Thompson and published by Routledge.

Last spring, Pao taught a graduate seminar on European and North American ethnic minority and diasporic literatures at the University of Lisbon as part of the department’s longstanding Lisbon exchange.

New faculty

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

• Professor Akinwumi Adesogan, who joined the department in the fall of 2005, received his PhD in 2005 from Cornell University. His dissertation was titled “Worlds That Flourish: Postnational Aesthetics in West African VideoFilms, African Cinema, and Black Diasporic Writings.” He began his writing career as a journalist and critic in Nigeria. In 1996, he won the Association of Nigerian Authors’ Prize for Fiction for his first novel, Roots in the Sky, which was published in 2004. In 1998, he received the PEN West Freedom-to-Write Award, honoring “writers who have produced work in the face of extreme adversity and have defended freedom of expression and fought against censorship.” He co-edits Glendora Review: An African Quarterly on the Arts and has published chapters in African Drama and Performance and The People’s Poet: Emerging Perspectives on Niyi Osundare. His areas of research include 20th-century African, African-American, and African diaspora literatures and cultures; global postcoloniality; African cinema and contemporary global cinemas; nonfiction prose; and cultural theory.

• Eyal Peretz joined the department this fall. Peretz received his PhD in comparative literature from Yale University in 2001 and has taught literature at Harvard University. His book, Literature, Disaster, and the Enigma of Power: A Reading of Moby Dick, was published by Stanford University Press. He has completed a second book manuscript, “Becoming Visionary: Brian De Palma’s Cinematic Education of the Senses.” Peretz co-edited the forthcoming Claims of Literature: The Shoshana Felman Reader.
In the fall of 2004, he organized and presented a paper, “A Pantomine of American and French Culture: Race, Identity, and Surveillance in Danzy Senna’s Caucasia and Leila Sebbar’s Sherazade,” at the American Studies Association annual meeting in November.

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

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

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

**Students participate in ‘sexy’ symposium**

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

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

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


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Recent graduates and award winners

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

2005 MA
Cielle Amundson, BA’02, MA’05
Amanda Briggs, MA’05
Arienne Hartsell, MA/MLS’05
Michael Schlie, MA’05

2005 PhD
Cathleen Cameron, PhD’05
David Kaplin, MA’98, PhD’05
Paul Nelson, PhD’05

2006 MA
Edward Chamberlain, MA’06

2006 PhD
Raghad Al-Hussamy, PhD’06
Mark C. Harper, PhD’06

Spring 2006 awards

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

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

Literature buffs mingle at the spring graduation and awards reception

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

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

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

1960s

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

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

1970s

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


1990s

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

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

Christian Moraru, MA’95, MA’96, PhD’98, is up for a full professorship at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. His recent writing is Memorious Discourse: Reprise and Representation in Postmodernism, published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press in 2005.

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

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

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

2000s

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

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


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

Announcing
IUAlumniCareers.com

The IU Alumni Association’s new online career services center, IUAlumniCareers.com, is officially open! This Web site provides online career and mentoring services for IU alumni. Register at IUAlumniCareers.com to search for jobs posted by employers, post your résumé for review by employers, or search for an alumni mentor for career advice.

IU alumni are invited to register as mentors to give career advice to their fellow alumni. As a mentor, you may choose how often and in what manner you wish to be contacted, and you may opt out of the mentor program at any time.

Employers are invited to register to post job openings at no charge.

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

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

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

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

— Oscar Kenshur

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Last name while at IU __________________________

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Home phone __________________________

City __________________________ State __________________ Zip __________________

Business title __________________________

Company/Institution __________________________

Company address __________________________

Work phone __________________________ State __________________ Zip __________________

E-mail __________________________

Home page URL __________________________

* Please indicate clearly upper and lower case.

Spouse name __________________________

Last name while at IU __________________________

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) __________________________

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