

# Encompass

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI OF THE IU DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE



IU Archives

## MEMORIAM

# Henry H.H. Remak, 1916–2009

by Claus Clüver

**H**enry Remak died on Feb. 12, 2009. He was the last living participant in the founding of the Comparative Literature Program at IU Bloomington some 60 years ago, and for most of his life he was also its most visible and respected representative in the international community of comparatists.

It is not to diminish the merits of Horst Frenz, who chaired the program for its first 27 years, to claim that Henry Remak's was its most prominent voice. For the first manual for our field published in this country, *Comparative Literature: Method and Perspective*, edited by Horst Frenz and Newton P. Stallknecht (1961), Remak wrote the oft-cited programmatic essay,

"Comparative Literature: Its Definition and Function," which presented itself as the credo of the "American school" as opposed to that of the "French school" of a discipline that was busily engaged in attempts to define itself.

It was his insistence on "the comparison of literature with other spheres of expression" as a significant task that primarily set the schools apart; in Bloomington, this task was most clearly exemplified by the course on "Modern Literature and the Arts," which was offered as early as 1954. Throughout his long career and beyond retirement, Remak accompanied the development of the field in essays and conference papers, his last a 2002 essay on "Origins and Evolution of Comparative Literature and Its Interdisciplinary Studies." He also served on the editorial board and for

two years (1987 and 1988) as editor-in-charge of our *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*.

Remak was not very deeply involved in the internal development and restructuring that occurred after the interdepartmental Program turned into an independent department in the 60s. Much of his allegiance was owed to the Department of Germanic Studies, his other academic home; his literary research involved the work of Theodor Fontane (since his MA thesis at IU in 1937), Thomas Mann (with whom he corresponded), the German novella, Franco-German literary relations, and West European Romanticism.

On the novella he published two books: *Novellistische Struktur: Der Marschall von*

(continued on page 7)



from the chair

## Comparative Literature at 60

In 1949, a group of IU faculty gathered together to institute a new program which is today the Department of Comparative Literature. It was a historic beginning, captured with a photograph that we have reproduced here for you (see cover photo). Among those at that meeting was our beloved Henry Remak, who passed on last month.

Since that moment 60 years ago, the discipline and the department have undergone innumerable shifts, just as the world itself has been transformed by seismic political and social events since the 1950s. For Henry Remak, writing in 1961, comparative literature was “the study of literature beyond the confines of one particular country, and the study of the relationships between literature on the one hand, and other areas of knowledge and belief, such as the arts. ... It is the comparison of one literature with another or others, and the comparison of literature with other spheres of human expression” (Stallknecht and Frenz, Eds. *Comparative Literature: Method and Perspective*, 3).

Never, I suspect, have we been more in tune with that prescient vision of comparative literature than today, when the department offers translation workshops and courses on theories of transnational literary study, on literature and other media and arts, and on literature and its intersections with other disciplines, from humanities and social sciences to biology.

Our *Yearbook of Comparative Literature*, too, will mark a transition this year as the new editor, Assistant Professor Eyal Peretz, dedicates his first issue to a consideration of the relationship between literature and the “world.”

To mark these 60 years, to celebrate the life of Professor Emeritus Henry Remak, and to assess the role of comparative literature in engaging the pressing issues of the day, the department will hold a series of events in 2009–2010. You will hear about these as the time draws near. We hope that some of you will make your way back to Bloomington to join us.

This issue of *Encompass* has a new look. It includes student, faculty, and emeriti news, and a remembrance of Henry Remak by Professor Emeritus Claus Clüver. We included a book corner, where you can get a glimpse of new works by our faculty. In this issue, we also announce our new Undergraduate Student Advisory Board, introduce one of our graduate students, Laila Amine, and new faculty members Sarah Van der Laan and Kevin Tsai. Finally, we profile an alumna, Irene Montjoye, who visited us in time for the spring reception in 2008.

You may stay in touch and send us your news via the IU Alumni Association or directly at [complit@indiana.edu](mailto:complit@indiana.edu). We need you in our future!

Good wishes. — Eileen Julien, professor and department chair

### NEWS BRIEF

## Introducing Sarah Van der Laan

Comparative Literature to welcome new faculty member in 2009–2010

Born and raised in Del Mar, Calif., Sarah Van der Laan moved east at 18 in search of seasons. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Yale University with a BA in Renaissance studies before continuing her studies at Queen Mary College of the University of London, where she earned master’s degrees with distinction in both Renaissance studies and intellectual and cultural history.

While in London, Van der Laan also studied the British art of queuing in all weathers for inexpensive theatre and concert tickets. She then returned to Yale for a joint PhD in Renaissance Studies

and English, which she completed in 2008.

Her dissertation, “What Virtue and Wisdom Can Do’: Homer’s *Odyssey* in the Renaissance Imagination,” charts the cultural history of the *Odyssey* through the Renaissance, recovering Renaissance readings of Homer’s poem and using them to provide a context for the revisions of the *Odyssey* by major epic poets of the Renaissance: Lodovico Ariosto, Torquato Tasso, Edmund Spenser, and John Milton.

Van der Laan is currently a post-doctoral researcher in the English depart-

ment of the Université de Genève, where she teaches and researches the early publication of Shakespeare and his contemporary Elizabethan and Jacobean dramatists, under the direction of Lukas Erne. She has published articles on Milton and the *Odyssey*.



## Research & highlights

Professor **Vivian Nun Halloran** organized the panel “Blackness and Belonging in Contemporary Dominican and Puerto Rican Narratives” for *(Re) Visioning the Black Caribbean: Spaces, Places & Voices*, at the 24th annual Symposium on African and American Culture & Philosophy that took place at Purdue University in November, 2008. Two Comparative Literature Department PhD students, Laila Amine and Ed Chamberlain, also presented their work on Caribbean literature in the panel.

In a special issue of the *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature* (53), Professor **David Hertz** published papers from two conferences he organized. “Mutability Around the World,” featured the work of scholars from India and Italy. The other set of papers, from a symposium on “Beethoven and Biography,” includes essays by Harvard musicology professor Lewis Lockwood and Robert Hatten, a noted Beethoven scholar from the IU School of Music. Hertz re-joined the National Council on the Humanities in the spring of 2008. His work there continues until 2014.

In fall 2008 **Bill Johnston** published a new translation: *Peregrinary* by contemporary Polish poet Eugeniusz Tkaczyszyn-Dycki (Zephyr Books). In January the book was a finalist for the poetry category of Three Cent’s new Best Translated Book of the Year award. Translations from this book also appeared in *Modern Poetry in Translation* and *Seneca Review*. Johnston is currently on research leave in Poland, where he appears weekly on a Poland’s Channel 1 television show about books. His translation of Jerzy Pilch’s brilliant 2000 novel *The Mighty Angel* is to be released this spring by Open Letter.

Professor **Herb Marks** and Professor **Rosemarie McGerr** were jointly awarded the Henry H. H. Remak Professorship in 2008. The award is rotated tri-annually between the departments of Germanic Studies, West European Studies, and Comparative Literature. The Remak Professorship, created by Remak’s former student Larry H. Lee, is awarded to a tenured faculty member who exhibits outstanding undergraduate teaching and a commitment to students as individuals.

---

### Herb Marks and Rosemarie McGerr were jointly awarded the Henry H. H. Remak Professorship.

---

Adjunct Professor **Darlene Sadlier** published the book *Brazil Imagined: 1500 to the Present*. (University of Texas Press, 2008)

In June 2008, **Miryam Segal** participated in a faculty summer institute on “Forms of Life in Emily Dickinson’s Poetry,” at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. As part of a May 2008 series on Women’s Studies in Religion at the Harvard Divinity School, Segal lectured on “Gender and Authorship in Hebrew Poetry: Scripture, the National Poet, and the Small Group of Women.” Also, in June 2008 she spoke on “Working Women and the Rise of Women’s Poetry in Hebrew” as part of a panel on Immigrants, Workers, Women – Literary Representation. In December 2008, she spoke at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference in a panel on Reading Gender in Hebrew Literature. The title of her talk was “Towards a New History of Women’s Poetry in Hebrew.” Her book *A New Sound in Hebrew Poetry: Poetics, Politics, Accent* was published this month by Indiana University Press.

**Suzanne Pinckney Stetkevych**, an adjunct professor, recently finished a book manuscript on *The Mantle Odes: Praise Poems to the Prophet Muhammad in the Arabic Literary Tradition*. Currently a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the American Research Center in Cairo, Stetkevych presented two papers in Arabic this spring: “Ahmad Shawqī and the Reweaving of the Burdah” at the Cairo University Conference on Language & Literature

in 20th Century Islamic Studies”; and “From Representation to Abstract Expressionism: Interpreting Ma`arri’s *Saqt al-Zand* and *Luzūmiyyāt*,” at the Supreme Council for Culture Second International Conference on Arabic Poetry. The Arabic translation of her 1991 book *Abū Tammām and the Poetics of the `Abbāsīd Age* appeared in Fall 2008 (*Al-Shi`r wa al-Shi`riyyah fi al-`Asr al-`Abbāsī*, trans. Dr. Hasan al-Bannā `Izz al-Dīn, National Center for Translation, Cairo, Egypt). Her edited volume, *Poetry and Poetics*, in the Ashgate Formation of the Classical Islamic World series, will appear shortly.

In Spring 2008 Stetkevych presented two papers on: “Orality, Literacy, and the Semiotics of Rhetoric in Arabic Poetry” at the Orality and Literacy VII Conference at Rice University in Houston, Texas; and “Al-Ma`arri’s Mīmīyyah from *Saqt al-Zand*” at the Rutgers Workshop in Arabic Poetry and Translation, held in Rutgers, N.J. In summer 2008 she presented at the Yarmouk University Conference in Literary Criticism XII, Irbid, Jordan. She also organized a panel and contributed a paper to the November 2008 Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, held in Washington, D.C.

**Kevin Tsai** is now extracting usable bits for his book from his dissertation, *The Allusive Manufacture of Men*, which he completed last year. He has been appointed assistant professor at IU, and is looking forward to seeing spring blossoms again in Bloomington. This summer he will teach an Intensive Freshmen Seminar entitled “Human Nature from Plato to the Sopranos,” which gives him a chance to renew his soul’s acquaintance with ancient philosophy from a previous life.

### Emeriti news

In December, **Salih Altoma** presented “Arab-American Literary Relations: 1950-2008” at the special forum on Arab-American Relations in Doha, Qatar. Altoma published “Waiting for the Mahdi,” a translation of a poem by the Lebanese poet Mohammad Ali Shams Al-Din; “Shawqi and the West: 1894-2006,” in *Dawrat Shawqi and Lamartine*, which received the Foundation of Abdalaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Prize for Poetic Creativity for 2008; and a *Review of Contemporary Iraqi Fiction: An Anthology*, edited and translated from the Arabic by Shakir Mustafa, in the *Sayyab Translation Journal*.

**Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch** continues to occupy his retirement by translating from German. Last year, his translation of Con-

(continued on page 4)

## Emeriti news

(continued from page 3)

stantin Floros's *Alban Berg and Hanna Fuchs: The Story of a Love in Letters* was published by Indiana University Press. This year he brought out a translation of a biography of Maria Innocentia Hummel, the nun who originated the famous "Hummel figures": *M.I. Hummel: I Want to Give Joy, A Fateful Woman's Career*, written by Dido Nitz and published by ArsEdition in Munich on the occasion of the centenary of Sr. Hummel's birth. He also translated into English some radio plays and an art essay. He is currently translating a book about Brahms.

Peter Boerner participated in the *Colloque international en l'honneur du Professeur Gonthier-Louis Fink* dealing with "Nouveaux regards sur l'oeuvre narrative de Goethe," which took place in Strasbourg, France, in November 2008. In April 2009 he traveled to Estonia. In the university town of Tartu, an Estonian translation of his monograph on Goethe was presented to the public. Boerner was born in Tartu and spent the first four years of his life there. His book, originally written in German, has previously been translated into 10 European and Asian languages.

Gilbert Chaitin published two books, *The Enemy Within: Culture Wars and Political Identity in Novels of the French Third Republic* (Ohio State University Press); *Culture Wars and Literature in the French Third Republic* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing) — a collection of articles he edited and to which he contributed two articles: "The Politics of Culture" and "The Thesis Novel as Weapon in the Education Wars of the Third Republic." Chaitin also published "Le cauchemar de (la) Vérité, ou le rêve du revenant," *Cahiers Naturalistes*, 2008, and "Education and Political Identity: The Universalist Controversy," *Yale French Studies*, Spring 2008.

Claus Clüver published an essay on "The Noigandres poets and Concrete art" in the new periodical *PÓS* and a review-essay on "The Translation of Opera as a Multimedia Text" in *The Translator*. In May he read papers at the conference on "Metareference in

(continued on page 5)

## faculty PROFILE

# The place between places

Assistant Professor Kevin Tsai is not interested in boundaries, except perhaps in how they can be transcended. Nor is he interested in finding his place in the well-worn footprints of others.

"I don't belong anywhere because I belong everywhere," he says, relaxing with a cup of tea after a day of teaching.

His corner office on the ninth floor is almost Spartan: a desk and chair, neatly ordered bookshelves, framed calligraphy on the wall and a single Chinese film poster for *The Bride with White Hair*. There is a liminal quality to this space, reflecting Tsai's abiding attraction to the places between places, the margins of experience and thought.

He is a scholar of both the Eastern and Western classics and is as deeply engaged with the Ancients as he is with modern critical theory.

Tsai's work seems to bridge almost all possible worlds, yet maintains a razor-sharp specificity — for at his core he is a comparatist, a role which not only defines him as a scholar, but which he defines as a personal and subjective kind of scholarship against the more monolithic fields of Classics and Sinology.

For him, the ancient world of the Greeks and Romans has been no less fetishized in modern scholarship than the Orientalized East. Furthermore, he thinks of his critical work as a kind of "bricolage," and believes that no specific critic or school has any superior claim to the truth. Instead, he includes various theories in his writing only as far as it is useful for the explication of a text, mixing and matching with fascinating insights and results.

In a recent article on Claudian's fourth-century epic *De Raptu Proserpinae*, Tsai puts Classicists like Philip Hardie into conversation with the likes of Foucault and Jaus in order to talk about genre and gender, concluding that Proserpina is a figure who unites the various genres Claudian uses and parodies. In another article on the medieval Chinese "Tale of Li Wa," he examines the story in the light of *rite du passage* mythology and ritual.



Tsai

Genre seems to be a recurring theme in Tsai's thought, and he sees in it the possible connection between the social and aesthetic spheres: genre is not just a formal category which divides one kind of art from another, but is instead a socially

constituted code which is invested in the creation of meaning.

His current project is focused on a pre-modern play entitled *Killing a Dog*, widely condemned as the very worst work of Chinese literature. He plans to argue that although the play presents itself as a conflict between kinship and friendship, it is really an operation that disguises metaphysics as a question of social order.

This highly productive approach to academic work carries through into the courses Tsai teaches. He is currently teaching a graduate course entitled "Derrida's Chinese Dream," beginning with a close reading of *Dissemination* and *Of Grammatology* as well as an examination of Western fantasies of the Chinese language. For undergraduates, he is teaching a course called "Sword and Love in Chinese Film and Lit," exploring the relationship between film and *wuxia* romance and interrogating what Chinese cinema has to say about gender, nationalism, and enlightenment. Next year he will be offering a course on ancient literature tantalizingly entitled "Foucault's Virginity."

Tsai's ability to bridge so many competing discourses probably comes naturally from his multicultural and multinational upbringing. He split his childhood evenly between Kao-Hsiung, Taiwan and New York City, and because of the complexity of the immigration process, he has found himself as a citizen of no nation, belonging nowhere and everywhere, though not by choice.

But he has found a good home here in the Department of Comparative Literature at IU, where he is free to light out for the territories and bring back whatever wonders he discovers there. — Ben Garceau

## Emeriti news

(continued from page 4)

the Arts and Media” at Graz University, Austria (“Metareference in Intermedia Texts: The Case of Concrete Poetry”), and at the Founding Conference of the European Network for Avant-Garde and Modernism Studies at Ghent University, Belgium (“Europe as Seen by the Brazilian Avant-Gardes”). In June he participated in a workshop on studies of intermediality at Groningen University, Netherlands, and in July he presented a paper at the 8th International Conference on Word and Image Studies in Paris (“The White Sound of Concrete Poems”); he serves as a member of the organizing association’s advisory board. In November he was an invited keynote speaker at the 6th Congress of the Portuguese Comparative Literature Association in Braga (paper topic: “A Literatura Comparada, a Intermedialidade e o Estudo das Vanguardas”), and he gave a lecture and seminar at two universities in Porto and a lecture at a university in Lisbon.

**Eugene Eoyang** published several works, including: *Two-Way Mirrors: Cross-Cultural Studies in Globalization* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books); *The Smile of a Crocodile: Rhymes for Chloe (and Kyle)* (Amazon Booksurge); and “Earning as well as Learning a Language: English and the Post-colonial Teacher,” in *A Companion to the History of the English Language*, edited by Haruko Momma and Michael Matto. He gave the keynote address, “A Model of Whole Person

Development: Case Study from Lingnan University,” at the National Seminar of the Thailand Commission on Higher Education, held in November in Bangkok. In fall 2008, Eoyang taught an MA seminar, “Master Class in Translation,” at Hong Kong Baptist University and was invited to give a Confucius Institute lecture on “The Literal and the Literary: Language and the Representation of Chinese Poetry” at Rutgers University. He gave a talk, “Seven Myths About Translation,” at the American Comparative Literature Association conference in March 2009.

At the ACLA meeting at Harvard University in March 2009, **Ingeborg Hoesterey** conducted a seminar on the topic “Pastiche Structuration in Contemporary Arts and Media.” In October 2008, Hoesterey was invited to a conference in London with the topic “The Viennese Cafe as an Urban Site of Cultural Exchange.” She gave a paper on “Cafe Elektric: a 1927 Performance Space”, a cultural analysis taking off from a 1927 silent film with Marlene Dietrich et al.

After joining the blessed ranks of the emeritus faculty in January of 2007, **Oscar Kenshur** spent the 2007–08 academic year in Aix-en-Provence, an appropriate locale for someone in a blessed state. While his wife, Margot Gray, as director of IU’s study abroad program in Aix, was dealing with trivial matters such as finding things to keep her students occupied during the weeks when the university was shut down by strikes, Kenshur was carrying out serious duties, which included a daily visit to an outdoor market,

and regular stops at the fromagerie, the boulangerie/patisserie, the charcuterie or the poissonnerie, and, oh yes, the caviste (mustn’t forget the wine).

Back at the apartment, he served lunch to his sons Joseph and Nathan when they emerged from their immersion in their French schools. When he found his way to his desk, Kenshur worked on a series of informal essays that combine personal reflections with discussion of various literary and philosophical texts; he also continued writing and speaking about theories of taste in the 17th and 18th centuries. He briefly tore himself away from Aix to give a talk at the Landau-Paris Symposium on the 18th Century. Unfortunately the symposium that year was in Landau-in-der-Pfalz, a nice place, but a far cry from Paris. (When Louis XIV occupied the Palatinate, he built a monumental gate with figures looking longingly toward France.)

Since returning from Aix with his family in the summer, Kenshur has continued writing both personal essays and scholarly works. His Landau paper and a long essay on David Hume’s theory of taste are forthcoming.

An essay on the disciplinary and institutional relationship between comparative literature and world literature will appear in a volume from the MLA in the spring of 2009. In October of 2008, he spoke again at the Landau-Paris Symposium, this time, with the help of a New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Exploration Traveling Fellowship, and this time in Paris.

## BOOKSHELF

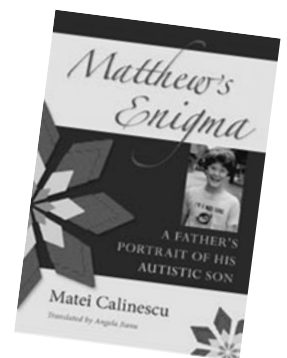
Book descriptions and images courtesy of Indiana University Press unless otherwise noted.

### *Matthew’s Enigma*

*Matthew’s Enigma* unfolds the complex relationship between a father, who is a Romanian emigré and distinguished university professor, and his son, who was diagnosed with autism at age 7. Author Matei Calinescu’s desire to understand Matthew — his namesake — is the theme of this moving memoir.

Calinescu’s determined search for the meaning of his son’s enigmatic illness continues even after Matthew’s sudden death at age 25. Reminiscences about Matthew’s life are interwoven with observations of his behavior and reflections on the difficulties that autistic persons encounter in social situations. Drawing from journals that he kept, beginning with Matthew’s birth, as well as from his experience as a scholar of literature and philosophy and a reader of psychologists’ and brain scientists’ writings about autism, Calinescu has composed an inspiring and lyrical essay about love and illness, memory and forgetfulness, sociability and alienation.

Calinescu is professor emeritus of comparative literature at IU Bloomington. His books include *Five Faces of Modernity: Modernism, Avant-Garde, Decadence, Kitsch, Postmodernism* and *Rereading*. He lives in Bloomington, Ind.



(continued on page 6)

### *Travels with Mae*

In *Travels With Mae*, Eileen M. Julien traces her life as an African American woman growing up in middle-class New Orleans in the 1950s and 1960s. A series of lyrical vignettes, Julien’s narratives focus on her relationship with her mother, family, community, and the city itself, while touching upon life after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

New Orleans, a city haunted by a colonial past associated with an African presence, racial mixing, and suspect rituals, has served the national imagination as a place of exoticism where objectionable people and unsavory practices can be found. The destruction of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath revealed New Orleans’ deep poverty and marginalized population and brought a media storm that perpetuated the city’s stigma. *Travels with Mae* lovingly restores the wonder of this great city, capturing both its beauty and its pain as seen through the eyes of an insider.

Julien is a professor in the departments of Comparative Literature, African American and African Diaspora Studies, and French and Italian at IUB. She is chairperson of the Department of Comparative Literature and author of *African Novels and the Question of Orality* (Indiana University Press, 1992).

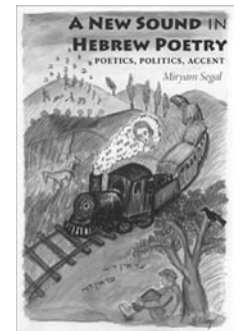


### *A New Sound in Hebrew Poetry*

In *A New Sound in Hebrew Poetry*, Miryam Segal traces the emergence of a new accent to replace the Ashkenazic or European Hebrew accent in which almost all modern Hebrew poetry had been composed until the 1920s.

With scrupulous attention to landmark poetic texts and to educational and critical discourse in early 20th-century Palestine, Segal takes into account the broad historical, ideological, and political context of this shift, including the construction of a national language, culture, and literary canon; the crucial role of schools; the influence of Zionism; and the leading role played by women poets in introducing the new accent. This meticulous and sophisticated yet readable study provides surprising new insights into the emergence of modern Hebrew poetry and the revival of the Hebrew language in the Land of Israel.

Segal is assistant professor of Jewish studies and comparative literature at IUB.

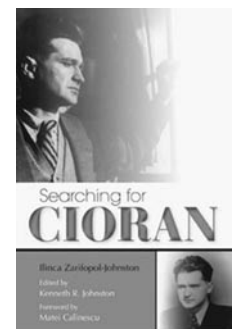


### *Searching for Cioran*

*Searching for Cioran* is Ilinca Zarifopol-Johnston’s critical biography of the Romanian-born French philosopher E. M. Cioran. The book focuses on Cioran’s crucial formative years as a mystical revolutionary attracted to right-wing nationalist politics in interwar Romania, his writings of this period, and his self-imposed exile to France in 1937. This move led to his transformation into one of the most famous French moralists of the 20th century.

As an enthusiast of the anti-rationalist philosophies widely popular in Europe during the first decades of the 20th century, Cioran became an advocate of the fascistic Iron Guard. In her quest to understand how Cioran and other brilliant young intellectuals could have been attracted to such passionate national revival movements, Zarifopol-Johnston — herself a Romanian emigré — sought out the aging philosopher in Paris in the early 1990s. Her portrait of Cioran is complemented by an engaging autobiographical account of her rediscovery of her own Romanian past.

Zarifopol-Johnston (1952–2005) was associate professor of comparative literature at IU Bloomington. She translated two books by E. M. Cioran from Romanian, *On the Heights of Despair* and *Tears and Saints*, and is author of *To Kill a Text: The Dialogic Fiction of Hugo, Dickens and Zola*.



### *Lives and Sayings of Sufis*

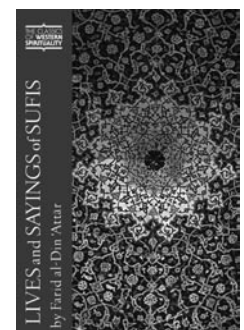
*Lives and Sayings of Sufis*, by Paul Losensky, presents the lives and sayings of some of the most renowned figures in the Islamic Sufi tradition, translated into a contemporary American English from the Persian of the poet Farid al-Din ‘Attar.

*Memorial of God’s Friends* (Tazkerat al-owliya) is the sole extant prose work of the great Persian Sufi poet Farid al-Din ‘Attar (d. ca. 1230). Integrating the writings of generations, it relates the saga of Islamic spirituality through the lives and sayings of some its most prominent exemplars. With the same artistry found in poetic works such as *Conference of the Birds*, ‘Attar combines popular legend, historical anecdote, ethical maxim, and speculative meditation in lively and thought provoking biographies. ‘Attar’s lucid and economical style encourages readers to participate fully in the efforts of these pioneers of the sacred to live out and express their unfolding encounters with the divine.

Scholars, shopkeepers, princes, and outcasts — God’s friends come from all classes of medieval society and embody the full range of religious attitudes, from piety and awe to love and ecstatic union. This work merges the miraculous and the everyday in one of the most engaging and comprehensive portrayals of spiritual experience in the Islamic tradition.

Losensky is associate professor of comparative literature and Central Eurasian studies at IU Bloomington.

— Description and image courtesy of Paulist Press.



# In Memoriam: Remak

(continued from front)

*Bassompierre und die schöne Krämerin* (*Bassompierre, Goethe, Hofmannsthal*), *Essai und kritischer Forschungsbericht* in 1983 and *Structural Elements of the German Novella from Goethe to Thomas Mann* in 1996. And he was busily involved in other tasks: the creation of IU's first overseas studies programs for undergraduates in 1965, the foundation of the West European Studies Program, and serving as its first chair from 1966 to 1971.

In addition, in 1969 he assumed the duties of dean of the faculties and vice chancellor of IU Bloomington, stepping down in 1974. In later years he helped found the IU Institute for Advanced Study, returning from retirement to become its acting director until 1994.

A dedicated and inspiring teacher who received the IU Herman F. Lieber Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1962 and also held Fulbright lecturerships in France, Germany, and India, Remak continued teaching far beyond his official retirement in 1987, offering undergraduate courses for the Honors Division (now the Hutton Honors College) until 2005, when he was 88.

Remak was a prototypical American comparatist of his generation, many of whom were immigrants, often refugees, from Europe. He was born in 1916 into a Jewish family in Berlin, where he went to the "Collège Français," a French-language *Gymnasium*. He left Germany before the rest of his family managed to escape the Nazi genocide, and he first attended two French universities.

In 1936 an international YMCA scholarship program found him a place in IU's Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. He went for his PhD to the University of Chicago, where he completed his degree in 1947 with a dissertation on "German Criticism of Stendhal, 1818-1918," having interrupted his studies to serve in the Merchant Marine in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans during World War II. He returned to IU two years before the creation of the Comparative Literature Program.

A polyglot very much at home in international environments, and an untiring traveler, he would be seen as a welcome participant at the triennial congresses of the International Comparative Literature Association as well as at meetings of its committees (he was involved in its major project, the multi-volume *Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages*); even in his post-retire-

ment years he would give vivid reports of his trips to Brazil, where he participated in the founding of the Brazilian Comparative Literature Association, or to China.

But having known what it is to arrive as a foreigner in a new environment, he and his wife, Ingrid, also tended to look after newcomers from abroad. I was one such newcomer — on my first arrival in Bloomington in 1957, as a teaching assistant for two years, and on my return with my young family in 1964 to stay for good. We were one couple among many whom the Remaks would take under their wings, and we stayed close ever since.

On my last visit Henry told me in his amusing, self-deprecating manner about

---

“Not only is it fair to say many have breathed easier because Henry Remak lived, but his benevolence influenced everyone he came in contact with.”

— excerpt from "Longtime professor Henry Remak remembered for love of simple things," *Indiana Daily Student*, Feb. 24, 2009

---

his own courtship but then also recounted, again, how he saw me and my Brazilian girlfriend on campus (where we had met) in 1958, thinking to himself: "Poor Claus — he's hooked." He was right — 50 years ago. He was a family man, father of four, who in recent decades had begun to speak glowingly of the joys of grandparenting. Ingrid was a steady support — or, as his son Ron aptly described her, the "quiet wind beneath his wings."

Henry Remak had an easy way of communicating with everybody, and he was keenly interested in others. As dean of the faculties, his plan was to meet every single faculty member (certainly I was called in for an interview), and at departmental picnics he could be seen to easily engage with the students, old and new.

His introductions of guest speakers were sometimes more enjoyable than the papers read by the guests. Most memorable were his written notes, hastily typed or handwritten on any kind of paper (used envelopes were a favorite), and signed H3R. He never graduated to using a computer. He seemed to have contacts everywhere. He was close to

the Jacobs School of Music and at least once participated in an opera production as an extra on stage.

Remak received much recognition and many honors. Some of these were enumerated in the *Bloomington Herald-Times* on February 14, 2009:

He was a teacher of such skill he was awarded the all-university Distinguished Teaching Award. He served the university so faithfully he was awarded the all-campus Distinguished Service Award. He was so well regarded in the area of scholarship that the IU Society for Advanced Study created the Remak Distinguished Scholar Award in his honor. He was beloved by students, as evidenced by the Henry H.H. Remak Fellowship initiated by the IU-Bloomington Graduate Student Organization. And his teaching colleagues recognized him with The Year 2000 Alliance of Distinguished and

Titled Professors Award for Promotion of Excellence.

Add to this that in 1993 he received from Governor Evan Bayh the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash. But perhaps as valuable is the volume *Sensus communis: Contemporary Trends in Comparative Literature: Panorama de la situation actuelle en littérature comparée: Festschrift für Henry Remak*, edited by János Riesz, Peter Boerner, and Bernhard Scholz and published for his 75th birthday, with contributions by well-known international scholars. It was followed by a Festschrift edited by Manfred Horlitz, *Theodor Fontane aus transatlantischer Sicht: Professor Dr. Henry H.H. Remak zum 80. Geburtstag*, published in Berlin in 1996.

His memory will be treasured by colleagues, friends, and former students around the globe.

Cover photo: (left to right, seated) Agapito Rey, J. T. Shaw, Mary Gaitner, Horst Frenz, and Newton P. Stallknecht; and (left to right, standing), Norman T. Pratt, Edward D. Seeber, and Henry H.H. Remak.

## 2008 Department Award Winners

### C. Clifford Flanigan Colloquium Award

For best paper presented at the colloquium

**James Rasmussen**

### Annie Geduld Memorial Prize

Presented to the outstanding student in comparative arts

**Rebecca Disrud**

### Gilbert V. Tutungi Award

For best MA thesis project

**Erin Plunkett**

### Ilinca Zarifopol-Johnston Memorial Award

Presented on the basis of GPA, breadth of interests, originality, academic or creative achievement, and overall promise

**Alison Howard**

### AI Award

For excellence in classroom teaching

**Ed Chamberlain**

### Newton P. Stallknecht Memorial Award

For best graduate essay in a Comparative Literature course

**Megan Savage**

## Student News

At the ACLA meeting held at Harvard University in late March 2009, **Sheila Akbar** presented a paper on debt and influence entitled, "Orientalism and the Economics of Influence" and **Laila Amine** organized a panel, "Crossroads of Memories."

**Burcu Bakioglu** received the 2007–08 Associate Instructor Teaching Award from the Department of Communication and Culture at Indiana University. She was awarded a Spring 2008 travel grant from the University of California, Irvine to present a paper titled "Spectacular Interventions of Second Life: Goon Culture, Griefing, and Disruption in Virtual Spaces," at the Cultures of Virtual Worlds Conference. Her paper was published in the *Journal of Virtual Worlds Research Special Edition*: "Cultures of Virtual Worlds." She presented another conference paper entitled "Spectacular Subcultures of Second Life: Looking Beneath the Lulz," at the Second Life Community Convention in Tampa Florida in September 2008. In May 2008, Burcu was also invited to be the instructor at a pedagogical workshop on Participatory Culture Literacy hosted by Mount Saint Vincent University in Nova Scotia, Canada. There she designed and conducted a workshop for K-12 educators on the culture that digital media elicits.

**Edward Chamberlain** chaired a panel on Global Representations of Disability for the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Chamberlain also authored a review on Candice Jenkin's book *Private Lives, Proper Relations*, soon to be published in the journal *Callaloo*.

**Wendy Hardenberg**, who is working on a joint master's degree in comparative literature and library science, completed a yearlong FLAS in Hindi from the Center for the Study of Global Change. Her article, "Self Translation: Identity, Exile and Beyond" will soon appear in the spring 2009 issue of *Metamorphoses*. In 2008, she presented "The Breath of My Life: Constructing the Self in Chen Ran's *A Private Life*" at the Southern Comparative Literature Association Conference. Hardenberg recently obtained a faculty position as humanities librarian at Pennsylvania's Mansfield University.

**Raina Polivka** attended the spring 2008 ACLA conference in Long Beach, Calif., where she presented a paper on cannibal-

ism and post-apocalyptic fiction. In fall 2008, she also attended the Southern Comparative Literature Association meeting in Auburn, Ala., where she presented a paper on issues of identity construction between the autobiography and the pseudonym in the works of Ken Bugul.

**Adrien Pouille** presented a conference paper, "Rituals as 'occult currencies' in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road* and Fagunwa's *Forest of a Thousand Demons*," at the 7th annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in January 2009. Pouille has also been selected to present a paper titled "The Global Consciousness in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*" at the 35th Annual African Literary Association Conference to be held at the University of Vermont, Burlington in April 2009.

**James Rasmussen** was recently awarded the 18th-Century Studies Fellowship for the 2009–2010 academic year.

**Mira Rosenthal** is working on a new book of translations from the Polish volume of poems, *Colonies* by Tomasz Rozycki, for which she received a 2008 PEN Translation Fund Award and a 2009 NEA Fellowship in Translation. Her poems and translations have appeared recently in *The Cincinnati Review*, *A Public Space*, *The Literary Review*, and *The Cortland Review*. In July 2008 she was admitted to PhD candidacy, and she is now doing dissertation research. She lives with her husband, historian Greg Domber, in Jacksonville, Fla., where they both teach at the University of North Florida. They are expecting their first child in June.

**Liyan Shen** presented a paper, "Parallels and Interconnections: The Late Ming Literati and the Romantics," at the ACLA Annual Conference in Long Beach, Calif., in April 2008. Shen also published several articles, including "Mengyi yu mingmo jingying wunai: yi Huang Chunyao weili", a Chinese translation of Lynn Struve's "Dream-Memory and Intellectual Malaise at the End of the Ming: The Case of Huang Chunyao;" *Zhuanbian zhong de wenhua jiyi: zhongguo yu zhoubian*: (Evolving Cultural Memory in China and her Neighbors); "Folkloric Elements and Avant-garde Fiction: Yu Hua's 'One Kind of Reality' and 'World like Mist'" in a special issue of the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée*, March-June 2008. She wrote the introduction to the volume, "Folklore and Modernity from the Perspective of Comparative Literature."



## Laila Amine, PhD candidate

Through research, doctoral student brings attention to French-Arab perspectives

Something happened to Laila Amine at age 16 that would have a huge impact on her life. It was the last day of the school year in France and her math teacher began saying derogatory things about Arabs living in France: “I don’t work so that ‘Aziz’ and ‘Mohammed’ collect welfare, sit around and do no work, and make our country a dangerous place to live.”

Amine, who was born in France but spent every summer with her family in Morocco, didn’t know how to speak up and defend herself from the teacher’s hateful speech. Worse, when her longtime classmates and ‘friends’ began to add their own takes on the ‘problem’, she felt betrayed—not only by her classmates but by her own paralyzed tongue. She has worked ever since to make room for those silenced voices.

A doctoral student in the Department of Comparative Literature and in American studies, Amine strives to make subaltern voices heard.

Her research, though constantly evolving, focuses on the literatures of the African and Arab diasporas, American minorities, and women of the world. Her current project involves examining the literature of Algerians and Arabs in France at the time of the Algerian War — bringing some largely subordinated perspectives into academic discourse.

From her work for IU’s Annual Preparing Future Faculty Conference and the workshop Grading and Teaching in African American



Amine

and African Diaspora Studies, to her years of academic service within the Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Amine has been invested in improving the quality of education that IU provides its students, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Many graduate students, this author included, marvel at the quality of both her dedicated service and her academic achievements,

which have been continuous and impressive. Over the last 10 years she has presented papers or chaired panels at prestigious conferences 17 times. Her papers tackle such topics as “When Gender Makes Race: Growing up Arab in France and the United States”, “The Symbolic of Trees in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*”, and “The African American Personae: Individualism, Intellectualism, and Representation”.

She has 10 years of teaching experience that spans from high-school French classes to a 400-level African American Studies course. Amine has published several times, even at this early stage of her career. Recently, her paper, “A House with Two Doors? Creole Nationalism and Nomadism in Multicultural London” appeared in *Culture, Theory, and Critique*. —Margot Valles

## Department establishes undergraduate SAB

*The first undergraduate Student Advisory Board was established this spring as a link between majors, minors, and the faculty. The group works with department administrators to organize educational and social activities that will enrich the experiences of Comparative Literature’s students.*

### Student Advisory Board

**Justin Bladecki** is a third-year student at IU. He is majoring in comparative literature, minoring in Latin, and thinking of adding history. His main interests are political documents, letters, and literature from Ancient Rome and the United States of the Revolutionary War era; war and anti-war literature; and utopias and dystopias.

**Katie Harmon** is a sophomore from Columbus, Ind. She is double majoring in

comparative literature and theatre and drama. She is a member of the group Improv from Poland and has also participated in the University Players’ 10-minute Festival. In her spare time she enjoys swimming, singing, and doing crossword puzzles.

**Alison Howard** is a senior majoring in comparative literature and French with a minor in Italian. Her research interests are 20th-century literature (particularly novels of the World War II era), performance theory, and philosophy of language. She currently serves as the Chair of the External Affairs Committee for the Student Body Supreme Court and is a Peer Educator for the Alcohol-Drug Information Center.

**Megan Oldham**, a junior majoring in comparative literature with a minor in communication and culture, is also part of the Liberal Arts and Management Program (LAMP). She has been active as a volunteer

for not-for-profit organizations in the Bloomington community such as Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Stepping Stones, Middleway House, and the United Way Foundation. She is currently working in a marketing position at the Boys and Girls Club of South Central Indiana.

**Jennifer Polachek** is a sophomore majoring in Comparative Literature and minoring in Islamic Studies. Born in Tokyo and growing up in Connecticut and New York, she enjoys reading, writing, traveling, cooking, yoga, and opera.

**Nick Stange**, a junior in the department with a Spanish minor, enjoys studying Latin American texts of varied cultural and linguistic origins. He indulges his love for photography in the School of Fine Arts and appreciates IU for introducing him to unfamiliar film and theater.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# Irene Montjoye, BA'64, MA'65, PhD'75

'Make reading exciting again!'

by Raina Polivka

Irene Montjoye is a retired professor of literature and international affairs at the International University in Vienna, Austria. Her primary interest and sense of responsibility resides in the intersections of the humanities and political and social life.

Montjoye came to Indiana University in 1961 as the wife of Orientalist Professor Dennis Sinor. Among the many intellectuals and scientists who immigrated to the United States as a part of the "brain drain" of those years, Montjoye and her husband left Cambridge, England, for a very rural and isolated Bloomington, Ind.

Initially planning to enroll in courses to occupy her time, Montjoye decided to work towards a degree. She attributes this decision to an Austrian woman she met during her first days at the university: "I will never forget that woman. She said to me, 'Oh no. You are at a university and you will earn your degrees.' I owe my decision to pursue academic goals to that woman's encouragement."

Montjoye went on to earn her bachelor's degree (1964), her master's degree (1965) and her PhD (1975) from the Department of Comparative Literature.

"I was a natural fit," she says, "Being a native Austrian of French descent, my mother tongues were both French and German, and I had a working knowledge of Dutch, Italian, and English."

Montjoye completed a dissertation on the subject of law and crime in pre-19th century through 20th century literature. It was in this project that she cultivated her interest in changing attitudes towards the criminal and notions of justice — an interest that has propelled much of her work to the present day.

She later returned to Vienna to

pursue an academic career, where she found herself primarily working for American universities. She began teaching literature classes and soon took up a more socially and politically active approach to scholarship both in the classroom and out.

Montjoye has continuously incorporated a sense of social consciousness into her teaching, designing courses such as "War and Peace in Literature," "Fundamentalists: Then and Now" and "Racism: Past and Present." She has also delivered lectures for the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

When asked what she enjoys most about academia, she answers without hesitation: "teaching."

"Opening students' minds is the most important and rewarding part of my job," she said. "Teaching them the interconnectedness of art and literature with the scientific, technological and political world around them is what I can give most to my students."

She is, nevertheless, familiar with the competitiveness and inequalities within the academic job market. Until recently, she felt the financial effects of a system that refused to pay into pensions for its faculty or administrators. Indeed, upon her retirement two years ago she had acquired only 1,200 euros in pension benefits.

This predicament lasted until Montjoye was notified in 2007 that she held the winning ticket in the Austrian national lottery. "You see," she says, "I went from being a very poor academic pauper to a young capitalist." With her newfound financial freedom, she works to help young scholars in need by awarding scholarships and providing housing to visiting scholars and interns.

Despite its shortcomings, Montjoye fully advocates a career in academia:

"Do it if you love it," she said, "even if it doesn't make you millions."

She also strongly advises young scholars to network and build communities across disciplines and across national borders. As vice president of her local chapter of the International Federation of University Women, she insists on the benefits of international networking as a way to share experiences and information and also to create a sense of stability in an expanding world.

It is precisely in crossing borders that she sees the future of comparative literature.

Montjoye recognizes the interconnectedness of literature with politics, history, science and social movements. She says academics must engage in a dialogue that traverses the borders of disciplines and challenges the boundaries in which intellectual elites are surrounded. We must take the study of literature out of the jargon of inaccessible and pedantic journals and make it available to a larger public: "we must make reading exciting again."

Though retired, Montjoye still writes and lectures. She is currently penning a revised edition of her book *Oscar Wilde's Father on Portugal and Austria*. She is also preparing an English edition of her book *Maria Therese's Turkish Daughter*, a work that has been translated into Arabic and Turkish and is already in its second printing in German.

Montjoye's fond memories of Bloomington include weekend excursions into nearby forests with the women's hiking group organized by Mrs. Alfred Kinsey, faculty wife cook-offs, and invaluable intellectual experiences offered by the Department of Comparative Literature and IU.

## CLASS NOTES

**James E. Nickels Jr.**, BA'70, MS'74, is retired and recently moved from South Bend to Terre Haute.

**Susan McFadden Chyn**, BA'74, MA'78, is president of Princeton Language Group. She lives and works in Princeton, N.J.

**Jon E. Thiem**, MA'74, PhD'75, is the author, with Deborah Dimon, of *Rabbit Creek Country: Three Ranching Lives in the Heart of the Mountain West*, published in 2008 by the University of New Mexico Press. The book focuses on the complex relationship between a married couple and a single woman who shared a Colorado ranch at the turn of the last century. Thiem is professor emeritus of English and comparative literature at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, where he lives.

**David L. Garrison**, MA'78, of Dayton, Ohio, is a professor at Wright State University, where he teaches Spanish, Portuguese, and comparative literature. Also a poet, his book *Sweeping the Cemetery* was recently published by Browser Books Publishing. In November 2007, two of Garrison's poems, "Pushing Back" and "Driving with Uncle Bailey," were read on Garrison Keillor's radio program *The Writer's Almanac*.

Six IU alumni are currently teaching in some of New Orleans' neediest public schools through teachNOLA, a joint initiative of New Schools for New Orleans and the Recovery School District to recruit teachers for New Orleans public schools. The six alumni are **Kurtis H. Estep**, BS'99, who teaches special education; Rawley D. Fear, BA'05, a first-grade teacher; Lindsey J. Harreld, BA'08, a teacher of high-school French; Stephen L. Hunyadi, BA'05, who teaches seventh- and eighth-grade English language arts; Mark L. Karwoski, BA'94, who teaches seventh-grade reading; and Jenny L. Van Auken, BA'01, a sixth-grade English language arts teacher.



Submit your class note and see it here. Send updates online or use the form on the back page.

## photo story



## 2008 Winter reception

Students, professors, and families of the department gathered to celebrate another successful semester. Clockwise from top: Claire Chen and Liyan Shen; future student Ryan Swyers, son of Department Fiscal Officer Howard Swyers; Professors Paul Losensky and Jeff Johnson; and Magdalena Dragu and Urszula Paleczek.





Printed on recycled paper in U.S.A.

*Encompass*  
A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

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](mailto:ualumni@indiana.edu).

**Department of  
Comparative Literature**

Chair..... Eileen Julien  
Newsletter

Coordinator .....Howard Swyers

**College of Arts & Sciences**

Dean.....Bennett I. Bertenthal  
Executive Director of Development  
& Alumni Programs...David Ellies

**IU Alumni Association**

President/CEO.....Tom Martz  
Senior Director of Constituencies  
& Affiliate Groups .....Nicki Bland

Editor for Constituent  
Periodicals.....Sarah J. Preuschl

Class Notes  
Editor..... Bill Elliott



**COLLEGE OF  
ARTS AND SCIENCES**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
Bloomington

**Comparative Literature: What's new with you?**

*The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Its purpose, in addition to providing us with your class note, is to keep IU's alumni records accurate and up to date. To verify and update your information online, visit our online alumni directory at [www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory](http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory).*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name while at IU \_\_\_\_\_

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Univ. ID# (PeopleSoft) or last four digits of Soc. Sec. # \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business title \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Company address \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\* E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\* Home page URL \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please indicate clearly upper and lower case.

Mailing address preference: \* Home \* Business

Spouse name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name while at IU \_\_\_\_\_

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Your news: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**○ Please send me information about IU Alumni Association membership.**

*Mail this form to address above, or fax to (812) 855-8266. IUAA membership supports and includes membership in the College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association and your local alumni chapter. Join online: [www.alumni.indiana.edu](http://www.alumni.indiana.edu). Or call (800) 824-3044.*

