

Indiana University College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

# Encompass

Newsletter of the Comparative Literature Program

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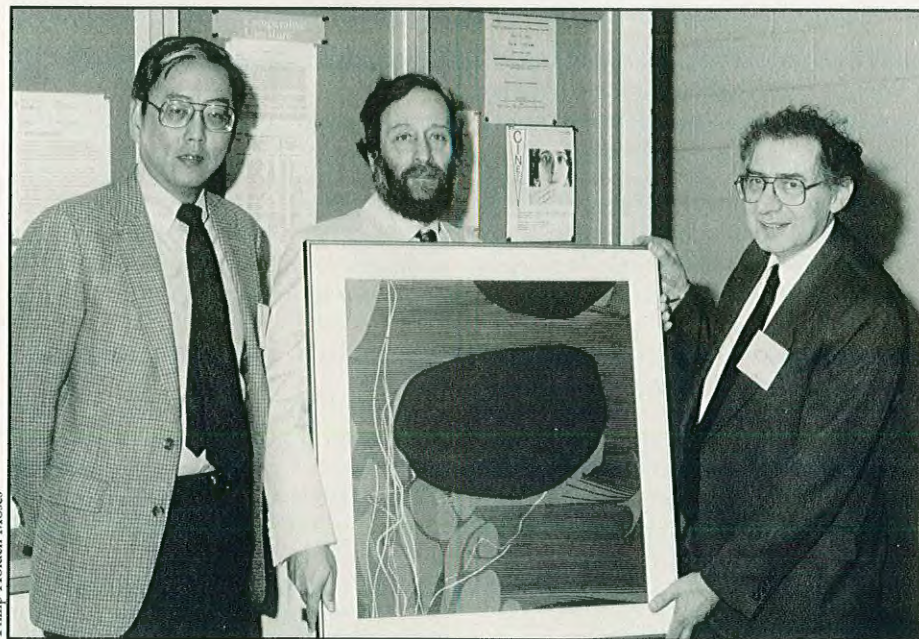
Summer 1993

## ACLA '93 brings arts, issues to Indiana University

Indiana University's Comparative Literature Program hosted the 1993 annual conference of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) on March 25-28. More than 300 participants enjoyed 57 panels and more than 150 presentations. Titled "Re-Orientations: Comparative Poetics, Relations Between the Arts, and Cross-Cultural Issues in Film," the conference had as its overall theme the catalytic effect of an encounter with the "other." The three foci of interest in the title represent an attempt to combine the broad concerns of the ACLA with the traditional concerns of IU's Comparative Literature Program: East-West relations, inter-arts studies, and film studies.

Most of the papers presented at the conference fell squarely within these traditional concerns or extended to the IU program's more recent interests—cultural studies, translation, literary theory, the Bible as literature, and medieval studies. Also, in keeping with comparative literature as a discipline, many participants took advantage of the broad scope of the theme to explore traditionally ignored or marginalized areas. Three papers explored the television series "Star Trek"; several panels and presentations dealt with erotica and pornography; one presentation examined uses of U.S. photography in Nazi propaganda; another, jazz improvisation.

One unique feature of this year's conference was its emphasis on Chinese comparative literature, as the conference was also a joint meeting between the ACLA and the American Association of Chinese Comparative Literature (AACCL). Such a combination of interests made sense, according to Eugene Eoyang, in order both to "integrate more organically the concerns with Chinese comparative literature in the larger organiza-



Philip Holden-Moore

tion and to expose the AACCL with comparative literature *not* related to China." The participation of the AACCL in this year's conference was also appropriate because Bloomington is the home of the organization's founders. The AACCL co-sponsored eight panels. John Deeney of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Sun Jingyao of Suzhou University were the featured speakers at the AACCL's general meeting.

In addition to the wide variety of panels, the conference offered participants three plenary sessions. Wendy Steiner spoke on "Aesthetic Fetishism," and Stanley Cavell offered a presentation titled "What Did Derrida Want of Austin?—Derrida's 'Signature, Event, Context' Seen Through Austin's 'Excuses' and *Sense and Sensibility*." Leo Ou-fan Lee and Eugene Eoyang offered an

AACCL plenary presentation on "China and the West: Views from the/Each Other."

Other opportunities available at the conference were two "key works" panels devoted to specific texts: Ricardo Quinones' *The Changes of Cain: Violence and the Lost Brother in Cain and Abel Literature* and Wai-lim Yip's *Lyrics from Shelters: Modern Chinese Poetry, 1930-1950*. The Film Studies Program of IU's Comparative Literature Program screened the films *Ju Dou*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, and *An American Friend*, each of which was the focus of one or more papers at the conference, as well as *Citizen Kane*, for conference participants. The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction offered a luncheon that showcased highlights of its

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## ACLA '93

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collection.

Planning for the 1993 ACLA conference began four years ago at the 1989 conference, when Bloomington was suggested as a possible future site. Two years later, Indiana University was approved as a site by an ACLA advisory board, and IU accepted a formal invitation to host the annual conference in 1993. When Professor **Harry Geduld** took the chair of the Comparative Literature Program in 1990, he was accompanied by a conference fund, which was earmarked for use in 1992. The opportunity to host the ACLA, however, led to a consolidation of efforts. Support for the conference also came from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Research and University Graduate School, and the Office of Vice President and Chancellor Kenneth Gros Louis. The local program committee included comparative literature professors **Eugene Eoyang** (chair), **C. Clifford Flanigan**, **Harry Geduld**, **David Hertz**, **Ilinca Johnston**, **Barbara Klinger**, and **Giancarlo Maiorino** and graduate student **Yaohua Shi**.

This ACLA conference introduced several innovations in the structure of the conference itself. Eoyang instituted a new system of paper pre-distribution, with the goal of improving the discourse of the conference. Prior to the conference, completed papers were requested from all presenters to allow distribution of the papers to fellow panel members before the actual presentation. This innovation attempted to overcome a common failing of conferences, namely the tendency of some presenters to read their written texts, rather than present their ideas. According to Eoyang, "if the text can be pre-distributed to panel members, more time at the conference can be used for responses, discussion, and clarification. The early submission and distribution should be seen as an opportunity allowing time to be spent more efficiently to advance and exchange ideas, to share and receive criticism, to appreciate the benefits of discourse enhancement. The paper is well on its way to being refined and improved as well."

Copies of papers were also made available during the conference. Instead of waiting to receive papers long afterwards, participants could purchase them at a local copier for only the cost of copying. This service was also available to those unable to attend the conference, and at least two dozen people took advantage of it. The greater availability of papers widened the scope and influence of the



Millicent Manglis



Millicent Manglis

**LEFT:** Stanley Cavell answers questions on Derrida and Austin. **RIGHT:** IU comparative literature graduate student Katrina Boyd presents her paper on "'Star Trek: The Next Generation' and the Paradoxes of Progress in Utopia."

conference and made the total constituency of the conference greater than the number of those who attended.

These innovations created logistical problems that the conference organizers struggled to overcome up until the final hour. The announcement of all accepted papers to the ACLA's membership-at-large and the pre-distribution process required submission deadlines two months before the conference. At that time, a final schedule was impossible, and conflicts were inevitable, due to unfinished or unsubmitted papers. The joint meeting of the ACLA and the AACCL created additional scheduling problems, because the conference coincided with the annual meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. In order to accommodate both conferences, AACCL panels were scheduled early. The great diversity of paper topics made arranging the papers into thematically unified panels another challenging task. In the end, the conference organizers completed the final schedule a week before the conference itself.

A strong positive response to the opportunities provided by the ACLA conference came in the form of graduate student participation. Graduate students presented one-third of the papers at the conference, and their involvement was encouraged and honored by the inauguration of the Horst Frenz Prize for the best graduate student paper and presentation. Only papers submitted early were eligible for the prize, and a local committee chose several nominees. During the conference, an external jury of three, representing the West, the Midwest, and the East, attended each nominee's presentation. When evaluating the nomi-

nees, the jurors sought a balance between solid scholarship and an effective presentation style, in order to reinforce the idea that scholarship is multi-faceted. The first Horst Frenz Prize was awarded at the ACLA banquet, to give attention to both the prize and the winner. **Chris Kearns** of IU's Comparative Literature Program received the prize for his paper "The Tell-Tale I: the Other before Poe's Detective." **Shailja Sharma** of the State University of New York at Stony Brook was given honorable mention for her presentation on "Race and the National Question in '80s Britain."

Graduate student participation was not limited to giving papers. The conference organizers depended heavily on a devoted body of student volunteers, who assisted with conference organization, the copying and distribution of papers, registration, moderation and time-keeping, and other tasks. The student volunteers included **Liangyan Ge**, **Zhijie Jia**, **Lahcen Haddad**, **Cim Kearns**, **Nepa Majumdar**, **Liedeke Plate**, **Dorothea Rovner**, **Danial Simon**, and **Michael Wurth**.

The conference planners at IU also saw the ACLA conference as an opportunity to attract alumni back to their alma mater. In summer 1992, a mailing to comparative literature alumni invited them to consider revisiting IU via the ACLA. Twenty-eight alumni of the IU Comparative Literature Program presented papers at the ACLA as a result.

One IU alumnus contributed more than a paper during the conference. **Barry Ivker** received his PhD in comparative literature in 1968 and began exploring painting and collage in 1971. In addi-

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## Departmental update

• Students who received prizes awarded by the Comparative Literature Program at the 1993 annual picnic, held on April 10, are **Michael Wurth**, the Gilbert V. Tutung Award; **Elliot Robin**, the Newton P. Stallknecht Memorial Essay Prize; **Stephen Baarendse**, the A.I. Award for Distinguished Teaching; **Michelle Brown**, the Undergraduate Award; **Claire Sanders**, the Anne Geduld Memorial Prize for Interdisciplinary Study of the Arts; and **Dayna Kalleras**, the Mary F. Campbell Award.

• **Peter Bondanella** was named Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature at the IU Founders Day Ceremony on March 7. Comparative literature was the only department in the humanities to receive this distinction in 1992-93.

• Professor **Matei Calinescu's** book *Rereading* was published in April by Yale University Press. The book analyzes fictional works by Borges, Nabokov, Proust, Robbe-Grillet, and Henry James, among others, and looks at the distinctions between reading and rereading from the perspectives of the age, situation, and gender of the individual reader.

• Professor **Eugene Eoyang's** book *The Transparent Eye: Translation, Chinese Literature, and Comparative Poetics* has been published by the University of Hawaii Press. Eoyang was also elected vice president of the American Comparative Literature Association at its 1993 annual conference in Bloomington. He will assume the presidency of the ACLA in 1995 for a two-year term. He will be the second member of the IU Comparative Literature Program to hold the ACLA presidency. The late Horst Frenz was ACLA president in 1972-74.

• Graduate student **Philip Holden-Moses** (ABD) was invited by the English department of Ohio University to give a lecture on "Petrified Men: Adaptations of Co-Dependence in *Stone Boy*" in May. Holden-Moses will also be presenting a paper, "Illuminated Visions: Play, Politics, and Mnemonics in Kurosawa's *Dodes-Ka-Den*," at the 18th annual West Virginia University Colloquium on Modern Literature and Film in September.

• Professor **Sumie Jones** recently published a booklet, "Retorikku to Shite no Edo" ("Edoism: The Rhetoric of Bourgeois Culture"), as part of the Forum Series of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto, and an article in *Oboegaki: The Newsletter of the Early Modern Japan Network*. She presented a paper, "Gesaku ni okeru Ai no Taiwa" ("Dialogues of Love in Gesaku Fiction"), at an international symposium on "Love: Its Expression in Literature and Art in Japan" in Tokyo in December 1992.

• Graduate student **Chris Kearns** (ABD) delivered two papers in spring 1993: "Borges after Eco: Being Lost in the Rhizome of Knowledge" for the Twentieth-Century Literature Conference in Louisville, and "Curriculum Development as Communicative Action: A New Paradigm Through Community-Based Education" for the International Living Learning Center Conference in Michigan, both in spring 1993. Kearns also received the Horst Frenz Prize for best presentation by a graduate student at the 1993 ACLA conference in Bloomington, for his paper "The Tell-Tale I: The Other before Poe's Detective."

• Professor **Oscar Kenshur** presented two papers at the 1992 MLA convention in New York: "Scientific Constructivism and Ideological Essentialism" and "Pleasing Show and Apparations: Behind the Illusion of Empiricist Aesthetics," and a paper titled

diversity of their interests. It also allowed them to rediscover what comparatists have in common with one another. An understanding of such a common identity is crucial in a discipline in which the motivating force for scholarship is diversity, difference, and encountering and understanding the Other. IU comparative literature alumnus **Michael Webster**, who received his PhD in 1988 and teaches at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich., summarized this common ground in his reaction to the 1993 ACLA Conference: "One thing surprised me: Despite being a discipline that is continually in an identity crisis, comparative literature and its practitioners maintain certain consistent attitudes or habits of mind: a healthy skepticism towards intellectual fads, a rigorous yet supple comparative methodology, and an open-minded willingness to read (or view) texts from many different traditions."

"Sensing Order: Aesthetics and the Paradoxes of Pseudo-Empiricism" at the annual meeting of the South-Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in March 1993. His book *Dilemmas of Enlightenment: Studies in the Rhetoric and Logic of Ideology* will appear in the New Historicism Series of the University of California Press in November.

• Graduate student **Millicent Manglis** delivered a paper, "From Gothic Paranoia to Social Paranoia: Orson Welles' *The Stranger*" at the 1993 Society for Cinema Studies Conference in New Orleans.

• Graduate student **Joyce Owens** published an article, "The Muse's Dance: H.D.'s 'The Dancer' as Spiritual Metaphor," in the spring 1993 volume of *Women & Language*, and presented a paper on "Ancient Wisdom Speaks: The Spirituality of H.D." at the 1992 Northeast MLA Conference in Buffalo. Owens will be chairing the "Literature and Religion" section of the 1994 NEMLA conference.

• In 1992, Professor **Bronislava Volková** published an article in *Slovo a Slovesnost* and a number of poems in *Listopad 1992*. His volume of poetry titled *The Courage of the Rainbow: Selected Poems* was published by Sheep Meadow Press in 1993. He also presented a lecture on "The Unbearable Heaviness of Being, or Is It Lightness? Kundera's Values" at IU in February. Volková's work was featured on two radio programs produced by Czechoslovak Radio early this year.

## Alumni news

**Judith Ahrens Powell**, BA'52, MA'56, retired after nearly 20 years as a writer and editor for Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories to devote more time to teaching literature and writing. Her latest book, *Wonder, Liberty, and Love: Huxley's Analogical Uses of Shakespeare* (Vande Vere), issued in time for the 60th anniversary of the publication of Huxley's *Brave New World*, focuses on thematic and structural parallels between that novel and *The Tempest*. She and her husband, **David C. Powell**, BM'49, MM'51, an atmospheric scientist who is also retired from Battelle, live in Richland, Wash.

**Mark Spilka**, MA'53, PhD'56, is professor of English and comparative literature at Brown University, Providence, R.I. His book *Renewing the Normative D. H. Lawrence: A Personal Progress*, was recently published by the University of Missouri Press.

**Mark R. Axelrod**, BA'69, MA'77, is assistant professor of comparative literature at Chapman University, Orange, Calif. His latest work, *The Politics of Style in the Fiction of Balzac, Beckett, and Cortázar*, was published in fall 1992 by Macmillan, London, and St. Martin's Press, N.Y.

**John K. Gillespie**, MA'70, PhD'79, serves as general manager for Clarke Consulting Group, New York, an intercultural consulting and training firm working for multina-

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## ACLA '93

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tion to a paper on "Erotic Fiction in England and France in the Early 1970s," he presented to the Comparative Literature Program an abstract painting titled "The Twain Shall Meet." He was especially influenced by Eastern art while creating this work, and it represents for him a meeting of Eastern and Western minds. He had wanted to give something to the IU program for a long time, and the ACLA conference, with its strong emphasis on East-West relations, seemed the perfect opportunity. "The Twain Shall Meet" is now on display in the comparative literature office in Ballantine Hall.

The title of Ivker's painting appropriately represents the ACLA conference for other reasons. The conference not only gave participants the opportunity to come together and share in the great

# Alumni news

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tional corporations. He and Robert T. Rolf, BA'66, co-edited the book *Alternative Japanese Drama: Ten Plays* (University of Hawaii Press, August 1992).

**Pamela Kirk**, MA'71, teaches at St. John's University, New York, as assistant professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

**Jens Kruse**, MA'71, is associate professor of German and associate dean of the college at Wellesley College, Mass. He received a doctorate in comparative literature from UCLA in 1982.

In July 1992, **Anne Lippert**, PhD'72, was named vice president for academic affairs at Ohio Northern University, Ada. She has served since 1971 as professor and chair of the foreign language department and assis-

tant vice president and associate vice president of academic affairs. A recognized expert on Africa, Lippert is also director of international affairs and has served as a senior Fulbright lecturer in Algeria. She has been active in the university's governance system, serving on committees that planned ONU's goals in the 1980s and 1990s.

**Marty Hollis**, BA'75, operates a private child therapy practice in McFarland, Wis., where he and his wife live with their two children.

As acting director of women's studies at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., **Myra Rosenhaus**, MA'77, writes and speaks about American women writers. She studies Jewish women writers and has recently begun to look at contemporary mystery fiction written by women. She worked in 1990-91 as housing director for Lehigh Valley's domestic violence organization, Turning Point.

**Stephen K. Wright**, MA'78, PhD'84, is associate professor of English and acting director of the Medieval and Byzantine Studies Program at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Chicago television and film producer **Eric Diekhans**, BA'82, is producing his first feature film, *Be Mine*. Local Chicagoans star in this feminist/voodoo/horror/love story scheduled for 1993 release.

**Lisa Anne Davis**, MA'86, received a doctorate in comparative literature from Harvard in June 1991, with a dissertation on the Latin American novel, the construction of national identity, and psychoanalysis. She entered Harvard Law School in September 1992 and continues to study law.

**Karen Keim**, PhD'86, in her fifth year at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., teaches African literature and serves as study abroad coordinator.

**Susan Z. Andrade**, MA'87, assistant professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, Pa., defended her dissertation at the University of Michigan in summer 1992. She has published articles in *Crisscrossing Boundaries in African Literature* and *Research in African Literature*. Upcoming articles will appear in *Callaloo* and *Cultural Critique*.

**Theresa Cowen**, BA'89, of Jersey City, N.J., is assistant editor of *Field & Stream* magazine. She wrote a play that was performed by a theater group in December 1991.

**Sylvia M. Payne**, MLS'90, former managing editor of the IU Office of Publications, is now assistant to the chancellor for communications at IUPUI.

**Zivilé Gimbutas**, PhD'91, is a 1992-93 Fulbright lecturer in English and comparative literature at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

## Where in the world are you?

The Comparative Literature Program and the IU Alumni Association are always pleased to hear about the personal and professional accomplishments of alumni. Send your news and news of your classmates to *Encompass*, Alumni Publications, IU Alumni Association, Fountain Square, Suite 219, P.O. Box 4822, Bloomington, IN 47402-4822. Please check your address label for membership status.

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