

Indiana University College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

# French & Italian

Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXI

Fall 2007

## Three professors retire after inspiring careers

Professors Julia Bondanella (Italian), Peter Bondanella (Italian), and Rosemary Lloyd (French) all retired at the end of the 2006–2007 academic year. We caught up with them in May to review the highlights of their careers and ask them to reflect on their time at Indiana University. Their profiles and a brief question-and-answer summary follow.

**Professor Julia Conaway Bondanella** earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Oregon. She joined the IU faculty in 1974 with a specialization in European Renaissance literature and culture. Bondanella was involved with the Honors Division from the time she arrived at IU, and she held the positions of associate director, associate dean, and acting dean in what has since been renamed the Hutton Honors College. Issues relating to honors students have been at the core of Bondanella's career. She was instrumental in creating the honors grant and freshman merit scholarship programs and served as vice president and president of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Julia Bondanella's work as a scholar of the Italian Renaissance has also been noteworthy. Her early scholarly work was in Renaissance love poetry, but she broadened her scholarship over the years to include work with her husband, Peter Bondanella (profiled below). The Bondanellas' joint publications include translations of Vasari's *Lives of the Artists*, Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy*, Cellini's *My Life*, Carlo Ridolfi's *The Life of Titian*, and editions of *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso* for the Barnes and Noble Classics library.

**Professor Peter Bondanella** also received his PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Oregon and joined the Department of French and Italian in 1972 as a scholar of Renaissance Studies. His translations include Machiavelli's *The Prince* (which has sold more than 200,000 copies), Boccaccio's *Decameron*, and *The*



Peter and Julia Bondanella at lunch with Federico Fellini, Rome, 1978

*Portable Machiavelli* (which has sold more than 100,000 copies) with Mark Musa. His book *The Eternal City: Images of Rome in the Modern World* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1987. His groundbreaking work in the field of Italian cinema, however, has perhaps most firmly established his reputation as a scholar and earned him the



Rosemary Lloyd in Fellows' Garden at New Hall, Cambridge

title of Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and Italian. He has received numerous awards in this field, including the President's Award of the American Association for Italian Studies for his book *Italian Cinema: From Neorealism to the Present* and the Giovanni Agnelli Foundation Prize for the Best Book in Italian Studies for *The Cinema of Federico Fellini*. In 1980, Professor Bondanella founded IU's summer program in Florence with funds from his own pocket, and he served several years as chair of the Department of West European Studies. His prodigious research has been supported by fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Lilly Foundation.

**Professor Rosemary Lloyd** was born and raised near Adelaide, Australia, and moved to England in 1975 when she won a scholarship to pursue a PhD at the University of Cambridge. On completion of the PhD in 1978, with a thesis devoted to Baudelaire's literary criticism, she was elected to a fellowship at New Hall, University of Cambridge, where she has recently been

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## Professors retire

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elected a fellow emerita. The following year she was appointed to be university lecturer in Cambridge University's French Department (where she was awarded a LittD degree in 2001). In 1990, she moved to Indiana University, where she has continued to pursue research and translation interests focused on 19th- and 20th-century French literature and culture, with an emphasis on literature and the visual arts. Her books include *Baudelaire's World*, *Mallarmé: The Poet and His Circle*, *Closer and Closer Apart: Jealousy in Literature*, and *The Land of Lost Content: Childhood in Nineteenth-Century French Literature*. Professor Lloyd has also published numerous translations of Baudelaire, Mallarmé, and **Mylène Catel** (PhD'96). Her scholarship has earned her numerous awards, including a 2002 Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers, a Camargo Foundation Fellowship, and a Leverhulme Fellowship.

### How did you wind up at Indiana University?

**JB:** I began my academic career at the University of Montana, where I studied with some amazingly creative people, including the notable literary critic Leslie Fiedler. Although he was one of the first so-called "culture" critics, Fiedler always grounded what he thought and wrote in the text. He had a kind of passion for provoking us Montanans, but he never forgot—or let his students forget—that the critic should always begin with a thorough knowledge of the texts. I came to IU in 1974, after completing my PhD in Comparative Literature and working in the Department of English at Wayne State University for three years, where I taught courses in English and Comparative Literature.

**PB:** I left Wayne State University for IU because I wanted to be in a graduate program with a program abroad.

**RL:** In 1988, I received a letter, entirely out of the blue, inviting me to apply for a position here. Knowing nothing about the University, and never having visited the United States, I asked two people—George Steiner, and the president of my college, Rosemary Murray—both of whom had been here on visits, what they thought about it. George spoke highly of the role of languages at IU, while Rosemary gave me a book about the trees on the campus and warmly remembered meeting Herman B Wells. So we came, arriving for an interview in the third week of October 1989.

Our one absolute desideratum was that it not be flat, like Cambridge. Flying into Indianapolis at dusk, all we could see was flat land. But we woke up at the IMU the next morning and gazed out at the most beautiful campus we'd ever seen, in full fall colors. Then it snowed—crisp white on all the color. We were seduced.

### What do you consider your greatest accomplishment during your time at IU?

**JB:** I always tried to help students recognize the importance of general education and the crucial role of the humanities in learning to think critically based on evidence, in developing imagination and creativity, in learning how to write well, and in living a good life. The amount of time I spent with my students to teach them how to write cogently and gracefully is time as well spent as that on my own scholarly projects. I believe that my contributions to honors education nationally, as well as to the development of IU's honors programs and the Hutton Honors College—in particular developing increased funding for research and international experiences—have been significant. My translations and my publications in the literature of art, Machiavelli, and Petrarch have received international recognition. I am proud to have developed and designed the International Experience Program in the Hutton Honors College and to have addressed the issue of studying foreign languages and cultures on a national level in my presidential address for the National Collegiate Honors Council.

**PB:** In 1980, I founded the summer program in Florence, which is still in operation. I also helped through my teaching and publications to put Italian cinema into the curriculum of virtually every Italian program in North America. I was also able to meet and get to know some outstanding people—Denis Mack Smith, Umberto Eco, Federico Fellini—during my time on the IU faculty.

**RL:** Two things really: my book on still life in narrative, *Shimmering in a Transformed Light*, and the four exhibitions I presented at the Lilly Library, particularly the last one on French artists' books of the 20th century. It was a great deal of work, but I had a wonderful richness of works from which to select. The exhibition itself and the catalog were spectacular.

### What changes have you seen in the students/academy during your time at IU?

**JB:** Some students seem better prepared than ever before, but the number

of students who are not ready to read and write at the university level seems to have grown. Too many students entering the university in the last decade seem to lack the kind of historical perspective that would allow them to draw distinctions between events, books, or works of art from different eras. They also find it difficult to discern reliable sources of information on the Internet. Part of the problem may lie in the way teachers are prepared today and the new methods and theories applied to the humanities. I have the sense that a good many students lack a strong background in grammar and writing. As for changes in the academy, I think that the approaches to the humanities are quite different from those that inspired me to earn a PhD.

**PB:** There is certainly more research money. Whether better research is being done is an open question.

**RL:** The biggest changes have been in the area of technology and the possibilities that technology has brought for different ways of teaching and of doing research.

### What do you think you will miss most about being a professor?

**JB:** I will miss the daily contact with colleagues and students. I have always enjoyed classroom teaching, especially directed discussion.

**PB:** Faculty meetings and grading papers, without question.

**RL:** Having the possibility to explore great works of literature with such a range of readers and in particular of convincing them that poetry—which often seems to have been taught as something intimidating or boring in high school—is really a wonderful source of pleasure and excitement.

### What words of wisdom would you want to pass along to an incoming faculty member in the Department of French and Italian?

**JB:** Few professions offer the freedom to think, to teach, and to write about important ideas and great works of art and literature over a lifetime. Even if it involves a great deal of hard work, both intellectual and physical—and it does—it is all worthwhile and, at least to me, deeply satisfying, because it is something you carry with you that enriches your life no matter where you are or what you are doing. It is a challenge to balance teaching, scholarship, and service; it is a challenge to sit alone at your desk and work, but as Virgil knew, "*Labor vincit omnia improbus.*"

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# Faculty news

In the summer of 2006, **Julie Auger** directed the CIC study-abroad program in Québec City. While she was on leave in Montréal during the fall of 2006, she gave lectures at many universities in New Brunswick, Québec, and Ontario. In November, she presented a joint paper with **Francisco Montañó** (MA'06) at NWA in Columbus, Ohio. In January, she presented the results of the research that she had conducted with doctoral student Anne-José Villeneuve at the GalRom07, a conference devoted to Gallo-Romance languages that was held in Nice. She also published two co-authored papers: an article about Picard geminates written with Brian José that appeared in the *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, and an article about *e muet* in Québec French that appeared in the journal *Glottopol*.

In March 2007, **Margot Gray** presented a paper, “‘Une Histoire de Filles’: Gender, Masquerade and Displacement in Japrisot’s *Piège pour Cendrillon*,” at the International Colloquium in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century French Studies, hosted by the

University of Miami. In September, Gray participated in a week-long conference on “The Impact of Proust” in Bellagio, Italy, as a guest of the Rockefeller Foundation, where she presented a lecture on Proust and popular culture. Highlights of the experience included a daily late-afternoon swim off the Foundation’s private beach on Lake Como, surrounded by alpine peaks. She also enjoyed reading AP French exams, which brought the chance to reconnect with former colleagues and students, including **Cathy Pons** (PhD’90) and **Juliana Starr** (PhD’95), who did not scruple to crush her hard-working former dissertation-committee member at tennis, 6-0, 6-0. A brief break in the action of the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium here in Bloomington in October brought the pleasure of catching up with **Sayeeda Mamoon** (PhD’96) and **Joyce Johnston** (PhD’01), although time did not permit an opportunity to even the score with Juliana Starr.

**Rosemary Lloyd** had a very active year in preparation for her retirement, meeting up with many alumni for scholarship and friendship. She took part in a poetry reading at the College Arts and Humanities Institute in September with **Mylène Catel** (PhD’96), at which Catel read recent poems and Lloyd read her translations. Professor Lloyd also met up with department alumnae—**Juliana Starr**, **Sayeeda Mamoon**, and **Joyce Johnston**—at the annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies conference in Bloomington in October. The annual meeting of the Société des dix-neuviémistes in Cambridge, England, allowed Lloyd and Starr to meet up again in March. Professor Lloyd continued her social and intellectual activities in Cambridge with a conference organized in her honor and devoted to “Translations/Transpositions,” in which numerous of her former students took part.

**Jacques E. Merceron** spent spring 2007 on sabbatical leave in Paris, working on a Virgin Mary project covering the Middle Ages to modern times. In October 2006, he published a book on French place names (legends, fake etymologies, and puns), *La Vieille Carcas de Carcassonne. Florilège de l’humour et de l’imaginaire des noms de lieux en France*, with Editions du Seuil (Paris). Radio France Culture interviewed him about the book on March 7. He also published an article on medieval French drama, “Le couple *ludicra-seria* et son codage scénologique dans le théâtre religieux

de la fin du Moyen Age: l’exemple du messenger païen,” in *European Medieval Drama*, 10 (published in 2007). As part of the Virgin Mary project, he has also published an article, “Les Notre-Dame de Bon Lait: dévotions, rituels et antécédents préchrétiens” in *Revue du Tarn* (Actes du Colloque “Espaces thérapeutiques, saints guérisseurs et autres intercesseurs,” Gaillac, 9-11 Dec. 2005) 2007, no. 204. Merceron was invited to Berlin to deliver a talk on “The Sacred and Laughing Body in Pious and Lay French Medieval Literature” at Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, as part of the conference, “*Risus sacer-Sacrum risibile*: Fields of Interaction between the Sacred and Laughter in Cultural and Historical Transition,” in May 2007. As for teaching, he greatly enjoyed working with Aaron Cantrell on his senior thesis on Merlin and Medieval sciences.

**Emanuel Mickel** and his wife, Kathleen, spent the Michaelmas Term (September 29–December 9) at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge. Before arriving at Cambridge, they visited Dublin, spent a week in the Dordogne at Les Eyzies, and visited Paris. Professor Mickel lectured at Cambridge and Edinburgh University. He was asked to contribute a chapter on the trial of Ganelon in the MLA-sponsored volume, *Chanson de Roland*, which appeared in December 2006. In early 2007, the British Branch of the Société Rencesvals published *Epic and Crusade*, which included the papers from the 2004 annual meeting of the Société Rencesvals (British Branch) held in honor of the completion of *Old French Crusade Cycle*, a 10-volume series edited by Mickel and his recently deceased colleague, Jan A. Nelson. Mickel has been asked to join the editorial board of *Medievalia*, and his article on satire in the trial of Renard has just appeared with *Medievalia et Humanistica*.

Professor Emeritus **Samuel N. Rosenberg** spoke on topics in French lyric poetry of the Middle Ages at colloquia at the Université de Valenciennes in November 2006 and at the Université de Metz in March 2007. He presented a paper this May at the annual Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University. His edition and translation of the songs of Colin Muset prepared in collaboration with **Christopher Callahan** (PhD’85) appeared at the end of 2005 (Paris: Champion), and he published two articles on Muset’s lyric corpus in the ensuing months. Professor Rosenberg’s

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## French & Italian

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## Faculty news

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edition and translation of Old French ballettes, prepared with Eglal Doss-Quinby, came out in 2006 (Geneva: Droz), and his retelling of an Arthurian tale, *Lancelot and the Lord of the Distant Isles*, written in collaboration with Patricia Terry, was recently published (Boston: Godine), as was the most recent volume (and first under Professor Rosenberg's editorship) of *Encomia*, the annual publication of the International Courtly Literature Society.

**Kevin Rottet** published articles in a joint issue of the *Revue canadienne de linguistique appliquée/Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, and the *Revue de l'Université de Moncton*, and he co-authored an article with Albert Valdman in *Etudes créoles*. Editing work continues on the *Dictionary of Louisiana French as Spoken in Cajun, Creole and Native American Communities*, with publication expected in late 2007. Rottet gave conference papers at the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) in Costa Mesa, Calif., in April, and at the conference of the North American Association of Celtic Language Teachers (NAACLT), held in Edmonds, Wash., in June 2006. He received a West European Studies Summer Language Grant to study Breton in the summer of 2006, and he continues to work on and teach Welsh, this year as an independent study through West European Studies and at the intensive residential course hosted by Cymdeithas Madog in Albany, N.Y.

**Massimo Scalabrini** is currently working on two articles, "The Peasant and the Monster in the Macaronic Works of Teofilo Folengo" and "Naming the Comic Hero: Some Case Studies from Boccaccio to Ariosto." He also continues work on two book projects, one on the poetics of comedy in the Italian Renaissance and the other on the pastoral tradition in literature and the visual arts with Professor Davide Stimilli of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Since coming to IU, **Sonya Stephens** has presented papers at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, which took place at IU in October 2006; at the Société des dix-neuviémistes' annual conference, which took place in March in Cambridge, England; and at the Nineteenth-Century Cultural Production workshop at the University of Florida Research Center in Paris. She also organized a conference and presented a paper at the University of Cambridge on the theme "Translations/Transpositions" in honor of fellow colleague and *dix-neuviémiste* Rosemary Lloyd. The conference brought together

scholars from the United States, UK, France, and Australia (via Hong Kong). Professor Stephens is editor of the Société des dix-neuviémistes' journal *XIX*, which is in its fourth year of publication and which, this year, published its first special number, a double issue devoted to Delphine de Girardin. In 2006, Stephens published two essays on Baudelaire's prose poems, one in the *Cambridge Companion to Baudelaire* and another, "Les lectures de l'architecteur? Readers of/in the *Petits Poèmes en prose*," in the *Bulletin baudelairien* (40, 1-2), as well as an article, "Paris and Panoramic Vision: lieux de mémoire, lieux communs," in *Modern and Contemporary France* (14, 2). She has also contributed to and edited a volume of essays titled *Ebauches: Projects and Pre-Texts in Nineteenth-Century France*, which soon will be published (with Peter Lang). She has also started a number of new and collaborative projects with colleagues in the United States. She became chair of the department on July 1, 2007.

This has been a busy and rewarding academic year for **Albert Valdman** as he continues his transition into emeritus status. He is the recipient of a \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct sociolinguistic research on Haitian Creole. He will explore the effect of the standard norm of the language on its most deviant regional variety, that of the Cape Haitian area in northern Haiti. Valdman participated in a colloquium, "Language Revitalization: The Case of Louisiana," in April 2007 at the annual meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguis-

tics (AAAL) in Costa Mesa, Calif., with **Tamara Lindner** (ABD Linguistics) and **Kevin Rottet**. Valdman served as moderator for a special panel on the evolution of second-language acquisition research in the course of the last thirty years, organized to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the AAAL. Professor Valdman co-authored an invited article with Rottet, "Vers un dictionnaire du français de Louisiane," published in a special issue on French in Louisiana in the journal *Etudes francophones*. Valdman is also the author of the lead article, "Vernacular French communities in the United States: A general survey," which appeared in the special *French Review* issue (May 2007), "La francophonie aux Etats-Unis." The Creole Institute, which Valdman continues to direct, published the *Haitian Creole-English Bilingual Dictionary* this spring.

**Rebecca Wilkin** secured a contract for her book, *Women, Imagination, and the Search for Truth in Early Modern France* with Ashgate Publishing Company. She is putting the final touches on the manuscript and is looking forward to some champagne in the company of friends and family when it is in the mail. She participated in two conferences this year: "French Historical Studies" in Houston and "North American Society for Seventeenth Century French Literature" in Lincoln, Neb., where she had the pleasure of seeing **Denis Augier** (PhD'97) and meeting one of **Tammy Berberi's** (PhD'03) colleagues. Professor Wilkin's daughter, Marian, will be in kindergarten this year. Time flies!

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## Professors retire

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**PB:** Focus on doing good research—your real constituency is beyond the borders of Bloomington, Indiana.

**RL:** IU has such a lot to offer: three great libraries (Wells, Fine Arts, and Lilly), the Jacobs School of Music, the overseas study programs, and its wonderful technology support. I would recommend to all incoming faculty members that they explore everything the University offers and to pass their knowledge about these resources on to their students.

### What words of wisdom would you give to today's students?

**JB:** I think the most important advice I could give students is to follow their instincts. They should study something for which they have a real passion, even if it doesn't appear to have an immediate practical application. If they work diligently,

attend classes, write often, and talk to professors, they will learn how to learn. I have always encouraged students to challenge themselves by taking courses or by engaging in activities that are outside their comfort zones, including volunteer work. I have perhaps above all advocated study abroad during my career.

**PB:** Do not write anything that is not clear, thoughtful, and free of academic jargon. Do not follow critical trends. By the time you think a methodology is popular, it is too late to be the leader in that field. Do something you love doing—that feeling is probably the only real reward you will receive from it.

**RL:** Stretch yourself—there is so much more to enjoy than American popular culture. Great works of literature, art, music, and architecture all require time and effort to appreciate, but they bring enormous rewards in terms of intellectual and emotional satisfaction.

## Awards ceremony recognizes student and faculty success

On April 20, the Department of French and Italian held its annual awards ceremony at the Indiana Memorial Union to honor outstanding students, associate instructors, and faculty. In his final year as department chair and emcee, Professor of Italian Andrea Ciccarelli shared his wit, wisdom, and friendship with the gathering of students, faculty, and staff. Awards presenters followed in his footsteps, providing humor and insight about award recipients, and remembering the French and Italian scholars for whom the awards are named. The event also provided students, faculty, and staff with a venue to catch up over punch and cake following the official ceremony.

### Student awards and scholarships

The French faculty recognized their outstanding students through a variety of awards named in honor of former faculty members and alumni. Professor Rosemary Lloyd carried on the tradition of donning a unique hat, to honor the late Professor Grace Young's favorite fashion accessory, to bestow the Grace P. Young Awards. (Professor Lloyd later revealed that the hat is a key costume element in her preparations for retirement in Australia.) Professor Lloyd presented the awards for excellence in French literary studies to doctoral student **Olga Amarie** (MA'04) and to senior **Aaron Cantrell** (BA'07).

Honors also went to senior **Rowenna Miller** (BA'07), who received the John K. Hyde Award in recognition of undergraduate achievement in French. Junior **Laura Birkenbeul** received the Albert and Agnes Kuersteiner Memorial Prize in recognition of distinction in written and spoken French, while junior **Eric LaMagdeleine** received the Charlotte F. Gerrard Memorial Prize for excellence in French studies. Senior **Emma Eklof** (BA'07) was the recipient of the second annual Quentin M. Hope Memorial Award, and senior **Melissa Troyer** (BA'07) won this year's Lander MacClintock Memorial Award for outstanding achievement as a student of French.

Professor Julie Auger presented the annual award for graduate students in French Linguistics, the Peter Cannings Prize, to **Anne-José Villeneuve**, who was honored twice at this year's awards, also winning a French Associate Instructor teaching award.

The Italian faculty also recognized outstanding students through multiple awards. This year's Mario and Katrina Vangeli Undergraduate Award for excellent achievement as a student of Italian was presented by Professor Julia Bondanella to senior **Michael Cancelmi** (BA'07). Director of Italian Graduate Studies Peter Bondanella later presented the Vangeli graduate award to doctoral student **Beatrice Arduini** (MA'05).

Juniors **Juliana Dumas** and **Anna Hesser** each received a Carol A. Hofstadter Memorial Scholarship to assist in funding their studies in Bologna through the IU overseas study program in 2007–08. These scholarships are given in memory of Carol Ann Brush Hofstadter, who also studied in Bologna and was the wife of Professor Douglas Hofstadter (cognitive science). Professor Hofstadter and Professor Emeritus Edoardo Lèbano shared the honor of presenting these awards. The former broke with his usual tradition of reading selections from his book, *Le Ton Beau de Marot*, which he presented to the award winners along with their certificates, to share some of his favorite puns.

### Teaching awards

The Department recognized superior performance in teaching as well as in scholarship, presenting its annual teaching awards. Director of French Language Instruction Kelly Sax presented the Associate Instructor teaching awards to **Ben Trotter** (MA'07) and **Anne-José Villeneuve**, both PhD students in French linguistics. Italian PhD student **Ioana Larco** (MA'05) won the Department's Italian Associate Instructor teaching award, presented by Director of Italian Language Instruction Massimo Scalabrini.

The faculty recognized the accomplishments of their colleague in French linguistics, Associate Professor **Barbara Vance**, for her excellence in teaching and mentoring students by awarding her the Trustees' Teaching Award. Given the secrecy surrounding this award, Professor Vance was surprised as well as honored by her recognition.

### Initiations

Undergraduate Advisor and Professor Emanuel Mickel congratulated the spring 2007 Phi Beta Kappa initiates majoring in French or Italian: **Caitlin Dugdale**, **Isabel Estevez**, **Anna Pizzi**, and **Melissa Troyer**. The Phi Beta Kappa inductees presentation was followed by Professor Scalabrini's presentation of the new initiate to the Gamma Kappa Alpha Italian Honor Society, **Arwen Myers**.

### Other recognitions

Before concluding the awards ceremony, Professor Ciccarelli acknowledged a number of key members of the department for a variety of services. After recognizing the administrative staff for their work throughout the year, Professor Ciccarelli honored Professors Julia Bondanella, Peter Bondanella, and Rosemary Lloyd, all of whom were retiring at the end of the semester. Ciccarelli presented all three beloved professors with books on Hoosier topics.

The ceremony concluded with Peter Bondanella and Rosemary Lloyd making a surprise presentation to Andrea Ciccarelli on behalf of the faculty of the Department of French and Italian to commemorate his eight years of service as chair of the department. Department administrator Isabel Piedmont also thanked Professor Ciccarelli for his years of diligent leadership marked by humor, diplomacy, and respect.



*Emma Eklof receives the Quentin M. Hope Memorial Award from Margot Gray*

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## Alumni notes

After a career of 30 years in hospital administration, **Donald M. Hippensteel**, BA'49, is the facilities manager at First Unitarian Universalist Church in Columbus, Ohio. He and his wife, Carolyn (Hays), BS'55, live in Columbus. She is a retired administrative assistant for the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate.

"At the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America on Oct. 22 in Philadelphia, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers awarded me its highest award, the Neil Miner Award 'for exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the earth sciences,'" writes **William D. Romey**, BA'52. Romey, professor emeritus of geography at St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., also presented a paper at the meeting. "Communicating about the Geosciences: Self-Publishing and Distributing Books" dealt with a Web site Romey and his co-author created to make the public aware of self-published books by geoscientists, [www.libri-terrarium.com](http://www.libri-terrarium.com). Romey lives in East Orleans, Mass.

**Jean Smith Minneman**, BA'53, is retired and living in Sarasota, Fla. She writes, "**Grace Young**, BA'08, MA'14, was an outstanding professor of French.

Always, she wore a small, black hat with a partial veil and black dresses to class and on campus. Many of my credits were from her classes. [To Rudy Professor of French and Italian and Linguistics at IU Bloomington] **Albert Valdman**, congratulations. I knew him for four years as a member of the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association board."

**Nicolis "Nikki" Kaplan Stern**, BA'64, is an account manager for LSQ Funding Group in Orlando, Fla. She writes that she is widowed, has two children, Neil and Heidi, and has five grandchildren, Josh, Eric, Alexis, Ethan, and Zachary. She enjoys her family, work, and traveling.

**Therese "Teri" Moran Fell**, BA'66, and her husband, Arthur, BS'57, JD'66, live in Montpellier on the southern coast of France and would be happy to see IU alumni. They can be reached at [arterifell@aol.com](mailto:arterifell@aol.com).

**Caterina Gregor Griner Blitzer**, BA'69, is coordinator of international education for the Indiana Department of Education in Indianapolis. Previously, she spent 11 years as the executive director of the International Center of Indianapolis.

**Deborah A. Cotter**, BA'70, of Cockeysville, Md., is the director of academic

technology at Loyola Blakefield, a college-preparatory school in Towson. She is a national speaker on the issue of cyber safety.

**Joanne Altschuler**, BA'71, is a professor and the bachelor's program director of the School of Social Work at California State University, Los Angeles.

Rev. **Gerald W. Keucher**, BA'73, MA'75, is chief of finance and operations for the Episcopal Diocese of New York. He is also the bishop's vicar for the Church of the Intercession in Manhattan. Keucher is the author of *Remember the Future: Financial Leadership and Asset Management for Congregations*, released by Church Publishing in 2006.

A retired librarian, **Grace M. Whyland**, BA'73, lives in Indianapolis.

**Rebecca Miller Shanahan**, BA'74, JD'77, is president of OTN Specialty Services, a physician-services company in San Francisco. Previously, she served as executive vice president and general manager of Aetna Specialty Pharmacy.

**Regina McKernan Harm**, BS'75, is a freelance singer and a choir director at her church. She is a member of a semi-professional group, Jubilate Deo Chorale, which has performed twice at Carnegie Hall. "I just love coming back to campus to visit, since our son, Daniel, is a student—even if it is a 12-hour drive," she writes. Harm lives in Cherry Hill, N.J.

**Julie M. Songer**, BA'80, works in communications for Northrop Grumman, a defense contractor. "I also have eight years of radio experience in the Dallas area," she writes. "I also worked for a year at a radio station in Taiwan. While there, I was also a correspondent for CBS radio. In my current position, I am using my radio background to produce podcasts. Now that Northrop Grumman has heard my voice, they are going to use me for more voice work for videos." Songer works and lives in Dallas.

**Sonia Childress-Hoek**, BA'83, MAT'87, writes, "[I'm] happily teaching again and raising two girls bilingually." She teaches high school French at Frankton (Ind.) Junior-Senior High School and lives in Cicero.

**Susan Jordan Myers**, MA'89, PhD'94, is a professor of French at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. She and her husband, William, MM'91, live in Liberty.

**Christopher J. Momence**, MA'90, contributed a chapter, "The Business: Slipping Past the Velvet Rope," to *Writing Movies*:  
(continued on page 7)

### Alumnus still recovering after devastation of Hurricane Katrina

On August 28, 2005, just before Hurricane Katrina, the most devastating storm in U.S. history, hit New Orleans, **Denis Augier** (PhD'97) and his wife Lora evacuated the house they were renting. When they returned, they found the house and all of their possessions ruined by the impact of the storm and subsequent flooding. Denis Augier's dissertation, on the topic of alchemy in French Renaissance literature, was one of the many losses he sustained in the storm. Augier's work leading up to and including his current position as an associate professor at the University of New Orleans is notable. He received an MA from the University of Nebraska, a Licence from the University of Avignon in France, the Grace Young Graduate Award in 1993, and a Weathers Dissertation Fellowship at IU in 1996. He also taught French at Indiana State University while he completed his dissertation. The Augiers relocated to another house in New Orleans upon their return to the city, but they are still working to recover from their losses and find normalcy in their lives. Denis and Lora Augier can be reached at their new home: 4710 Mandeville Street, New Orleans, LA 70122.



Denis Augier recovers items after Hurricane Katrina

# Sonya Stephens becomes new chair of Department

**S**onya Stephens joined the department in fall 2006 from the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she was a professor of Modern French Literature and Cul-



Sonya Stephens

ture. In 2005–06, she was chair of French as well as head and deputy head of school. Professor Stephens's books and editions include *Baudelaire's Prose Poems: The Practice and Politics of Irony* (Oxford University Press, 1999), *A History of Women's Writing in France* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), and many articles on Baudelaire and 19th-century French culture. Her forthcoming publications include a collection of essays on the theme of the *ébauche*; a collection of essays on Baudelaire; and a number of articles on Baudelaire, French poetry, and visual culture in the 19th century. She is currently completing a book on the unfinished as a phenomenon in 19th-century France. Professor Stephens began her responsibilities as chair of the department on July 1, 2007, and we caught up with her during the calm before the storm to learn more about what the department might expect from her leadership.

## What have you enjoyed most about working in the Department thus far?

**Stephens:** It's always stimulating to be in a new environment with new colleagues, new courses, and new students. Each day has been a challenge, from learning that a guillotine is really called a paper cutter, that the envelopes are in the credenza and the photocopier is on the fifth floor, to teaching all my classes in French (most classes are taught in English in the UK system). I've enjoyed learning from colleagues about how things work and discovering how things are done at IU. And I've loved working with the students at every level; I have really appreciated their enthusiasm and commitment, as well as their sense of fun in learning about French language and culture.

## What do you miss most about England?

**Stephens:** The taste of the milk, the sound of the railway, my bank manager and my credit score, the availability of espresso

within my academic building, old habits, familiar faces, and favorite places. And its proximity to France.

## What has surprised you most about Bloomington/IU/the Department?

**Stephens:** I've been surprised by many things, such as the generosity we have been shown and the friendships that have grown in such a short time, the speed at which the grass grows, the size and variety of insects, the resident wildlife, the local cheeses, the fabulous elementary schools and the quality of the teachers, the opportunities that exist to explore and develop interests, the quality of the performing and plastic arts, the public library, and the loyalty to and support of IU in the local community. I'm pleasantly surprised to find opportunities for exchange and collaboration at IU, the fantastic resources of the library and other collections, and the fact that, though the acronyms change, the fundamental issues in higher education remain the same. As far as the department goes, I enjoy having the academic freedom to teach what I think is interesting and significant, the light-touch administrative procedures (compared with the completely oppressive ones I've been used to), the range of courses taught, and the number of students keen to take them.

## Are there any major projects you foresee embarking upon as Department chair?

**Stephens:** Ask me next year! I don't think that coming in with a project is desirable.

Rather, I believe that any major projects should be developed and shared by all those with an interest in the future well-being of the department. And I hope that we, the faculty and the students, will be talking about these things a lot. Always.

## What are some of the principles that will guide your work as chair?

**Stephens:** I think that a large part of what a chair does is to create opportunity for others and to manage resources to enable colleagues to take full advantage of those opportunities. What I have always appreciated in my professional life is access to enough information about situations to be able to participate in the debates and the decision-making as well as the opportunity and freedom to share my views about any situation with colleagues. These will be my guiding principles as I work with colleagues in the department: to create every opportunity for faculty to conduct original research and to teach engaging courses that will attract undergraduates and highly qualified and committed graduate students—as well as new faculty—and, in so doing, to maintain the program's top ranking nationally.

## What is one fact that people likely do not know about you?

**Stephens:** A colleague once Googled me and came up with information about a wrestler and a marathon runner. I can confirm that I am neither.

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## Alumni notes

(continued from page 6)

*The Practical Guide for Creating Stellar Screenplays*, published by Gotham Writers' Workshop. He lives in New York City.

**Nicole Wilson Denner**, BA'93, MA'96, works at Stetson University. She and her husband, Michael, BA'93, live and work in Deland, Fla.

**Joyce E. Dixon-Fyle**, MA'96, MLS/PhD'99, is the coordinator of collection development at Roy O. West Library at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. She is also an associate professor. She has published *Female Writers' Struggle for Rights and Education for Women in France (1848–1871)*. The volume is part of the Currents in Comparative Romance Languages and Literatures series from Peter Lang Publishing.

**Dorothy L. Stegman**, MA'96, PhD'99, is a professor of French at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. In August, she presented "Les Listes Entrelardées ou un Genre Qui s'Engendre" at McGill University's international colloquium in Montreal.

**Desiree M. Bongers**, MA/MLS'98, is the library director of Ripon Public Library in Wisconsin.

**Jason M. Kivett**, BA'01, is the district manager for Marco's Pizza in Indianapolis.

**Rebecca A. Boostrom**, BA'04, is a law student at Valparaiso (Ind.) University School of Law. She has studied international law in London and Cambridge, England.

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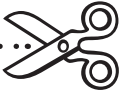
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