

# Literature & Criticism

## From the M.A. Coordinator:



As you can see from the picture, I'm not David Downing. But rest assured, no coup has taken place in the Lit & Crit program. Rather, Dr. Downing has asked me to write the column this fall to introduce myself. I'm Veronica Watson, and I've assumed the MA Coordinator position for the Literature and Generalist programs.

As you've no doubt heard by now, Cheryl Wilson has taken a leave of absence from the program for the 2010-2011 academic year. This has affected our program greatly; we all miss Dr. Wilson's energy and expertise around the department and in the classroom. And many of you also miss her on your thesis, comprehensive exam and dissertation committees. But the program is working diligently to see that her absence does not unduly disrupt your progress. Dr. Downing has already assisted most of you in finding new committee members, and we are pleased to report that the department has had a tenure-track search approved for 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century British literature for this year. We all hope to have a new colleague and mentor joining us next year, either to expand our faculty and offerings in British literature, or to fill the very large gap that will exist if Dr. Wilson does not return to us.

I have taken on the responsibilities of the MA Coordinator at a crucial time in our program's history. As Dr. Downing highlighted in the last newsletter, higher education in this country is facing unparalleled challenges that really amount to a redefinition of what we do and how we do it. The MA programs in English have not escaped these pressures. For a range of reasons—some of which are within our control and many that are not—the numbers of students enrolling in our MA-Literature and MA-Generalist programs have slipped in recent years, leaving us vulnerable to program evaluations that are based on the number of graduates we produce annually. We have simply got to turn those trends around, for the health and stability of both our Ph.D. and MA programs.

Toward that end, I am working closely with the School of Graduate Studies and Research to develop comprehensive and aggressive marketing and recruitment campaigns for the MA-Lit and MA-Gen programs. We are having new posters, brochures, information cards, and fact sheets about the programs designed and will begin distributing those in the Spring semester to new contacts we've developed. We'll also be participating in a web video project to promote graduate education at IUP and have just completed a major overhaul of the websites for both programs. Because most students research graduate programs almost exclusively via the web, these initiatives should have a positive impact on our recruitment efforts. We hope to add more resources and features to the websites over the next few weeks (anyone want to blog for us, or be a contact for prospective students who would like to talk to a current student?) to let prospective students know of the wonderful intellectual community that we have here.

As I wrap up my guest column, let me say how very pleased I am to be working with and for you all in this capacity. Together, we can look forward to much success in our individual and collective efforts.

Veronica Watson, Coordinator  
Graduate Studies, Literature & Criticism

# Literature & Criticism



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**Literature & Criticism Web Site:** <http://www.iup.edu/lit-crit>

**Registration Web Address:** [www.iup.edu/ursa](http://www.iup.edu/ursa)

**Graduate Literature E-mail Address:** [iup-gradliterature@iup.edu](mailto:iup-gradliterature@iup.edu)

**Graduate Literature Telephone:** (724) 357-2263

**IUP Academic Calendar:** <http://www.iup.edu/academiccalendar/-default.aspx>



**Newsletter Editor:** Adam Wassel  
**Faculty Advisor:** David Downing

## “Invisible Battlegrounds” and a Sabbatical in India

By Susan Comfort

This academic year, 2010-2011, I am on sabbatical from IUP. I miss the hubbub of the English Department and meeting with students, but I've been fortunate to have my days filled instead with stimulating work on several projects at various stages. I am happily wrapping up work on the special issue of *Works & Days*, “Invisible Battlegrounds: Feminist Resistance in the Global Age of War and Imperialism,” and I can report that since its publication in September I've been receiving positive feedback from contributors, including a nice card from Cynthia Enloe! “Invisible Battlegrounds” has been more than two years in the making, and it has really been a collective labor all along. With superb pieces by eighteen contributors, and the stellar assistance of Begoña Vilouta-Vázquez, Tracy Lassiter, Adam Wassel, Ed Carvalho, Wan-li Chen, Christine Hunter, and, of course, David Downing, the journal is an accomplishment many of us share. If you have a chance to pick it up, you'll notice that it's a hefty tome consisting of sixteen articles and two interviews. Among those who participated in this exciting interdisciplinary project are renowned feminist scholars of militarism and gender—such as Cynthia Enloe, Valentine Moghadam, and Rosemary Hennessy—and also two newly minted PhDs from our own program, Heejung Cha and Mais Qutami, who both contributed exceptional research on forms of feminist resistance to contemporary conjunctures of war and capitalism. I am extremely proud of their work, as I am thankful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with so many extraordinary feminist scholars.

Now that the journal work is winding down, I have been able to turn my attention to research and writing on a book-length project I've been toiling away at for a few years now, which explores gender and the environment in postcolonial women's literature. Some selections from it have already been published, and one segment, a chapter on the novel *Trespassing* by Pakistani writer Uzma Aslam Khan, has just been accepted in a forthcoming special issue of *Green Letter: Studies in Ecocriticism*, the journal of ASLE-UK, which will focus on postcolonial and global ecocriticism. I feel especially grateful to have recently been awarded a Fulbright-Nehru Research Fellowship to do research on portions of the book next semester in India. I'll be based at the Centre for

Women's Development Studies in New Delhi (<http://www.cwds.org>), which for many years has been an important center for feminist interdisciplinary research on gender and women's issues in South Asia. As you may know, India's recent rapid economic growth, spurred on by globalization, has had some devastating environmental and social consequences, and it has intensified debates within India about how to address local and global environmental injustices, particularly related to gender injustices. During my four month trip, I am hoping to learn more, both from collaborating with other scholars at the Centre and from listening to stories and narrative reports from people involved in the burgeoning movements for environmental and social justice there. I will spend most of my time in Delhi, though I'll also be doing some traveling, including one planned visit to Navdanya (<http://www.navdanya.org>), an organic farm and research center in north India where the ecofeminist Vandana Shiva is based. As a literary scholar who thinks of literature as a significant source of critical insight into environmental justice, I am also hoping to schedule meetings with several Indian authors who are known for writing about sustainable forms of development, knowledge, and social life, including Arundhati Roy and Mahasweta Devi. I will also likely interview leaders in feminist publishing, such as Urvashi Butalia of Zubbaan/Kali.

I am truly honored to have this research opportunity and grateful for the sabbatical, and it is my hope that my residency at the Centre in New Delhi will also be of benefit to my hosts. Of course, I am looking forward to returning to IUP with more insight and knowledge to share with colleagues and students here. I will not miss the winter in Indiana, Pennsylvania, but I will miss the valuable interaction I have every day in our program!

## Let the Games Begin: Publishing Fun and Interactive Pedagogical Strategies

By Jen Woolston

When I first joined the Center for Teaching Excellence's Reflective Practice Group at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in 2008, I had no idea that this collection of teaching-centered workshops would lead me towards later academic publications. A panel of self-

proclaimed “gamesters” shared their work, tips, and pedagogical strategies with the group during a November 2008 session entitled “Games in the Classroom.” After attending that meeting, my interest in developing “fun” and “hands-on” educational strategies was piqued. Since students seem enthralled with game play outside of the classroom (e.g. video games, online games, variations such as mobile gaming applications on cell phones, etc.,) it seemed like a great way to grab (and hold) their attention during class sessions. Simultaneously, the relaxed atmosphere of a gaming activity could easily serve as a means through which to reinforce student knowledge about a given subject. After the “Games in the Classroom” workshop, I began to construct activities to use (when relevant) in my IUP English courses.

I developed three games to assist undergraduate students in further obtaining and retaining their writing skill-set knowledge. Since academic integrity is a rather large issue within most college writing courses, one of the first activities that I designed was “The Plagiarism Busters Game.” As the name indicates, the activity focuses on identifying and defining instances of plagiarism within academic essays. I thought this was a useful exercise for students since the issue of failing to utilize proper citation methodology often provokes anxiety within the classroom.

Additionally, I created a game entitled “The Biggest Researcher Competition,” as a way for undergraduates to gain direct experience using the library’s resources. Through competing with classmates to see who can compile the most scholarly source material about a given topic, students could not only master basic PALCI, ILLIAD, and database skills, but also simultaneously garner relevant source material for their larger course papers. Even though this activity was inspired by the hit show *The Biggest Loser*, the concept inverts—rather than “shedding” anything—students are encouraged to “bulk up” their personal stockpile of secondary sources.

“The MLA Obstacle Course” was the third game that I created. This end-of-semester activity encourages students to apply their knowledge concerning MLA formatting and citation methodology in a convivial manner. Students work with a partner to complete a worksheet concerning course content. The first pair to correctly finish the worksheet (and share answers with the class) may be declared the winners. This activity recaps existing course information and further solidifies students’ working experience with the “rules and regulations” governing MLA.

After the construction of the above-mentioned games, I was fortunate enough to learn about a related book project via a subsequent meeting of IUP’s Reflective Practice Group. In 2011, all three of these games (and related rationales, objectives, and rules) will be published in *Let the Games Begin! Engaging Students with Interactive Information Literacy Instruction*, edited by IUP’s own Drs. Theresa McDevitt and Rosalee Stilwell.

## Chopsticks, Shklovsky

By Tracy Lassiter

It begins not long upon my arrival in Seoul, South Korea—a Shklovsky-esque sense of defamiliarization. I’m zombified with jet lag when, after some twenty-plus hours of travel, I at last set foot in Incheon Airport, make it through customs, retrieve my luggage. I have no idea how to get to my hotel from here, and from what I can glean from the pictures and smattering of English writing, it appears my budget hotel doesn’t offer shuttle service from the airport. What to do?

I find a kind young woman at an Information desk who speaks English, who doesn’t recognize the name of my hotel, who helpfully calls its front desk from the e-mail I fortuitously thought to print out and bring with me. It turns out I must take a bus into the city to someplace called “the Coex.” From there, she says, I just need to call the hotel and someone from the staff will retrieve me. But first I must navigate in my exhaustion my luggage and myself to a place where I can exchange some U.S. dollars into Korean won, and then purchase the bus ticket, and then stand in the proper line for the proper bus that will take me to the mysterious “Coex.” Somehow I manage to do this, helped by the ticket seller’s begrudged smattering of English and a bus number that’s fortunately written in Arabic numerals.

I’m impressed by the bus’s HDTV, yet at first quickly tune out its messaging, presuming I won’t understand a word. But now and then there’s a commercial for a product whose name is in English. I catch the random word such as “telecom” or “pizza,” words normally so ordinary but which are now elevated by virtue of being exceptional, recognizable. I try not to fall asleep during my one-hour bus ride to the Coex, unable to glimpse much of the scenery in the darkness, hinging my

dwindling alertness on apprehending the randomly familiar.

It turns out the Coex is a mall—a HUGE mall. A mall so vast it holds a museum and an aquarium; it links to a convention center, a subway station, a casino. I'm in Seoul, South Korea to attend the International Comparative Literature Association Congress, but I arrived several days early so I could sightsee. A previous ICLA Congress I attended in Hong Kong lulled me into thinking I would be able to navigate Korea as easily as I did Hong Kong, a former British colony. But very quickly I realize language issues are going to be more profound here. And that sense of defamiliarization is always present. There, gratefully, is a 7-11, just as it might appear in the U.S. But of course inside everything is written in Korean, and I can only purchase items by the picture on the container. Here! Bath and Body Works! There! McDonald's! I'm constantly faked out, recognizing the brand names, the franchises, but stymied on the signage, the menus, the product labels. Mister Donut! KFC! And if I'm at last able to figure out what I'd like to buy, I frustrate shopkeepers to the point where they just fish the correct coins from my fumbling hands.

I'm helped along now and then by the kindly Jae-Uk Choo, a fellow grad student in our program who lives in Seoul and teaches at the university where the Congress will be held. But on my own, I experience a few days of this humbling struggle, the straddling of the unfamiliar with the familiar. I manage to take in some sights—Bongeunsa temple, built in 794 BCE, the Kimchi Museum, Jae-Uk's introduction to me of the Insadong antique district. But I remain humbled by some of my Western ways and my inability to use chopsticks. Jae-Uk tells me of the Koreans' pride that their chopsticks are made of metal, a distinction that makes them unique in Asia. But it's with no small amount of shame that I have to beg a fork in every restaurant I go to. I've never mastered chopsticks. It's on my List of Things to Do Before I Die, but I haven't learned yet, and I'm reminded once more of my Western presumption that restaurants will provide me a fork (why didn't I think to pack my own?), as if all American restaurants would keep handy sets of chopsticks for traveling Asians. I'm further chastened when one restaurant is only able to offer me a toddler-sized fork. Despite my international experience, my postcolonial studies, my multicultural sensitivity, I remain in some ways a global baby.

The Congress, though, is wonderful and successful. I reunite with my fellow group members and panelists, whom I met at the Hong Kong Congress in 2004 and remained in contact with all these years. The original group of four of us has by the time of the Seoul Congress grown to twelve (I was unable to rejoin them for the 2007 Rio Congress because I began my IUP studies that summer). Our series of panels address comic books and manga, that once-nerdy hobby that has become an acceptable topic in the academy. We come from all over the world: Stefan, a German who married a woman from Japan and teaches there; Guile, a Brazilian lawyer; Kai, a professor from Finland; Sonia, a professor from Caledonia, to name but a few.

The fact that we can reconnect every three years, from across the globe, for fellowship and scholarship, astounds me. This is the positive side of globalization—strip away the multinational franchises and brand names, and there is this. The global age offers us many potentialities and positives. I remember this, a few evenings later, when several of us go to a baseball game. Baseball, an American sport, played in Korea, attended by this multinational representative body of scholars, united in an evening of fun. *This* is what I want to work toward with my studies, this kind of cross-cultural fellowship, this feeling that long ago propelled me into postcolonial studies. *This* is what makes the jet lag worthwhile, the utensil-embarrassment important, the unfamiliar significant.

I now keep a pair of chopsticks next to my computer, to remind me—and to practice.

## A Conference Journey

By Z. A. Rhone

You stop in the middle of Cornmarket Street. Suddenly it hits you, looking up at the old architectural buildings, that you might be walking on the same street and on top of the very same footsteps of Sir Saint Thomas More, Percy Bysshe Shelley, J. R. R. Tolkien, or Vera Brittain. You stopped because you realized where you're walking: not simply through a town but rather through the streets of Western history. That is Oxford.

This is my third at the British National J. R. R. Tolkien Society Conference, located this year at Lady Margaret

Hall, University of Oxford. Like the other two years when I journeyed to Oxford, I travel with a colleague, and the two of us visit historical sites along the way. This year, we meet at the Strand Hotel in London later than we were supposed to. His flight came in on time, but I wait in customs for three hours—a long time after a jet-lagged, twenty-four-hour traveling day. But, we don't sleep our day away. We hit up our favorite restaurant in town for fish-n-chips: Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, famous haunt of Dr. Samuel Johnson and Charles Dickens, among many others. Several hours and many coffees later, we settle down to an excellent meal at a Turkish restaurant in Shepherd Market—in Mayfair near Buckingham Palace. We stick to what we know on the first day.

On the second day, however, we go pub crawling—but not in the way most people think about pub crawling. As I always do when traveling, I looked up new sites to see beforehand, and this year, I came across a list of the historic pubs of London.

So, instead of drinking our way through London, we took a lot of pictures. Each of the five or so pubs are scattered all over the heart of London; ironically, many of the pubs were frequented by Dickens. It's amazing how much alcohol affected our literature; Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese is mentioned in *The Tale of Two Cities* and is located just down the street from The Royal Courts of Justice. Immediately behind The Royal Courts is the only pub which survived the Great Fire of London, The Seven Stars. Southward, on the other side of the Thames is The Anchor. Dickens went to all of these pubs, and the influence of his surroundings certainly had an effect on his writing. For us, though, London's oldest riverside inn, the Prospect of Whitby, evoked the most interest this year. To the second floor of this pub, Samuel Pepys fled during the Great Fire and wrote his diary accounts of the fire.

Having too much of the London night life, we escape to Oxford that evening to stay at the Randolph Hotel and prepare for our lecture the following morning. The next day, we recognize many familiar faces in the audience of seventy or so people—they say they appreciate our scholarship. They remember where we are from and what we do. When our lecture is over, some eagerly wait in line to talk. “You're coming back next year, right?” “Another excellent presentation.” “When does your anthology come out?” We never thought our scholarship would be so well-received, especially three

years in a row. This kind of scholarly affirmation is a large part of what conferencing is all about for me.

The next day we spend in Bath. It's during the Annual Jane Austen Festival, but neither of us have much interest. Rather, we check out the ancient Roman baths constructed around the only hot spring in the U.K. The technology of these 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. Romans to build around, redirect, and heat the water is quite amazing. We eat in the oldest house in Bath (1482 A.D.)—Sally Lunn's House—where she baked her famous Sally Lunn Buns. Out on the town, we ponder the architecture and community gardens. We walk through the garden of the Priory where we are staying. We understand how this was an aristocratic town throughout history; we may even understand Chaucer's Wife and Prioress a little better.

For our last day, we return to London. As a tradition, we go to see at least one play; we thought we would try *Wicked* to see something different this year, but it's already sold out by noon in Covent Garden. So, we go with our favorite, in its last year on a major stage and in its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year: *Les Misérables*. It's as wonderful and inspiring as ever. I dreamed a dream.

I think Tolkien would be pleased. We made an adventure of the conference—not exactly on the way to Mt. Doom—but an adventure, nonetheless, with my Sam. There and back again.

## An rud is annamh is íontach : What is seldom is wonderful

By Carly Dunn

This past summer, I spent two weeks living in a paradoxical state—alienated from yet immersed in pieces of the outside world. With the financial assistance of an IUP Research Grant (and, I selfishly admit, the instability of the Euro), I attended the Oideas Gael language college in a small Gaeltacht, a region in Ireland where Irish Gaelic is the primary language. This Gaeltacht, Gleann Cholm Cille, sits in a valley; mountains spread across the north, south, and east sides of the town, and the Atlantic Ocean serves as the western border.

If you're wondering why in the world I would travel across the globe to study a dying language, then you're

not alone. Even the Irish in Ireland asked me this question. The obvious answer is that because I study Irish literature, I should study the Irish language. But the 20<sup>th</sup> century literature I read is written in English, so the question remains. My reasons are easily summarized: the Irish language is beautiful, a gentle mixture of the charmingly simple and the painfully complex. The mechanics of the language stem directly from the culture, and when you witness the language's unforgiving will to survive, you become part of Ireland's sorrowful and powerful history.

I could go on about the delicate intricacies of the Irish language, but I'll return to the idea that I began with: the paradox of the Gaeltacht. While living there, I was removed from the immediate world, which, as the word "immediate" suggests, is the media world. No television. No radio. No iPod, no car, and the Internet was limited to a few computers that were available for a few hours each day, and were shared by approximately 25 people.

Despite this sense of electronic isolation, I felt more connected to the world than I ever have when I'm sitting in front of my Macbook. The other students at the college were from Germany, Poland, Denmark, Norway, England, Canada, and Ireland, and we lived together in a makeshift community of mutualism. Those of us who were great cooks (I was not one of them) often cooked for others. Those of us who were more fluent in Irish (I was not one of them) helped the rest of us along the way. In the evenings we enjoyed Irish poetry, dance, and song, and then went to the pub, ordered our Guinness, and talked about whatever subjects came up: our classes, the World Cup, politics, current events, and everything in between.

Before arriving at Oideas Gael, I was nervous and intimidated by the thought of two weeks with over two dozen strangers who would probably view me as "The American." And at first, some did. Without the distractions of the immediate electronic world, however, we had nothing to do but get to know one another and the Gaeltacht town. So in addition to the Irish culture I was immersed in, I caught glimpses of other cultures, and I made a few new friends. I plan on returning to the Gaeltacht next summer during the college's busier season, with the hope that an even more diverse group of people attends.

I could not have experienced all that I did without disconnecting from the immediate/media world. Unplugging myself from my lifestyle was quite liberating.

In class I learned the grammar, vocabulary, and syntax of the Irish language, but outside of class I discovered new people, new ways of thinking, and I learned a little bit more about myself.

## IUP Postcolonial Studies- Community Library Group Initiates Monthly Series of Film and Book Discussions

### Contact Persons:

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**HOMER CITY, Pa.** – A monthly discussion of postcolonial studies-related books and films was kicked off here on Sunday, Sept. 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Homer City-Center Public Library by a newly formed group called Community Connections.

The group is comprised of students pursuing doctoral degrees in literature and criticism and composition and TESOL (teachers of English to speakers of other languages) in the English Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa., and members of the boards and staffs of the Homer-Center Public and Burrell Township, Pa. libraries.

The first session of the series, which was attended by about 15 people, featured a viewing and discussion of the film, "Binta and the Great Idea," which allows one to view Western culture from the perspective of people living in the so-called Third World or a lesser-developed nation. It focuses on such themes as the power of art to bring about change, sustainability and equitable division of resources, and the true meaning of progress and humanity.

Set in the Western African nation of Senegal, which was once colonized by France, its narrator is Binta, a Young African girl who is privileged and allowed to attend school. Binta tells the story of her cousin, Soda, who is not so privileged, through a school play and through her father's "great" idea about how to make everything better for everyone in the village, especially the children.

Through the school play, Soda's father is eventually convinced to let her attend school. Binta's father's "great" idea, conceived after hearing a co-worker boast about the superiority of Western ideas, is proposed to various leaders up the hierarchy, with no revelation of its content and with each leader passing it on to a higher leader for a decision. Finally, the provincial leader reveals it. Binta's father's "great" idea for making the world a better place is to adopt a "tubab" or white child, "preferable weaned" to the village to teach him or her values which he believes the Western world has lost, such as sharing, solidarity, and the sustainable use of resources.

The showing of the film was followed by a lively discussion of the participants. Despite the facts that some Western critics have referred to the film as "propaganda," most of the participants offered favorable comments in their discussion.

Tracy J. Lassiter, an IUP doctoral student specializing in postcolonial literature and criticism, is the founder of Community Connections. In addition to the support that the series has received from the Homer-Center Public Library and Burrell Township Library, it has also received some financial support from IUP's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, through its dean, Dr. Yaw Asamoah. "Making these connections with the local residents is really vital to debunking myths and misunderstanding, and to forging good global-neighbor relations. I hope we can make new friends, too," she says.

Judy Palaski is president of the Homer-Center Library board and founder of the Book Ends Club. She says the library hopes to accomplish an enrichment of what the book club has been doing since its founding, "reading thought-provoking books and having interesting discussions of those books with interesting people." Palaski adds, "Joining with the IUP students brings another element to our discussion that allows us to hear viewpoints from people of other faiths, colors, education, and life experiences." Palaski says she believes that "joining with the IUP students will also lead us to books that will help us understand people and places that are so frequently in the news...the movies are just another element to add to the discussions."

Dr. Susan Comfort, associate professor of English at IUP, is the advisor to the doctoral students participating in the series. She says, "students in postcolonial literature are profoundly aware of past and present abuse of power by the West, [but] people don't always feel

comfortable having frank discussions about this history." Nevertheless, "It's important to have these discussions because this knowledge can add to invaluable insight into public dialogue about current global economic and political challenges," she suggests. Dr. Comfort said she is pleased that students are taking the lead in initiating discussion on vital issues. "The students are really doing stellar work extending the discussion into a community forum," she states.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Home-Center Public Library, Tracy J. Lassiter at [t.j.lassiter@iup.edu](mailto:t.j.lassiter@iup.edu), or Judy Palaski at [jlets2003@yahoo.com](mailto:jlets2003@yahoo.com).





## Faculty News

**Jim Cahalan** gave the keynote presentation on October 23 in Pittsburgh at Chatham University's symposium, "Bridges to Other Worlds: Imagining Nature."

Chatham (Rachel Carson's alma mater) has an MFA program devoted specifically to nature writing. He also participated in a roundtable panel there with Ian Marshall, past president of ASLE (the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment) and the nature writers Todd Davis from Pennsylvania, BK Loren from Colorado, and Kate Miles from Maine. A member of IUP's Center for Northern Appalachian Studies, Jim is one of the four chief organizers of the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) conference to be hosted at IUP in spring 2012; the ASA is a national organization with an average conference attendance of 600. For the May 2010 meeting at Penn State of the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS)—not only that field's chief national organization but also the world's leading interdisciplinary one in Irish studies—Jim organized and chaired a panel of papers by four IUP doctoral students: **Matt Ayres** and **Carly Dunn** on two different aspects of *Ulysses*, **Ellen Ryan** on twentieth-century Irish drama, and **Nancy Raftery** on the playwright Brian Friel. At the October 2-3 EAPSU (English Association of the Pennsylvania State Universities) conference at Lock Haven University—whose theme was the poetics of place—six students gave papers written for Jim's spring 2010 graduate course on Irish nature writing, on panels that he helped organize: **Nicholas Beishline** on Liam O'Flaherty and Galway Kinnell, **Ian Wissinger** on Yeats and O'Flaherty, **Angela Geosits** on Seamus Heaney, **Amy Klemm** on Edna O'Brien and William Kennedy, **Maria Bodenschatz** on Emily Lawless and John Synge, and **Joe Morgan** on Lawless. Jim continues his work on student recruitment for our program.

**David Downing** and **Ed Carvalho** have coedited the book *Academic Freedom in the Post-9/11 Era*, and it will be published in December, 2010 by Palgrave Macmillan. This book contains essays and interviews with some of the world's leading intellectual figures such as Noam Chomsky, Ward Churchill, Norman Finkelstein, Cary Nelson, Cornel West, and many others. David published a short opinion piece, "Very *Baad* Books," in the *American Book Review*, (January/February, 2010), and a

review essay, "Academic Freedom and the Struggle for the Common Ground: A Review of Cary Nelson's *No University Is an Island: Saving Academic Freedom*," in the spring, 2010 volume of *Works and Days*. At the request of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, David also served as an outside evaluator for the M.A. programs in English at LaSalle University in Philadelphia.

The most recent issue of *Works and Days*, guest edited by **Susan Comfort**, is *Invisible Battlegrounds: Feminist Resistance in the Age of War and Imperialism*. This striking volume examines and makes highly visible the often devastating consequences of war and militarization for women and marginalized people around the globe. Contributing to the volume are such leading scholars as Cynthia Enloe, Rosemary Hennessy, Jasbir Puar, Valentine Moghadam, Helen Scott, and many others. Also included are an essay, "The Veil (De)contextualized and Nations 'Democratized': Unsettling War, Visibilities, and U.S. Hegemony" by **Mais Qutami** who received her Ph.D. from the IUP Literature and Criticism program in 2009; and an essay "Making Your Own Media: The Oaxacan Feminist Subaltern Counterpublic Sphere" by **Reena Dube** of the IUP English Department. **Tracy Lassiter** and **Adam Wassel** served as Editorial Assistants for this volume.

**Christopher Kuipers** and his graduate assistant, **Jean-Paul Konda Ntusi**, presented "The Canon by Numbers: Quantifying Diversity in Contemporary American Literature Anthologies" at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut in March 2010.

**Mike Sell's** edited anthology *Avant-Garde Performance and Material Exchange: Vectors of the Radical*, a reworking of a 2002 special issue of *Works and Days*, will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in Fall 2010. *The Avant-Garde: Race Religion War*, an interdisciplinary genealogy of radical cultural production, will appear on shelves in 2011 as part of Seagull Books' Enactments series, edited by leading performance studies scholar Richard Schechner. His essay "Al Qaeda and the Avant-Garde: Towards a Genealogy of the *Talib*" will be part of the spring 2011 issue of *Modernism/Modernity*. His invited essay "Resisting the Question, 'What Is an Avant-Garde?'" will appear next year in a special issue of *New Literary History* dedicated to avant-garde studies. He is currently developing, in collaboration with emerita professor Rosaly Roffman, a special issue of *Works and Days* that will explore the poetics of archives and archiving. He is

a member of the executive committee of the American Society for Theatre Research and will be part of a seminar exploring new approaches to blackface minstrelsy at that organization's annual conference in November 2010.

**Ron Shafer** will be reading a paper at the regional South Atlantic MLA meeting forthcoming in Atlanta (November, 2010), and he also presented a paper at the national meeting of the College English Association in San Antonio (March, 2010). His guest-lecturing stints, which included a July sojourn in Panama, will take him back to the Middle East this coming January. England was the spring break site for a series of seven lectures which he delivered in the Bristol area of England (March, 2010). Ron continues as Eastern USA vice-president of United Poets Laureate International, the parent organization of the World Congress of Poets (WCP), which will hold their next international meeting in Greece, June 2010. Ron also serves on the Board of Directors of WCP and will be reading a paper and poetry at the Greece congress, as well as assisting in the planning for the future WCP meeting in Australia. Most recently, he has completed supervision of his eighth Egyptian Ph.D. dissertation: this prestigious channel grant program brings Egyptian professors to the USA for a two-year period; IUP has hosted numerous scholars in this program over the year. He has completed his third year as chair of the university-wide University Professorship Committee. Currently he is putting final touches on his spring guest-lecture series which will take him to, among other places, Oakmont in the greater Pittsburgh area. His recent international work has included sponsorship/host of Dr. Hajid Al-Harbi, Chairman, Department of English (Saudi Arabia) and Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Shabara (Damietta, Egypt).

**Tom Slater's** essay "June Mathis's Valentino Scripts: Images of Male 'Becoming' After the Great War" will appear in this month's issue of *Cinema Journal*. In it, he argues that June Mathis used her scripts for Rudolph Valentino in *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, *Camille*, *The Conquering Power* (all 1921), *Blood and Sand*, and *The Young Rajah* (both 1922) to redefine masculinity in the wake of World War I. In the meantime, he is also waiting to hear from the editors of the *Journal of Screenwriting* about his essay, "The Lost *Carousel*: The Feminist Anti-Modernism of June Mathis's *A Trip to Paradise* (1921)." This film was the first screen adaptation of Franz Molnar's surrealist play *Liliom*, a big post-war hit (originally produced in 1908) that would later become the musical and film *Carousel*. He is also

hoping to finish work on a proposal for a film studies minor that will increase cross-disciplinary work across campus.

**Veronica Watson** has been selected as one of two university nominees to compete at the national level for a NEH Summer Stipend. If successful, the stipend will support Dr. Watson while she works on the third and final chapter of her book during summer 2011. Tentatively entitled "Occupied Territory: Mapping the Spatial Geographies of White Identity and Violence," this chapter will examine the issues of white violence, space and race during the 1960s. She will be presenting "Passing on Race: White Double Consciousness, American Moderation, and the Fantasy of a Post-Racial America," a paper that emerges from her work on the literature of white estrangement, at the Critical Whiteness Studies Symposium in Iowa City, Iowa. She is also awaiting notification of whether two other grant applications, including one for the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning program, have been successful. Dr. Watson's article "Lillian B. Horace and the Literature of White Estrangement: Rediscovering an African American Intellectual of the Jim Crow Era" has been accepted by *Mississippi Quarterly* and will appear in 2011. Additionally, she has accepted the position of M.A. Coordinator for our Literature & Criticism program and the statewide position of Convener of the Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative. Dr. Watson continues to serve as the director of IUP's Frederick Douglass Institute for Intercultural Research.

**Dr. Lingyan Yang** is Conference Committee Co-Chair to work with another colleague to organize and host the 2013 national conference of MELUS (Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States) in March 2013 in downtown Pittsburgh. MELUS is the prestigious and highly respected professional organization, national conference, and academic journal in the studies of American multiethnic literature (such as Italian American, Jewish American, African American, Asian American, Latino/a American, American Indian, Arab American and other ethnic literatures) in the past 25+ years. Lingyan did a tremendous amount of organizational work in July, Aug., and this semester to plan everything for the national conference, to coordinate with MELUS President and fellow Conference Committee Co-Chair, to visit the full-service hotels in downtown Pittsburgh, to negotiate business with the hotels, and so forth. This will also be a joined national conference with the US chapter of Association

of the Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (USACLALS), which is the respected postcolonial national conference. Lingyan is also very grateful to **Dr. Downing, Dr. Berlin, and Dean Asamoah** that IUP Graduate English Program of Literature & Criticism, English Dept., and College of Humanities & Social Sciences will co-sponsor this exciting event 2 ½ years later. She is approaching a few more agencies on campus, such as IUP Women's Studies Program and others, to seek more sponsorship. MELUS 2013 will also offer all IUP faculty and graduate students, if their paper abstracts are accepted, 50% discount of the registration fees. Thus, the organization and hosting of the 2013 MELUS and USACLALS national conference will bring scholarly visibility, prestige, and honor to English Dept., Graduate English Program in Literature and Criticism, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and IUP in the national academic circles, promote academic leadership in the humanities for IUP in the academy, confirm IUP's institutional commitment to cultural diversity, awareness of globalization, and interdisciplinary learning, and offer fellow faculty and graduate students opportunities of professionalization in the specialized fields of American multiethnic and postcolonial literature, feminist criticism, and culture. Additionally, Lingyan was awarded sabbatical leave in Fall 2009, when she continued to work with all of her doctoral students, whose dissertations that she directed or whose comps/dissertation committees she served on, on their comps, proposals, and dissertations. She finished the manuscript of a delayed edited book, *Asian Pacific American Cultural Criticism: A Reader*, with an introduction, "A Brief Intellectual History of Asian Pacific American Cultural Criticism." She has almost finished the revised manuscript of *Intellectual Intersections and Racial/Ethnic Crossings*, which is one of the past special issues of *Works and Days*, with the hope to turn it into an edited book. We'll see how things go. Lingyan has also finished writing two additional articles. She finished an international scholarly presentation of the first article, "The Roles of Asian American Women Writers and the Increasing Empowerment of Asian American Women in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: A Brief Asian American Multiethnic Women's Literary History" (sorry for the long title), in Oxford Round Table, a respected international academic and interdisciplinary forum, held in Wadham College at University of Oxford, UK, on March 14-19, 2010. The international conference theme was "The Conditions of Women and Gender Equity in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women's Literature." The City of Spire was very irresistible. Lingyan was awarded an IUP University Senate Research Committee Award

(\$1500) in Dec. 2009 and Presidential Supplemental Travel Funds (\$500) for this international presentation. Lingyan presented another article, "Asian American Urban Literary Naturalism," in the MELUS national conference in Scranton, PA (closer and much cheaper), in April 2010. The revised article is currently under review by a journal. This Fall 2010 semester Lingyan has volunteered to organize and put together a series of 5 workshops on academic job search and professionalization for graduate students in both Literature & Criticism and C & T graduate programs as well as for temporary faculty. The workshops are sponsored by English Dept., Graduate English Program in Literature & Criticism, and EGO. She is most grateful for the following faculty guest speakers and senior doctoral student volunteers: **Dr. Gail Berlin**, Chair of English Dept., **Dr. David Downing**, Director of Grad Lit Program, **Dr. Chris Orchard**, **Dr. David Hanauer**, **Dr. Todd Thompson**, **Dr. Gloria Park**, **Jennifer Woolston**, **Christine Pristash**, and **Bertha**, who kindly ordered coffee and pastries for all workshops. Lingyan extends a special thank you to the current talented graduate student leaders in EGO—**Carolyn Marcille**, **Maria Bodenschatz**, and **Adam Wassel**. Because they asked for a little information on how to find jobs when they kindly volunteered to help out in the English Dept. May Graduation Ceremony, which Lingyan and **Dr. JoAnne Kerr** coordinated in early May 2010, they and all interested graduate students in our English Dept. got 5 workshops on the dos and don'ts of job search and professionalization.



## Student & Alumni News

**Abdullah Al-Dagamseh** (Ph.D. Lit/Crit) has been invited as a guest speaker for Arabic Culture and Civilization Discussion series at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, November 11, 2009. Abdullah also presented his paper, "World Bank Literature: A Critique of Global Neoliberal Capitalism," at Duke University Cultures of Recession Conference in November 20-21, 2009. Abdullah presented another paper, "Neoliberal Commodification and Economic Deregulation in Helena Viramontes' *Under the Feet of Jesus*," at the University of West Georgia Word/Image/Culture Conference on November 11-13, 2010. Abdullah was also invited as a guest speaker for Multicultural and Diversity Issues in graduate Counseling seminar at the Department of Counseling at IUP, June 2010.

**Salim Al Ibia** has published his first book, *The Image of the Professor in Drama*. The character of the professor has been a recurring image in literature. Literary traditions are rich with examples that show professors as active characters in different literary genres. Developing a theory that governs the appearance of this character in literature, this book explains how the image of the professor character in recent American drama is an extension of its appearance in the previous literary continuum. The appearance of the professor in literature and the way it is reproduced is not limited to a specific time period. Rather, it has been portrayed on some standard models throughout literary history. Models of the professor character can be classified under four main categories. This book examines these categories in four recent American plays: David Mamet's *Oleanna* (1992), Peter Sagal's *Denial* (1995), R.A. Gurney's *Human Events* (2001), and Jamie Pachino's *The Return to Morality* (2004). This character is examined in selected pieces of literature from different time periods, including Middle English, the Renaissance and 20th century literature.

**Abeer Al-Sarrani** presented a paper titled "The Effects of the Arab Beduin: Natural Environment Destruction on Cultural Displacement in Abdelrahman Muni's novel *Cities of Salt*" at the EAPSU fall 2010 conference, "A River Runs Through Us: Exploring the Poetics of Place," at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania October, 2010.

**Brad D. Baumgartner's** essay, "The Spectropoetics of Trauma: Ghosts, Language, and the Wound in *Nightwood*," is forthcoming in *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture*. Brad presented a paper entitled "Going 'Gracelessly / As Things Go': Slumming Queer Spaces in Mina Loy" at the 41st Anniversary Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association in Montreal, Quebec in April 2010. He also served on the 2010 IUP EGO/GSA Graduate Conference planning committee and participated in a round table discussion there.

**Judy Bertonazzi** presented "Fleur Pillager, Midewewinini: Food as a Source of Female Power in Louise Erdrich's *Tracks*" at the Mid-Atlantic Popular American Culture Association's 2010 Conference "Popular Culture and Activism"; in Alexandria, VA, October 28-31, 2010. She is also presenting a paper "A Feminist Praxis for Borderland Narratives of the U.S./North America" at the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) conference "Difficult Dialogues II" being held in Denver, CO from Nov. 11-14, 2010. Additionally, Judy is publishing a biography of the life and work of Julie Dash for *Great Lives from History: African Americans*.

**Maria Bodenshatz** presented at the 2010 CEA conference in San Antonio in March, as well as at the 2010 EAPSU conference at Lock Haven in October. Additionally, Maria was a 2010 Graduate Recipient of the university's Women's Leadership Award, and was a 2009-2010 nominee for IUP's Individual Volunteer of the Year. Finally, Maria was also recognized for being a leader of one of IUP's Alternative Spring Break trips.

Doctoral student **Edward Carvalho** (ABD) has had three poems published, one of which appears in the latest issue of *Hispanic Literary Review* (George Mason) and another that has been anthologized in the forthcoming print collection *Knocking at the Door*. In addition, his article "The Poetics of a School Shooter," an analysis of the Virginia Tech tragedy and multimedia manifesto of Cho Seung-Hui, will be featured this fall in *The Review of Education, Pedagogy, and Cultural Studies* (Francis & Taylor/Routledge). In March, he was invited by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to teach poetry to local high school students as part of UW-W's sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program. He also presented a paper in April on teaching post-9/11 literature at the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) conference in Montreal. His paper from that panel, "*Star Wars* and

“Star Wars”: Teaching Pre-9/11 Literature as Post-9/11 Reality,” has been conditionally accepted for a special tenth anniversary 9/11 issue of the NeMLA publication, *Modern Language Studies*. Additionally, the acclaimed poet Martín Espada is reprinting Carvalho’s 2005 interview, “A Branch on the Tree of Whitman,” in his October 2010 release *The Lover of a Subversive Is Also a Subversive* (University of Michigan Press, 2010). And his interview and dissertation chapter on Espada’s father—documentary photographer, Frank Espada—will be included in the Duke University archive on his life and activism. This December, his and **David Downing’s** coedited volume on *Academic Freedom in the Post-9/11 Era* is scheduled for release with Palgrave Macmillan.

**Carly Dunn** presented her papers, “But what they’ve done to you!”: Nationalism, Unionism, and the (Mis)Use of Women in Jennifer Johnston’s *The Old Jest*,” at the Pennsylvania College English Association (PCEA) Annual Conference in Bethlehem, PA; “Place in James Joyce’s *Ulysses*: Resistances, Manipulations, and Nostalgic Representations,” in April 2010 at the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) National Meeting, State College, PA; “Gentle, memorable hills”: The Nostalgic Countryside in Edna O’Brien’s *The Country Girl*,” in May at the 2010 EGO/GSA Graduate Conference, Indiana, PA; and “Left Alone With Her Land: Nature and Place in Two Short Stories by Mary Lavin” in May 2010 at the Ireland and Ecocriticism Conference, Limerick, Republic of Ireland, June 2010. Carly also spent two weeks in June at the Oideas Gael language institute in County Donegal, Ireland, studying Irish Gaelic for her dissertation.

**Anna Faktorovich** edited and published the third issue of the Pennsylvania Literary Journal, <http://sites.google.com/site/pennsylvaniajournal>, now on sale through Amazon CreateSpace, Amazon, and other distribution channels. She is working as a full-time English Instructor for the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She will be presenting her research at three conferences this academic year: MLA, SAML and EAPSU, where she will also chair several panels. Additionally, Anna recently won the MLA Bibliography Fellowship and the Brown University Military Collection Library Fellowship.

**David W. Johnson** presented a paper in May 2010 at the International Country Music Conference in Nashville, “Issues of Methodology in Autobiography, Biography, and Oral History: Focus on Ralph Stanley.” The University Press of Mississippi has accepted his

biography of the Stanley Brothers for publication. His article on Mississippi Delta blues singer Bukka White appears in the fall 2010 issue of the journal *Southern Cultures*, published by the University of North Carolina.

An alumnus of the Literature and Criticism program at IUP, **Dr. Pamela June**, obtained a tenure-track teaching position at Paine College, a historically black college in the heart of Augusta, GA. Pamela earned her M.A. in 2005 and her Ph.D. in 2009, both from IUP.

In May, **Shana Kraynak** presented a paper called “D’oh!: Using The Simpsons to Enhance Student Engagement and Understanding of Poe’s Technological Satires” at the ALA Conference in San Francisco. In October, she presented a paper called, “We Will Inherit the Earth: Linda Hogan’s *Book of Medicines* as a Survival Tool for the Technological Apocalypse” at the EAPSU Conference in Lock Haven, PA. Her paper, “Redefining Vengeance and Masculinity: the Supernatural and Spiritual in *The Crow* and *The Boondock Saints*,” which Shana presented at last year’s EGO/GSA conference, was presented also at the MAPACA conference in Alexandria, Virginia. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art began exhibiting Shana’s photography in October 2010.

In the spring of 2010, **Tracy Lassiter** was appointed to the President’s Commission on the Status of Women at IUP for the 2010-11 academic year. Separately, she won a Women’s Leadership Award, granted through the Office of Student Leadership and Greek Life. She will have two publications issued in 2011, including a piece on information literacy accepted for an anthology, and in August she presented her paper “Metafiction: The Graphic Novel Embedded” at the ICLA held in Seoul, S. Korea. This year, Tracy was also one of 80 students nationwide to win a Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Award.

As the Lillian Gary Taylor Fellow in American Literature at the University of Virginia’s Harrison Institute, doctoral candidate **Melissa Lingle-Martin** is researching the visual, literary, and political culture of nineteenth-century America at U.Va.’s Small Special Collections Library. Melissa presented part of her research at the Jefferson Scholars Foundation’s Forum for Interdisciplinary Dialogue, which was held at U.Va. at the end of September. Her talk was titled, “Disfiguring Lady Justice: Nineteenth-Century Women Writers’ Iconoclastic Interventions in the Discourses of Justice.” In the spring, Melissa will present her paper,

“cujus est solum, ejus est usque ad coelum”: The Power, Peril, and Promise of Fiction in Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s *A New-England Tale*,” at the 2011 NEMLA convention in New Brunswick.

**Lana Lockhart** presented her paper, “The Implications of the Black Arts Movement on the Work of Gloria Naylor,” at the American Literature Association Symposium which took place in Savannah, GA from October 8-10, 2010.

**Andru Lugo** recently published “The Female Predicament in The Bell Jar and St. Mawr” in *Plath Profiles*. The essay is a study of the way that the female characters (in Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar* and D.H. Lawrence’s *St. Mawr*) react to the empty values of the society in which they live.

**Brad McDuffie** had an article entitled “When Hemingway Met Salinger” published in the *KC Star*. Brad recently published a chapbook of poetry entitled “Seven Hymns from the West,” in addition to a collection of poems entitled “And the West Was Not So Far Away,” which was reviewed by *Rattle*. Brad also presented a paper on Breece D’J Pancake at the ALA Conference in Savannah, GA in the Fall of ‘09 and presented and was co-chair of three panels at SAMLA in Atlanta, GA on J. D. Salinger’s “Nine Stories.” Brad also presented papers at the International Imagism Conference in Brunnenburg, Italy and The International Hemingway Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland (both in the summer of 2010).

**Eric Meljac** had his essays, “Derrida’s Pharmacy: A Note on Derrida and *Phaedrus*” and “James Joyce, the Cinematographic Modernist” recently published in *The Explicator*. Additionally, “Seductive Lines: The Use of Horizontal Bars by Josipovici and Coetzee, and the Art of Seduction” was published in *Journal of Modern Literature*, in which another of Eric’s essays, “Love and *Disgrace*: Reading Coetzee in the Light (and Love) of Barthes” is forthcoming. Eric also presented a colloquium as part of the IUP English Dept. Colloquium Series entitled “B. S. Johnson and the Ghosts of Memory in *The Unfortunates*.”

**Nancy E. Raftery** presented at the Mid-Atlantic meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies at Drew University, October 1-2, 2010. Her paper was entitled, “Drama in the Park: Analyzing Nature and Place in Sean O’Casey’s *Within the Gates*.”

In September 2009, **Zach Rhone** spoke to *Oxonmoot*, the annual conference of the British J. R. R. Tolkien Society at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, presenting the paper, “Becoming Like Sam.” Then, in November 2009, at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association’s (SAMLA) conference in Atlanta, GA, Zach lectured on “Hawthorne’s Battle Between Inner and Outer Worlds: His Mark on Ray Bradbury and Flannery O’Connor.” Following, he guest-lectured in March 2010 to the Honors College at Indiana Wesleyan University about “The Human Significance in C. S. Lewis’ *Out of the Silent Planet*.” For the *International Journal of Arts and Sciences*’ conference in Bad Hofgastein, Austria in May-June 2010, Zach presented a paper titled “Collaborative Research and Mentorship in the Humanities.” He returned to *Oxonmoot* again in September to speak about “J. R. R. Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*: An Exemplary Text on Leadership.” Also, on 15 October 2010, Zach’s “Foreword” will appear in Charles E. Bressler’s *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. from Longman Publishing.

**Jessica Sidler Showalter** had papers accepted to the SW/TX PCA/ACA Annual Conference last Spring and the EAPSU Conference this Fall. She organized an August Wilson panel for the EGO/GSA Conference, and she presented a paper about Walt Whitman at the English Department’s “Rethinking the American Renaissance” Colloquium.

**Henry C. Stewart**, Ph.D. candidate, presented “Too Severe to Ignore: Brain Injury in William Shakespeare’s *Othello*” as part of his ongoing work in literary disability studies at the Pennsylvania College English Association in April 2010.

**Neal Stidham** (L&C ‘11) will contribute a chapter to a forthcoming book from McFarland Publishing on scholarly approaches to the television show *Mystery Science Theater 3000*. He will present a short version of the chapter on a panel with other contributors to the book at the Popular Culture Association conference in San Antonio next April.

**Adam M. Wassel** presented his paper, “The Presence of Absence: Voices of the SS,” at the EGO/GSA conference at IUP in April 2010, where he also participated in a roundtable discussion. Additionally, two of Adam’s poems, “Another Break of Morning” and “The Pornography of Jealousy,” were adapted for art song by composer David M. Brown and will be

premiered at West Chester University's Madeline Wing Adler Theatre on April 2, 2011.

**Jennifer M. Woolston** has three gaming entries appearing in *Let the Games Begin! Engaging Students with Interactive Information Literacy Instruction* edited by IUP's own **Dr. Theresa McDevitt** and **Rosalee Stilwell** (Neal-Schuman Publishers, forthcoming 2011). Additionally, Woolston has recently won first prize in *Marie Claire Magazine's* "Gloss Up, Speak Out" contest focusing on volunteer service, community activism, and passion for affecting change. Woolston also secured a thousand dollar Gundaker Graduate Grant via the

Gundaker Foundation/Bensalem Rotary Club to assist her with the completion of her dissertation while working and studying at IUP. In May, Woolston presented "Still Hot for Teacher? Considering the Cultural Dangers of Rate My Professor, Chili Peppers, and Sexual Objectification on the Professional Female Body," at the 8th annual GSA/EGO Conference here at IUP.

**Natalie Yaqeunian** presented her paper, "Rewriting History and Heroism in Ulysses through the River Liffey," at the 2010 EAPSU Conference on Oct. 3 in Lock Haven, PA.



Nothing But Smiles

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## Congratulations Graduates!

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The following Ph.D./Literature & Criticism students successfully defended their dissertations and were graduated in May and August of 2010:

### Ph.D./Literature & Criticism Graduates—May/August 2010:

- **Ahmed Banisalamah** – “A lass unparalleled”: The Scriptural Underpinnings of Women in Selected Shakespearean Plays
- **Mary Elizabeth Davis** - On advertising’s terms: The weak critiques of consumer capitalism in “Player Piano,” “Fahrenheit 451,” and “The Space Merchants”
- **Jeffrey Dories** - An Ecocritical Examination of British Romantic Natural History Writing: The Literature of a Changing World
- **Kimberly Socha** - Dumb Animals, Crazy Broads and Ugly Truths: Rooting for the Avant-Garde
- **Benjamin West** - Challenging Progress: Mob Violence and Punishing Identities in Modernist-era American Fiction

### M.A./Literature Graduates—May/August 2010:

Megha Baikadi , Natasha Colah , Jamie Mathews, Joseph Morgan , Zachary Rhone, Jessica Showalter, Nicole Smith, Kimberly Swant, Julie Yeager

## Welcome New Students!

The following students have been admitted to the graduate programs in Literature and Criticism since Spring 2010:

### Ph.D./Literature & Criticism:

Sonia Adams, Elisabeth Aiken, Salim Al Ibia, Mona Albalawi, Francis Altomare, Mary Cappelli, Gregory Chwala, Meriah Crawford, Ashley Crossland, Samantha Fitch, Dana Forde, Tara Friedman, Antonio Gonzales, Kenny Harmon, Forrest Helvie, Christine Hunter, Jemayne King, Jeaneen Kish, Sandra Leonard, Xiaodong Liu, Andru Lugo, Gary Matthews, Joseph Morgan, Kittiphong Praphan, Brian Reinking, Zachary Rhone, James Sauer, Judith Saunders, Theodore Sery, Jessica Showalter, Debra Sparks, Maria Studebaker-Coppage, Jesse Ulmer, Sarah Vanover, Kristi Williams, Katherine Woodville, Julie Yeager

### M.A./Literature:

Erin Guydish, Kristin Lorenzo, Ashley Mondale, Stefan Schneider, Harley Schultz, Jennifer Sine, Rachael Ward

### M.A./Generalist:

Stephen Keeling, Julie Pavlick



## Let the Games Begin!



## Dates to Remember

### LATE FALL 2010

Candidacy Exam Workshop: Nov. 16  
Last Day of Fall classes: December 13  
Final Exams: December 14-17  
Commencement: December 19

### FUTURE DATES TO HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING

Candidacy Exam: May 26-27  
Candidacy Exam: August 26-27  
Fall 2011 classes begin: August 30

### SPRING 2011

Candidacy Exam: January 14-15  
Classes Begin: Tuesday, January 18  
May graduation applications due on URSA: March 1  
Spring Recess: March 7 through 13  
Summer/Fall Registration TBA, usually end of March  
Draft of Thesis/Dissertation due for format review: April 1  
Archival copies of Thesis/Dissertation due: April 15  
Last Day of Spring classes: May 2  
Commencement: May 7



## EGO Events

The annual Fall EGO picnic boasted a record turnout this year. In addition to the picnic and a series of professional development workshops, EGO also organized a potluck dinner in the English lounge. EGO officers wish to thank everyone who supported and attended these events.





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