



# CHSS REFLECTIONS

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## CHSS Loses One of its Own: Dr. Sonya Barclay

*Written by Dr. Charles Cashdollar*

A member of the IUP history faculty, Sonya Barclay, Ph.D., died of cancer on December 25, 2008. Dr. Barclay was born in Florida in 1959, but had grown up in Indiana County. She graduated from IUP in 1999 with a major in history and minors in women's studies and English. A superb student, she won both the 1999 Alice K. Schuster Award as the most outstanding senior history major and the department's Senior Seminar Award for the year's best research paper, which used wills to explore the lives of widows and unmarried daughters in Indiana County, 1807-1837. Dr. Barclay continued her interest in the early-nineteenth-century countryside during her graduate study at Carnegie Mellon University, where she completed an M.A. in 2000 and a Ph.D. in 2008. She was the 2007 win-



ner of CMU's Goldman Fellowship Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching. Enthusiastic and innovative in the classroom, she was known for her creative assignments—such as churning butter—that made old-time rural life come alive for her students. As a researcher, Dr. Barclay's work was path breaking. Previous historical work on class structure in nineteenth-century America was nearly all based on urban

settings, but her dissertation, "Reading the Social Landscape: A Lexicon of Rural Class in Western Pennsylvania, 1790-1860," argued persuasively that "the notion of class in rural areas is a meaningful concept." Using one county (Indiana) as a case study, she drew on over one thousand estate inventories as well as other material culture evidence and even the land itself to help us "understand the experience of those living in the rural North prior to the Civil War." At the time of her death, Dr. Barclay was in the midst of a one-year appointment as an assistant professor of history at IUP. She had already established a record as a dynamic teacher who was liked and respected by her students and colleagues.

## EILEEN GLISAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF LANGUAGE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Eileen Glisan, IUP professor of Spanish and foreign language education and coordinator of the K-12 Spanish Education Program, was elected as president-elect of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The election results were announced at the association's November Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Orlando, FL. Dr. Glisan begins a three-year term on the ACTFL Board of



Directors Executive Committee and will serve as ACTFL President in 2010. Outlining her vision for leading the association, she says that "during my tenure as President of ACTFL, I would like to bring closer together research, instruction, and assessment, as well as enhance the professional development of language educators in order to benefit classroom learning across levels of instruction." In addition to teaching Spanish, Spanish applied linguistics, and methodology courses at the university level, she has also taught Spanish at the middle and high school lev-

els. Dr. Glisan received the IUP University Professor Award for 2000-2001, and she was the Distinguished University Professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 2004-2005. She is certified by ACTFL as an oral proficiency tester of Spanish. She is co-author of *Teacher's Handbook: Contextualized Language Instruction*, a leading teaching methodology text, and she has authored many articles in journals such as *The Modern Language Journal*, *Foreign Language Annals*, *Language Learning*, and *The Canadian* [Cont. PAGE 4]

## English Department to Host Undergraduate Conference February 16, 2009

The English Undergraduate Conference, "Words and Worlds: Talking about Place in English Studies," will be held on Monday, Feb. 16, 2009. Panels on literature, English Education, and Feminist Studies will take place from 9:00 to 3:30 in Leonard Hall. A pizza lunch will be provided at 12:20. At 3:30, there will be a Keynote Panel featuring Dr. Kevin Patrick (GEOG), Mr. Matt Ferrence (ENGL), Dr. Susan Gatti (ENGL Emerita), and Ms. Stacy Wicker (GEOG), followed

by a reception. Dr. Patrick's keynote address is "You're Not Dead: You're in Newark: A Sopranos Geography of New Jersey." Other speakers include Mr. Matt Ferrence (ENGL), "The Written Redneck: Regional Image, National Identity;" Dr. Susan Gatti (ENGL Emerita) "Leonard Hall and the Democratization of Public Space;" and Ms. Stacy Wicker (GEOG), "'A Love Affair with a Pile of Rock': Landscape and Gender in the Writings of Edward Abbey." The Conference is

sponsored by the English Department, CHSS, Graduate Program in Composition and TESOL, Graduate Program in Literature and Criticism, Women's Studies Program, and Center for North Appalachian Studies. For more information, contact Dr. Lea Masiello (ENGL) or Dr. Cheryl Wilson (ENGL).



## Faculty Newsmakers, by Department

### English

•**Dr. Patrick Bizzaro** recently published his article "Writers Wanted: A Reconsideration of Wendy Bishop" in the journal *College English*, January 2009. In addition, **Dr. Bizzaro** has published "Poetry and Healing: Observations on Four First Books," in the *Asheville Poetry Review* (Winter 2008).

•**Dr. Susan Comfort's** book chapter "How to Tell a Story to Change the World: Arundhati Roy, Globalization, and Environmental Feminism," scheduled for publication by Routledge in December 2008, will appear in the collection of essays, *Globalizing Dissent: Essays on Arundhati Roy*, edited by Ranjan Ghosh and Antonia Navarro-Tejero.

•**Dr. Ben Rafoth** has been recognized with an award named in his honor. The executive board of the International Writing Centers Association established the "Ben Rafoth Graduate Student Research Award" in recognition of Rafoth's many years of support for graduate student research in teaching writing and writing centers. The annual award of \$1,000 will support research, travel, or related expenses; the first award was presented to Elizabeth Godbee from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

•**Dr. Helen Sitler's** article "Teaching with Awareness: The Hidden Effects of Trauma on Learning" appears in the January-February 2009 issue of *The Clearing House*. The journal focuses on issues of interest to secondary and post-

secondary educators.

### French/ German

•**Dr. Peter Sullivan's** essay "Reflections of German Civilization: Articles, Stories, and Notices in the Willa Cather Collection," was published in *Willa Cather: New Facts, New Glimpses, Revisions* (2008).

•**Dr. Heide Witthoft** served as Presiding Officer of the Folklore and Mythology standing panel of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association's annual conference at Pomona College, Claremont, CA. on November 8, 2008.

### Spanish

•**Dr. Eileen W. Glisan** conducted a workshop for World Language teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, titled "Brain-Based Foreign Language Teaching." Dr. Glisan also served as an invited panelist in a Plenary Session at the annual conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

•**Drs. Frank (Pete) Brooks and Dawn Smith-Sherwood** co-presented a session "Using Assessment to Mend the Language-Literature Split in Higher Education" at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association, in December, 2008. **Dr. Brooks** also co-wrote "We're just fillin' the blanks: Access Revisited," which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Applied Linguistics*.



### Retirement farewell from

#### Cathy Renwick

Well folks, after 22 years, I will retire from the Graduate English Office at the end of the Fall semester. I can't begin to mention all the friends I have met during my tenure as Graduate English secretary, but I will remember and cherish each and every one. I could literally make a trip around the world and find an old friend (or several) in each country I visit. My husband, DeWayne, and I have sold our home in Home, PA along with most of our belongings. We bought a fifth-wheel trailer and a truck to pull it. That is now our home, and we are already living in it. In Jan. 2009, it is our intention to head south, most likely Florida for this winter, and in the spring, head north and west, ending up in Washington state to catch a cruise to Alaska in June. Then, we will make our way east catching the Dakotas and perhaps a little of Canada on the way. Please keep in touch at [crenwick48@gmail.com](mailto:crenwick48@gmail.com). I just want to wish everyone just starting out a very successful career at IUP, and to all my friends, I may be stopping by, so keep the light on for me.

## English Department Journal *Works and Days* Co-sponsors Six O'clock Speaker Series on February 23

By Dr. David Downing

In conjunction with the release of a landmark double-issue of the journal *Works and Days*, there will be a university-wide symposium on "Academic Freedom after 9/11" hosted at the Eberly Auditorium on Feb. 23, 2009, beginning at 6:00 pm. Keynote speakers for the event include American Association of University Professors President Cary Nelson and former University of Colorado at Boulder Professor Ward Churchill. Following their presentations, they will be joined by panel respondents Sophia McClennen (Penn State University) and Jeffrey J. Williams (Carnegie Mellon University). While featuring contributions from the colloquium speakers, the nearly 600-page volume of *Works and Days* also includes the work of twenty-four other noteworthy scholars such as Noam Chomsky, Cornell West, Derrick Bell, Ellen Messer-Davidow, Bob O'Neil, Henry Giroux, Martin Espada, Randy Martín, Michael Bérubé, Bruce Robbins, Irene Gendzier, Grant Farred, Eric Cheyfitz, R. Raghavakrishnan, and Marc Bousquet, among others. Since 1915, academic freedom has been a principle that undergirds the university. It protects free inquiry essential to a democratic society. But in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the basic principle has been deeply challenged by economic and political pressures. This timely issue therefore addresses some of the most urgent issues facing higher education in the United States. The symposium should be a major intellectual event drawing local, and potentially national news coverage, and it should bring considerable attention to IUP regarding this crucial issue. The symposium has been organized by the staff of *Works and Days* and the Graduate Program in Literature and Criticism, and the event is being co-sponsored by a wide range of university sources in-

cluding the President, the Provost, the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Doctoral Program in Composition and TESOL, and the English Department. The Six O'clock Series is assisting with advertising and promotion of the presentation by Cary Nelson, "Fourteen Threats to Academic Freedom." After a brief intermission, Ward Churchill will make his presentation, "Deconstructing the Rhetoric of



Academic Freedom: Liberal Complicity in the Fostering of Reactionary Realities." Professors McClennen and Williams will then respond briefly to both speeches before opening up to a general discussion and questions. The event will be moderated by David B. Downing, Director of Graduate Studies in Literature and Criticism, and the editor of *Works and Days*. IUP Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs Gerald Intemann will offer welcoming remarks, and Edward J. Carvalho, guest editor for the *Works and Days* volume, will introduce Dr. Churchill. Since becoming President of the AAUP, Cary Nelson has quite literally transformed the AAUP into an even more highly visible and active defender of academic freedom, raising its stature and significance as a faculty and student advocate organization. He is one of the nation's most well-known writers and activists on the changing nature of higher education, one sign of which is that an entire book, *Cary Nel-*

*son's Struggle with the University*, about to be released at the time of our symposium, is devoted to a study of Nelson's work in the profession. Prof. Churchill gained considerable national and international attention in the media when he was fired from the University of Colorado at Boulder in June, 2007. He has published many books in his field, and won several teaching awards at his university. Because of the political nature of his firing, he has filed a lawsuit against the State of Colorado, and his trial is scheduled to begin March 9, 2009. His keynote address at IUP is his last formal speaking engagement prior to his trial. To bring Nelson together with Churchill is an especially fortuitous moment. Jeffrey Williams is a well-known literary and cultural critic, often contributing editorials to the *CHE*, and Sophia McClennen is a highly regarded comparative literature scholar. We hope you will be able to join us Feb. 23.

**Please submit all  
newsletter items to  
Laura Delbrugge at  
lauradel@iup.edu  
and be sure to copy  
your  
department chair.**

Congratulations  
to Dean  
Asamoah for  
receiving rank  
and  
tenure!

[Continued from pg. 1] *Modern Language Review*. She is a frequent presenter at local, state, regional, and national conferences and conducts in-service workshops for school districts and universities throughout the country. Dr. Glisan has served the profession in a variety of leadership activities. She was chair of the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) in 1997 and president of the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) in 1992–1994. She co-directed the development of the *ACTFL/NCATE Program Standards for the Preparation of Foreign Language Teachers*, approved by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) in 2002, and she served as a member of the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Consortium (INTASC) Foreign Language Committee, which drafted initial licensing standards for foreign language teachers in 2002. Congratulations Dr. Glisan!

## Dr. Victor Garcia Receives Research Award from IUP's School of Graduate Studies and Research

On Nov. 11, 2008, **Dr. Victor Garcia** of the Anthropology Department was selected for a special university research at the fall 2008 research reception, sponsored by the Research Institute and School of Graduate Studies and Research. Dr. Garcia was nominated by Dean Asamoah, and was selected from the impressive group of nominees from the other IUP colleges because of the high level of external funding he has received, the very competitive process he has gone through to attain this funding, and the way in which he has linked his teaching and mentoring with his research. Dr. Garcia is a cultural anthropologist and professor of anthropology; he teaches courses on Latin America, peasant societies and economies, and Latinos in the United States. His research interests include economic anthropology, peasant studies, the political economy of agriculture and farm work in the United States and alcohol abuse among transnational migrants. Dr. Garcia's research experience on Mexican farm worker populations and rural enclaves in California and Pennsylvania has brought him recognition as a leading researcher on these subjects. His findings have been published in book chapters and research reports, put forth in working papers, and presented in numerous papers given at national and international conferences. Dr. Garcia was appointed as assistant director of Research for Cultural and Ethnic Studies at MARTI in the Fall semester of 1997. Congratulations to Dr. Garcia!



### Graduation and Advising Reminders

Deadline to apply for August and December 2009 Graduation is **April 1, 2009**. Students may apply online at [www.iup.edu/ursa](http://www.iup.edu/ursa).

### Registration for Fall / Summer 2009:

Continuing Education - 3/23  
 Special Groups - 3/24 - 3/25  
 Seniors - 3/26 - 4/2  
 Juniors - 4/2 - 4/8  
 Sophomores - 4/8 - 4/14  
 Freshmen - 4/15 - 4/16  
 Graduate Students - 3/30

All Undergraduate students will be able to register for Summer 2009 on 3/24. All Graduate students will be able to register for Summer 2009 on 3/30.

When scheduling advising appointments, please avoid scheduling when students have other classes.

## CHSS STUDENTS AND ALUMNI NEWSMAKERS

•**Stephanie Mlot**, who graduated from the IUP Journalism department in May 2008 and now works as a reporter for the Frederick (Md.) News-Post, covered President Barack Obama's inauguration for her newspaper on Jan. 20 in Washington. Congratulations to Stephanie on quite a "plum" of an assignment, especially for a rookie reporter!

•**Marisa Goldstein**, a History major and Robert E. Cook Honors College student, was selected as IUP's nominee for the Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence. Marisa will be competing for the state-wide award with the nominees from the other PASSHE schools. In addition to her History major, Marisa is also pursuing minors in Political Science, German, and Women's Studies. Good luck in the competition, Marisa!



•**Eric Hamme**, Economics graduate (2008) is working for Naval Audit in Washington, DC.

•**Lauren Venturino**, Economics graduate (2008) is working for Bank of New York Mellon in the wealth management division in Pittsburgh. She presented "The Practiced and the Preached: An Analysis of Divorce Rate and State Religious Participation Levels" at the 2008 PA Economic Association Conference at Slippery Rock University in June, 2008.