



# Integrated Liberal Studies

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

*"Thinking together,  
independently"*

-Alexander Meiklejohn

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### *Notes from the Chair*

**Greetings from Meiklejohn House,  
where our faculty, staff and students continue to engage  
the new frontiers of liberal arts learning through classes, projects and scholarship.**

In these pages you'll encounter the heart and soul of ILS, from our students studying around the globe to our faculty and staff at work bringing stature and honor to the program through their teaching and scholarship – as well as a fantastic group of alums from the Class of '62 who took time during their reunion in Madison to stop by Meiklejohn House to reminisce and learn about the current program.

ILS continues to work at the forefront of the humanities at UW-Madison, as evidenced by Professor Cathy Middlecamp's development of a new course for Environmental Studies/ILS based on themes of sustainability, as well as the premiere of Professor Patrick Sims' seminar with the new Creative Arts and Design Learning Community. Our faculty continues to create and sponsor research - as for example Doug Bradley's launch at the Wisconsin Book festival of his *Vietnam DEROS* – and make significant contributions to student life on campus: for example, we eagerly anticipate Kristin Hunt's production for University Theatre of Georg Büchner's classic play *Woyzeck*, and Patrick Sims will direct *Cloud Nine* later in the term.



Among the many things to celebrate in the program this year we are very proud to applaud, along with his home department of Classics, the news that Professor Aylward will receive the Distinguished Teaching Award this year. William's year has filled with honors, among them being named to coordinate an interdisciplinary team of scientists and anthropologists on a new expedition to Troy (please see <http://www.news.wisc.edu/21160>). The Molecular Archaeology Group, under William's leadership, identifies biomarkers in the archaeological record to explore interfaces between cultural and biological environments. Research questions capture cross-disciplinary interest in archaeology to connect laboratory science and cultural heritage, and to explore the past as a means to inform the present. Calling upon his experience in Troy, Aylward brings to ILS 203 (Western Culture: Literature and the Arts, Mesopotamia to the Middle Ages) the latest methods for studying ancient cultures and the most exciting news – literally – from the trenches. The Distinguished Teaching Award is a fit demonstration of the regard students have for William, and an indicator of the quality of our faculty in ILS.

Congratulations, William, from all of ILS, past and present!

*Mike Vanden Heuvel*

## ILS FACULTY NEWS

Klaus L. Berghahn's (German; Weinstein-Bascom Emeritus Professor) "retirement" continues to be filled with scholarly activities. He published articles on "Ernst Bloch liest Friedrich Schiller" (JDSG LV), "*Lessings Literaturkritik als Polemik*" (Foreign Literatures 2012/1/, Peking), and on the "leaden silence" following the Holocaust in /Blicke auf Auschwitz (/Marbach). Lecture invitations took him to the FU-Berlin ("Utopie mit Trauerflor," in May), a conference on "Möglichkeitsdenken" at the University of Cologne ("Blochs Kategorie Möglichkeit," in June), and to the University of Mississippi-Oxford ("War and Peace in the Age of Terrorism. Kants Peace Utopia Reconsidered," in October).

Booth Fowler (Emeritus, Political Science) taught a class for UW Continuing Education in the Fall on Wisconsin voting history and is teaching another one this Spring on individualists in literature: Thoreau, Whitman, Dickinson, and Nietzsche.

Joe Elder (Sociology) spent part of his winter break working on a documentary film in southern India. The film focuses on Lord Murugan, a unique south Indian deity. It shows how north Indian Hinduism, instead of attacking Lord Murugan, reformulated and adapted Murugan and other south Indian observances, blending the south and north and leading to a contemporary revival of pilgrimages to Lord Murugan's sacred sites.

Laura McClure (Classics) continues to serve as chair of the Classics department while maintaining strong ties with ILS. She has just completed an essay about female characters and recognition scenes in Greek tragedy, part of a larger project on women and the construction of male identity in ancient Greek literature. She is also hard at work on a textbook about women in the classical world for Blackwell, due to be published in 2014. She looks forward to teaching again in ILS once her term as chair is over.



Taken February, 2013

Cathy Middlecamp (Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies) launched a new course this spring on energy and food on the UW-Madison campus. Taught jointly in ILS and Environmental Studies, the course includes an Honors section. Travis Blomberg, ILS Certificate student '12, both helped design the course and is serving as one of the graduate TAs. Check the details at: <http://faculty.nelson.wisc.edu/middlecamp/>

Craig Werner (Afro American Studies) is in his final year as Senior Fellow in Race, Ethnicity and Indigeneity at the Institute for Research in the Humanities. The culminating event of his tenure will be the Burdick-Vary Symposium on "Black Christianity and the Ongoing Quest for Emancipation," which will take place March 8. The final event of "Emancipations," a year-long series of lectures organized around the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the symposium will be held in conjunction with the 4th Annual Nellie McKay Lecture, which will be delivered by Eddie Glaude, Professor of African-American Studies and Religion at Princeton University. Professor Werner will deliver a University Lecture next fall focusing on the question of how African American theology can illuminate contemporary issues surrounding Fourth Amendment rights. (To read more about Werner's class, please see page 5. All course information can be found at either [www.ils.wisc.edu/courses/fall\\_courses.html](http://www.ils.wisc.edu/courses/fall_courses.html) or [www.ils.wisc.edu/courses/spring\\_courses.html](http://www.ils.wisc.edu/courses/spring_courses.html)



### NEW COURSE OFFERINGS BEING TAUGHT IN FALL 2013!

(Visit [http://ils.wisc.edu/courses/fall\\_courses.html](http://ils.wisc.edu/courses/fall_courses.html) for complete course information)

ILS 254: Literature and Science -- Professor Michael Vanden Heuvel (Theatre and Drama)  
 ILS 275, Lecture 7: The Oneness of Humankind -- Professor Richard Davis (School of Music)  
 ILS 275, Lecture 8: Knowing Science through Its Objects -- Professor Lynn Nyhart (History of Science)  
 ILS 371, Lecture 1: Educating the Democratic Citizen -- Professor John Zumbunnen (Political Science)  
 ILS 371, Lecture 2: Death -- Professors Steven Nadler and Russ Shafer-Landau (Philosophy)

\*\*And new in Summer 2013: ILS 275: Art and Political Activism--Dr. Kristin Hunt (Theatre/Drama)\*\*



# WHY DO I LOVE ILS?

## And now a few words from our current ILS Certificate students -

I love the ILS program because I actually get to connect with its professors in an authentic way. They don't just convey knowledge to me as if it were indisputable, but consistently challenge me to explore the assumptions underlying everything I think I know. Discussions led by them are never dull and always lead to fascinating topics and insights as students feel comfortable sharing a broad array of inter-disciplinary experiences. In effect, students are empowered to make ILS classes their own and, as such, get to engage with professors as peers, not just authority figures. It is because ILS demands that we draw upon a multiplicity of experiences and social identities that it unites students and professors in a way that extends far beyond the classroom. Speaking of learning beyond the classroom, the vast majority of ILS professors who have taught me have also invited me - and my classmates - over to their homes for dinner, to the Terrace for informal (Symposium-esque) discussions, to meet for lunch on State Street, and to continue in-class debates over dinner at the nearest pub. This has only rarely been true of my professors outside of ILS. As far as improvements to the program go, I would just push for more learning beyond the classroom and more opportunities for students to lead class discussions and customize course content. These are already the things that make the program great - not to mention all of the ILS professors unforgettable - but even more of the same couldn't hurt. Any changes that would foster even more of a learning community within ILS would be awesome! Keep up the great work!

**-Noah Pearce, Graduated Dec '12**

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I love the ILS program because it is the best program on campus to get to know your teachers and fellow students while still learning many interesting and valuable things. It is the most personal

learning experience available at UW Madison for sure!

**-Stacy Heder, Sophomore**

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I love the ILS program for its flexibility to get a liberal perspective on science as I concurrently pursue a science major. It also is convenient to have a "light" dabble in fields I have no knowledge of but don't want to take the 101 class for.

**-Tim Pearson, Senior**

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I love the ILS Program because it allows me to take unique and fun classes on campus, while simultaneously encouraging me to expand my artistic boundaries outside the classroom.

The biggest improvement I would suggest for the program is to simply have more of the special classes that make the ILS program so great.

**-Jonathan Gorman, Senior**

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I love the ILS program because of the variety of class options I have and because in whatever class I decide to take there will be other students just as interested in the material as I am.

And if the ILS program could do anything for me it would be to keep me informed on possible internship opportunities throughout the years.

**-Jessica Conti, Sophomore**

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I love the ILS program for its great courses, great professors, and great scholarship opportunities. I don't know of another program that makes scholarship opportunities so easy to find, especially for underclassmen. The ILS courses I've taken, 205 and 206 in particular, have been my favorite classes since starting at the UW. Most classes on similar topics tend to have an emphasis on reading that's borderline

excessive. However, these courses managed to balance reading and lecture far more reasonably, and the presentation of material in lecture was more palatable than in any other course I've taken. Quite frankly, they're two of the few classes where I truly enjoyed going to lecture. The discussion sections for these classes are more engaging than those in other departments, and I think this is due not only to the engaging topics, but also to the environment in the Micklejohn House-home of the ILS program. The classroom in this building is the most relaxed class space I've ever had, psychologically and physically. It's practically impossible to be uncomfortable in class when the seating is primarily couches.

I'd like to see more upper level classes offered that cover political or legal topics. Also, I'd love to see an ILS course that covers comparative economic world-views in great depth. A class that uses, for example, Marxist and modern economic models to evaluate real world economic conditions would definitely interest me, and I think it would draw an audience from a diverse cross section of majors and students on campus. I have yet to be disappointed by any course I've taken within the ILS program, and I'd love to see it expand to include some or all of these topics.

**-Andrew Stoker, Sophomore**

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I love the ILS Program because it allows me to have smaller classes on a wide array of subjects. I am able to take classes I find interesting that are not in the program for my major(s) and with the ILS program I am able to get a certificate for taking these interesting classes. I am able to connect with other students on campus and the UW does not feel as big. There are many more opportunities to take advantage of on campus with the ILS program than I have with my majors alone.

**-Susan Higgins, Junior**

Thinking together, independently



# VOLUNTEERISM AT ITS FINEST



The power of pondering with Fowler, Ginsberg, and Sell

*Kathleen Sell, Distinguished Lecturer Emeritus in ILS, has been sharing her expertise within the interdisciplinary areas of political, economic, and social thought for years. Through her strong sense of community and volunteerism, ILS Certificate students now have the option to take an independent study with Dr. Sell. As most of you know, independent study is a self-initiated topic of study/research, conducted under the supervision of a professor who shares your academic area of interest.*

*Ben Ginsberg (graduating in May of 2013) was one of the first students to enroll. Please read his article for a more in depth take when he "pondered the works of Edmund Burke and Thomas Carlyle, applying them to contemporary American politics, especially toward Obama and Romney."*

"As a second semester senior, the reality of graduation is repeatedly on my mind. As a natural consequence of this impending event, I have recently, and frequently, been reflecting on all my positive involvements at the University. While there have been worthwhile experiences outside the classroom, few compare to the academic opportunities I was afforded as a community member of the Integrated Liberal Studies Program. The classes offered, and my experience in them, were unparalleled by any other academic department. I learned so much in my short four years.

"My time with ILS culminated last semester with an independent course of study under the supervision of Dr. Kathleen Sell with the help of Professor Emeritus Booth Fowler. The topic of research was comparing 18th century British philosophers Edmund Burke and Thomas Carlyle to Governor Mitt Romney and President Obama, the key figures of the 2012 presidential election.

"I was very fortunate to have this unique opportunity to research with renowned members of the UW faculty. While they no longer teach full time, their dedication and interest in my academic intrigue was above and beyond anything I could have asked for. For the final project of my independent study, Professor Fowler and I took on the personas of Thomas Carlyle and Edmund Burke, respectively, and engaged in a mock debate, with Dr. Sell acting as moderator.

"Working alongside great educators allowed me to learn so much and was an incredibly enjoyable experience. Their involvement as independent study advisors will hopefully set a precedent for future emeriti professors to stay involved with the ILS community. I am extremely thankful to Dr. Sell and Professor Fowler for taking the time to help me have an amazing senior academic experience."



## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RETURNING STUDENTS: YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN!

*Students of all ages are welcome to audit UW-Madison courses. The following stories are by those who strive to keep learning in the forefront of their lives. Frederick Miller truly understands this concept. He is currently taking ILS 204 [Western Culture: Literature and the Arts II] with Professor Mike Vanden Heuvel this semester. Here is what he has to say:*



"When I retired from the practice of law I decided to return to college, this time without the distractions of required courses and grades. I have audited about 60 credits in courses that interested me. Some of the very best have been ILS courses. It truly does feel like a small college. The breadth of these courses is a wonderful advantage. There are days when I think it would be best if we all had a career and then went to college after, when we have the benefit of life experience and the time to reflect."



The Rasmussen brothers—then & now

Eric and Steven Rasmussen have taken some ILS courses together over the years as well. Last fall they took ILS 275 [The Vietnam Era – see below for more info] and this spring, ILS 271 [Pre-Copernican Astronomy and Cosmology in Crosscultural Perspective] with Professor Mike Shank. Here is what they each have to say. Let's begin with Eric:

"In formulating a logical step in providing some structure to my retirement, I have gone back to the UW as a senior auditor, giving me ample reasons to get-up-and-get-going each day. I believe that life-long learning is beneficial to the mind and the body. Amazement fills me considering what remains unknown – until each class opens my eyes. My previous education was geared to math and science and I felt there were areas of knowledge I still wanted to pursue.

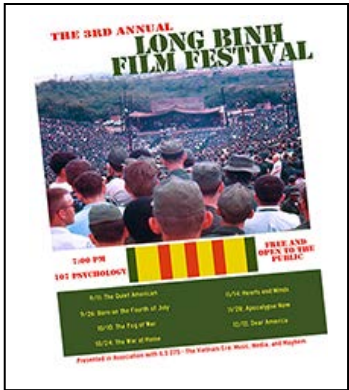
My academic career towards a degree began in 1967 at UW Madison. The Viet Nam War was becoming unpopular and I saw the Dow Chemical protest outside of the then Commerce building and the ugly police response. This transformed my awareness of US policies and politics. Forty-five years later I find it fascinating to see the country and myself changed. We both need more work. The ILS course about the music, media and mayhem of the Viet Nam era helped to put perspective on that time and deal with the memories with some wisdom. I encourage anyone to audit as a senior. It adds to life."

And now a word from Steve:

"I echo my brother Eric's thoughts on the necessity of having structure in life after retirement. Taking classes as a "senior auditor" helps fill that need. The dozens of classes taken since my retirement have been very interesting. Last semester, Eric and I took ILS-275 (The Vietnam Era: Music,Media and Mayhem) together which allowed us to reflect on life and distant memories. (I served in Vietnam after graduating from UW-Madison in 1968.) Also, taking classes together and occasionally having lunch with my brother has brought another level of enjoyment to my audit experience."



Please read the following for a sneak peak at what ILS 275 "The Vietnam Era" showcased for its students in Fall 2012 during the course of the semester as well as thoughts of future class endeavors:



ILS 275 (The Vietnam Era: Music, Media and Mayhem) played host to several visitors during the Fall semester. The first class visit featured Vietnam veteran Linda McLanahan, also known as "Sister Sarge" on a panel with Heather Stur, Professor of History at the University of Southern Mississippi and author of "Beyond Combat: Women and Gender in Vietnam." Vietnamese-American novelist Lan Cao spoke with members of the class about her novel "Monkey Bridge" and made an appearance at the Wisconsin Book Festival along with ILS instructor Doug Bradley, whose book DEROS was recently published by The Warrior Press. Vietnam veteran visitors included four members of the Madison-based writing collective, The Deadly Writers Patrol: Steve Piotrowski, Tom Deits, Tom Helgeson and Bruce Meredith; and Kimo Williams, a musician and composer based in Chicago who talked about his experience as an African American soldier in Vietnam, gave students a sample of his Jimi Hendrix-style guitar playing; and answered questions about his orchestral composition, "Symphony for the Sons of Nam." ILS Faculty members Craig Werner and Doug Bradley, along with ILS Teaching Assistant Wyl Schuth have received funding to develop a course focusing on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Like the Vietnam-centered ILS 275, the course will focus on the experience of veterans, with an emphasis on the representation of the war in literature, music and film. Part of the course development funding will be directed to establishing connections with the Student Veteran Association. It will be offered for the first time in the Spring of 2014.

## ILS ALUMNI EVENT – September 14, 2012

### Reconnecting with old friends



"Karen and I went to West High School (Madison) and became friends there. It was wonderful to see her at the reunion. It had been fifty years, maybe a couple more, since I had seen her last. The ILS gathering at the reunion meant so much. That special program touched so many people. Where else could I say I was listening to the Odyssey and Iliad on CD's, and Jim Nafziger says 'Oh you must READ it. Walter Agard encouraged me to read it in Greek.'"

Louise Cadwgan, Class of '62

This year's gathering was amazing – on the smile quotient alone! It was so nice to see ILS alums gather in 103 Meiklejohn again, where some of the ILS discussion sections still meet. Thanks to all who attended!



Feel free to send in your travel stories and ILS connections. We'll pin your travel destinations (along with your adventure stories) on the map (shown on page 8) which will be included on the ILS website in the near future!



# NEW TO ILS WEBSITE:



We'd like to direct you to a few new features on the ILS Website. Some are still being populated but it gives you an idea of where we're headed. Any suggestions are always welcome. Feel free to "friend" us on "facebook." The new electronic format of the ILS Newsletter gives the reader easily accessible links to read more about certain subjects. If you are receiving this in paper-form, PLEASE send us your email address soon!

**[ils@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:ils@mailplus.wisc.edu)**

Interested in reading more about the history of ILS? [www.ils.wisc.edu/archives.html](http://www.ils.wisc.edu/archives.html)

Doc Meiklejohn's Experimental College

Integrated Studies: Challenges to the College Curriculum

2002 Convocation Remarks by Mike Hinden

What ILS Faculty and Staff are reading [www.ils.wisc.edu/publications/ils\\_reading.html](http://www.ils.wisc.edu/publications/ils_reading.html)

Visit this link for a wide array of topics as diversified as the ILS Program itself!

Recent publications of ILS Faculty and Staff [www.ils.wisc.edu/publications/recent.html](http://www.ils.wisc.edu/publications/recent.html)

Find out more from these interesting publications on the ILS website:

*Courage* by Richard Avramenko, assistant professor of Political Science

*DEROS Vietnam: Dispatches from the Air-conditioned Jungle* by Doug Bradley,

ILS distinguished lecturer

*Aristophanic Comedy and the Challenge of Democratic Citizenship* by

John Zumbunnen, associated professor of Political Science

Coming soon! Alumni News, to include travel stories with pictures and post-graduation updates. Share your stories and re-connect with ILS alums from past to present. Email your stories and pictures to [ils@mailplus.wisc.edu](mailto:ils@mailplus.wisc.edu)

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*Speaking of ILS Alumni News, Elise Buchbinder graduated in the spring of 2012. She also was the 2012 Pooley Prize recipient which made her trip to Lingira Island, Uganda possible. Here is her thank you letter to ILS:*



"Hamjambo ("Hello" in Swahili) to everyone at the Meiklejohn House and in the ILS Program! I wanted to send a very sincere Weebale ("Thank you" in Luganda) for giving me the opportunity to spend the first five weeks of my post-graduate summer on Lingira Island, Uganda thanks to the 2012 Pooley Prize. As you can see, I learned a bit of Luganda and Swahili, as well as so much about international development efforts. It was truly a life-changing experience that I will forever be thankful for, and it really was the ILS Program that made it financially possible. I wanted to include a photo of myself with the Lingira Girls' Football Club (LGFC), which I was able to develop while there with my fellow EDGE members. The women in this photo are strong, beautiful, and exceptional footballers!

Again, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity. Elise Buchbinder

[Please see page 8 where Elise's adventure is pinned on the ILS "Our World: Stories from around the Globe."]  
(For more info about the EDGE Project, please visit <http://www.wisconsinedgeproject.blogspot.com/>)



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**Our World: Stories from around the Globe**  
Travis Blomberg – 2012 Travel Award  
Elise Buchbinder – 2012 Pooley Prize  
Molly Gallagher – ILS Student Ambassador  
Joe Oswald – 2012 Pooley Prize



**Joe Oswald:**  
**Freiburg, Germany**  
[www.joeoswald.wordpress.com](http://www.joeoswald.wordpress.com)



**Travis Blomberg: India**  
<https://sites.google.com/site/traviskblomberg/welcome>



**Elise Buchbinder:**  
**Lingira Island,**  
**Uganda (see page 7)**



**Molly Gallagher:**  
**Hyderabad, India**  
<http://namasteindiatravel.blogspot.com/>

