

## ***Professor Bharucha pleased with the Siegen Students***

The University of Siegen periodically invites international writers to participate in the Contemporary Writers' Forum. This event enables students to familiarize themselves with current literature and to seek advice concerning their own writing skills.

On May 19 the Indian academic and writer Nilufer Bharucha visited the university and presented her work. Bharucha studied at the universities of Mumbai and Manchester and is currently a Professor of English at the University of Mumbai. Her areas of specialization are Postcolonial Literatures and Theories, the Literature of the Raj and Applied Linguistics. Just recently she published an academic study about the works of the famous Indian writer Rohinton Minstry. Besides this, she started writing short stories at a very early age. They have been published in prestigious literary journals such as the *Indian PEN*. As a Visiting Professor, Bharucha has travelled all over Europe and lectured at the universities of London, Barcelona, Avignon and Siegen.

Prof. Bharucha probably knew that many students are not familiar with postcolonial writers and therefore recommended several books which offer an interesting introduction to Indian literature. Afterwards Bharucha told the students about her publications and her religion, which strongly influences her creative work. Bharucha belongs to the community of Parsi Zoroastrians, which form a religious minority in India. Zoroastrianism used to be the monotheistic state religion of the Persian Empire. In the 8<sup>th</sup> century many Zoroastrians arrived as refugees in India. Although they adopted the Indian language and prospered in modern professions during the colonial era, they never gave up their religious customs.

At the end of the lesson Bharucha read part of "The Benediction," one of her later short stories which reflect the topical religious conflicts between Hindus and Parsis. The students were encouraged to find a possible ending to her story. Prof. Bharucha, who also teaches Creative Writing, was obviously pleased with the students' results.

*Sarah Bierther*

Matrikelnr. 641087

LCMS