



**Newsletter:  
Department of  
Philosophy  
San Jose State  
University  
Sept. 2011**

Editor: Tom Leddy

**Our Philosophy  
Department Web  
Site Address:**

<http://www.sjsu.edu/philosophy/>

**Note from the  
Chairperson**

If you had told me around the time that the last Newsletter appeared I'd be chair starting this year, I'd thought it could not be. One colleague's response sums up the usual attitude towards assuming this position: 'congratulations.'

However that may be, I am honored to do my best at the job. Philosophy – and I'd guess I speak for many who'll receive this

Newsletter – is a field precariously floating between the sub and super-human. It's been said often enough but it's still worth repeating, that when we're led by superstition, popular opinion, and dogma we forfeit our claim to humanity. When we seek to understand truth, goodness and how to live well, freely and without envy, we become most fully human. How can anyone not be honored to serve a department made up of wonderfully talented philosophical faculty and staff, bright and hard-working philosophy students and loyal alum who share our pursuit. Many thanks for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity.

Peter Hadreas

**MAKE A  
FINANCIAL  
CONTRIBUTION  
TO PHILOSOPHY**

Alumni and other friends of the Philosophy Department who wish to donate to the Department should make out a check to the "SJSU Foundation" with a note in the memo position that says "Philosophy Fund for Research." This money will be used to further faculty and student research projects including travel to conferences, visits to libraries, research assistantships, and purchase of books. Send to SJSU Foundation, 1 Washington Square, San Jose, California 95192.

**Obituaries**

**Carolyn Black**

Carolyn Crow Black, died November 1, 2010 at Westland House in Monterey, California.

Born in 1936 in Gilroy, California, "she was the daughter of Harold Cornwall Crow and Gwendolyn Thomas Crow. After graduating from local schools, she attended the University of California at Berkeley where she earned both her BA and MA degrees. She continued her studies at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania where she earned her PhD in philosophy in 1967." *Los Altos Town Crier*, Nov. 30, 2010.

Carolyn taught at San Jose State for twenty-seven years. I first met her when I arrived in 1983 and she was very helpful with her advice to me as a beginning professor. She was our epistemology specialist with a particular interest in Wittgenstein and published several papers in scholarly journals. Her articles included "Obvious Knowledge," *Synthese*, Vol. 56, No. 3, Ludwig Wittgenstein: Proceedings of a Conference Sponsored by the Austrian Institute, New York, Part II (Sep., 1983), 373-385, and "Knowledge Without Belief," *Analysis*, Vol. 31, No. 5 (Apr., 1971), 152-158. Carolyn was also a strong feminist and a lover of animals.

After Carolyn retired, my wife Karen and I continued to visit with her from time to time: she liked to go out to movies with us. It is sad to know she is gone.

Tom Leddy

## **Douglas Edward Henslee**

**September 5, 1948- June 5, 2010.**

Doug Henslee, former member of the Philosophy Department, died on June 5, 2010 in Kapaa, Hawaii. I knew Doug for several years during the time he taught at San Jose State. He enjoyed philosophical debate and was an avid follower of the ideas of Quine and Davidson. My wife and I sometimes joined Doug, his wife Marilyn, Mike Schmidt, Ruth Manor, Dick Liebendorfer, Steve and Karen Voss, and Mark Olson at Manny's, a beer joint that used to be in the basement of the Fallon House in downtown San Jose. That was back in the 1980s. In the 90s Doug and I met at my place and discussed readings from Davidson and Rorty. He had an incredibly sharp mind (I always needed him to explain analytic philosophers to me) and a nice sense of humor. We also joined up at least once with Joe Waterhouse, Lisa Bernasconi, and some others during the summer philosophy outings Joe organized in Yosemite. Doug and Marilyn called up a couple times after they moved to Hawaii and we were able to talk over old times. Sadly, Marilyn died

shortly after Doug. We will miss both of them. Doug published one article that I know of: "Methods and Other Minds," *Southwest Philosophical Studies*, vol. 8, (October 1982) 1-8. The abstract reads, "In 'operationalism and other minds,' Chihara and Fodor offer interpretation and criticism of Wittgenstein on private language, as well as an independent solution of the problem of other minds. Yet their interpretation is at odds with Wittgenstein's view of philosophical method, and criticism of their proposed solution may be drawn from Wittgenstein's writing. I try to avoid such difficulties by proposing an interpretation in which the problem is dissolved without appeal to theory."

Tom Leddy

## **Barbara C. Scholz 1947-2011**

Barbara taught for our department in the 1990s until 2005. She was a cheerful presence in the philosophy department always willing to argue for a Darwinian perspective and intensely interested in cognitive psychology and linguistics. Her husband Geoffrey K. Pullman wrote an obituary for her which can be found there:

[http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/~gpulum/Barbara\\_C\\_Scholz.html](http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/~gpulum/Barbara_C_Scholz.html)

An list of her many publications can also be found that that site..

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **New York Times: Philosophy Major and Humanities Majors Praised as Preparation for Business Careers**

In "The B-School Blahs" by David Glenn in the *New York Times* Education section, April 17, 2011, 16-19, Glenn states that, "On average nationally, business students enter the work force with higher starting salaries than humanities and social science majors. By mid-career, however, some... liberal arts majors, including political science and philosophy majors, have closed the gap." Moreover, the president of Boston College, Leonard A. Schlesinger is quoted as saying that "concrete business skills tend to expire in five years or so as technology and organizations change. History and philosophy, on the other hand, provide the kind of contextual knowledge skills that are indispensable for business students." The article observes that "According to national surveys, [employers] want to hire 22-year-olds who can write coherently, think creatively and analyze quantitative data, and they're perfectly happy to hire English or biology [or Philosophy] majors."

## **Letter to Chairperson Manning: Practical Application of Philosophy to the High Speed Rail Project**

I just wanted to thank the department for giving me a first class education. I definitely want to thank you for teaching me how to steer a seminar, without actually running it. The ethics and political education I got has gotten me on a seat with the Community working group for the city of San Jose. We have been tasked with developing the "guidelines that direct the Aesthetics of the High Speed Rail Project". The Ideas that I learned in Leddy's Philosophy of Art class and Hadreas's Heidegger seminar came in real handy. During the kickoff meeting, last week, I was able to expand the city's idea of "aesthetics" and "public art." Instead of focusing on the "look" of the architecture and train design, we're considering the entire impact a residents' experience – including whether the train should be in the foreground or as part of background. It was good having the vocabulary to talk to the artists, architects and city planners in the group.

Thanks to Hadreas/Heidegger I was able to raise the questions concerning technology. The initial discussion centered on utilitarian and financial concerns. The conversation changed when I brought up the idea that the train should "fit" into the life of the community, that it should connect and not divide the people, that it would tell a

history of the San Jose people, and [should] be in tune with the natural environment.

Tony Nguyen

## **Villemain Lecture**

The 2011 Distinguished Speaker was Professor Kenneth Peter, San Jose State University.

## **Annual Philosophy Department Conference, May 7, 2011**

The theme was "The Responsibilities of Philosophy." Speakers, all of whom were from the Philosophy Department, SJSU, were Noam Cook "Philosophy and Its Responsibilities: Sustenance, Progress and the Great Pathology," Rita Manning, "J.S. Mill and Harriet Taylor as Public Philosophers," Anand Vaidya "Thoughts on philosophical method and responsibility," Tom Leddy, "Superficial and Deep Artification," Dan Williamson, "Fearless Speech," Peter Hadreas, Rita Manning, Noam Cook, Ho Kim (alumnus) "Without music, philosophy would be a mistake: Songs by Nietzsche: a performance and commentary," Janet Giddings, "Why Philosophy is Good for Religion, and Religion is good for Philosophy."

## **Department Prizes**

**The Herman Shapiro Memorial Scholarship Award winner for Spring 2010 -Albert Filice  
Spring 2011 – Dean Dominguez**

**The Temple Prize Spring 2010 - Kelley Farris  
Spring 2011 – Aaron Adams**

**The Lydia A. and George V. Pinto Scholarship  
2010 - Isabella Shin  
2011 – Fiza Najeeb**

### **Manor Prize**

**Spring 2010 – Andrew Erickson and Elizabeth Rard**

**Spring 2011 - Aron Garcia**

## **Philosophy Club**

In February the Philosophy Club met and developed various goals for the semester including a student conference in March, an issue of *Geist*, social events, a movie night in May, a pub crawl, a bike party, a dinner party, a discussion group, a camping trip, and attending the APA conference in San Diego (making a road trip out of it).

## ETHICS BOWL

Rita Manning writes: "The Ethics Bowl won first place at the regional competition in Chico California. It was a nailbiter of a day. We won two of our three morning rounds, then we ate a quick lunch across the street, while waiting to see if we'd made it into the semi-finals. I discovered that it's hard to eat and hold your breath at the same time. All the students got a chance to either present or rebut, but as we approached the final round, Cassandra got more and more nervous because she still hadn't done one. Well, her moment came when she got to present the case about banning coal and she pulled out all the stops. I knew we were in good shape when the other team's coach leaned over and said "pretty impressive." All of the team did a great job--Hiram was cool, calm and collected. Duy defended the Sea Shepards with firm grace. Aaron stuck to his guns even when it was clear that two out of three judges disagreed with him. Fiza defended pregnant athletes with righteous indignation. James rocked the vote with his case about compulsory voting and clinched the semi-final. All in all, I couldn't be more proud of them. So it's on to the finals in Cincinnati!" This year's team included philosophy majors Aaron Adams, Hiram Alvarez, Duy Nguyen, and Fiza Najeeb, and political science majors Cassandra Agbayani and James Gold. The students spent the year preparing for competition with assistance from Manning, Philosophy Lecturer Janet Giddings,

Senior Assistant Librarian Marci Hunsaker, and volunteer Tim Blackwood, a retired deputy district attorney. (Information taken from SJSU News.)

In Cincinnati, March 3: "The team completed the competition at the Nationals today with a record of one win and two losses. The losses were very close. Everyone did an outstanding job. We are observing the final rounds, as continuing preparation for getting there next year."

## Center for Comparative Philosophy

The 2011 Term  
SJSU Center for Comparative Philosophy Workshop/  
Conference Series  
Symposium *Daoism and Contemporary Philosophy*  
co-sponsored by SJSU  
Philosophy Department and the Dr. Chaote Lin  
Endowment was held on April 18. Speakers included Mario Wenning (University of Macau / University of Frankfurt,) "Heidegger and Zhuang Zi on the Nonhuman: Towards a Transcultural Critique of (Post)humanism," **Chanh Phan** (San Jose State University) "Wittgensteinian and Daoist Approaches to Language Games," **Marina Carnogurska** (Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia) "The Metaphysical Vision in *Dao-De-Jing* and the Modern Knowledge of the Fundamental Being," **Ava Chung** (National Taiwan University, Taiwan,

ROC) "Metaphors in Indirect Speech Acts in *Dao-De-Jing*," **Changfu Xu** (Sun Yat-Sen University, China) "Constructive Engagement of Marxist and Daoist Conceptions of Nature." **Todd Gullion** (Diablo Valley College) "Zhuang Zi's Account of Carver's Aesthetic Perception and McDowell's Position on Intuition." **Rongjie Lin** (Xiamen University, China) "Egalitarian Thought in *Dao-De-Jing*," **Jensen Chung** (San Francisco State University) "How Philosophical Daoism Can Contribute to the Development of Contemporary Theory of Communication," **Bo Mou** (San Jose State University) "Lewis, McDowell, and Lao Zi: Naturalism and Normativity"

Other events included 2011 Term of Beijing Roundtable on Contemporary Philosophy  
**Theme: "Classical Texts and Philosophical Interpretation"**  
Academic organizer: International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy  
Host & Co-sponsor: Department of Philosophy, Capital Normal University, Beijing, China  
(June 3, 2011; Capital Normal University, Beijing, China)

**Abe Stone**  
Department of Philosophy, University of California at Santa Cruz, "That the Objects of Mathematics are Determinate Deconstructions"  
March 2.

**Tom Leddy**, Professor of Philosophy, San Jose State University “Confucian Aesthetics from a Deweyan Perspective”  
February 17

**Chung-I Lin**  
Professor of Philosophy, National Chengchi University, Taiwan, ROC  
Topic: “Knowledge in Practice: *Lei* in *Mo-Bian*”  
January 27

**Alexis Burgess**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Stanford University, “An Alethic Account of Referential Success”  
November 16

**SJSU Philosophy Colloquium**  
**Rita Manning**  
Professor of Philosophy & Chair of Department of Philosophy, San Jose State University, “Juvenile (In)justice”  
October 26, 2010.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Noam Cook** writes “My paper on the debate about what computers can and can’t do has appeared in *Technē* under the rather Victorian title, “Turing, Searle, Wizard of Oz: Life and Custom Among the Automata—or How Ought We to Assess the Attribution of Capacities of Living Systems to Technological Artifacts?” In it I argue (among other things) that neither the Turing Test nor the Chinese Room enables us to conclude anything at all about whether or not

computers can be conscious, intelligent, etc. Another paper, “Making the Technological Trustworthy: On Pitt on Technology and Trust,” which is a commentary on Joseph C. Pitt’s treatment of trust and technology, has been published in *Knowledge, Technology and Society*. Two papers co-authored with my colleague Henk Wagenaar from the University of Lyden are about to appear. The first is called “Navigating the Eternally Unfolding Present: Toward an Epistemology of Practice”; the second, which is called “The Push and Pull of the World: How Experience Animates Practice,” develops themes in the first.

Last year, Professor Kazuyuki Kozawa from Aichi Gakuin University in Nagoya, Japan spent a sabbatical year at SJSU working with me on his research interests in the role of artifacts in social change. I’ve written on social change from the perspectives of culture and technology, so it was both challenging and productive to work with someone exploring common interests from a different direction.

Through Professor Kozawa, I have been invited to give two presentations in Japan this June, both on issues of knowledge and practice. The first at Aichi Gakuin University, in which I will argue that the problematic Western predilection for seeing knowledge as necessarily prior to and enabling of practice finds a fruitful alternative in the

work of the Japanese philosopher Nishida Kitaro, which enables us to treat practice as prior to the self and the world and thus to knowledge. The second is for a conference of the Japanese Society for Information Management (I’m trying to imagine what will happen when I tell them that “knowledge” and “information” are not synonymous).

For last year’s (2010) Annual Philosophy Department Conference I contributed a paper called “Animal Spirits and the Sorrows of Others: Keynes, Smith and Our Economic Future”. At this year’s (2011) Conference I gave a paper called “Philosophy and Its Responsibilities: Sustenance, Progress and the Great Pathology.”

This is my 14<sup>th</sup> season as a member of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Reflections on my experience in the chorus have found their way into some of my papers and presentations. Our recent recording of Mahler’s 8<sup>th</sup> Symphony won Grammy awards for “Best Choral Performance” and “Best Classical Album”.”

**Janet Giddings** .  
Beginning in 2009 and finishing in 2010 Janet is doing a one-year exegetical study of the Ignatius of Loyola Spiritual Exercises. Her plan is to write a paper for philosophy of religion on mystical or religious experience. For 2010-2011 she was on the Dominican University Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Board of

Directors. "We help raise money and support campus events that cultivate interest in the humanities." In January 2011 she was asked to be on the Dean Search Committee at Dominican. She read forty cover letters and CV's, made recommendations, and argued for them. The committee decided on four final candidates. Candidates were then brought to campus for a full day of interviews with faculty, deans, and the VP. On April 15, they found out our candidate was hired. Janet writes, "It was a huge time commitment and one of the most interesting and rewarding I have had in academia."

She also writes, "On April 21 at the regional APA in San Diego I gave a commentary on a paper, "Why Care for the Severely Disabled? A Critique of MacIntyre's Account." The author argues that MacIntyre's account is "inadequate" and my paper suggests that the author's prescription although interesting, is theological and therefore not an appropriate argument against MacIntyre. The author argues that only a Christian concept of "neighbor" addresses the question adequately."

## **Peter Hadreas**

Peter's non-teaching work has centered on two projects. The first of these is an application of group theory to consciousness. He believes he has a cogent group-theoretical account of Descartes' Cogito Argument and is working at applying group theory to other issues in the philosophy of mind.

His second project centers on Plato's dialogue, *Hipparchus*. This seldom-read dialogue provides a way out of the social labyrinth of greed. Scholars have doubted its authenticity, although in Hadreas' opinion, the better Plato scholars have understood its merits and have been hard-pressed to assign its authorship to anyone but Plato. The dialogue is inordinately condensed, but once its arguments are filled out, and its ironies unraveled, it is a remarkable curative.

Peter and his wife, Cathy, had the good fortune this past October to visit Tibet and the Chinese base camp of Mt. Everest. He thinks it is difficult to do justice to those remarkable days spent in Tibet. He wishes that whoever reads this will have the opportunity to visit this singular land and experience why it has been and remains, in spite of its untoward political occupation, a spiritual center of Buddhism.

**Tom Leddy** finished his book *The Extraordinary in the Ordinary: The Aesthetics of Everyday Life* which is scheduled for publication in the Fall. His "The Aesthetics of Junkyards," was published in a revised form in *Aesthetics: A Reader in Philosophy of the Arts* 3<sup>rd</sup>.ed. David Goldblatt and Lee B. Brown (Prentice Hall, 2011) and he was able to teach it for the first time in his Introduction to Aesthetics class. His "Everyday Aesthetics and the Sublime" appeared in *Aesthetic Pathways*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (June 2011) ed. Arto

Haapala and Christopher Stevens, 26-46. Tom gave a talk - "The Aesthetics of Confucius from a Pragmatist Perspective," in the Philosophy Department colloquium series on Feb. 17, and another on Aquarium Aesthetics at the American Society for Aesthetics conference at Asilomar in March. Much of his academic time Spring semester was devoted to studying and teaching the American Pragmatists and he enjoyed having a small but dedicated group of students to join him in that. Tom also wrote an art review of a show by his wife, Karen Haas, which was published in the online journal [Artshiftsanjose.com](http://Artshiftsanjose.com), followed by another on Hanna Hannah. He plans to do further reviews for that journal. He has completed a revision of his online article on John Dewey's aesthetics (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) and hopes to see it published soon. He also continues to be a Board Member for the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association.

**Tommy Lott** reports the following research activity:

**Conferences.** Panel on California Dreaming, *APA Pacific Division Meeting*, University of San Francisco, April 1, 2010. Author meets Critic Panel: Dan Flory, *Film Noir, Black Cinema and Philosophy*, *American Society for Aesthetics Conference*, Victoria, Canada, October 29, 2010. Symposium on John Coltrane, Northeastern

University, September 17, 2010. *Black Cinema Now Conference*, New York University, March 27, 2010. Panel on John Coltrane, Asian American Cultural Center, Oakland, May 30, 2010. Panel on John Coltrane, Yoshi's Filmore Cultural Center, October 12, 2010. "Race, Group Solidarity and Pan-ethnic Identity," California State University, Los Angeles, March 3, 2011.

**Publications** "When Bar Walkers Preach: John Coltrane and the Crisis of the Black Intellectual" in Leonard L. Brown, ed., *John Coltrane and Black America's Quest for Freedom: Spirituality and the Music* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), 99-122. "Comparative Aspects of Africana Philosophy and the Continental-Analytic Divide," *Comparative Philosophy* 2.1 (2011): 25-36. Review of Thomas McCarthy, *Race, Empire, and the Idea of Human Development* (Cambridge, 2009) in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2010.10.08).

## Rita Manning

**writes** "I am currently working on two projects: incarceration and immigration detention; a second edition of my book (co-authored with Scott Stroud, one of our MAs who now teaches in the Communication Dept at UT Austin), *Practical Ethics*. Here are recent talks:

"Punishing the Innocent: Collateral Damage to Children of ICE Detained

Parents," Larkin Lecture, Mount St. Mary's College, March 2011 "Care as a Moral Perspective," Mount St. Mary's College, March 2011 "Punishing the Innocent: Collateral Damage to the Children of Incarcerated Parents," Society for Women in Philosophy, November 2010. "Juvenile (In)justice", San José State University, November 2010.

## Bo Mou

Prof. Mou published "On Constructive-Engagement Methodological Strategy in Comparative Philosophy: A Journal Theme Introduction," in *Comparative Philosophy* 1.1 (2010): 1-32. <<http://www.comparativephilosophy.org/>>. He is also editor of *Comparative Philosophy: An International Journal of Constructive Engagement of Distinct Approaches to World Philosophy* (A peer-reviewed, open-access/non-profit international journal of philosophy; in English).

## Carlos Sanchez

Carlos has been busy over the last year. He was granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this past academic year—he thought that was a big deal! He published a number of papers dealing with themes in Mexican philosophy, phenomenology, and immigration and a book (a reworked version of his Dissertation). He assumed the role of Co-Editor of the American Philosophical Association's *Newsletter on Hispanic Issues in Philosophy*, and presented at a number of conferences. He also finished a book

manuscript on Mexican phenomenology, which is currently under review with SUNY Press, and is hard at work on a new monograph on the philosophy of immigration. He plans to finish that in the summer when his boys go on vacation!" Carlos wrote that in the Spring – hope it worked!

**Bill Shaw** has been spending the academic year as a Fellow at the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, doing research and participating in an on-going seminar on the ethics of war. Not quite ready to return to San Jose State, Bill will spend next academic year as a Fulbright fellow in Hong Kong, where he will be involved with the development of general education at the city's universities as they make the transition from a three-year to a four-year undergraduate system.

## Janet Stemwedel

Janet's incredible blog *Adventures in Ethics and Science* is to be found at <http://scienceblogs.com/ethicsandscience/> In addition (and this is quite an honor!) *Scientific American* has selected her "Doing Good Science" blog for its new network.

**Rick Tieszen** My book, *After Gödel: Platonism and Rationalism in Mathematics and Logic* (Oxford University Press), was published in April 2011. A paper, "Poincaré on Intuition and Arithmetic: une

'saine psychologie'?", was published in P-E. Bour, M. Rebuschi, L. Rollet (eds.), *Construction: Festschrift for Gerhard Heinzmann*, (College Publications, 2010) 97 - 106. An entry in the *Routledge Companion to Phenomenology* (Routledge), "Logic", S. Luft and S. Overgaard (eds.), is forthcoming. "Gödel's Path from Hilbert and Carnap to Husserl" is forthcoming in K. Cramer and C. Beyer (eds.), *Edmund Husserl 1859 - 2009. Neue Abhandlungen der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen* (de Gruyter). Another paper, "Monads and Mathematics: Gödel and Husserl" is forthcoming in *Axiomathes*.

I was one of the three commentators on Charles Parsons' *Mathematical Thought and Its Objects* at an "Author Meets Critics Session" of the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division meeting in San Francisco last April. In November I gave a talk on monads and mathematics at the Institut d'histoire et de philosophie des sciences et des techniques (IHPST/CNRS) in Paris. During this trip to Paris I participated, as an international consultant, in a three-day workshop that is part of an Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) project to transcribe and edit Gödel's unpublished philosophical notebooks.

I gave a talk on phenomenology and the philosophy of time at the 10th Annual SJSU Philosophy Department Conference last May 2010, and another talk on "The Place of Science in Analytic and Continental Philosophy"

in the April 2010 SJSU Center for Comparative Philosophy *Symposium: Constructive Engagement of Analytic and Continental Approaches in Philosophy*.

At the moment, I'm working mostly on the philosophy of time. I hope to publish at least a paper or two in this area. One of the topics that interests me most is the relation of 'psychological' or subjective temporality to time as it is understood in physics.

My classes this term (Spring 2011) are going well. The metaphysics and epistemology class, Phil. 149, is especially interesting.

## Anand Vaidya

published "Philosophical Methodology: The Current Debate," *Philosophical Psychology* 23:3 (Jun 2010): 391-417, and Understanding and Essence, *Philosophia* 38:4 (2010) 811-833. Anand spent the summer at the Central European University taking a research seminar on Justice: Theory and Applications. In addition, he is now working on a paper on the dependency problem for experimental critiques of *a priori* philosophical methodology.

## Dan Williamson

writes "I continue to pursue interests in the application of Foucault's later lectures on what he called "biopolitics." As it turns out, Foucault's remarks on this and related themes in recently published lectures given in the late 70s are altogether prescient of current political and social issues. Some of those insights directly apply to higher education in California, especially in this

economically challenging time." He gave a talk for the Institute for Social Responsibility and the First Annual Seminar in the Humanities on what Sir Michael Barber calls "Deliverology." This neologism is devoted to rendering higher education a privatized "quasi-market" designed for the student consumer, what Foucault calls in the lectures on "biopolitics" *homo oeconomicus*. I gave a talk on Foucault's later lectures for the annual Philosophy Conference. *Parrhesia* is roughly fearless/free speech, and its relevance to contemporary philosophy.

As I may have mentioned last time, I would like to get back to some basic metaphysics (Spinoza), continue my interests in ontology and do some work with Hannah Arendt, a philosopher that deserves far more attention at this time than she gets. A tall order indeed.

On the more amusing side, the graduate student who once wrote a thesis on Heidegger and the dangers of technology is now, happily, using a computer in class for occasional power-point and has a web page in Faculty Pages where I now dish out all of my assignments and links. Regarding the former, the students were complaining that they couldn't read my handwriting. Well, that's the way it goes, I guess. At least I know when to turn it off. I have published "An American Foucault," *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 26. 2 (Apr 2009): 189-207.



# Alumni News

The editor is eager to publish materials about alumni: please send to [t403@aol.com](mailto:t403@aol.com) or Tom Leddy, Department of Philosophy, 1 Washington Square, San Jose State University, San Jose, 95192 -0096

**Tamer Abuelata** is Co-Founder at MobileDx (medical devices) and a Software Architect at PolyCore Software.

**Richard C. Baldwin** (B.A.,1970) received his Juris Doctorate from Northwestern School of Law in 1975 and has been Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge from 2001 to present.

**Bob Bishop** B.A., Philosophy/Religious Studies, 1979, is a motivational speaker, magician, and educator. He has taught the Gifted and Talented students in the Boise School District for twelve years. He is also known as Idaho's Math Magician."

**Melissa Burchard** is Associate Professor, Philosophy Department, University of North Carolina, Asheville.

**Jonathan Brusco** teaches Grade 6 and Social Studies at The Harker School and says on his web site: "A third-degree black belt in Taekwondo, Mr. Brusco competed in that martial art at the national level. He also enjoys cycling, playing the

piano, reading and writing; he has written one novel and is working on his second. Mr. Brusco has ambitions to one day run for political office."

**Christopher Cloos** got accepted to the PhD program at U.C. Santa Barbara. He writes "I look forward to this opportunity, and I'm thankful for my time at SJSU. The program allowed me to find my way and grow philosophically. Much of my success in the UCSB program will be a direct result of my time at SJSU." Thanks Christopher!

**Jennifer Connor** B.A. received a Ph.D. in Social/Environmental Psychology from Claremont Graduate School and now teaches at Washington Institute of Technology.

**William Cornwell** who we reported on in the last issue is now chair of the Philosophy Department at Salem State University.

**Matthew DellaBetta** B.A., 2008, is a Student at University of California, Los Angeles - School of Law. He was a Law Clerk, U.S. Attorney's Office, N.D. California, U.S. Department of Justice, Agency; Law Practice industry Jan-Aug 2010.

**Daniel Ehrlich** M.A. is a second-year student at UC Riverside. He is interested in 19th and 20th century continental philosophy.

**Andrew Erickson** co-authored *Logic and Critical Reasoning* with Prof. Vaidya

through Kendall Hunt in 2011.

**Elle Falahat**, B.A., has been candidate for District Attorney Contra Costa County California, and is an Attorney in Danville.

**Albert Filice III** taught as an adjunct faculty member at Mesa Community College in Philosophy and Religious Studies.

**Timothy Fitzgerald** published *A Diamond in the Rough* a book on the recession that began in July 1981 in which unemployment went to 10.8 percent. This is the second volume in a trilogy memoir about his involvement in left political activism in San Jose. The first volume was *The Wawona Brotherhood: The San Jose State Campus Revolt*, and was about his experience at San Jose State in the 60s and 70s.

**Noah Friedman-Biglin** is studying Philosophy at St. Andrews in Scotland. His thesis is on Philosophy of Mathematics, Foundations of Mathematics.

**Richard Friedrich** gave the paper "Formulae-world, Life-world, and Metaphysics: Husserl's *Crisis* and its Contemporary Relevance," at Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, Arlington, 2009.

**Greg Garcia** received an MA, Education, University of Phoenix, in 2008, and teaches at LPS, San Jose.

**Ronald Grant** is a therapist who does counseling and psychotherapy in Los Gatos

**Daniel A. Guich** B.A. Philosophy-Psychology, has been in the Department of Psychology, Mission College since 1990.

**Craig A. Hansen** (B.A., Philosophy, 1996) works as an Associate for Beck, Ross, Bismonte & Finley, LLP. He was admitted to the bar in 2000, and received a J.D., University of San Diego, 2000.

**Nancy Teryl Harcourt** is Student Scheduling Advisor at the Fort Collins campus Institute of Business and Medical Careers (as of 2009).

**Noel Hendrickson** is, according to his web site “on the faculty of James Madison University, where he developed and now teaches a series of four courses on advanced reasoning methods for intelligence analysis (Hypothesis Testing, Causal Analysis, Counterfactual Reasoning, and Strategy Assessment). These courses serve as the “critical thinking” component of JMU’s Information Analysis major, which is designed to educate future intelligence analysts.” Noel’s graduate work was done at the University of Wisconsin where he earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Philosophy.

**Joel Hunt**, M.A. 2004, is a philosophy graduate student at University of Nebraska Lincoln. From his website:

“Prior to coming to UNL Joel taught graduate level theology courses for five years. Joel’s primary philosophical interest is philosophical theology. Joel’s other philosophical interests include hermeneutics, the philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, ethics and political philosophy.”

**John Hummer** BA, Philosophy and Psychology 1971 – 1984, is Deputy Secretary, Goods Movement, State of California.

**Michael Jordan**, M.A., 2000, has been at “National Hispanic University since the fall of 2000 and is currently the acting Chair of the General Studies Department. He is the faculty advisor for the Philosophy Club and the coach for NHU’s debate team.”

**Ramon Jimenez**, B.A., 2004, Santa Clara University School of Law, Juris Doctor, 2005-2008, Honors: SCU-Law Faculty Scholarships, 2005, 2006, 2007, has worked for J.E. Higgins Livermore, Intellectual Property Review since October 2010.

**Kevin Keith**, BA, 1991, is working on his PhD in Philosophy (Bioethics) CUNY Graduate Center. He received an M.A. in Philosophy from Georgetown in 1994, and published “Life Extension: Proponents, Opponents, and the Social Impact of the Defeat of Death” in *Speaking of Death: America’s New Sense of Mortality*, Michael K. Bartolos, ed., Praeger Publishers, 2009.

**Bhawana Kamil** according to the Muslim American Society web site is president of their Bay Area chapter. She has given public talks on such topics as ‘An Introduction to Islam,’ ‘Women in Islam,’ ‘Challenges Facing Muslim Youth in the West,’ ‘Geography of the Muslim World,’ ‘Islam and the Environment,’ ‘Muslim-American Identity,’ and ‘Understanding Shariah.’ She serves on the Interfaith Council for Economics and Justice (ICEJ) for the County of Santa Clara and is a member of the Speakers Bureau for California Interfaith Power and Light, an interfaith environmental advocacy group.”

**James Kellenberger** published *Introduction to Philosophy of Religion: Readings*, Prentice Hall, 2006.

**Chris Kinney** writes that he has been teaching as an adjunct philosophy instructor at Gavilan College and also for DeVry University.

**Anthony Korsund** was a chairperson and participant at the American Society for Aesthetics Pacific Division Meeting, Pacific Grove, California in April 2010.

**Tim Kunke** was accepted into the PhD program in Philosophy at University of Edinburgh.

**José López** is at Texas A&M and writes on his web site “My research interest in philosophy is the juncture between Pragmatism, Post-

structuralism, and Latin American philosophy.”

**Trung Le** is College Admission Consultant at Bay Area College Consulting.

**Arturo Pacheco**, B.A. 1965, Ph.D., Philosophy and Education, 1976, Stanford, teaches at University of Texas, El Paso.

**Geoffrey Prophter** writes on his web page that he is “a PhD student in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy. In addition, I am a research assistant on the Significant Features of Property Tax project. My concentration is in state and local public finance with a particular focus on consumption tax policy.”

**Laura Purdy** M.A. 1971, teaches at Wells College and has published many articles on bioethics, ethics, and feminism.

**Karl T. Pflocka** on his web site says he is “cum laude graduate of San José State University (BA, philosophy and political science, 1964)” and that he “served in reserve components of the Marine Corps and Air Force (1960-66) and with the Central Intelligence Agency (1966-72). He and his wife Mary Martinek reside in Placitas, New Mexico.” He is also a UFO researcher.

**Jesus Ramirez** was recently accepted into the University of South Florida's PhD program in Philosophy for Fall 2011.

**Sara Rettus** received a Ph.D. from UCSC in Summer, 2010. Her dissertation was “A Groundwork for the Ethical and Social Implications of Intimacy”

**Carolyn Robbins** is a graduate student at Emory. She gave “On Laws and Ladies: The Domestic Angel in Hegel and Nietzsche” at the annual meeting for the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, Arlington, Virginia, October 29-31, 2009.

**Tanya Rodriguez** has been at John Jay College, CUNY, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, since Fall 2007. She received her Ph.D. from University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

**Ruben Rutledge** is a Ph.D. candidate at the California Institute of Integral Studies. He is associated with Synchronized Chaos Magazine and specializes in Comparative Religions Studies.

**Philip Shoenberg**, B.A. and M.A. is at University of Mexico. He gave “Comments on “The Proto-Morality of Life: Primary Recognition in Axel Honneth’s Reading of Phenomenology of Spirit,” American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division Meeting, March 31 – April 3, 2010, San Francisco.

**Amber Simons** is a copy editor and opinion editor at the Spartan Daily.

**Michael P. Sipiora** B.A. and M.A.. His website says he also has an M.A. and a Ph.D. “in phenomenological psychology with a concentration in literature at the University of Dallas. He is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Duquesne University. Areas of teaching and publication include: the phenomenology of Heidegger, Hillman's archetypal psychology, classical rhetoric and psychotherapy, and cultural psychology. He has published work in *The Humanistic Psychologist* and *Philosophy Today*. He also has an essay in the recently published *Pathways into the Jungian World: Phenomenology and Analytic Psychology*, edited by Roger Brooke.

**Scott Stroud** is teaching in the Department of Communication Studies at University of Texas, Austin and published Stroud, S. R., “Argument in Ancient India: The Case of Śankara’s Advaita Vedanta,” *Ancient Non-Greek Rhetorics*, Carol S. Lipson & Roberta A. Binkley (eds.), Parlor Press, 2009, 240-264. Scott just published *John Dewey and the Artful Life: Pragmatism, Aesthetics, and Morality (American and European Philosophy)* Pennsylvania State Univ. Press (October 31, 2011).

**John Sullins** is an assistant professor at Sonoma State University who specializes in roboethics. According to John, by 2030, barring some global economic or climatic disaster, household robots are likely to be as ubiquitous as personal

computers were by the 1990's. He published "When is a Robot a Moral Agent" in *Machine Ethics* ed. Michael Anderson and Susan Leigh Anderson, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

**Sumser, John Robert**  
B.A. 1978, M.A. 1979, Ph.D., Sociology, SUNY, 1989, *Professor* Department of Communication Studies, California State University, Turlock, CA received a Fulbright Grant to the Czech Republic in 2010.

**Gary S. Rose** B.A. 1972, has been a member of the bar in Los Gatos for more than 20 years.

**Benjamin L Ten Cate**  
is a Computer Systems Maintenance Technician at Cabrillo College.

**JeanPaul Vessel** studied at SJSU 1989-1991 but got his BA at New Mexico State

University (June 1993). He received a Ph.D. in Philosophy University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 2003 and teaches in Philosophy at University of New Mexico.

**John Ward** is a graduate student in Philosophy at the University of Utah.

**Phil Williamson** is at the University of New Mexico. He gave "Rorty's Ironic Atheism: Towards a Neo-Pragmatic Philosophy of Religion," at the 12th Annual Meeting on Pragmatism, in November 2009, Sao Paulo, Brazil, comments on "The Proto-Morality of Life: Primary Recognition in Axel Honneth's Reading of Phenomenology of Spirit," at the APA Pacific Division Meeting in March, and comments on "Self-Awareness, Self-Understanding, and Self-interpretation," at the APA

Pacific Division Meeting, 2009. He is currently developing a thesis on Morton White.

## Emeritus

**Phil Davis** published *The Scalping of the Great Sioux Nation: A Review of My Life on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations* Rowman and Littlefield, 2009.

**Amnon Goldworth** published "The moral arena in the management of a brain-dead child" in *Ethical Dilemmas in Pediatrics: Cases and Commentaries* which he also co-edited with Larry Frankel, Mary Rorty, and William Silverman, Cambridge U. Press, 2009.



**San José State**  
UNIVERSITY

**Department of Philosophy**  
1 Washington Square  
San Jose, CA 05192-0096