



San José State
UNIVERSITY

**Newsletter:
Department of
Philosophy
San José State
University
November 2008**

Editor: Tom Leddy

**Letter from
Chairperson
Manning**

Many people have the mistaken impression that ethics, and Philosophy in general, is abstract, other-worldly and completely irrelevant to the real world. But it is becoming increasingly clear that Philosophy, including ethics, is not just a useful practical discipline, it is essential to every aspect of our lives. One example of this comes from the recent financial meltdown. Trust, which depends on the belief that others are going to do what is right, is the most important component of the market system. But like the air we breathe, people often don't think about trust until it's not there. Recently we've had a terrifying example of what happens when trust is lost.

As we slowly back up from the brink, let us recall that other famous text of Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*.

“When we are always so much more deeply affected by whatever concerns ourselves, than by whatever concerns other men; what is it which prompts the generous, upon all occasions, and the mean upon many, to sacrifice their own interest to the greater interests of others?...It is reason, principle, conscience, the inhabitant of the breast...It is he who...calls to us, with a voice capable of astonishing the most presumptuous of our passions, that we are but one of the multitude, in no respect better than any other...Without this sacred regard to general rules, there is no man whose conduct can be much depended upon. It is this which constitutes the most essential difference between a man of principle and honour and a worthless fellow. The one adheres, on all occasions, steadily and resolutely to his maxims, and preserves through the whole of his life one even tenour of conduct. The other, acts variously and accidentally, as humour, inclination, or interest chance to be uppermost. But if without regard to these general rules...what would become of the duties of justice, of truth, of chastity, of fidelity, which it is often so difficult to observe, and which there may be so many strong motives to violate? But upon the tolerable observance of these duties, depends the very existence of human society, which would crumble into nothing if mankind were not

generally impressed with a reverence for those important rules of conduct.”

This year the annual Philosophy Department Conference commemorates the 250th anniversary of The Theory of Moral Sentiments with a special focus on trust. See “call for papers” below.

**Hobert Burns
Obituary**

Hobert W. Burns, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, died at the age of 83 on October 14, 2008, from complications of a brain tumor. He retired from San Jose State University in 1983 having served here as Academic Vice President, Acting President, Professor of Education, and Professor of Philosophy. Dr. Burns earned B.A., M.A., and Ed.D. degrees from Stanford University, the last in 1957. Before coming to San Jose State, Burns taught and served as an administrator at Syracuse University from 1960 to 1963 and at Hofstra University, where he was dean of the College of Education, from 1963 to 1966. He and Francis Villemain established the journal *Studies in Philosophy and Education* in the 1960s. SJSU President Robert Clark appointed Burns to the newly created position of Academic Vice President in 1966. With the exception of one year, Burns served in that position continuously until his retirement from San Jose State in 1983. Burns was Acting President of SJSU in 1969-1970. Although he personally opposed the war in

Vietnam, he resigned as President on principle in May, 1970 when the faculty voted to relax academic requirements to give students time to protest the war. In 1972, Burns, as AVP, officially established the Women's Studies Program at San Jose State, and in 1975, he brought Francis Villemain to SJSU to head up the College of Education. Today we have an annual Philosophy and Education lecture in honor of Villemain. After retiring from San Jose State in 1983, he served as Interim President of Sonoma State University in 1983-84. In addition to his duties as an administrator, Burns published several books including *Philosophy of Education; Essays and Commentaries* with Charles J. Brauner (1962) and *Problems in Education and Philosophy*, also with Brauner (1965), and nearly one hundred scholarly articles, most in the philosophy of education. During his career Professor Burns always taught at least one class each semester, often a logic course. As Academic Vice President he directed the strengthening of the general education program at San Jose State. He insisted that the program contain a critical reasoning component and further insisted that it be taught in the Philosophy Department. Hobert Burns' career reflected distinction in administration, teaching, and scholarship. His leadership was crucially important in the transition of San Jose State from, primarily, a teachers college to the comprehensive university it is today. More recently, he and his wife,

Patricia, made a combined bequest of \$1 million to the Martin Luther King Jr. Library Campaign. In later life he was an avid golf fan and had an interest in genealogy. Aylette Villemain writes of him in the Mercury News Guest Book: "Solid academic grounding and a curious mind are a good start, of course, but he also had an unusually keen understanding of people and the sense of humor one needs to see clearly." Burns is survived by his wife and his children Janifer, Charlie and Carol.

--Lou Eastman

Our Philosophy Department Web

Site Address:
sjsu.edu/philosophy/

MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Contributions would be used to further faculty and student research projects including travel to conferences, visits to libraries, research assistantships, and purchase of books.

Donors should make their checks out to:

The Tower Foundation of SJSU with "Philosophy" in the memo position. (If "Philosophy" is not in the memo position the check will go to a "holding" place and never be processed.)

and mail them to:

Tower Foundation
 Division of University Advancement
 One Washington Square
 San Jose, CA 95192-0256

You may want to donate specifically to one of our awards funds: the Temple Prize, the Manor Prize, the Pinto Prize, or the Shapiro Prize. Please contact Prof. Manning for details. 924-4470 or
Rita.manning@sjsu.edu

Announcement and Call for Papers: Annual Philosophy Department Conference, May 2

The theme this year will be "Commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Adam Smith's *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*." We wish to highlight in this way our Institute for Social Responsibility and our ethics and political philosophy courses. Papers on the moral sentiments, issues of professional and business ethics, and personal ethics, as well as philosophical reflection on the current world situation are especially welcome. Faculty, alumni, and students are encouraged to submit papers. SJSU Faculty need only submit a paper title and a short explanation of the content of paper. The paper should be limited to 20 minutes presentation time. For others, papers under 3000 words should be sent by Jan. 30, 2009 to Prof. Tom Leddy, Department of Philosophy, San Jose State University, 1

Washington Sq., San Jose,
CA, 95192-0096 or to
tle403@aol.com

New Faculty Members

Thor Harris has an
A.A. from Cabrillo College, a
B.A. from UCSC, an M.A.
from University of Hawaii,
and is working on his PhD
from the same.

Fern Alberts
Jesus Ramirez
John Wilhelmsson

Selected Courses Spring 2009 (non G.E. upper-division and graduate courses)

Phil 112 American
Philosophy **Leddy**
Phil 114 Postmodernism
Hadreas
Phil 118 Latin American
Philosophy **Sanchez**
Phil 122 Social Justice
Manning
Phil 149 Knowledge and
Reality **Vaidya**
Phil 158 Philosophy of
Language **Mou**
Phil 190 Buddhist Ethics
Brown
Phil 290 Hobbes's Political
Theory **Lott**
Phil 292 Utilitarianism and
its Critics **Shaw**

Student NEWS

Christopher Cloos is a
member of the Society for
Student Philosophers, and a
paper he submitted for their
Annual Conference this past
Spring at the University of

Texas at Austin was accepted
for presentation. He also
participated in a workshop
this past Summer on
Philosophical Methodology
(also held in Austin). Other
grad participants were from
Rutgers, Brown, MIT, NYU,
Davis, UC San Diego,
Rochester, and UC Santa
Cruz. He was the only
participant accepted from a
State school.

John Wilhelmsson was
quoted in the article
"Councilman wants San Jose
libraries to block online porn:
Councilman Seeks Online
Filtering," by John Woolfolk,
Mercury News, October 21,
2007.

Forbes Magazine: For Philosophy Majors: Your Future is Bright.

Mathew Kirdahy of *Forbes*
wrote an article, "Entering
the Workforce: Selling Your
Philosophy Degree," March
27, 08 which begins "So, you
spent the last four years at
college pondering man's
purpose in the universe. Now
it's time to figure out how
you're going to turn that
knowledge into a paycheck
every two weeks. Have no
fear. The consensus among
the people with their fingers
on the pulse of the job
market, and those who live
the success stories, is that
your future is bright. And no,
it doesn't have to be at a law
practice. It would seem that
most employers are keeping
an open mind these days and
in some instances even
preferring a broad-based
academic background.
**Mark Charnock, president
and general manager of**

**MonsterTRAK, a division
of Monster.com, said
philosophy students fit a
profile that employers are
seeking more and more.
MonsterTRAK is an online
resource dedicated to
connecting college students
and recent graduates with
the right employers."**
**Byrne contends you're
better off than the non-
philosophy majors.
"You come equipped with a
great set of mental
muscles," Patrick Byrne,
chief executive of
Overstock.com.,
who earned a bachelor's
degree from Dartmouth
University, with a double
major in philosophy and
Asian studies, is also quoted
as saying, "[the philosophy
major comes] equipped
with the ability to learn in
new and unfamiliar areas.
Typically, you come with
the ability to express
yourself well, to write well
and to think deeply about
problems and to sort of get
outside the box of where
everybody else is."**
Thanks to Alum, John
Stumpf for the reference!

Philosophy Department Listed

Our department is now listed
as one of those in "Graduate
School Programs in
Continental Philosophy" in
the web site for the Society
for Phenomenology and
Existential Philosophy,
ssep.org

Villemain Lecture

RANDALL R. CURREN
of the Department of
Philosophy, University of
Rochester will speak on

“Forms of Knowledge and Ways of Flourishing” for the *17th Annual Francis Villemain Distinguished Lecture*, February 24, 2009. This lecture is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, the College of Arts & Humanities, the College of Education, and the Institute for Social Responsibility.

Department Prizes

The Herman Shapiro Memorial Scholarship Award winner for Spring 2008 was Jesus Ramirez.

The Pinto Award prize-winner for Fall 2007 was Rocio Alvarez

The Manor Prize (for Outstanding Logic Student of the Year) went to Santiago Balcarce.

The Temple Prize winning paper for Spring 2008 was Chau Nguyen (paper title: "A Defense of Margolis's Ontology of Art")

Teaching Associates in Spring and Fall 2008: (Graduate Students who teach their own class.)

Spring: Eric Cowdery, Daniel Ehrlich, Carl Flygt

Loren White, Brenda Hood, Matt Pfiffner

Fall: Zac Callaghan, Sean Omweg, Mike Pankrast, Jon Saulnier, Daniel Ehrlich, Carl Flygt, Brenda Hood, Matt Pfiffner

Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Club at San Jose State University Last semester (Spring '08) philosophy graduate and undergraduate students came together to revive our dwindling Philosophy Club. The club's revival was the brainchild of many students, but special mention must be given to Sean Omweg, whose dedication to the idea made it a reality. In February the club held official elections in which we elected Sean as the President, Noah Friedman-Biglin as Vice-President, Brenda Hood as Treasurer, and Rocio Alvarez as Secretary. Sylvia Rodezno, Jose Lopez, and Matthew Pfiffner were also elected to serve as the club's P.R. coordinator, event planner and web master, respectively. Once elections were complete, the club set out to organize several events which included a monthly movie night, social gatherings, an end of the semester BBQ, and a camping trip. On top of these more social events, the club also became a source for information regarding the various philosophical events occurring at San Jose State University (i.e., the SJSU Philosophy Colloquium

Series) and around the Bay Area and the country in general. The Philosophy Club has also been a forum for students to come together for a variety of purposes including: providing a place for graduate students to come together and prepare for the Comprehensive Exam, informal reading groups to explore the interests of members (readings included works by Homer, Schopenhauer, and Emerson), and support groups for students preparing for Ph.D. programs. We also presented prizes and awards to the faculty at the end-of-year banquet in recognition of their talents and efforts. Last, but not least, the Philosophy Club has decided to revive the student journal, *Geist*, and expects to have an edition out by next spring.

After a successful semester, the Philosophy Club expects to continue to provide students with a meeting place for community and support. This semester we plan to have new elections, and we look forward to continuing our past traditions, and hopefully creating new ones. For example, the philosophy club is going to co-host Mosaic's "Word Poetry" on December 4th.

ETHICS BOWL

Professor Vaidya reports: "This year we have an Ethics Bowl team for the competition to be held at NHU. The team consists of Sam Canty, Katie Holmes, William Jelavich, Salman Haqqi, and Robert Buzzard."

Center for Comparative Philosophy

The Center for Comparative Philosophy (CCP) was formally established in November 2007. Since its inception the CCP has sponsored a lecture series of five lectures; presented a workshop on faculty research; established a website (www.sjsu.edu/humanities/centers); developed a flyer and brochure; co-sponsored a conference (with the Philosophy Department) on comparative philosophy; co-sponsored an international conference on the methodology of comparative philosophy in Beijing, June 2008; co-sponsored a panel on comparative philosophy at the 22nd World Congress of Philosophy in Seoul, Korea, August 2008; and began various fund-raising activities—setting up a fundraising subcommittee, and applying for one outside grant.

SJSU Philosophy Colloquium Series & Lecture Series of the SJSU Center for Comparative Philosophy, Fall 2008

On Sept. 30 **Edward Zalta** (Senior Research Scholar at Center for the Study of Language and Information, Stanford University /

Principal Editor of *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*) spoke on *Ontology Without Tears: A Solution to the Problem of Abstract Objects*

On Oct. 28, **Tommy Lott** (Professor of Philosophy, San Jose State University) Spoke on *Race and Pan-ethnic Identity*

Future Talk:

CCP Lecture (2007-08: II) & Philosophy Colloquium

November 21, Friday, 3:15-5:15 pm, 2008 / King Library, Conference Room 255

Speaker: Xiaogan Liu (Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Research Center for Chinese Philosophy and Culture, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
Topic: *What is Lao Zi's Ziran (Naturalness): from Ancient Text to Modern Implication*

FACULTY NEWS

Janet Giddings

took a class at Stanford over summer. The class was entitled, The Modern Self, and the main reading was the book by Charles Taylor, Sources of the Self, and supplemented with Kant, Heidegger, Schopenhauer. My analysis of the course and the book by Taylor is that there were no women included in Taylor's (or the

professor of the course) analysis of how the modern self developed.

Peter Hadreas

writes that he “was invited to read my paper, “The Hellenic understanding of noble shame (aidōs) and its social implications,” at a conference at the University of London in June, 2008.

Peter writes that “Julian Candy reviewed my book *A Phenomenology of Love and Hate* at length in the Journal of Consciousness Studies ending up with a recommendation beyond my wildest dreams. In a review for which I’ll be eternally grateful, Candy concludes: “and anyone, our leaders not least, who needs to understand terrorism rather than merely label it as evil will benefit from the constructive framework it [this book] provides for the development of countermeasures that go beyond defensive security and military repression.” Can it be? Vice President Cheney, have you got a few minutes to talk about Husserl? Hmmmm. I don’t think so.

In connection with the Institute for Social Responsibility, Ethics and Education, I’ve been very grateful to help develop a University-wide course called Climate Solutions Initiative. This course is currently being taught by faculty from six different SJSU colleges. Each faculty member works with a team of five students. UNVS 196D pilots an exciting, if somewhat precarious, voyage. The question of its

mission: Can intense multi-disciplinary studies yield environmental activism?

I'm also very grateful to those students who met in directed readings last semester (Spinoza's ethics) and this semester (Lacan). Our meetings have been haphazard but intellectually keenly rewarding.

Tom Leddy writes "I presented 'The Aesthetics of Junk and Roadside Clutter,' in the Philosophy Department Colloquium in the Fall, at the American Society for Aesthetics at Asilomar, and then published it in *Contemporary Aesthetics*. <http://www.contempaesthetics.org/newvolume/pages/journal.php> Vol. 6, 2008, May 17. I also published a book review on Russell Quacchia's *Julia Morgan, Architect, and the Creation of the Asilomar Conference Grounds* in *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*.

The big event for the year was presenting my paper "Everyday Aesthetics and the Sublime," at the International Institute of Applied Aesthetics, Summer School, "Everyday Aesthetics," Lahti, Finland, June 2008. I was excited that University of Helsinki paid me to be one of the plenary speakers at this conference. The paper will be published in a book put out by Helsinki. My wife, Karen, and I afterwards travelled by train to St. Petersburg to see the great Hermitage Museum and other sights (including Catherine the Great's amazing garden in the town of Pushkin) and then by bus to Estonia, returning by way of Helsinki where we were

able to see some marvelous Finnish architecture.

I also gave a response paper to Christopher Stevens' "Revising Aesthetics' Place Amongst the Disciplines: Aesthetic Values, Moral Obligation, and Everyday Aesthetics," at the American Society for Aesthetics national meeting, Los Angeles, October, 2007 and participated in a panel on Truth with Professors Tieszen and Mou at the SJSU Philosophy Department Conference in the Spring.

I was very much stimulated by my Aesthetics seminar last semester. Several of the students commented on parts of my book draft on the aesthetics of everyday life, which I am now trying to publish. I was also pleased that six students from that seminar attended that aesthetics conference at Asilomar.

Rita Manning

writes "*A Guide to Practical Ethics: Living and Leading with Integrity*, Westview Press, 2008, the book that I co-authored with one of our very talented alums, Dr. Scott Stroud, came out in January. Professor Hadreas wonders if Dick Cheney wants to discuss Husserl. I'm aiming higher. If anyone out there is six degrees of separation from the incoming administration, have we got a book for you!"

Bo Mou

writes "During 2008, I completed two multiple-year book projects which I authored and are forthcoming in 2009. One is a monograph in the area of the philosophy of language and metaphysics: *Substantive*

Perspectivism: An Essay on Philosophical Concern with Truth (in the "Synthese Library" monograph series to be published by Springer in Netherlands). In this book, I give four case analyses (of Tarski's, Quine's, Davidson's and Daoist approaches) and then elaborate a new theory of truth which I label 'substantive perspectivism'. The other forthcoming book is a reference/textbook in Chinese philosophy: *Chinese Philosophy A-Z* (Edinburgh University Press in UK); this book is a concise alphabetic guide to the main concepts, figures, topics and important movements of thought in the whole history of Chinese philosophy.

Also during 2008, two books for which I am contributing editor have been published. One is *History of Chinese Philosophy* (Routledge in UK; coming out in October 2008); this book is a five-year project, presenting a comprehensive, authoritative and updated examination of the major movements and thinkers that have shaped Chinese philosophy over the last three thousand years. In this book, I contributed two research essays: <1> "On Some Methodological Issues Concerning Chinese Philosophy" (pp. 1-39); (2) "Constructive Engagement of Chinese and Western Philosophy: A Contemporary Trend Towards World Philosophy" (pp. 571-608). The other edited book is a research anthology *Searle's Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy: Constructive Engagement* (Brill in Netherlands). In this book, I contributed my "theme introduction" (pp. 1-14.) and

one research essay (pp. 405-430).

There is another edited volume (in Chinese) that came out in 2008: *Truth, Meaning, and Method: Selections from the Philosophical Writings of Donald Davidson* (The Commercial Press in Beijing, China). In this edited collection, I selected 22 representative essays of Donald Davidson and organize them into five closely related subjects in his philosophy (I assume principal translator of most of the selected essays and proofreader of the other translations).

Besides the aforementioned research works, a research essay, "A Methodological Framework for Cross-Tradition Understanding and Constructive Engagement," will appear in the anthology volume *Worldviews and Cultures: Philosophical Reflections from an Intercultural Perspective*, edited by Nicole Note, et al (Springer; forthcoming in December 2008), pp. 69-85.

George Pinto

announced that his wife Harriet gave birth to a baby on April 13, named Aidan Ferens Pinto.

Carlos Sanchez

Carlos Sanchez (Assistant Professor of Philosophy) has kept busy this past year. Now entering his third year as a faculty member, he finds himself more and more involved in University bureaucracy: he is the Chair of a University Committee

(Arts and Humanities GEAP), serves on the President's Inclusive Excellence/Diversity Plan Design Team, and is on the Search Committee for a Director of SJSU's Educational Opportunity Programs. But it's not all bad: he is also the Department's Graduate Program Advisor (with Noam Cook) and this gives him pleasure, as he is able to interact with all of our wonderful graduate students. Outside of the University, Carlos sits on the Board of Directors for the Center for Employment Training, a national organization specializing in training and empowering the proletariat. Recently, Carlos has been nominated to serve on the American Philosophical Association's Committee on Hispanics, an advisory committee for the American Philosophical Association which monitors the status (research, hiring, and inclusion) of Hispanics in (US) philosophy. Aside from service, in the last year Carlos has published papers in *Continental Philosophy Review*, *Human Studies*, *Online Journal of Health Care Ethics*, and *Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology*. He has forthcoming papers in *The Heythrop Journal*, *Dissidences: Hispanic Journal of Theory and Criticism*, and in three anthologies (Marquette University Press, Indiana University Press, and Fordham University Press). All of his work deals either with Mexican philosophy or Husserlian phenomenology. Away from work, this past year Carlos has taken up jogging with Jesus Ramirez

(3 miles every other day), bicycling to work (he loves his bicycle dearly), and eating lots of salmon. He's now working on his first book, which will focus on Mexican philosophy. But what he really enjoys is spending time with his son, Julian, who is 2. Carlos and his wife, Alicia, expect their second child in May of next year.

Janet Stemwedel

is on sabbatical this year: good luck Janet on your projects!

Rick Tieszen

writes "Since last Spring I have published two invited papers papers, "Husserl's Concept of 'Pure Logic'", in V. Mayer (ed.), *Edmund Husserl: Logische Untersuchungen*, Akademie Verlag 2008, 9-26, and "The Intersection of Intuitionism (Brouwer) and Phenomenology (Husserl)", in M. van Atten, P. Boldini, M. Bourdeau, and G. Heinzmann (eds.), *One Hundred Years of Intuitionism (1907-2007)*, Birkhäuser 2008, 78-95. Another paper is forthcoming, "Mathematical Realism and Transcendental Phenomenological Idealism", in L. Haaparanta and M. Hartimo (eds.), *Phenomenology and Mathematics*.

I was invited to lecture in the *Semana de la Fenomenología*, Universidad de Puerto Rico, October 2008, and participated in a panel discussion there on *Analytic Philosophy and Phenomenology: Prospects for Their Interaction*. My

lecture was entitled "Elements of Gödel's Turn to Transcendental Phenomenology". This conference in Puerto Rico was very nice, but we had to reschedule one of the days because hurricane Omar was threatening. Fortunately, Omar took a turn and headed out into the Atlantic. At the invitation of the California Phenomenology Circle, I also presented this lecture on Gödel at the annual meeting held in San Luis Obispo, April 2008.

At the moment, I am making good progress on a book manuscript, tentatively titled *After Gödel: Platonism and Reason in Mathematics and Philosophy*.

I was fortunate and honored to be named the 2007-08 SJSU University President's Scholar.

My classes this term are all enjoyable. Intermediate Logic, a reading group on William James' *Principles of Psychology*, and another reading group on Frege and Mill are especially rewarding.

Anand Vaidya

writes: "I spent the summer teaching a new summer course on epistemology, which allowed me to write a new paper on philosophical methodology. I delivered the paper at a conference in Germany in September. This fall I am teaching a new course, Contemporary Philosophy, which covers various movements in 20th century philosophy." Anand recently published "Modal Rationalism and Modal Monism," *Erkenntnis: An International Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, vol. 68,

no. 2, pp. 191-212, March 2008, and was co-editor of *Ancient Philosophy: Essential Readings with Commentary* (Malden MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.)

Dan C. Williamson

writes "I continue to be interested in social ontology understood as the nature, structure and fundamentals of collectivities as they apply to a Foucauldian idea of resistance and self-fashioning. In that vein, I have been reading an extensive amount of background material in philosophy and sociology. I had concentrated some of my effort on a reading of Emmanuel Levinas and the concept of the Other in his ethical-phenomenological work. I've found some amount of shared philosophical terrain between him and Foucault, despite the different approaches of genealogy and phenomenology.

From around late spring up till now, I have been pursuing several other interesting projects. I researched and read widely about the Presocratics, Ancient Greece and especially ancient Greek religion as discussed in Jane Harrison's classic work *Prolegomena to the Study of Early Greek Religion*. This was in preparation for the Philosophy 70a course I am teaching this Fall of '08. But it also dovetails with related interests in what Foucault cites as the *epimelia heautou*, the care of the self in his later works. So far, I have submitted one work for possible publication in a

volume of papers originally presented at the APA's Society for Lesbians and Gays in Philosophy. This work first analyzes some salient contemporary problems with identity and then moves to a consideration of Foucault's later work. I am now working on a paper that responds to Rorty's characterization of the "American Foucault" to be submitted to a quarterly shortly. I argue that the real "American Foucault" involves a radical concept of self and transformation exemplified in several iconic American thinkers such as Thoreau and Whitman. This I link with Foucault's work on self-fashioning and the care of the self. Foucault is not exclusively aligned in the USA with--given Rorty's reading--a more 'placid' liberal conception. Instead the "American Foucault" does involve the Nietzschean (and in Rorty's interpretation, European) register of thinking "inhuman thoughts"—those thoughts not yet thought by humans. I am hoping this article will be accepted and published next year.

I want to continue to examine the nature of groups in their philosophical fundamentals, but I'm also going to be busy with yet another project; in this case getting ready to teach AMS/Hum/Env 159, Nature and World Cultures, over in Humanities. I'm taking a point of departure from Thoreau as well as World Cultures, and post-colonial discourses, using materials from recent work in Anthropological Environmentalism, definitely some poetry and maybe even

some wild Mike Davis, *The Ecology of Fear*. Perhaps this will become the ground for teaching Environmental Ethics, something I've wanted to do. Whichever way, I'm enthused about doing it!"

Emeritus Faculty

Phil Davis published "William James and a New Way of Thinking about Logic." *Southern Journal of Philosophy*; Fall 2005, Vol. 43 Issue 3, p337-354. Phil writes that he has been doing research on what is called "Federal Indian Law" and is devoting three chapters to the issues involved in his book on *The Scalping of the Great Sioux Nation*. He is particularly interested in how to compensate the Indians for injustices done to them, particularly by General Custer.

Alumni News

The editor is eager to publish materials about alumni: please send to tle403@aol.com or Tom Leddy, Department of Philosophy, 1 Washington Square, San Jose State University, San Jose, 95192 -0096

Kisa Amin (formerly Conrad) is owner, with her husband, of Silk Road Bistro, Halal, Indian/Pakistani Food 87 E San Fernando St., San Jose.

Nick Rotsko is starting his second year of law school at UT Austin.

Al Frankowski wrote in June that **Francine Wien** gave birth to Emile Adrian Wien-Frankowski today (June 6th, 2008) at 3:26 pm at Sacred Heart in Eugene, Oregon. He is 8.5 pounds, 20 inches long and a pretty mellow fellow so far.

Kathleen Sullivan (BA, 1973) is an adjunct professor in the Philosophy Department at Webster University, Saint Louis. She received an M.A. from Saint Louis University in 2001.

Scott Stroud accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position at the University of Texas-Pan American in the Department of History and Philosophy starting in the fall. He also published a book, co-written with Rita Manning, that came out in 2008: *A Practical Guide to Ethics: Living and Leading with Integrity*. He also held the fourth annual Society for Student Philosophers Conference at UT Austin March, 2007, with Thomas Scanlon (Harvard) as keynote speaker.

John Schrupf BA Philosophy 12/1993, now located in Ceres, CA, writes that he went into Human Resources. He got a Masters in this field at Columbus in 2002. He remembers Prof. Manning's Ethics class and the discussions they had. Peter Hadreas was one of his favorite teachers: he still

remembers the class on Nietzsche.

Nikhil Thakur was an MA student in Philosophy from 1997-1999. He recently completed his doctorate in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the California Institute of Integral Studies.

John Sullins is now chairperson of the Department of Philosophy at Sonoma State University.

Jennifer Connor teaches at the Washington Institute of Technology. She received a Ph.D. in Social/Environmental Psychology from Claremont Graduate School and an M.A. in Psychology from SJSU

Richard Payne continues to teach at the Institute of Buddhist Studies and Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. Richard has a Ph.D. in History and Phenomenology of Religion, Graduate Theological University.

Eric Palfreyman writes "I'm attending Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law, in Dallas, TX. The faculty is great, the program is really fascinating, but I am reading like a fiend. The philosophical thinking you guys instilled in us at SJSU is serving me in good stead, though. There is a real connection between some philosophical reasoning and some legal reasoning. A brother of mine earned a law degree from USC in Southern California. He had lunch with

the Dean of the Law School and asked him what he thought the best undergraduate preparation would be for a law degree. He said the Dean's unhesitating answer was Philosophy, hands down."

John Daniel Ward is currently a graduate student in philosophy at University of Utah. He gave a paper "Poetry, Philosophy and Utility: The Role of John Stuart Mill's Theory of Poetry." at the John Stuart Mill Bicentennial Conference, University College, London, April 5-7, 2006.

Trung Le (MA 2005) is a lecturer at San Jose City College, Diablo Valley College and De Anza College.

Greg D. Garcia is the English Department Chair and a board member at Leadership Public Schools in San Jose. In addition to teaching English, Greg is also the staff sponsor for the LPS Martial Arts Club. He is pleased to blend his unique background as a 5th degree black belt, entrepreneur, and amateur philosopher, in order to create a unique classroom experience.

Local Conferences and Philosophy Talks

American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division Annual Meeting: Pacific Grove, California

The Pacific Division of the American Society will hold its annual conference, April 15-17, 2009, at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California. To attend: go to aesthetics-online.org/ The program chairperson is Sherri Irvin at sirvin@ou.edu

STANFORD

PHILOSOPHY
Colloquium & Lecture
Series: takes place Fridays at 3:15. Next up is December 5: Ned Block, New York University, Title: TBA
Co-Sponsored with the Departments of Linguistics and Psychology. Check philosophy.stanford.edu for information on other collquia.

Information about Stanford's logic seminar is at <http://www-logic.stanford.edu/logic-seminar.html>

American Philosophical Association

The Pacific Division calls for volunteers to chair and comment at its 2009 meeting, which will take place April 8-12 in Vancouver, Canada. To volunteer or to obtain more information about the meeting, please visit the Pacific Division's web site, apa-pacific.org



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