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Philosophy News



Note From the Acting Chair

1999-2000 was an eventful year for us. It was my first year as acting chairperson while Bill Shaw was in Zimbabwe. We put together the Department Self-Study and had a visit from an outside evaluator, Prof. Craig Ihara of CSU Fullerton. Putting the self-study together made us realize just how impressive we really are. The President's Scholar award for best researcher in the university went to the Philosophy Department for two years in a row: Bill Shaw in 1998-1999, and Tommy Lott in 1999-2000. We also carried out a national search for a tenure-track position. After having three candidates visit the campus we finally offered the job to Dr. Bo Mou (University of Rochester). Welcome to the Department, Bo! Bill decided to stay in Zimbabwe one more year, and so I became acting chair again. We are doing another national search for an assistant professor (area of specialization is open). We will also be having our first alumni conference in the Spring (see pg. 12).

Tom Leddy
Department of Philosophy
San Jose State University

Report from 1999 Temple Prize Winner

Tanya Rodriguez was accepted to the Ph.D. Program at University of Minnesota. Here is a selection from her report on her first year. "I just finished for the year! They haven't killed me yet. I survived Gödel's incompleteness theorems, Tarski's whatever, and that thing about Lob. I also managed to take a class on the nature of art criticism. I took a year of history, first ancient, then modern. Next Fall I will TA for Marcia Eaton's intro to aesthetics class and take a seminar with her on representation. I will also taking Helen Longino's science seminar. Everything seems a lot more difficult...Oh well, starting at State was difficult as well. I really like everyone here. It seems like they are all much smarter than I, and yet I persevere!"

Winners of Department Prizes 1999-2000

Temple Prize

This year's winner of the temple prize was Peter O'Sullivan for his paper "The Road to El Dorado (...is paved with good intentions)." This paper was deemed the best paper written for a philosophy class by a student in his/her junior year. The prize was \$400. There was a "small, civilized gathering" honoring the

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Temple Prize paper at the end-of-year Banquet.

Shapiro Prize

Sandra Garrison won the Shapiro Prize. Sandra is current President of the Philosophy Club and editor of both volumes of *Geist*.

Pinto Prize

Carlos Sanchez won the Pinto prize. It was awarded to him in the Fall and he was recognized at the Spring banquet. The Pinto prize is given to a student who has a commitment to social justice and intends to go on to a Ph.D. program.

Department Web Site

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

Wayne Yuen is our web-master. He has redesigned the web-site with many new features. We now have a bio-ethics page designed by Bari Holm. For faculty, students, and users of Clark Library there is on-line access to the Philosopher's Index. There is a page on opportunities for students who are over 60. Check out the pictures of Athens in Tom Leddy's web page.

Alumni In the News

Simon Osvich continues to be active as President and co-founder of Animal Emancipation, Inc. located at 5632 Van Nuys Blvd. Suite 50, Van Nuys, CA 91401.
aeinc@mainnet.com

<http://www.envirolink.org/arrs/ae/index.html>

This organization is famous for protesting against rodeo and circus brutality against animals.

Brian Prosser published "Chary about Having to Do with 'The Others': The Possibility of Community in Kierkegaard's Thought" in *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 39:4 (1999) 413-427. He argues that genuine connectedness to others is required for Kierkegaard's individual.

Spring 2001 Non-General Education Courses

Phil. 118 Latin-American Philosophy Carlos Sanchez, Wed. 7:00-9:45.

Phil. 126 Environmental Ethics and Philosophy Rita Manning, TR 12:00-1:15

Phil 149 Knowledge and Reality Joe Waterhouse, MW 1:30-2:45

Phil 158 Philosophy of Language Bo Mou, Tuesday 4-6:45

Phil 190 Seminar in Philosophical Classics Kant Rick Tieszen Tuesday 7:00-9:45

Phil 290 Seminar in Philosophical Classics: British Empiricism Richard Greene, Thursday 7:00-9:45.

Phil 292 Advanced Seminar in Value Theory: Hermeneutics (Continental Theories of Interpretation) Tom Leddy, Monday 7:00-9:45.

would show them at their house if enough people express interest.

Jarrett Brock is enjoying being in the Faculty Early Retirement Program. He still teaches two classes every semester but is relieved to be off all committees.

Noam Cook's most recent and forthcoming publications are: "Technology, Tradition and Craft: Part of What a Flute Is" in *Technologies and Traditions: Essay on the Philosophy of Local Material Culture*, Andrew Light and Edrie Sobstyl (eds.), Rowman & Littlefield, (in press, scheduled for late 2000). "Local Knowledge—Global Innovation" (with Robert S. Bauer). Reflections (in press, scheduled for the Winter 2000 issue). "Gijyutsu Kakumei to Gutenberuku Shinwa." Japanese translation of "The Internet, Technological Revolutions and the Gutenberg Myth" in *Internet Dreams*, Mark Stefik (ed.), MIT Press, 1999 [orig.1996]. "Bridging Epistemologies" (with John Seely Brown) *Organizational Studies*, Vol. 10, No.4, July-August 1999, pp381-400.

His works in progress for journal or conference submissions include: "Technology and the Ellipse of Place: The California Central Valley as Megamachine" and "Turing, Searle and the Wizard of OZ: Life and Custom Among the Automota—Or—On the Attribution of Human Capacities to Technological Artifacts."

In May of 2000, Cook gave an invited presentation on "Information, Knowledge, and Learning" as part of the colloquium series of the Information Systems Program at UCLA.

Faculty News

Gary Albright and his wife Priscilla have been to Paris, Pakistan, and Western China. They have slides of the mountain areas and

Cook is a member of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. A CD of their performance of music of Charles Ives is due out this year. In February 2001, he will travel with the Symphony and Chorus to New York City where they will give two concerts at Carnegie Hall.

Lucius Eastman is now Associate Dean in the College of Humanities and Arts.

Richard Greene has been coaching the San Jose State Ethics Bowl team. The team is currently preparing for the Regional Championship, which takes place this December at CSU Chico. "As always, I am working on issues of skepticism. In particular, I am working on criticisms of contextualist solutions to skeptical problems. I have also been doing research on a priori knowledge, focusing primarily on Bonjour's recent work. Finally I have been involved in forming a philosophical society – the Society for Skeptical Studies. We will be holding annual meetings at the Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in joining or participating."

Peter Hadreas's

"Deconstruction and the Meaning of Music," is slated for publication in Vol. 37, no. 2 of *Perspectives of New Music*. He has submitted a number of papers to journals: "Aristotle and Incest," to *Philosophical Psychology*, "The Essence of Pleasure: Aristotle's Functional Definition of Pleasure in Nicomachean Ethics, Book X," to *Ancient Philosophy*, and "Aristotle on the Vices and Virtue of Wealth" to *The Journal of Business Ethics*.

As most people in the department know Peter is also a playwright. He

just completed a comic adaptation of Racine's *Athaliah*, retitled, "Athaliah, the Mad Proto-Feminist."

Peter received a diversity grant from the College of the Humanities and Arts, in December, 1999, and used it to attend the Husserl Archives in New York City during June 12-18, 2000. He researched unpublished Husserlian monographs on race and capacity of human consciousness to constitute alien cultures as "sub-human." This research is currently being organized into a paper on the phenomenology of racism.

Doug Henslee developed two courses he has not previously taught: Philosophy of Science and Environmental Philosophy. He also participated in the Faculty Mentor Program.

Tom Leddy. They said it couldn't be done, but I have been enjoying my job as Acting Chair of the Department in 1999-2000, and again in 2000-2001. Ask me again in May. Last semester I taught a seminar on Nietzsche, which was quite enjoyable, and this semester I am teaching Philosophy of Art. I plan to teach Hermeneutics (Continental Theories of Art and Interpretation) in the Spring. My research interests have varied, although always centered in Aesthetics. I was interviewed on gardens as art by Richard Whitacker, editor of *Works + Conversations* No. 3 (March, 2000) 14-20, 58. There were even pictures of me in my office! I reviewed a few books, including "The Psychology of Art Appreciation" by Bjorne Sode Funch, *The Journal of Aesthetic Education* 34:1 (2000) 118-120 and three recent books in architectural aesthetics in *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 58:1 (2000) 79-83. I published three

pieces on interpretation: (1) "Against Surface Interpretation." *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 57:4 (1999) 459-465. Peggy and Myles Brand replied in an article that followed. (2) I critiqued another theory in "Iseminger's Literary Intentionalism and an Alternative," *The British Journal of Aesthetics* 39:3 (July 1999) 219-229. (3) My third contribution took on an entire journal issue! "Naive Realism in Philosophy of Literature," *Philosophy Today* (Spring 1999) 100-107.

I continued to publish on architecture in: "Architecture as Art" *Architecture and Civilization* ed. Michael Mitias (Rudolpi, 1999) 25-42, and had fun publishing a piece titled "Kant on Tattoos, Architecture and Genderbending" for the *Newsletter American Society for Aesthetics* (Summer, 1999) 8-10. I also gave papers at American Society for Aesthetics conferences: "Donougho on Creativity," at the Pacific Division, March 2000, and "Ellen Spitz's Inside Picture Books" (about children's picture books) in Washington, D.C., Oct. 1999. Closer to home I enjoyed giving a talk titled "Aesthetics Today As I See It" at The San Jose Intercollegiate Philosophy Club, San Jose City College, in November.

I have two articles forthcoming: "The Nature of Everyday Aesthetics" and "Metaphor and The Philosophy of Art: Dynamic Organicism," [in THEORIA ET HISTORIA SCIENTIARUM, International Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies: special issue METAPHOR]

Jim Lindahl submitted a paper, "Beyond the Rationality Debates: A New Approach to Translation" to *African Philosophy*. He is also trying

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to get his paper "Virtue Ethics, Technology, and the Self-Cleaning Cat Litter Box" published. Jim was editor of the campus newsletter *Multicultural Forum*, 99-00.

Tommy Lott's recent work on race issues, cultural studies and African-American philosophy earned him the 1999-2000 **President's Scholar award**. Tommy has recently published several books on issues concerning race: *The Invention of Race: Black Culture and the Politics of Representation* (Blackwell, 1999) and *Subjugation and Bondage: Critical Essays on Slavery and Social Philosophy* (Rowman and Littlefield, 1998), *Contemporary Philosophers on Race* (Blackwell, 2000), and with Robert Bernasconi, *The Idea of Race* (Boston: Hackett Publishers, 2000). He is Guest Editor of a Special Issue on Race and Social Theory *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 22.2 (Fall 2000). He has published several articles, including "Du Bois and Locke on the Scientific Study of the Negro" *boundary 2* (Fall 2000) and "Kara Walker Speaks: A Public Conversation on Racism, Art, and Politics," *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire* 3.1 (Spring 2000). This fall, Tommy is on leave from SJSU. He will be working on a scholarly edition of the dissertations of important African-American aesthetician Alain Locke. He will also be teaching two classes at U.C. Berkeley.

Rita Manning has one paper and one book review forthcoming: "Rousseau's Other Woman: Collette in Le Devin du village," and "A Review of Differences that Matter by Sara Ahmed." Her big event last semester was giving the keynote address at the Hong Kong Hospital Authority Convention: Quality in Practice. She also addressed a

session of the convention on the topic of ethical issues in the care of dying patients. Rita was program chair for the Fall 1999 meeting of the Pacific Division of the Society for Women in Philosophy.

Ruth Manor. This summer I went again for a month to the Center for Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh. I have submitted and received a large 4-year grant from the Israel Science Foundation, awarding about \$20,000 per year, covering mostly research assistants, for a project on "A 'foggy' and indeterminate model for vague terms". In addition, I have been awarded a \$4,500 research grant from Tel-Aviv University.

Mike Newkirk's Philosophy of Religion textbook was finished and is currently under review for possible publication in Fall 2001. He attended and participated in the Society for Women in Philosophy conference at Cabrillo College in Oct. 1999.

George Pinto published a short essay and four poems in The Goan Forum, an internet group of Goan writers and scholars. He continues to serve as Vice-President of the College of Arts and Humanities Alumni Board. George is also currently President of the Goan Institute of San Francisco and editor of the quarterly newsletter. He is Chairman of the Board for two groups: the Joseph Nalk Vaz Institute (Berkeley) which promotes minority representation in mainstream religions, and the Goa Sudharop Community Development Fund which promotes small business, historical preservation and sustainable development of Goa.

Dick Schubert developed a course he hasn't taught before:

Science, Technology and Human Values. He continues to do research on the issue of Globalization and the effect that such organizations as the World Bank and the IMF have on the economic development (or lack thereof) of third world nations. He has a new indigo colored iMac in his office and is a happy camper.

Bill Shaw, Chair of the Philosophy Department, is spending a second year in Zimbabwe as director of the CSU program there. He reports to the department regularly. Although the country is having troubles, the university in Harare is peaceful. Prof. Shaw published "Is Hypocrisy a Problem for Consequentialism?" in *Utilitas* 11(3) 340-346, Nov. 99. The eighth edition of his and Vincent Barry's *Moral Issues in Business* (Wadsworth, 2001) just reached the Philosophy Department office. How can something have a publication date in 2001 when it already exists in 2000? He also published "Funktionelle Erklärung" in W. F. Haug, ed., *Historisch Kritisches Wörterbuch des Marxismus* (Hamburg: Argument Verlag, 1999), pp. 1167-1173. He published his 600 pg. *Readings in Philosophy of Law*, 3rd ed., with John Arthur (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall 2000).

Bill gave an address: "Utilitarianism and Rights," at the University of Zimbabwe, February 2000.

Barbara Scholz spent part of her summer travelling to winter in Australasia to pursue her interests in the philosophy of linguistics. Not that she had to face serious winter weather, though, because the part of Australia she visited lies in the lovely semi-tropical northeastern state of Queensland.

The main reason Barbara crossed the Pacific was to attend the annual

meeting of the Australasian Association for Philosophy at the University of Queensland's campus at St. Lucia. There she gave a paper entitled 'Making syntax explicit: neglected alternatives in the philosophy of linguistics' (co-authored with her linguist collaborator Geoff Pullum).

After the conference ended, she stayed on in Brisbane for three more weeks doing research and writing in the peace and quiet of Brisbane's beautiful western suburbs. By the end of July she had finished up a commissioned article called 'Philosophy of linguistics,' which is to appear in Macmillan's forthcoming Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science. Then it was back home to Santa Cruz to recover from jetlag and complete yet another paper, on certain philosophical issues related to language acquisition. That was finished just in time for the first day of classes. Who needs a quiet life.

Mary Ann Shukait is exploring placing her syllabus and her class notes on the department website, expanding her use of message boards and email. Mary Ann is a Board Member in the Institute for Social Responsibility. She has volunteered to be in the Faculty Mentor Program.

Rick Tieszen "I was invited to the Netherlands last December to participate in the (very formal) doctoral thesis defense of a student who studied with me when I taught there on my last sabbatical. While there I presented a paper on "Phenomenology and Intuitionism" at a conference on Phenomenology and Mathematics. I was invited to give a talk on "Gödel and the Intuition of Concepts" to the History and Philosophy of Logic Working Group at UC-Berkeley last Spring. I

gave the same talk later in the semester to the Logic Lunch group at Stanford.

In April I was invited to a reception in the philosophy department at Harvard to mark the publication of a book I co-edited, *Between Logic and Intuition: Essays in Honor of Charles Parsons* (Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Recent publications include "Gödel and Quine on Meaning and Mathematics" in *Between Logic and Intuition*, and "Review of L.E.J. Brouwer: *Geometer, Mystic and Intuitionist*", in *Philosophia Mathematica*.

Forthcoming publications include "Intuitionism, Meaning Theory and Cognition", *History and Philosophy of Logic* and "The Philosophical Background of Weyl's Mathematical Constructivism", *Philosophia Mathematica*.

I have completed a paper, "Gödel and the Intuition of Concepts", and I am writing a long paper on "Husserl's Logic" for the *Handbook of the History and Philosophy of Logic*, to be published by Springer Verlag in six volumes. I have begun work on a paper on consciousness, Penrose and Gödel for a volume entitled *Consciousness and Phenomenology*. A paper on Husserl, Heidegger and technology is also in the works.

I am editing a special issue of *Philosophia Mathematica* on phenomenology and mathematics. The volume should appear next year.

I've been teaching Intermediate Logic, the Seminar in Logical Theory, Phenomenology, and Science, Technology and Human

Values. These classes have been very enjoyable.

Andy Ward is currently on the faculty of the Cognitive Science Program and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the School of Public Policy at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta GA. He has had a very successful year in research and scholarship. Two articles were published, one jointly with a former SJSU graduate student, Brian Prosser. These were: "Kierkegaard and the Internet: The Role and Formation of Community," in *Challenges of Information Technology Management in the 21st Century*, edited by Mehdi Khosrowpour (Hershey, PA: Idea Publishing Group, 2000), pp. 908 – 910. (with Brian Prosser), and "Naturalism and the Mental Realm," *Southwest Philosophy Review*, v. 15, n. 1 (January, 1999), pp. 157– 167. He has had a number of articles accepted to various journals on pragmatism, truth, skepticism, ethics and relativism, and again on Kierkegaard. He has given a total of seventeen papers at conferences since 1999! Two examples are: "Conceptual Models, Reasoning and the Problem of Deriving Normative Claims from a Naturalistic Base," to be presented at the Model-Based Reasoning, Scientific Discovery, Technological Innovation and Values Conference, Pavia, Italy, May 17 – 19, 2001. "Hume's "Proof" of the Causal Relation," presented at the 27th Annual International Hume Conference, Williamsburg, VA, July 24 – 29, 2000.

Joe Waterhouse is having a great time this semester teaching the graduate seminar on epistemology and metaphysics. He is focusing on the theories of Quine, Davidson and Dummett. He will be leading a

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background discussion on Davidson's "What Thought Requires" in preparation for Davidson's visit. Joe led one philosophy camping trip this summer at Bridal Veil Falls in Yosemite.

Dan Williamson writes

I am currently teaching two sections of Contemporary Moral Issues, one section of Introduction to Philosophy and one section of Business Communications through the College of Business. I also teach a distance learning class through College of San Mateo, "Ethics in America," Phil. 246TV.

This last summer I was able to get substantial work done on the first part of my book on Gay Identity and Michel Foucault. The tentative title is "Identity Transformed." I carefully re-examine Foucault's work with my own reading of his works that I started developing in my dissertation, "An Ethics of Resistance."

Also receiving my attention is an article titled "Why Plato is Still Worth Reading and Teaching" as well as another article on Foucault, nominalism and repetition, both for academic press.

Visiting professor: Prof. Anthony Chennells visited from the University of Zimbabwe during the Fall '99 term. He taught the Philosophy of Literature course, focused entirely on African literature.

Deceased Faculty

Retired Professor **Ved Sharma** died in Oct. 1999. Several friends of Prof. Sharma gave gifts to the Philosophy Department in his honor. Ved specialized in aesthetics and had a deep love of Mozart. He was also an avid tennis player and an anglophile. Ved was born in Lahore (which is now in Pakistan) and had to flee when India and Pakistan were divided. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. He is survived by his wife Krishna, and his children Vena and Vikram.

New Tenure-Track Appointment

With the recent appointment of Prof. **Bo Mou** as Assistant Professor, the department is expanding its offerings of courses in Asian and comparative philosophy, as well as the Philosophy of Language. Prof. Mou has a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester (1997), and MA. from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China (1987), and a B.S. in Mathematics from the PLA Institute of Technology. Mou has edited, and written the introduction for, *Two Roads to Wisdom: Chinese and Analytic Philosophical Traditions* (Open Court, 2001). He has also published a number of essays on Chinese philosophy in professional journals, given many conference presentations, and was recently awarded a research grant on Chinese philosophy from the Pacific Cultural Foundation. His most recent article is "A Metaphilosophical Analysis of the Core Idea of Deflationism" *Metaphilosophy* 31:3 (2000) 262-286.

Institute for Social Responsibility, Ethics and Education

The Philosophy Department continues to be one of the main participating departments in the ISREE (formerly the Institute for Social Responsibility). In 1999-2000 this organization sponsored several lectures on important social issues, such as C.J. Rogers on affirmative action, Walter Wilson on racial profiling, Larry Blum on racism, Chet Bowers on the environment, Asa Kashar on military ethics.



Hemlock cups: Athens (from the site of Socrates' prison)

Retired Professors

Arthur Cody reviews *The Conscious Mind* by David Chalmers, and Chalmers replies. Cody's review can be found in *Inquiry* 40:379-405, 1997. Here is a quote taken from Chalmers' website, with Chalmers' response:

<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~chalmers/>

"Cody takes me to task for focusing too much on simple experiences such as those of color, and not on rich and complex experiences such as those of

emotional response, which he says raise very different issues. I am sympathetic here, but I think nevertheless that most of what I say in the book still applies. (Except, as I say in the book, that it is not obvious how emotions and the like are to be treated in the informational framework.)”

Amnon Goldworth published “Informed Consent in the Genetic Age” *Cambridge Healthcare Ethics* 8 (3), 393-400 in the Summer of 1999. Amnon is Senior Medical Ethicist in Residence, Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Palo Alto. His paper “The Ethics of In Vitro Fertilization” was published in *Pediatrics in Review* (1999). The full text is available at

<http://pedsinreview.aapjournals.org/cgi/content/full/20/8/e28>

He is on the editorial board for *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*.

Peter Koestenbaum has been very active as a consultant on business leadership issues. He is founder and Chairman of PiB (Philosophy in Business), the Koestenbaum Institute, and the Leadership Diamond (a program of leadership awareness). He has published *Leadership: The Inner Side of Greatness*. (Jossey-Bass Management Series, June 1991). An interview of Peter by Peter B. Raabe from June 26, 2000 appears at <http://www.philosophynews.com/whip/pc/ARCHIVED/pc200006.htm>. Koestenbaum is now at work on a new book, tentatively titled "Diamond Reverse Engineering."

See his web-site at <http://www.pib.net/offering.htm>

Department Colloquium

Spring Colloquium Series

January 27, 2000 “Consequences of Brouwer's Intuitionism for Mathematics” Dirk Van Dalen, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy and Mathematics Universiteit Utrecht, The Netherlands (Co-sponsored by the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science)

March 22nd “W.E.B. Du Bois' Anthropological Notion of Race” Professor Tommy Lott, SJSU 2000

April 26th “Moral Philosophy Between Dewey and Kant” Richard Rorty, Stanford, Comparative Literature

Fall 2000 Colloquium Series

Diana Raffman, Philosophy, Ohio State University “A New ‘Hard Problem’ About Consciousness” Sept. 13, Wed., 4:00 p.m. The University Club.

Donald Davidson, Slusser Professor of Philosophy, University of California Berkeley “What Thought Requires” (Two copies of the lecture manuscript are available at the department office.) Oct. 24, Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. Council Chambers at the Student Union.

Thomas Leddy, Professor of Philosophy, San Jose State University, “The Red Dust: A Problem in the Ontology of Art” Nov. 15, Wed., 4:00 p.m. FOB 104.

Peter Hadreas, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, San Jose State University, “Husserl and the Phenomenology of Racism” Dec. 6, 4:00-6:00 FOB 104.

Student News

Roger Lemus writes that he has a new addition to his family, four month old baby, Madison Rose Lemus. (Christopher John is four years old now.) He has been attending the JITC seminary in San Jose; however, because of the newborn he has taken some months off. “Philosophy has, without a doubt, been a beneficial tool for me. Both in disciplining my mind and speech to communicate effectively and clearly my ideas in and out of the classroom.”

Rebecca Wolpinsky Weds

Rebecca Wolpinsky married David Terrell. Several Philosophy Department faculty and students attended the reception on Aug. 27.

Chico Ethics Bowl Winners

Following is a slightly edited account of the Chico Regional Ethics Bowl Competition held Dec 3 & 4, 1999 at Chico State as reported by Wayne Yuen:

Well some of you may know that today, (Saturday Dec. 4th) the SJSU Ethics Bowl Team, which I am a part of, went to CSU-Chico for the Ethics Bowl. Let me tell you it was rough. In the first round, both Chico teams had scored 112 points, and we were at a big fat zero. Going into the second round was kind of intimidating since they had such a lead, but we did well. We fought tooth and nail, and eventually it came down to a matter of 23 points... And we won! So for the second year in a row, the SJSU ethics bowl team, this year consisting of myself, Vlad, Grady, and Ben, has taken 1st place in the Chico regional competition!

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GEIST: UNCOMMON SENSE VOL. II

Editor Sandra Garrison and Assistant Editors Gary Buzzell, Dirk Bruins, Tony Nguyen, and Wayne Yuen have put together another fantastic issue of *Geist*. Articles include:

Tony Nguyen "Letters on the Truth of Being Human," Matt Talbert "Another Look at Kant on Lying," Scott Stroud "Moral Theory and Practice: Cross-Cultural Analogues in Kantian and Ancient Egyptian Moral Philosophy," Michael Jordan "Condemned to be Homeless?: Is Heidegger a Pessimist?", Melanie Morra "The Ethics of Resistance,"

Jim Dix "Thoughts on Feminism and Human Values," Dirk Bruins "God as a SETI Being," Tony Nguyen "Thinking as Commemorative," Brian Prosser "Friends, Enemies and Strangers: A Response to Sanchez's Analysis of Ortega y Gasset's Man and People"

Deadline for the next issue is Feb 1, 2001. GEIST, Department of Philosophy, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0096

<http://www.intellectease.com/geist>

If you are interested in purchasing a copy please contact the Philosophy Department.

Terri McGregor Donation

Mr. and Mrs. Ron McGregor donated books and computer equipment of the late Terri Jolene McGregor of Mountain View. Terri, born in 1962, was a Philosophy Ph.D. from SUNY Binghamton (1995). Her dissertation, under Steven Ross, was "The Poetics of Loss." She had published poems in such journals as *Timberline*, *Laurel Review*, and *Nimrod*. Her parents are putting together a collection of her poetry.

The Department is thankful for these materials. The copy of the *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* is particularly useful and will be housed in the Chair's office. Terry's books, ranging from postmodern studies to works on fairy tales, have been distributed to interested faculty and students. The computer is already in use. Thanks to the McGregors for this memorial act.

D'Arpino Essay Contests

In 1999-2000 Chick D'Arpino sponsored two essay contests through the Department of Philosophy, the Department of Physics, and the Religious Studies Program. Is there an objective answer to the question, "Does God exist?" Bill Flemming, who is working on his second BA in physics, won this contest. Bill's conclusion was that "there is no objective answer of the question of whether God exists."

In the Spring of 2000 the question concerned whether God should be a factor in the scientific search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. Dirk Bruins won this contest and presented his ideas to a large audience in the Science building.

The Fall 2000 contest will be on the topic of why the following sentence is true or false: "Either God exists or does not exist." The prize will be \$250.

Thank you Chick D'Arpino for funding these contests!

First Ever SJSU Philosophy Alumni Conference

We are having a one-day conference and dinner on Saturday, April 28, 2001. The focus of the conference will be on alumni accomplishments. There will be a session in which alumni can give 10-minute presentations about their philosophical interests or how they use philosophy in their current endeavors. Anybody who wants to give a 10-minute presentation will be scheduled: just give us a title. We are also calling for 20-minute papers in any topic in philosophy. 20-minute papers will be refereed. Or come and participate in some other way. **Deadline for submission of paper and/or registration Feb. 15.** We are working to find an interesting key-note speaker. More information to come.

Donations to Department

The Philosophy Department has many needs that cannot be met by University Funds. In particular, we like to provide prizes to students for excellent work. There are more good students than we have prizes. We also can use funding for our Colloquium series. This series has been partially funded by the College of Humanities and Arts, but no on a regular basis. It would be particularly valuable if we could have funding for an annual conference in Philosophy or for a special alumni event.

Please send donations to Prof. Thomas Leddy, Department of Philosophy, 1 Washington Square, San Jose, California 95192-0096.

Alumni News

1940's

James Hood, BA 1940, retired as a high school math teacher. He says his education in philosophy enriched his life.

Geraldine Caligaris, BA 1948, is just enjoying life in Los Altos, CA. Alan Stewart, BA, 1949, is a retired school teacher and building contractor.

1950's

Geraldine Luziette (nee Anderson), BA 1950, studied philosophy at Stanford after graduating from SJSU and went on to get an MA in Art and is currently painting. She tells us that "philosophy is a wonderful prelude to art as art deals with some of the 'big' questions". Dr. Fallico's classes changed her focus from law to philosophy.

Gordon Laurence Clemens, BA 1955, is the owner of a concession company in Kings Canyon National Park. He says that philosophy gave him a foundation for life.

1960's

James Kellenberger, BA 1960, Professor of Philosophy, CSU "My undergrad work at SJSU prepared me for my career in Philosophy. The inspiration of Frank Ebersole was especially significant for my development."

Jim Kerr, BA 1961, is the morning host and news director of KNCO Newstalk 83 in Grass Valley.

Linda Lorenzetti, BA 1963, is a student services professional at Stanford University where she consults and tests user applications for their Administrative System. She says that philosophy was a great background for branching out and would definitely be a philosophy major if she had it to do over.

Jerald W. Cloyd, BA 1967, MA 1970, PhD 1975, is teaching in the Corrections Department in Los Gatos. He says philosophy taught him to enjoy life more because he sees things from a philosophical perspective.

Perry Weddle, (graduation date unknown) PhD., U. Nebraska, is now emeritus, Philosophy, CSU Sacramento. His specialties are Metaphysics, Epistemology, Critical Thinking, Logic, Philosophy of Language, and Aesthetics. His *Argument: A Guide To Critical Thinking* was published in 1978. Perry started the Critical Thinking program at CSU Sacramento and was active in writing the statewide requirements for general education students

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Richard Schubert, BA 1969, MA 1971, received his Ph.D. from University of Illinois in 1977. His dissertation was Presupposition and the Russell-Strawson debate. Dick has been teaching at SJSU since 1978.

Laura Purdy, graduation date unknown (1970?). She currently works as an ethicist at The Toronto Hospital. The material on Dr. Purdy appears in the Toronto Hospital website. "Dr. Laura Purdy is Bioethicist at The Toronto Hospital, the Princess Margaret Hospital/Ontario Cancer Institute, and The Toronto Hospital/University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics. She is also Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. Her Ph.D. in philosophy is from Stanford

University (Philosophy, 1974). For almost 20 years, she has been Professor of Philosophy at Wells College in Aurora, New York. She is the author of many articles and three books (*In Their Best Interest? The Case Against Equal Rights for Children*, Cornell University Press, 1992; *Feminist Perspectives in Medical Ethics* (with Helen B. Holmes), Indiana University Press, 1992; and *Reproducing Persons: Feminist Issues in Bioethics*, Cornell University Press, 1996). Dr Purdy is an internationally recognized expert in bioethics and women's health. With her move to Toronto, she is broadening the focus of her scholarship to include problems unique to cancer, transplant, heart disease, neurosciences, and primary care, as well as more general issues, such as end of life care, that cut across such boundaries." She has appeared numerous times in the media, for instance, "Is the Fertility Business Out of Control?" *Jane Hawtin Live*, June 1 1999

Gordon Plount, BA 1972 (?), recounts a piece of artwork he once sent to Hugh Hefner at *Playboy* magazine. "Philosophy began to get me involved. I'm still involved, but I don't write letters to Hefner." Gordon continues to send photocopies of his latest artworks to the Philosophy Department.

Gil Villagran, BA 1971, is currently Manager of Community Development & Relations for the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency as well as a lecturer at SJSU College of Social Work. Gil says he valued his education in philosophy and still refers to his thirty-year-old textbooks to understand the issues of our time.

Carol Bowman Willis, BA 1972, MA 1976, didn't give any updates, but she still resides in the area.

Georgia Cisne, BA 1972, resides now in Flora, Illinois, is active in the DAR, the Audubon Society, the AAUW, the Daughters of the

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American Colonists, Federated Women's Club and Girl Scouts. She celebrated her 85th birthday on September 11, 1999 and credits philosophy with helping her to keep a level head.

Paul Newberry, BA 1972, MA 1979, received his PhD in Philosophy from Claremont in 1995. He is currently teaching at Cal State Bakersfield. He recalls Herman Shapiro being asked by a student whether he resents truck drivers for making more money than him. Professor Shapiro replied "But they have to work for a living. I'm doing what I love." He tells us that "an education in philosophy helped me to see that life is profound, that few questions have been answered, than much of what we encounter is more complex than we think, and that a meaningful life can be created."

Stanley Murai, BA 1973, works for BMC Software in the QA department. Before that he taught college English and Linguistics at various colleges including several years in Iran and mainland China. He says "I still remain an academic at heart; the background of concepts whether technical concepts or ideological notions is something I can grasp more fully with a background in philosophy."

Eric A. Meece, BA 1973. Eric went on to receive an MA in 1979. Eric heads The Holistic Arts Fair, a non-profit organization. The organization will hold a fair on the weekend of Oct. 1. The proceeds will be donated in part to the Center for Living with Dying, with the remainder going to the Divine Science Community Center.

Dale Okuno, BA 1974, is President and CEO of E-Z Data Inc, a software development company focusing on CRM for the insurance and financial services industry. He says that philosophy was useful and practical and taught him how to think and how to examine his life.

Richard Payne, BA 1972, MA 1975, is now Dean, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Graduate Theological Seminary "despite my best struggles to avoid it, logic has in fact proven very important in further intellectual endeavors. Also, I continue to work in methodology of the study of religion which involves epistemological concerns as well as the philosophy of science; one of the areas our Institute is exploring now is that of Buddhism and Science, and I am personally doing work on comparative logic (Indian Buddhist logic and natural kinds theory)."

Bruce Epperly, BA 1975, is Adjunct Assistant Professor in Theology, Georgetown University. Bruce received a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School. His web-site at <http://ctr4process.org/p&f/bruce.htm> says "Rev. Bruce G. Epperly, Ph.D has served as a university chaplain, college professor, and spirituality and health consultant. Currently, he serves as Interim Minister of Christ Reformed United Church of Christ in Cavetown, MD. He is an adjunct professor in theology at Georgetown University, Georgetown University Medical School and Department Psychiatry, and Wesley Theological Seminary. As Director of the Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health, Dr. Epperly consults with physicians, nurses, and persons with spiritual and physical crises. He is also a master/teacher of the Usui System of Reiki Healing. His most recent book is *At the Edges of Life: A Holistic Vision of the Human Adventure*.

Michael Sipiora, BA 1976, MA 1978, went on to get a PhD in Psychology at the University of Dallas. He teaches and practices an existential-phenomenological approach to psychology. Each fall he teaches *Being and Time* to forty plus graduate students at Duquesne University. He looks back at his time here as "an exceptionally formative experience".

Katherine M. Badriyeh, BA 1970, MA 1977, went on to do further graduate work at U.C. Riverside. Katherine, who lives in Santa Rosa, now teaches creative writing to developmentally delayed adults at Cedars of Marin. She sometimes finds it helpful to engage in philosophical discussion with her clients. Katherine remembers Prof. Ved Sharma talking about how the first time he heard Mozart he didn't get it, and then later he did. Her M.A. thesis "Anti-Skeptical Theory of How and When we Know" in dialogic form was published in *Dialectica* in 1982

Albert Elihu left the MA program in 1979 (Hey, Albert, it's never too late!). He is the owner of a kitchen, bath, and construction firm in Los Angeles.

Stephen K. Nichols, BA 1979, lives in Boise, Idaho and works as a Marketing Engineer at Hewlett Packard Company, Inc.

1980's

Alexander Cassimus, BA 1980, is a Human Resources Site Manager at Orchard Supply Hardware. He continues to read and write in phenomenology.

Robert Wasley, BA 1980, with a second major in History. Robert is a Consultant/instructor in the industrial safety and health field. "I have been able to achieve a much greater sense of perspective on our current period of development and what it means for the future."

Leila Parello, BA 1982, MA 1985 teaches philosophy at Grossmont College in El Cajon, CA. She also teaches Ballet part time. She credits her time as a tutor in the Logic Lab for giving her the confidence to become a logic and critical thinking instructor.

Beverly E. Gallo, MA 1984, currently teaches philosophy at California State University, San

Bernardino.

David Danielson, BA 1984, received an MA in Philosophy from The Claremont Graduate School, and a Ph.D in Philosophy from Summit University of Louisiana. He has a tenured position teaching philosophy at College of San Mateo.

This is found at his web-site: "I have been teaching at the College of San Mateo for 10 years. Teaching at CSM is professionally exciting. The students have varied interests and backgrounds which challenge me to make the study of philosophy relevant and meaningful for a wide range of persons. This diverse classroom keeps me learning, thinking and searching.

I came to study Philosophy as an undergraduate when I found it was a safe place to ask questions and pursue understanding and meaning. No matter what else I studied, I kept coming back to the great ideas and questions with which Philosophy engages. After twenty years as a "student", I still find it fascinating. I now have a much better grasp on all that I don't know."

John Hummer, BA 1984, is the Special Project Manager, Freight Services and New Initiatives at North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. He says that philosophy helped him think more clearly but it also terrified him when he confronted his mortality.

James Lindahl, BA 1986, PhD 1999 University of Western Ontario. Jim is teaching at SJSU since 1998.

Brent Rothert, BA 1988, went on to get a BS in Mechanical Engineering and is a process engineer supporting laser welding technology at Stillex Microwave Systems in Palo Alto. He credits philosophy with making his life richer and helping to see it as a whole rather than a series of unrelated episodes. He mentions the fact that philosophy is usually

grouped together with Religion and the Occult in bookstores and writes, "I sometimes get the impression that people assume that as a philosophy major, I spent four years studying Nostradamus and the zodiac with Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell!"

Timothy Perkins, BA 1988, currently working for SRI Consulting, a subsidiary of SRI, Menlo Park, says philosophy affected his life very positively.

Dan Williamson, MA 1989, received his PhD in Philosophy from the University of California at Riverside in 1996. He is currently teaching at SJSU.

Anthony Nispel, BA 1989 is instructor for Goodwill's adult job-training division. Anthony was named Outstanding Volunteer of 2000 for the Tree Amigo Program from Our City Forest. The Tree Amigo volunteers have helped to plant 12,000 shade trees in the City of San José. Also, they have donated thousands of hours helping with the City of San José's 2000 Trees for the Millennium Program. Anthony writes: "I would not trade the impact, insight, and inspiration I have gained through reading the classical philosophers for anything."

1990's

Karen Creech, BA 1990, works at Kazan, McClain, Edises, Simon, and Abrams in Oakland. This is a plaintiff's litigation firm, working on such things as toxic tort. She has a continuing interest in Eastern Philosophy these days. Karen gained a J.D. from Hastings Law School in 1993.

Barbara Stern, BA 1990, is a realtor in the Silicon valley. "This business is extremely competitive and I have found that using the simple fundamentals of fairness, being trustworthy and respecting the

individual ...has become my way of doing business... Also, to bring everyday life into perspective for my friends and family is directly related to my education in Philosophy...and it gives me a great feeling of peace and security"

George Pinto, MA 1991, is Senior Manager, large local accounting firm Mohler, Nixon and Williams. "Without a philosophical background I simply would not be successful. Note I did not say "as successful" but 'would not be successful'." George also teaches part-time for the Philosophy Department at SJSU.

Michael Larson, BA 91, presently owns a machine shop and intends to do art. He tells us that philosophy "changed the way I think about things. Philosophy has been the most underrated degree, department, etc."

Melissa Burchard, MA 1992, received her PhD from Minnesota and is teaching at the University of Connecticut. She is also associated with The University of North Carolina at Asheville. She gave a paper: "What's My Line? Gender, Performativity, and Bisexual Identity" at the conference Radical Philosophy and Politics to Begin a New Millennium, November 2-5, 2000, Loyola University, Chicago.

Kevin Keith, BA 1992, is currently in the PhD program at CUNY and is teaching at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Alfred Jan, MA 1992, is a practicing optometrist at Kaiser, has taught "Intro to Aesthetics" at De Anza College, and has published many book reviews, reviews and articles on visual arts. Currently he is co-editing a book called *Dime Store Detectives*, which is a collection of pulp detective short stories from 1937-1944. Look for it in Spring 2001. A philosophical letter of his was published in the October 1999 issue of Art Forum. He believes his education in philosophy has

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enabled him to better inform his critical thinking and writing. His MA gave him "tools to better participate in the discourse about various genres of art." Alfred continues to be a long-standing member of the San Jose Art Theory Roundtable, which meets at Professor Leddy's house every second Sunday.

Pat Anderson, BA 1992, (now Pat Turner) has been working for the Office of Equal Opportunity at SJSU, and will soon be moving to a new job as Assistant to Associate Vice President for Human Resources. She found her Philosophy degree helpful in developing her critical thinking skills, her ability to interpret different perspectives and to do policy critiques. She believes the writing skills she developed in Philosophy helped her to get her jobs. Pat has an interest in returning to take an interdisciplinary degree in Philosophy and Environmental Studies someday down the road.

Dina M. Fox, BA 1993, now works for Nortel Networks in Nepean, Ontario Canada. She specializes in knowledge management.

K. Michelle Livsey, BA 1993, MA 1998, went on to get a JD from McGeorge in 1998. She's currently practicing family law and doing civil litigation in Elk Grove, CA. She says that her background in philosophy was very helpful in law school and in the practice of law.

Elizabeth Sonnier, MA 1993, recently received her PhD from Fordham, 1999. Her dissertation was on Whitehead.

Chris Howden, BA 1993, is teaching seventh grade social studies. When asked how philosophy shaped his life, he wrote, "How hasn't it?"

Todd Madigan, BA 1995, received the Shapiro Award and the Temple Prize as a student. He is now an M.A. student in Philosophy at SJSU.

Andrew Messchaert, MA 1995, is teaching in two community colleges in the Sacramento area.

John Lafrance, BA 1995, is working in engineering at Honeywell in New Mexico. He writes that philosophy taught him "Natura non vincitor nisi parendo".

Barbara Jean Upton, M.A 1995. Barbara has taught philosophy in several colleges in the South Bay Area, including San Jose State.

Noel E. Hendrickson, BA 1996, is now in the PhD program University of Wisconsin Madison

Henry Liem, MA 1996, now has a tenure-track position in Philosophy at San Jose City College.

John Sullins, MA 1996 is currently ABD in the Philosophy, Computers, and Cognitive Science degree program at Binghamton, NY, where he won this year's "Excellence in Teaching" award. He and his wife had a baby girl, Athena Joan Sullins on October 10, 1999. He is teaching fencing and runs a robotics lab at Binghamton where he explores philosophical issues in mobile and cognitive robotics. He gave a paper at the Philosophy and Technology Conference at SJSU, Summer 1999.

Abdella Amino, MA 1997, is planning to expand his thesis on nationalism into a book. He is excerpting sections of it for an article in an Ethiopian magazine. He works for EDS on a Sun Microsystems project. He tells us that philosophy made him more "systematic, critical and humble".

Cesar Avalos, BA 1997, is now in the M.A. program 2000.

Eric Palfreyman, MA 1998, currently lives in McKinney, TX and works at Nortel Networks as the Large Telephone System Marketing Communications Manager. He also teaches English and Philosophy at Collin County Community College.

He writes "Philosophy and the process of critical and systematic thinking colors everything I do—from my personal life to my professional life to my personal religious life."

Rafael Ulate, MA 1998, just returned from four months in Spain, now looking for work. Of Philosophy he says:

"I think the discipline has helped me see that each and every question is much more complex than it seems at first, and the point is to try and discern a consistent answer. The process of figuring something out might just be as important as the conclusion."

Lisa Bernasconi, MA 1999, is teaching an upper division ethics course at the University of St. Francis.

Kip Husty, MA 1999, is working on his Ph.D. in Education (Philosophy of Education) at Stanford University. He is currently teaching Introduction to Philosophy for the department.

Art Ordaz, MA 1999, is doing security work, and taking it easy this semester (Spring 2000). He is interested in going on to study for a Ph.D. with a focus on realism. He is also applying for a certificate program in Counseling for Drug and Alcohol Abuse at SJSU. Art benefited from the students over-60 program when he was at SJSU (paying only \$45 per semester in fees!).

Brain Prosser, MA 1999, is a graduate student in Philosophy at Fordham University. He published commentary in *Geist: Uncommon Sense* vol. II (Spring 2000), the Philosophy Department student journal. The article was titled "Friends, Enemies and Strangers: A Response to Sanchez's Analysis of Ortega y Gasset's Man and People." 73-49. Brian also co-published two articles with Prof. Andy Ward (see Ward's entry above).

Tanya Rodriguez, BA 1999, was accepted to the Ph.D. Program at University of Minnesota. [see pg. 1 article above]

Tatiana Bertshinger, MA 2000. Tatiana's MA thesis "Quality and Quantity" was nominated by the Philosophy Department for the University's Outstanding Thesis Award for 1999-2000. Although she did not win the award, Acting Dean Lucius Eastman wrote: "Your graduate thesis is an outstanding example of the highest attainment of students in the California State Universities."

Dirk Bruins, MA 2000, is now teaching critical thinking at Evergreen College. He continues to assist the Philosophy Department in various ways. In the Spring he won an award of \$500 for best paper in a contest on the question of whether God should be considered in the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence (SETI). Professors from Physics, Comparative Religious Studies, and Philosophy judged the paper.

Carlos Sanchez, MA 2000, is teaching this semester for the Department. In the Spring he will be

teaching the course on Latin American Philosophy.

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~Paul Bashaw

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Dirk Bruins at the Philosophy Department's Spring 2000 Banquet at Fuel

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