



Department of Philosophy  
San Jose State University



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## Note From the Acting Chair

This will be my last note as Acting Chair. Bill Shaw will be back in the saddle as Chairperson in the Fall. It certainly has been an interesting and rewarding two years, and I would like to thank all of the faculty and students who have been helpful in a variety of ways. This semester has been an eventful one in that we have had on campus four applicants for the tenure-track position. Although all of the applicants were quite impressive, in the end we chose Dr. Karin Brown from the Stevens Institute of Technology. Dr. Brown has a Ph.D. from Graduate School and University Center, CUNY. Her areas of specialization are Ethics and Political Theory, History of Moral Theory, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of the French Enlightenment, and Medical Ethics. Welcome Karin.

We are looking forward to the Alumni Conference on April 28. Although the deadline has not yet arrived, several interesting panel discussion topics have already come in. Alfred Jan will talk about "Aesthetics and Pulp Fiction." Henry Liem will talk about

"Teaching Philosophy at Community Colleges." Anthony Nispel will present some of his work on "A Pythagorean Foundation for Mathematics." Leslie Phipps will discuss "The use of modeling as it relates to philosophy of science." Associate Dean and Philosophy Professor Lou Eastman will give a short opening address. If you want to come to the conference, but not give a panel presentation or paper, all you need to do is contact me by phone or email and you will be registered.

Tom Leddy

## Library Crisis

### Special Funds Urgently Needed

Due to dramatically increased costs of journal subscriptions the Philosophy Department will need to cancel subscriptions to many journals and is now unable to subscribe to new journals. More important, **the Clark Library does not have funds to purchase any philosophy books this year!!** (The reason given is that journal subscriptions went up in cost too quickly, thus draining the book budget dry.) Therefore we are asking alumni and friends to consider donating funds to the department to purchase books or journals. \$2000 would replace our lost book-buying budget (we would pass it on to the library, but with our own requests). \$3000 would make it possible for us to make up for some past losses.

I should add that this is not Clark Library's fault. It is due to the facts that (1) the CSU system has not been funding the library adequately, and (2) profit-making presses have been taking over many journals from university presses, and driving up prices.



### Special Journal Need in Chinese Philosophy

The library would also be willing to purchase new journals if we provided the funds for a few years subscription at the institutional rate. Prof. Bo Mou, our new specialist in Asian Philosophy and Philosophy of Language, would like to have the library order the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* for his Asian Philosophy course and the other East/West Comparative Philosophy courses he wishes to teach. The institutional subscription price is \$297. So \$3000 would fund this journal for seven or so years.

### Letter From Chairman Shaw

Here's a selection from one of Bill Shaw's letters from Zimbabwe. "Our lives in Zimbabwe continue as pleasantly as ever especially as petrol is once again available (the shortage was absolutely horrible in the weeks before Christmas: people were leaving their cars at service stations, just so their cars would be in line in case the station eventually got petrol).

However, the ruling party is already gearing up for next year's presidential election and their strategy is violence and intimidation. This worked in a recent by-election to fill the seat of an MP who had died: they poured all the vets and thugs into the district for a month to intimidate people and then when the election came, they frog-marched the villagers to the polls to vote the right way. In June, the MDC had won the seat by a slight margin. This time, although MDC gathered the same number of votes, ZANU-PF won almost two to one.

There's also an ugly and steady propaganda offensive, that's been going on for months, against the

judiciary. ZANU passes a law allowing it to take over farms; it then violates its own law; the white farmers go to court, and the government agrees with the farmers to a "consent order" with the court, stating that the government will obey its own laws and procedures. It then continues to ignore them, and the courts order the government to do what it has agreed to do.

The government ignores the order and lashes out at the judiciary for imposing old unjust colonial laws on the well-meaning government (which is utter nonsense). This has been played out several times. It would be comic, but with the breaking down of the rule of law in Zimbabwe, it's very worrisome. The judiciary, especially at the top, is the least corrupt organ of government, and the only one that can claim to be professional and impartial. Once the government successfully routes the judges, dark days will be ahead.

Meanwhile, it looks as though UZ will not reopen, as scheduled, on February 5 because the government has yet to come through with the pay raise they promised the lecturers. The lecturers are pledged to renew their strike at the end of this month, if they haven't received the money. The lecturers' cause is just, but, as you can imagine, it's going to cause headaches for your man in Harare -- but then I guess that's why they pay me the big bucks.

All the best,

Bill

### SJSU Philosophy in the News

On Oct. 15, 2000 an article appeared in SV (Silicon Valley), the magazine of the San Jose Mercury News. The article was titled "The Meaning of Life and other Big Questions: The Renaissance of Philosophical Discussion in the Land of Money and Machines" by Ed Frauenheim. The article states that "Philosophy can provide deeper meanings in a society concerned with consumption and the accumulation of wealth." In addition to mentioning a Stanford summer program for high school students, the article also featured an interview with SJSU graduate student Sandra Garrison. Sandra answered questions concerning The American Philosophical Practitioners Association, of which she is a member. "She believes Silicon Valley is especially ripe for philosophical counseling, explaining that existential crises are common here because work-obsessed techies don't get enough human interaction. The founder of the APPA Lou Marinoff (a City College of New York philosophy professor who wrote *Plato not Prozac!*) is also quoted at length. "Using the philosopher John Stuart Mill, Marinoff helped [a] client [who was angry about being forced to take down a nude painting at work] make a distinction between being harmed and being offended. The fellow seemed to realize he had the ability to reframe the scenario in a less personal way..." The current membership of APPA is 75.

Finally, the article features two philosophy discussion groups, one led by Christopher McCullough in San Francisco, and another by Sandra Garrison at Barnes and

Noble, Pruneyard, in Campbell (first Monday of the month 7:30-8:30 p.m.) It was noted that the idea of philosophy café conversations is also explored on Chris Phillip’s web site [www.philosopher.org](http://www.philosopher.org)

## Flash News

**Carlos Sanchez** part-time teacher and graduate of our M.A. program has just been accepted to his first choice Ph.D. program University of New Mexico. Congratulations Carlos.

**Rebecca Wolpinsky**, graduate student and teaching associate, had a baby boy, named Theodore, on Feb. 27. Congratulations Rebecca and David Terrell (her husband)!

## Alumni and Friends in the News

**Holly Lane** who took Tom Leddy’s Phil. 106 class and was a Philosophy minor recently exhibited with Schmidt Bingham Gallery, 41 East 57th Street, New York, New York. The following appears on the “ArtinContext” web page. “Holly Lane’s delicate hand-carving and luminous paintings catch the modern art world off-guard. The medieval quality of craft, imagination, and authenticity is compelling and unexpectedly nourishing. With Renaissance 'fantasia,' Holly Lane constructs architectural frames for her paintings. A self-taught carver, she has honed her skills as a sculptor and storyteller. Her novel altarpieces and icons are like arks for the soul. They are curious sanctuaries for reflection - surprising parables for fresh beginnings in a culture plagued with dilemma and decay.” Holly will be having a show in the Art Department in April.

## Philosophy Cafe

Sandra Garrison’s Philosophy Café meets regularly on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month. Philosopher Cafe is at the Pruneyard Barnes & Noble in Campbell. Anyone who is interested in joining her discussions online or wants to know more about the group, contact: PhilosopherCafe Moderator <[PhilosopherCafe-owner@egroups.com](mailto:PhilosopherCafe-owner@egroups.com)

On Feb. 5 Christopher Phillips presented his book "Socrates Cafe". The group considered questions that arise from his book, such as "What is a Philosopher Cafe?" On Feb. 19th they discussed the topic "What is Art?" with Alfred Jan, a professional art critic and MA from SJSU. Topics for March will be set during the next couple of meetings at the end of group discussions.

## Philosophy Graduate Students in the Political Trenches

**John Wilhelmsson**, philosophy graduate student and student assistant for the Learning Resource Center was quoted as one of the demonstrators for a traffic light on the corner of Ninth and San Fernando on Feb. 21. “I think it’s sad that we don’t have protests more often. I hope this will bring a new spirit to the university. The only way to get our voices heard is to take it out to the streets.” This information was taken from “Traffic Light Issue taken to the Streets” by Vivian Bejarin of the *Spartan Daily*.

## Wayne Yuen’s Introduction to Philosophy class on TV.

Wayne writes “About half an hour before my class started Thursday, *Evening Magazine* called me up in my office, asking for permission to film part of my class, because they were doing a story on one of my

students, Kelly Bennett. She was the young lady who called in the DeAnza bombing to the police, and saved a bunch of lives in doing so. I accepted so long as they wouldn't do interviews in class with me or any students and that they wouldn't be too disruptive.

So when the cameraman gets there he wants to wire me up to a microphone so he can tape what I'm saying, and for about 20 minutes films me lecturing, and Kelly taking notes. It was kind of surreal.” The story aired on Feb. 13, Channel 5, at 7pm. I wonder: maybe philosophy classes do help one to behave ethically!

## Philosopher at Carnegie Hall

**Prof. Noam Cook** was quoted in “Tour de Force: Symphony Chorus hits the road not taken with two dates at Carnegie Hall” by John McMurtrie in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 20. “It may be 29 years old, but the San Francisco Symphony Chorus has yet to leave home. Then again, a road trip for 145 people isn't a cheap, last minute affair. Tomorrow and Thursday, however, the chorus will make up for any missed on-the-road adventures, performing two concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York. For its inaugural tour with the San Francisco Symphony, the chorus will perform challenging works by Stravinsky and Mahler, a repertoire that covers a range of styles and is sung in French, Russian, Latin and German. "In a way, that makes it a lot of fun," says bass Noam Cook, a volunteer member of the chorus who is a philosophy professor at San Jose State University. "It's a great way to show off what we can do." “

## Pinto Prize

**Melanie Morra** is winner of this year's Pinto Prize. The criteria for the scholarship are that "the student must intend to do graduate study in Philosophy, a commitment to social justice, do community service." Melanie meets all of these criteria excellently. She is finishing her MA here at SJSU in Philosophy and intends to go on to graduate school. She has been a volunteer for CALPIRG in efforts to prevent more offshore drilling in California, and a founding member of Citizens for Safe Drinking Water in Santa Cruz. She is also a member of the Society for Women in Philosophy. She has published twice in our student journal *Geist: Uncommon Sense*, including one paper on "The Ethics of Resistance" (Vol. II, Spring 2000, pp. 41-52). Melanie taught Phil. 61, Contemporary Moral Issues, in the Fall and Spring of 2000. Her special philosophical interests are in Heidegger, Foucault, Nietzsche, and Eastern philosophy. She has also written and illustrated two children's picture books. The Pinto Prize is awarded in the Fall in honor of George V. and Lydia A. Pinto, and is acknowledged at the annual banquet of the Philosophy Department in the Spring. The award is \$200.

### Department Web Site

[www.sjsu.edu/depts/philosophy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/philosophy/)

**Wayne Yuen** has recently revised the Web Site, adding more pictures and more links to sites. Check it out.



### Some Fall 2001 Courses

**Phil 70A Ancient Philosophy TR 9:00-10:15 Prof. Albright**

**Phil 70B Modern Philosophy TR 12:00-13:15 Prof. Lott**

**Phil 106 Philosophy of Art M 19:00-21:45 Prof. Leddy**

**Phil 107 Philosophy and Literature TR 19:00-21:45**

**Phil 108 Political Philosophy MW 9:00-10:15 Prof. Shaw**

**Phil 109 Philosophy of Religion TR 16:00-18:45 Prof. Scholz**

**Phil 113 Existentialism M 16:00-18:45 Prof. Brown**

**Phil 190 Aristotle TR. 19:00-21:45**

**Phil 290 Continental Rationalism T 16:00-18:45 Prof. Lott**

**Phil 291 Epistemology and Metaphysics: Topic: Comparative (East/West) Philosophy M 19:00-21:45 Prof. Mou**

**Phil 293 Advanced Seminar in Logical Theories (Wittgenstein/Philosophy of Mathematics) MW 1:30-2:45 Prof. Henslee**

### Current issue of Switch: Social/Networks (Art and Design, SJSU).

Here's a place where something like philosophy is happening on campus, but not in the Philosophy Department. Here's how this on-line journal describes itself: "If any

social system functions and exists within a describable, measurable network structure, then perhaps the question at hand is: can any network structure be described as a social system? In this issue [http://switch.sjsu.edu/web/v6n2/main\\_network.html](http://switch.sjsu.edu/web/v6n2/main_network.html) we explore, describe, define, represent and even test social network theories on individuals, organizations, art and technology and software exist and behave within a network. With the bombardment of interactive capability in the past few years our social networks are quite. They have become increasingly more difficult to describe and visually represent. Switch aims to look beyond the expected and into areas relevant to artists today."

## Faculty News

**Dirk Bruins** "Since the last newsletter, I have continued teaching Introduction to Philosophy and Critical Thinking at Evergreen Valley College. It is with great gratitude that I am teaching at SJSU also this semester ...I've even managed to fill my summer with teaching appointments. But, alas, two part-time positions, which add up to one full-time position, is not counted as such even if one works for the same employer (the State of California in this case). For this reason I've focused on a more profitable market.

I will be completing the high school teaching credential program, also here at SJSU, within a year, and will thereafter attain a full-time (with benefits) position teaching biology in the Santa Cruz area. Philosophy has served me well in my credential program education classes. While others struggle to grasp the concept of the nature of science, I tend to lead the discussion, even with the instructor in tow! While others struggle with classroom management techniques, my teaching experience and education in social philosophy

controls the masses. While others toil endlessly with logically organizing their lesson plans, I've already received my A and am on to the philosophy class that I'm taking "just for fun" with Joe Waterhouse!

**Peter Hadreas** had his paper "Aristotle on the Vices and Virtue of Wealth," accepted for publication in *The Journal of Business Ethics*. He delivered a paper, "Aristotle and Incest," at colloquium session of Eastern Division meetings of A. P. A., New York, Dec. 29, 2000, and again at a session of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy at SUNY, Binghamton, Oct. 2000.

**Tom Leddy** published "The Pleasures of Tchotchke," co-written with his wife Karen Haas, in *Art and Conversations* No. 4, pp. 36-37, Feb. 2001. He also published "Open Letter: In Defense of Women Composers" in the *British Society of Aesthetics Newsletter*, Jan. 2001. This newsletter is currently published in an electronic version, <http://cll.ncl.ac.uk/bsa/newsletter/news101.HTM> [no page numbers available], and will be available in a paper version later. Most of his research over the last couple months has been devoted to his current seminar on Hermeneutics. He'll be giving a paper on Richard Shusterman's book *Pragmatist Aesthetics* at one of the author-meets-critics sessions of the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division meeting, in San Francisco in late March.

**Jim Lindahl** is reading a paper at the St. Louis Philosophy of Social Science Conference on April 20. The title is "Representing Mande, Azande and Benandanti: The Flexibility of Language in Ethnographic Translation."

**Ruth Manor** is on leave of absence and teaching at Tel-Aviv University. She is currently directing two Ph.D. theses and one M.A.

thesis. She is also doing research on "vagueness" and this involves a few graduate assistants and a lecturer. The research is supported by the Israel Science Foundation.

**Bo Mou** has been very active. Three research articles which either were recently published or are forthcoming by the end of the coming June are:

(1) "Ultimate Concerns and Language Engagement: A Re-Examination of the Opening Message of the Dao-De-Jing," *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* Vol. 27, No.4 (December 2000): pp. 429-439.

(2) "The Enumerative Character of Tarski's Definition of Truth and Its General Character in a Tarskian System," *Synthese* Vol. 124, Issue 1 & 2 (January 2001), pp. 91-122.

(3) "An Analysis of the Structure of Philosophical Methodology: In View of Comparative Philosophy," in *Two Roads to Wisdom? --Chinese and Analytic Philosophical Traditions* (Chicago, Illinois: Open Court; June 2001), pp. 337-364.

Bo also edited and wrote the "Introduction" for this last mentioned book. The foreword is by Donald Davidson. The contributions, almost all of which are unpublished pieces written for this volume, were from Nicholas Rescher, Robert Cummings Neville, Adam Morton, Lik Kuen Tong, Chung-ying Cheng, Shu-hsien Liu, David Hall, You-zheng Li, Chad Hansen, Kwong-loi Shun, Yiu-ming Fung, Robert Allinson, Ji-yuan Yu & Nicholas Bunnin, Bryan Van Norden, and Bo Mou.

**Kurt Nutting** published "Voting, Democratic Political Action, and the Public Good," as chapter 14 in the anthology *Not for*

*Sale: In Defense of Public Goods* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2000), edited by Anatole Anton, Milton Fisk, and Nancy Holmstrom. Forthcoming is a short article "Legal Practices and the Reason of the Law," in the journal *Argumentation*. "This connects some themes in the philosophy of the later Wittgenstein and in Kuhn with the debates in philosophy of law over skepticism." In early November (before the election) he participated in a panel discussion of the Anton-Fisk-Holmstrom book, at the biennial national conference of the Radical Philosophy Association, at Loyola University in Chicago, ... and in late November (after Election Day) he was interviewed as part of a radio discussion of the Florida election dispute (my topic was electoral reform more generally), broadcast on the "Living Room" program on KPFA-FM."

In the longer term he is working on a book, tentatively titled *Electoral Politics and Social Justice: Democracy, the Constitution, and American Political Parties*, slated for publication by Peter Lang Publishing, New York, as a volume in the San Francisco State University Series in Philosophy, and an anthology, tentatively titled *Rationality*, which is being co-edited with Anatole Anton for the *Key Concepts in Critical Theory* series from Humanities Press. This would look at traditional Enlightenment, postmodern, and critical understandings of rationality, both its limits and its remaining possibilities (whatever they may be), in a variety of different fields (in philosophy, in science, in law, etc.).

Kurt writes: "In the last two months -- that is, in light of the Florida debacle -- it has become clear that any project on the constitutional law of elections and politics, like mine, requires some expansion or revision or elaboration. My first forays in this direction are (a) a short essay on how to abolish the electoral college without amending the constitution,

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(b) an essay on whether the constitution protects the right to vote for President, and (c) a more detailed analysis of the Supreme Court's *Bush v. Gore* decision applying my more general theoretical account (presented in the book) to the opinion, concurrence, and dissents. Some of this will be added to the book, some of it presented as separate articles, but I'm still thinking about the practical considerations here and haven't decided once and for all."

**Scott Stroud** has been quite busy this past year taking classes in the philosophy department and with his own research. Since mid-1999, he has presented 17 papers at scholarly conferences, and has 5 more conference papers pending. Some examples of presented work include "Timeless Stories East and West: The Philosophical Narratives of the *Bhagavad Gita* and *The Thin Red Line*" (International Meeting of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy), "Insights from Hinduism: Incorporating the *Bhagavad Gita* into Ethics Across the Curriculum" (Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum), and two new papers on his own project of Indian rhetoric, "Multivalent Narratives: Extending the Narrative Paradigm with Insights from Ancient Indian Rhetoric" and "Multivalent Narratives and Indian Rhetoric: Insights from the *Bhagavad Gita*" (Western States Communication Association Conference). One of his papers on the Christian Identity movement got him quoted in a special report in the January 28, 2001 *Joplin Globe* newspaper (Missouri).

Scott has recently had 5 of his papers published, including "Habermas and Debate Theory: A Putative Link between the Theory of Communicative Action and Traditional Resolutive Typologies" in *Argument at Century's End: Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future*, (2000) T. A. Hollihan (Ed.), (pp. 325-333).

Annandale, CA: National Communication Association, "Debate for Philosophy and Critical Thinking Courses" in the Teaching Supplement of *Informal Logic*, (20), 2000, TS10-TS16, and "*Diabolus in Musica: The Rhetorical Vision of Slayer,*" *Speaker and Gavel* (37), 2000, 50-60.

He is occupied now with 4 articles that have been accepted with revision, including a fun paper titled "Technology and Mythic Narrative: *The Matrix* as Technological Hero-Quest" for the *Western Journal of Communication*. Also accepted is the report of a past empirical study titled "Connections between Moral Development and Formal-Pragmatic Presupposition Awareness" for *Communication Reports*. Scott's project on Indian rhetoric is also making headway with "Ethics, Metaphysics, and the Training of Citizens: Utilizing the *Bhagavad Gita* in Western Public Speaking Courses" being accepted by the *Southern Communication Journal* and "Tempering Public Speaking Pedagogy with Insights from the *Bhagavad Gita*" being accepted by the *Journal of the Wisconsin Communication Association*. He's waiting to see how his luck goes with 4 other works under review.

Scott spends his spare time teaching classes for this department and for the Communication Studies Department at SJSU, and earns beer money teaching public speaking classes at Chabot College.

**Carlos Sanchez** held an exhibit of the paintings of Jason Luchetti at his apartment at 508 South 11th St. #15, San Jose with the reception on Friday Nov. 17.

**Rick Tieszen** writes: "I was invited to speak at the San Jose Intercollegiate Philosophy Club last October. My talk was an attempt to answer the question "What is phenomenology?" I was pleased to see such a large and enthusiastic

group of local philosophers at this event. Late in March I'll give a talk at SUNY-Buffalo on "The intuitive continuum and the revision of logic". This will be no honeymoon for the classical logicians. A visit to Niagara Falls is on the schedule for the next day. A few days later I'll give a talk in an American Philosophical Association group session meeting of the Society for the Study of Husserl's Philosophy. The talk will be on "Logic and Consciousness". Otherwise, I'm completing some of the work I mentioned in the last newsletter and looking forward to a sabbatical leave next year. In the Fall I especially enjoyed my "Phenomenology Today" seminar and my "Science, Technology and Human Values" course. Thanks to the students for making these classes so rewarding. At the moment, I'm finding it very stimulating to work through the *Critique of Pure Reason* with the students in my Kant seminar. Some extracurricular activities? Playing racquetball, attending anti-inauguration galas, occasionally making some astronomical observations, and practicing blues guitar.

**Dan Williamson** will be giving a paper at SUNY, Binghamton University, April 27-28, *Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture* (PIC). His paper is titled, "Rebellion and Resistance: A Reflection on Foucault and Camus." The paper argues that the Left has to take a careful look at the concept of power Foucault fashioned. Camus provides a history of power and knowledge in revolutions and rebellions that supports Foucault's basic perceptions. The Left, he argues, has uncritically maintained and repeated the same kind of power that has led it to failures in the past. In order to overcome this obstacle, the Left--or any set of marginalized groups on the basis of gender, race or class--has to invent a new form of power that elides the tendencies of power to construct knowledges

(ideologies) that marginalize. These tendencies of power play the same games of domination used by discourses that oppress; e.g.: as they are embodied in homophobia, racism, sexism and classism.

## Institute for Social Responsibility, Ethics and Education

The Ninth Annual Francis T. Villemain Lecture was held on March 8. Eamonn Callan, Stanford Professor of Philosophy of Education spoke on "Democratic Patriotism in a Multicultural World." The Philosophy Department was one of the sponsors of this event. Afterwards, the ISREE sponsored a lunch at Haws. Many philosophy professors and students attended and there was an animated discussion after the talk and during the lunch. Thanks especially to Michael Katz for organizing this talk.

## 2000-2001 Tenure Track Search

Several Talks were given on campus this Spring in connection with our tenure-track position search.

Feb. 12 **Dr. Mary Beth Mader**, Philosophy, University of Memphis "Figuring Ethics: Number in the Thought of Luce Irigaray."

Feb. 19 **Dr. Alexandra L. Stotts**, Philosophy, University of Oregon, "Body Conscious: Feminism, Knowledge, and Experience."

Feb. 21 **Dr. Karin Brown**, Humanities, Stevens Institute of Technology, "Sophie Grouchy de Condorcet on Moral Emotions and Reason."

Feb. 28 **Dr. Tabor Fisher**, Philosophy, State University of New York, Binghamton, "Streetwalking in the Borderlands: a consideration of coalition politics."

### Spring 2001 Colloquium Series

Due to the number of candidates coming onto campus and giving talks this semester we decided to have fewer colloquium talks. These are:

**Robert Audi**, Philosophy, University of Nebraska/Lincoln "A Kantian Intuitionism" Feb. 1, Thurs. 4:00 pm The University Club

**Richard Greene**, Philosophy, SJSU, "Some Problems with Contextual Replies to Skepticism." April 11, Wednesday, 4:00 pm, Faculty Office Building 104.

**John Corcoran**, Philosophy, SUNY Buffalo, "Aristotle's Theory of Deductive Reasoning", May 2, 4:00 pm, The University Club

## Upcoming Local Conferences

**March 28-30. American Society for Aesthetics –Pacific Division** Pacific Grove, California. Contact Dominic Lopes, Philosophy, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 [dlopes@bitwalla.com](mailto:dlopes@bitwalla.com); [www.aesthetics-online.org](http://www.aesthetics-online.org)

**March 28-April 1 American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division** San Francisco.

Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel, 55 Cyril Magnin Street, Market at Fifth. Contact Anita Silvers, Philosophy, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94132.

**April 6-8 Society of Christian Philosophers, Pacific Regional Meeting** Westmont College Theme: *Virtue and the Foundations of Ethics*. Jim Taylor, Philosophy, Westmont College, 955 La Paz Rd. Santa Barbara, CA 93108 [taylor@westmont.edu](mailto:taylor@westmont.edu)

**April 10-11 Amelie Oksenberg Rorty, Professor of Humanities and the History of Ideas, Brandeis University**, Markula Center for Applied Ethics

**April 14, 2001 Santa Clara University. "Moral Cultivation."** All sessions in the Williman Room in Benson Center Stephen Darwall (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) "Cultivating Accountability" Marilyn Friedman (Washington University) "Diversity and Moral Character: Cultivation or Suffocation?" Rosalind Hursthouse (The Open University) Joel Kupperman (University of Connecticut) "The Ethics of Style" Nancy Sherman (Georgetown University) "Of Manners and Morals" David Wong (Duke University) "Cultivating Moral Judgment" Conference Organizer: Brad Wilburn, Department of Philosophy, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053-0310 408-554-4093 [bwilburn@scu.edu](mailto:bwilburn@scu.edu) Registration: \$20.

# Student News



## Ethics Bowl

Once again the Ethics Bowl team has done a fantastic job at the regional ethics bowl competition held at CSU Chico! The team consisted of Gary Buzzell, Vladi Sankin, and Ben Tencate under the direction of Prof. Richard Greene. The team came in 2nd place, missing 1st place by a margin of only 7 points.

The team went on to compete in the National Competition in Cincinnati. Beth Griffith joined them as a fourth member. There, they came in fifth! Congratulations for a job well done!

## Classroom Guests

Dagfin Follesdall of Stanford University spoke to Rick Tieszen's phenomenology class on December 5th. "Phenomenology Today"

## Philosophy Club

Wayne Yuen, President, and Gary Buzzell, Vice President, currently lead the Philosophy Club. The main activity of the Philosophy Club this year is the publication of the third issue of Geist. The Philosophy Club continues to meet at Gordon Biersch about once a month, and informally in the Philosophy Department Logic/Writing Lab.

## GEIST: UNCOMMON SENSE VOL. III and IV

The deadline for Vol. III has passed, but The Philosophy Club welcomes papers on any philosophical topic for Vol. IV. They will also gladly accept commentaries on the essays contained in Vol. II or III to be included in Reflections.

To submit a paper, please send a hardcopy and softcopy of your paper with a cover page. All papers should be double spaced, 12-point font, approximately 5 to 10 pages in length, and marked clearly with the applicant's last four digits of social security number. The cover page should contain the applicant's name, school affiliation, undergraduate or graduate status, phone number, mailing address, and last four digits of social security number. Only one paper per applicant will be reviewed.

**Submissions deadline:  
February 1, 2002**

Please send submissions to:  
GEIST  
Department of Philosophy  
San Jose State University  
One Washington Square  
San Jose, CA. 95192-0069

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

**If you are interested in purchasing a copy of Vol. I, II, or III please contact the Philosophy Department.**

## D'Arpino Essay Contests

In Fall 2000 the Essay Question was "Why is the following statement true or why is it false? 'Either God exists or does not exist.'" There were six entries submitted. Two of these tied for First Place. The winners were:

**Bill Flemming: "Inside the Excluded Middle"**

**Joel C. Hunt: "Eliminating Agnosticism"**

There was a reception on Dec. 7 in which the winners briefly described their papers. Tom Leddy awarded the prize of \$125 to each winner. Judges for the contest were Richard Greene, Tom Leddy, and Barbara Scholz, all of the Philosophy Department.

An article about the event appeared in the Spartan Daily on Dec. 11, 1999: "Students Argue Existence of God" by Liz Cloutman.

The Spring Question is "Can God be defined in a way that allows for the possibility of empirical confirmation of God's existence?"

**Thanks to Emilio Chick D'Arpino for being the motivating force behind this contest, and for providing the prize fund.**

## Spring 2001 D'Arpino Essay Contest

**Can "God" be defined in a way that allows for the possibility of empirical confirmation of God's existence?**

The faculty members of English, Humanities, Philosophy, and Physics will judge papers. All students, faculty, and staff members of SJSU are invited. Papers must be typed in normal font, double spaced, and must not exceed 1,250 words. Include name, school status, and phone number. **Deadline: Monday, April 23, 2001.** The winner will be announced before Thurs. May 10, 2001. Deliver four copies of the paper to Joseph F. Becker, Department of Physics, Science Bldg. Room 148.

## Alumni Conference

We are having a one-day conference and dinner on Saturday, April 28, 2001. The conference will be in the Student Union at SJSU. The focus of the conference will be on alumni accomplishments (not on Locke -- I just liked the picture). Students and faculty are also invited. We will provide breakfast in the conference room. There will be panel sessions 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 on any topic in philosophy. A committee of SJSU Philosophy faculty will referee these papers. There will be a dinner in the evening that will honor Graduating Students, Student Award-Winners, and The Professor of the Year. This will be in the tradition of the Philosophy Club Banquet of the last three years. **Deadline for submission of paper or request to be on a panel: March 15.**

**Deadline for registration: April 1. [This is extended from the earlier deadline.]**

To register: simply phone or email letting us know that you plan to come. We will send you a schedule of events. (408) 924-4469 or Tom Leddy at [twleddy@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:twleddy@email.sjsu.edu)

This conference is sponsored in part by The College of Humanities Alumni Board, and by the College of Humanities and Arts.

## 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 not 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

### Correction

**Alfred Jan** writes "The book I am co-editing is as yet untitled, but will consist of twelve Inspector Allhoff stories from the pulp magazine titled *Dime Detective*. The stories were published from 1937 to 1942. Look for it in Spring 2001."

### 1950s

**Margaret Blair**, BA Philosophy and Psychology, 1953, is retiring this year. She is 89. For the last few years she has been a marriage and family therapist. She is very involved in Jungian Psychology and dream analysis, and is an active Buddhist. Margaret received an MA in Psychology in 58, and taught in Psychology Dept. and then taught remedial reading in the English Department for ten years. She has also taught at the Institute of Buddhist Studies. She is now doing research on fairy tales, especially the

OZ books, and has plans to publish something in this.

**Conrad Rushing** (graduation date unknown) is judge on the Court of Appeal, State of California, Sixth Appellate District

### 1970s

**Carol L. Bowman Willis**, BA 1972, MA Philosophy 1976, is a consultant, educator. She gives Spiritual Direction (a form of non-denominational pastoral counseling) and executive coaching. She teaches about values and ethics in the workplace. She was influenced by Prof. Koestenbaum in this respect and was president of the Applied Philosophy Institute in the late 70s early 80s. Carol considers herself a philosopher at large, and makes a living from her consultation practice. Her company is called Executive Inquiry. Her biggest influence in the department was Prof. Marie Fox (emeritus) with whom she still corresponds. Carol also taught part-time Philosophy at West Valley College for several years. She has written various articles in esoteric philosophy and alternative therapy.

**Zoe Close**, MA Philosophy, 1977, says this about herself on her website: "Chair, Professional Development Committee, I have been an elected member of the executive board of GCCCD's United Faculty for 12 years and am currently chief negotiator. During each election I've worked for "education" candidates at local, state, and national levels." "I have also taught and performed music." "A member of FACCC for 12 years, I always attend the annual conference, work on membership, and assist with workshops." Zoe is Professor of Philosophy at Grossmont College. She is going to teach at Oxford 2001-2002.

**Mildred M. Popowich**, BA 1977. continued to work for IBM

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until she retired. She has been retired for 17 years. Mildred says she took her degree in Philosophy for personal enrichment but gained from it since she became a technical writer just before retirement. The writing experience she had in Philosophy helped a lot. She also went on to do graduate studies for a year in Mass Communications. Mildred remembers studying existentialism under Prof. Koestenbaum, especially his book, *The Vitality of Death*. She also enjoyed Philosophy of Law. Upon retirement she took up dancing. She recently completed a lengthy family history for her family.

## 1980s

**Leslie Henrickson (formerly Phipps)** didn't quite finish her MA here, but went on to receive an MA at Riverside and is now at Social Sciences and Comparative Education Graduate School of Education and Information Studies University of California - Los Angeles. She recently moderated a discussion titled "International Forum of Educational Technology & Society Formal Discussion Initiation Communications Technology and Personal Identity Formation". In 2000, she published "Having a Sense of Ourselves: Technology and Personal Identity", in the Proceedings of the AISB'00 Symposium on Starting from Society - the Application of Social Analogies to Computational Systems, Birmingham, UK: AISB, 61-66.

## 1990s

**Nicholas S. Barry**, BA 1998, Nicholas is currently a graduate student in the Department.

**Andrew Messchaert**, MA 1995, includes the following on his website. "I attended Modesto Junior College where I received my A.A. degree in 1991. Next I completed my B.A. in philosophy at C.S.U.,

Sacramento in 1993. I continued to live, play, work, and have fun in Sacramento while I pursued my M.A. degree in philosophy at San Jose State University. I received my degree in the spring of 1995. I have been teaching philosophy since the fall of 1995. I got my start at Cosumnes River College where I began by teaching on a part-time basis. With a little luck and experience, I was able to pick up more part-time work at several other community colleges including Butte College, Yuba College, Sierra College, Santa Rosa Junior College, and the University of Phoenix. In the spring of 1998...I was fortunate enough to be hired at Porterville College as a full-time instructor. My first semester at Porterville College was in the fall 1998. I have really enjoyed getting to know my colleagues and students here.

**Tracy Russ** MA 1996 writes [without caps] "as it happens, I was in san jose just last week and got a chance to walk around campus a bit one early evening, brought back a lot of memories. I've taken a few philosophy classes at harvard extension and tufts. the tufts classes were rather good (descartes, philosophy of science (early years - copernicus, newton), and a class on truth (rather a focus on minimalism, redundancy, deflationary conception of truth. great, but hard stuff there! - professor richard) . I volunteered at the 20th world congress in philosophy when they had that here a few years back. - got to hear quine, davidson, and others - oh, and professor lott from sjsu too. For work I do marketing and product development for professional level computer science titles (specializing in networking/computer security, java, and scripting languages). best wishes to all in the department! --tracy" Tracy works at Pearson Technology Group, Addison-Wesley Professional, Boston.

**Noel Hendrickson**, BA 1996. Noel is still entangled in graduate study at WI, currently in his 5th year. He is about 60,000 words into his dissertation. (about 40% finished with it). "My main goal is a defense of a libertarian theory of free will. That is (in my mind), that humans have a capacity to act in such a way that is not determined by prior states. So I am doing a lot of development on how we might make sense of such theory, i.e. how to explain indeterministic actions, etc. In addition, I contend that the reason that we ought to adopt libertarianism is not for the reason that all other libertarians (that I know of) do (i.e. on the basis of such freedom being necessary for moral responsibility). Rather than base our belief in free will on moral theory, I contend that there are purely metaphysical reasons for affirming human freedom. The heart of it has to do with how actions and events are to be individuated. I argue for a certain view of event individuation, and then argue from that theory to the position that no event can be determined. (Yes, NO event...) Then I add a few more things in, and we have free will. If it sounds like a lot, well it is.

**John Sullins**, MA 1998, "My dissertation subject is an exploration of the evolution of ethics and social order utilizing theories in minds and morals, computational modeling and multilevel selection theory". "It is funny but, believe it or not, SJSU was really the best of my graduate school experience. The SJSU department, being smaller and more intimate, seems to care a bit more for its students than the school I am at now. In these larger departments it is easy to get lost in the shuffle. Oh, I forgot to brag about the courses and lab I designed for our department. Take a look at <http://philosophy.binghamton.edu/robot/lab/> if you get a chance. I am proud of my work creating this robotics lab. He published "Godel's Incompleteness Theorems and

Artificial Life” Ludus-Vitalis. 1998; 6(10), 105-119.

## Philosophy Students Over 60

You can begin, resume or continue your college education for only \$46.50 per semester!

Several of our students are older persons seeking to open up new horizons of learning through study of the great philosophers, or concentration on some of the key problems in the various philosophical traditions.

One of our students, **Jim Dix**, is teaching his own class this semester as a Teaching Associate. Here’s an open letter from Jim. “Greetings from somewhere in the SJSU Philosophy Department... I have to say I'm enjoying my semester immensely. I've rarely worked harder, despite or perhaps even because of my recent "retirement." For all you perspective retirees, I invite you to work on advancing your age to take advantage of the "60 and

over" program offered by SJSU where "elder care" means something! I also want to add that while I've had my share in the "rewards" of teaching during my coaching years, I must say that getting the opportunity to teach "Introduction to Philosophy" to the next generation is even more gratifying. It is my way "giving back." Moreover, while there are many things I have to work on, not the least of which is my battle with formulating a clear idea, there is no better combination of tasks (I'm trying to finish my thesis as well as teaching) toward that improvement than I'm undertaking in the here and now. Whether or not the opportunity arises again, I will always be thankful to SJSU, and especially to the greatest of all Departments, the magical Philosophy Department.”

San José State University has established a permanent program which allows California residents 60 years of age or older to enroll in regular session courses without payment of application fees and with reduction in the levels of others. Applicants in this program

must register after regular students have registered for classes. For further information, call Jane Boyd at Reach Program 924-5950.

Over-sixty students register only during the Change of Program (Add/Drop) period. They are not required to pay the late registration fee.

The fee is currently \$46.50 for the semester for any course load.

Students may be enrolled in the B.A. or M.A. Programs. Students must meet the university entrance requirements. It is not necessary that you have a B.A. in Philosophy to be accepted to the M.A. Program in Philosophy. You can take classes for grade, credit/non-credit, or simply audit.



Iris Murdoch 1919-1999 Philosopher, Novelist <http://www.robotwisdom.com/jorn/iris.html>

Fall 2000

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