



**Newsletter:
Department of
Philosophy
San Jose State
University
October, 2007**

Editor: Tom Leddy

**Our Philosophy
Department Web
Site Address:**
sjsu.edu/philosophy/

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

**New Faculty
Members**

We are pleased this semester to welcome three new lecturers, all of whom received their MA degrees here in Philosophy. They are John Wilhelmsson, Tanzeen Doha, and Krupa Patel.

**OTHER
NEWS**

**Mercury News article:
"Philosophy professor
gets top ratings on
Web site"**

Samuel Lam reported in the *Spartan Daily* on Oct. 24 that Jim Lindahl was placed at number 37 on a Top 50 list of highest rated professors from RateMyProfessors.com.

Socrates Café

The *Spartan Daily's* Mandie Mohsenzadegan wrote an article on Socrates Café Sept. 9, "Biweekly meetings spark lively discourse."

**Announcement:
2008 Annual
Philosophy
Department
Conference**

The theme this year again will be "Comparative Philosophy." We define Comparative Philosophy broadly to involve any comparative work between traditions or any work in the philosophical theories of under-represented ethnic or national groups. Faculty, alumni, and students are encouraged to submit papers. Papers under 3000 words should be sent by Jan. 30, 2008 to Prof. Tom Leddy, Department of Philosophy, San Jose State University, 1 Washington Sq., San Jose, CA, 95192-0096.

Department Prizes

**The Herman Shapiro
Memorial Scholarship
Award winners for
Spring 2007 were
Robert Miolo and
Tanzeen Doha.**

**The Temple Prize for
Spring 2007 went to
Matthew DellaBetta
for his paper
"Wittgenstein, Ethics
& Nonsense."**

Philosophy Award Recipient Gains National Recognition

Tim Hawkinson, Art, 1985, although not a philosophy major, is probably our most famous recipient of the Temple Prize. Tim was born in San Francisco in 1960 and currently works in Los Angeles. He was featured in the television series "art:21-Art in the Twenty-First Century." Excerpts are available at <http://www.pbs.org/art21/artists/hawkinson/index.html>

Teaching Associates in Fall 2007: (Graduate Students who teach their own class.)

Brenda Hood
Fern Alberts
Matt Pfiffner
Jesus Ramirez
Loren White

Definitions of Truth

It was proposed that we try to define truth in 200 words or less. Here are two efforts from Tony and Tom. We would be happy to publish more!

1. Truth as Alethia: The Epiphany of being Dead and Alive

Like shady apparitions
doused by the river
Lethe, we have forgotten
that life by nature is
good; to make time to
love; and to live a life
worth living. The small
person thinks only of
him/herself and pursues
vain Plutonic treasures:
power, money and
status. In exchange for
mental jewelry, we
undergo a grind that
dulls our senses, numbs
our souls, and turns us
into zombies.

Accruements of a selfish
esteem hide real
boredom, anxiety, dread
and despair. The truth
reverses this dismal
descent - enlightening
the ego's dark cave and
banishes suffering
caused by ignorance,
fear, greed and delusion.

Tony Nguyen

2. Truth is a triune
concept, all sides in
constant, necessary,
often fruitful, and often
harmful conflict. One
side expresses the one-
to-one fit of elements
between the candidate
for truth (proposition,
picture, etc.) and that
to which it is said to be
true. The second is
best expressed by
William James' idea

that truth is that which
is good in the way of
believing. The third is
the quality of
heightened reality we
experience when we
believe we have
captured the essence
of something (e.g.,
conceptually or through
art). None of these is
reducible to any of the
others.

Tom Leddy

Pali Canon Comes to SJSU

The library has purchased an English translation of the Pali Canon, the standard scripture collection of Theravada Buddhism written in Pali. The books are now in the library and being processed. (The work comes to thousands of pages.) They will be shelved in the Cultural Heritage Center (5th floor) in the Reference section of the Asian-American Collection. The library will be having a small "welcome" for them soon (date not set) and a bigger, more formal ceremony in February or March in conjunction with the opening of an exhibition of Buddhist Art and Manuscripts in the center. (Taken from a report to us by Librarian Harry Meserve.)

ETHICS BOWL

In Fall 2006 the SJSU Ethics Bowl team went to the first regional competition where

being one of the top two teams was necessary to qualify for the national competition. In the past no matter what your ranking was at the regional competition, you were invited to the national competition. Our team consisted of Adrian Jung, Rocio Alvarez, Mike Pistorio, Erin Newton, and Matt Della Betta. Erin and Mike were not philosophy majors, but they proved to be outstanding debaters who picked up on ethics quickly. We faced some rough battles, and learned that judges are imperfect creatures. Our ferocious leader Matt Della Betta led the way, and Erin Newton showed her ability in presentation. All members provided the team with powerful arguments and helped in the responses to the questions from judges. Our most notable moment was actually a loss. During the questioning period a judge, call him A, (who was actually a trial lawyer) subjected Matt to 15 aggressive questions, which in my opinion were way too aggressive for Ethics Bowl. However, Matt answered them all in

exemplary fashion, and with great answers. Given Matt's excellent performance I thought we should have won. However, we lost the round because another judge, B, decided to answer a question for the opposing team when the aggressive judge, A, subjected the opposing team to the same treatment we had received. Our hearts sank. Our second most notable moment was when our team defended animal rights on utilitarian grounds only to have a doctor, who was the judge, basically say that it is perfectly acceptable to torture little animals for the sake of research. We looked at him in disbelief. We like animals! This year we hope to send out either a two person team or a four person team. Adrian Jung will be participating as guide and mentor to the new recruits.

Socrates Café

continues to meet under the direction of Janet Stemwedel on the first, third and fifth Tuesday of each month, 3-4 at Café Pomegranate. Janet writes: "We take a question and spend an

hour discussing it with just our wits and the Socratic method to help us. The participants seem to end up getting pretty jazzed about the deep thinking that philosophy involves, and they start asking questions about their assumptions and everyday experiences." The question for Oct. 30 was "If civilization collapses, how (if at all) should we rebuild it?" Dan Williamson also leads sessions.

For information:
jstemwed@email.sjsu.edu

Center for Comparative Philosophy

After the philosophy faculty co-initiators' joint efforts and one year's careful preparations, the Center for Comparative Philosophy ('the Center' or 'CCP' for short) has been recently formally approved by the University as a new Organized Research Unit at SJSU.

'Comparative philosophy' in its broad sense means doing philosophy in a global context with emphasis on the constructive

engagement between distinct approaches for the sake of their joint contribution to the common philosophical enterprise. Comparative philosophy, understood in this way, reflects one significant trend in the current reflective practice towards world philosophy.

Now, as the CCP has been formally established, all the philosophy instructors, philosophy students or other interested persons are welcome to become Associate Members, who are entitled and encouraged to attend and participate in all the activities to be organized and sponsored by the CCP.

The CCP will sponsor multiple lecture talks per academic year, organize conferences and workshops, coordinate relevant international academic cooperation and exchange, collect/translate scholarship from diverse philosophical traditions, and support relevant course developments.

The 2007-08 CCP Lecture Series will be listed below with the

SJSU Colloquium Series.

SJSU Philosophy Colloquium Series & Lecture Series of the SJSU Center for Comparative Philosophy, Fall 2007

Philosophy Colloquium

October 9, Tuesday, 4:30, 2007 / King Library, Conference Room 229

Speaker: **Marco Panza** (Research Director of the CNRS Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique, University of Paris 7, France)

Topic: *Is the Notion of Mathematical Object a Historical Notion?*

Center for Comparative Philosophy 2007-8 Lecture Series (Fall 2007: I) & Philosophy Colloquium November 13, Tuesday, 4:00 pm, 2007 / King Library, Conference Room 229

Speaker: **Esther C. Su**

(Research Fellow, Foundation for the Study of Chinese Philosophy and Culture)

Topic: *A Comparative Examination of Kantian Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy*

Philosophy Colloquium

November 20, Tuesday, 4:30, 2007 / King Library, Conference Room 255

Speaker: **Tom Leddy** (Professor of Philosophy, San Jose State University)

Topic: *The Aesthetics of Junkyards and Roadside Clutter*

Center for Comparative Philosophy 2007-8 Lecture Series (Fall 2007: II) & Philosophy Colloquium

December 4, Tuesday, 4:00 pm, 2007 / King Library, Conference Room 255

Speaker: **Mohammad Azadpur** (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, San Francisco State University)

Topic: *How to Read Islamic Philosophy*

Spring 2008

Philosophy Colloquium

January 30, Wednesday, 4:00 pm, 2008 / Place to be announced

Speaker: **Robert Audi** (Professor of Philosophy and David E. Gallo Professor of Business Ethics, University of Notre Dame)

Topic: *Moral Knowledge and Truth* (tentative topic)

Center for Comparative Philosophy 2007-8 Lecture Series (Spring 2008: I) & Philosophy Colloquium
March 5, Wednesday, 4:00 pm, 2008 / Place to be announced

Speaker: **Dagfinn Føllesdal** (Clarence Irving Lewis Professor of Philosophy, Stanford University, USA / formerly Professor and Chair at Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo, Norway)

Topic: *Bridging the Gap Between Analytic Philosophy and Continental Philosophy*

CCP Discussion Session
at Philosophy 119
“Africana Philosophy and Culture”
March 18, Tuesday, 1:30-2:45 pm, BBC 323

Guest Speakers: **Percy Hintzen** (Professor in African-American Studies, UC Berkeley)
Commentator: **Tommy Lott** (Professor of Philosophy, San Jose State University)

Topic: *A Critical Examination of Social-Political Implications of Western Indian Identity*

Philosophy Colloquium

April 8, Tuesday, 4:30 pm, 2008 / Place to be announced

Speaker: **Michael Katz** (Professor of Education, San Jose State University)

Topic: *Caring and Teaching Ethics*

Center for Comparative Philosophy 2007-8 Lecture Series (Spring 2008: II) & Philosophy Colloquium

May 7, Wednesday, 4:30 pm, 2008 / Place to be announced

Speaker: **Manuel Vargas** (Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of San Francisco)

Topic: *Culture and the Value of Philosophy: The Latin American Case*

Contact:
Prof. Bo Mou
Department of Philosophy, 408-924-4513
bmou@email.sjsu.edu

The Colloquia for Spring 2007 were:

Jan 31, Robert Audi, Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, “Ethical Theory and Moral Judgment: From Classical Virtues to Contemporary Outsourcing” *This event was co-sponsored by Department of Philosophy and Institute for Social Responsibility, Ethics & Education.* **Feb 20, Dan Williamson**, San Jose State University. “The Uses of Michel Foucault.” **Mar 1, Avrum Stroll**, University of California at San Diego, “Informal Philosophy and Common Sense.” **April 5, Aloysius P. Martinich**, University of Texas at Austin, “Reference, Fiction, and Nonexistence.”

**Report on San Jose
State University
Philosophy
Department
Annual Spring
Conference
“Comparative
Philosophy”
May 5, 2007**



Prof. Bo Mou, SJSU, opened the conference with a talk on "A Methodological Framework of Cross-cultural Understanding and Constructive engagement." Prof. Peter Hadreas, SJSU, followed with "Liszt and Schopenhaueriana on the transcendent and transcendental." Peter illustrated his presentation with a musical performance from Liszt. Liszt grappled with a musical conundrum that also worried Schopenhauer.

Prof. Noam Cook, SJSU, introduced us to Eastern issues with "Nishida, Kuhn, and how we know: toward an epistemology of practice." Phil Williamson, M.A., SJSU, gave a slide-illustrated talk on "Gordon Plount: Outsider Artist/Philosopher." Prof. Tom Leddy, SJSU, expounded on "Plato's The Good and Lao Tzu's The Way." The theme of Plato and the East was continued by Tony Nguyen, M.A., SJSU, with his paper, "Where am I on the Divided Line?: Finding No-thing in Oneself and the Republic." Prof. Carlos Sanchez, SJSU, then turned our attention to Mexico and France in "Generosity: A Variation on a Theme." This paper compared the concept of generosity in French and Mexican philosophy. This was followed by Prof. Dan Williamson, SJSU, "Assimilation, Colonization, Globalization?" The last presentation was by alumnus Sharare Sharoki, M.A., SJSU, (teaching at Cabrillo): a translation of, and comments on an article by Homayoon

SanAtiZadeh (Farsi) comparing Rumi and Wittgenstein on the usage of the term "the ladder."

**Message to
Students About
Drinking and
Driving**

This summer included a sad incident for my family, the death of my nephew's best friend from childhood. The young man, 21 years old, was a student at Arizona State University. The tragic circumstances were that he was a passenger in a car driven by his 18 year old brother. There was alcohol involved and neither of them was wearing a seatbelt. Friends say the driver didn't seem drunk, but he now faces a lifetime of knowing how his brother died, as well as possible vehicular manslaughter charges. I plan to tell my students about the incident in hopes that even one of them will take it to heart and think twice before getting behind the wheel after drinking.

Lisa Bernasconi, Lecturer,
Department of Philosophy

Student News

Carl Flygt has a website at <http://consciousconversation.com/index.html>. He informs us that "New

features include an offering of Retreats at a wonderful rural resort at Mount Shasta, California and a Conversation Forum in which my ideas about conversation, juxtaposed to Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy, are underway in a robust fashion."

FACULTY NEWS

Noam Cook

Noam Cook is on leave for the 2007-08 academic year. He will be working on research and writing projects. This work is in two areas. First, he is developing (with a Dutch colleague and co-author) a conceptual framework for an "epistemology of practice" and its application to cases in technological and public policy settings. The idea here is to see practice as having an epistemic dimension, rather than seeing knowledge as giving rise to practice. This research is being conducted in the US and the Netherlands. Second, he is working on a conceptually-related project in philosophy of technology that sees practice as having a technological dimension, rather than seeing certain kinds of objects as technologies. He is also trying to develop the ability to do one thing at a time without feeling guilty.

Peter Hadreas

Peter writes, "My book, *A Phenomenology of Love and Hate*, I am assured, will be available from Ashgate Publishing, beginning the middle of September (2007). I'm concerned, of course, with how well it will be received. If favorable, a second, nearly completed, book on pleasure and pain will follow.

I am very excited about the mediated version of Philosophy 186 that Rita Manning, Carlos Sanchez, Bill Shaw, Janet Stemwedel, Sarah Stillman, and Anand Vaidya, with Keith Sanders, Media Producer with the TV Education Network, have been putting together over the past several months. It not only includes film recordings of sixteen lectures delivered by the group. It also contains a collection of playlets with Sarah Stillman enacting the role of the business ethics deprived protagonist. The project brings the need for business ethics directly to the SJSU student. There are also twenty-two discussions of business ethics cases that accompany the lectures. I am very honored to be associated with this project!

I have been hammering out a way of revisiting the ancient topic of the connection between metaphysics and music. Right now this consists in a presentation of a transcendental etude by Franz Liszt with a Schopenhauerian explanation of why it deserves to be called 'transcendental.' I offered a version of this project at West Valley College this past

November, and again at the philosophy department alumni conference this past May. Another performance is scheduled this October as one of the collection of events that SJSU Alumni College is offering in celebration of SJSU's 150th anniversary. It is a work in progress, but perhaps, in time, there will be chance to demonstrate a direct response to the ancient question.

Michael Katz

writes "I am currently the President of the Philosophy of Education Society and will give a talk on "Teaching with Integrity" at our annual conference in Cambridge, Mass. April 11-14th (any members of the dept. interested in joining the society or submitting a paper--see attached flyer. Deadline is Nov. 1); I am also President of the California Philosophy of Education Society and do the program for that group--we are small and now are meeting only once a year. This is a two year term. I gave a paper entitled "Competing Conceptions of Caring and Teaching Ethics to Prospective Teachers" at the Annual Philosophy of Education Conference in Atlanta in March of 2007; it will be published in their yearbook. A longer version of this paper was given at the annual meeting of the British Philosophy of Education Society in Oxford in March of 2007 (tell me if you need the exact dates for these); its title was "Competing Conceptions of Caring and the Teaching of Educational Ethics." If anyone is

interested in either paper, send me a note. Lawrence Quill and I will be submitting a paper comparing teaching ethics through case studies and teaching it through literature and film--by Sept. 15th; more on that later. And he and I have been asked to submit a book proposal on "Trust and Accountability in Education" to the University of Illinois press, but we have not gotten our response to the proposal yet."

Tom Leddy

writes "I published "Dewey's Aesthetics," in the on-line *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Sept. 29, 2006, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/dewey-aesthetics/> and gave the following papers at conferences: "Plato's concept of the Good and Lao Tzu's concept of the Way." Alumni Conference, San Jose State University, Spring 2007; "The Question of Creative Interpretation," American Society for Aesthetics, Eastern Division, April 13, 2007, Philadelphia; "Dewey, Defining Art, and the Aesthetics of Everyday Life," American Society for Aesthetics national meeting, Milwaukee, October, 2006; and comments on Sherri Irvin, "The Pervasiveness of the Aesthetic in Ordinary Experience," Asilomar, May, 2006. I chaired the session one "Issues about Fiction" American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division, Asilomar, March, 2007, and the SJSU Philosophy Department Conference in Spring 2007. I was elected to the Board of General Studies in the Spring and will serve for three years. Currently I

am rewriting my essays on everyday aesthetics and enjoying my class in the Philosophy of Art. Finally, as President of the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association I am involved in trying to save some artworks on San Antonio Street across Coyote creek from imminent destruction.

Tommy Lott

Tommy has written three book reviews since the last newsletter report on his work (2003): Paul Taylor, *Race: A Philosophical Introduction* (Polity Press, 2003) in *Choice*, (February, 2004). Anna Stubblefield, *Ethics Along the Color Line* (Cornell, 2005) in *Choice* (March 2006) and Lewis R. Gordon, *Disciplinary Decadence: Living Thought in Trying Times* (Paradigm Publishers (2006) in *Choice*, (March 2007). He has also been involved in a number of colloquia, including "Sovereignty by Acquisition and Hobbes' Political Realism," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 7, 2007, "The Concept of Slavery in Modern Philosophy," Conference on *The Market and its Discontents*, University of Nottingham, UK, June 28, 2006, "Anna Julia Cooper's Dissertation on the Haitian Revolution," Caribbean Philosophy Association Meeting, Montreal, Canada, August 3, 2006, "The Social and Political Philosophy of Anna Julia Cooper," Beatrice M. Main Center, University of California, Berkeley, April 6, 2006.

"The Pedagogy of Ethnicity," Teagle Working Group, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, April 21, 2006, "Will the Real Thomas Hobbes Please Stand Up?" Department of Philosophy, University of California, Santa Cruz, March 9, 2006, "John Coltrane's Intellectual Odyssey" Symposium on John Coltrane, Spirituality, and African American Liberation, Northeastern University, September 29, 2005., "Cloning as Modernization Metaphor: Is Counter Hegemony Possible?" Conference on *Cloning Cultures: Normativities, Homogeneities, and the Human in Question*, University of California Humanities Research Institute, University of California, Irvine, May 13, 2005, "Aesthetics and Politics in African American Culture," *Ronald Suter Distinguished Guest Lecture Series*, Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University, Fall 2004, Panel on Authors Meet Critics: Anatole Anton and Richard Schmitt, eds. *Toward a New Socialism* (Lexington, 2007), American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, April 6, 2007, Panel on Anna Julia Cooper, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 23, 2004, Panel on State Violence and Genocide, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Pasadena, CA, March 27, 2004.

He was Beatrice Bain Research Fellow, University of California, Berkeley,

2005-2007, and a Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy editor, 2004-present.

Rita Manning

gave a paper, "Care, Family and Distant Strangers" at the conference on Philosophy and the Family at University of Birmingham (UK) in June, and is giving a paper, "Challenges for a Global Politics of Care" at this meeting: ASSOCIATION FOR FEMINIST ETHICS AND SOCIAL THEORY September 2007 Conference Clearwater Beach, Florida Her book, co-authored with Scott Stroud, *Practical Ethics: Living and Leading with Integrity*, was completed this summer and will come out in January. She gave a talk at the Spring APA, at an author meets critic session organized by the RPA on *Toward a New Socialism*, edited by Anatole Anton and Richard Schmitt.

It is widely agreed that Rita is doing a stunning job as Department Chairperson.

Rita continues her other career as a singer and has recently entertained members of the department at the Arnold retreat (with Peter Hadreas) and in San Francisco.

Bo Mou

Prof. Mou's activities include Articles Published: "Concept of Truth and Multiple Facets of the Speech-act Equivalence Thesis," in *Truth and Speech Acts: Studies in the Philosophy of Language*, edited by Dirk Greimann and

Geo Siegwart (London: Routledge; 2007), pp. 178-197. "A Methodological Framework for Cross-Tradition Understanding and Constructive Engagement," forthcoming in *Worldviews and Cultures: Philosophical Reflections on Foundational Intricate Issues from an Intercultural Perspective*, edited by Nicole Note (The Netherlands: Springer, 2007). "A Double-Reference Account of Gongsun Long's 'White-Horse-Not-Horse' Argument," forthcoming in *The Journal of Chinese Philosophy* vol.34, No.4 (December 2007). "Searle, Zhuang Zi, and Transcendental Perspectivism," forthcoming in *Searle's Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy: Constructive Engagement* (The Netherlands: Brill; 2008). "On Some Methodological Issues Concerning Chinese Philosophy: A Theme Introduction," forthcoming in *Routledge History of Chinese Philosophy* (London: Routledge; 2008). "Constructive Engagement of Chinese and Western Philosophy: A Contemporary Trend Towards World Philosophy," forthcoming in *Routledge History of Chinese Philosophy* (London: Routledge; 2008).

Edited works: Editing, writing a theme introduction and contributing one essay to the special issue "Gongsun Long's 'White-Horse-Not-Horse' Argument and Contemporary Philosophy" for the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* vol.34, No.4 (December 2007). Editing, writing a theme introduction and contributing one chapter

to the reference book *Routledge History of Chinese Philosophy* (London: Routledge; 2008). Editing, writing a theme introduction and contributing one essay to the anthology volume *Searle's Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy: Constructive Engagement* (The Netherlands: Brill, 2008). Editing, and writing an introduction to, *Truth, Meaning, and Method: Selections from the Philosophical Writings of Donald Davidson* (Beijing, China: The Commercial Press), forthcoming in early 2008. (In Chinese)

Conference/Workshop Presentations: "A Thick-object-based Double-reference Account of How Cross-contextual Understanding is Possible: In View of Gongsun Long's and Quine's Cases," presented at the 2007 term of ISCWP's "Beijing Roundtable on Contemporary Philosophy" on the theme "Translation, Interpretation, and Cross-Tradition Understanding (Peking University, Beijing, China, June 8, 2007). "A 'Subject-Comment' Account of How Predication is Possible," presented at ISCWP panel session "How Predication Is Possible: From a Comparative Point of View", the Pacific Division 2007 Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (San Francisco, USA; April 4, 2007). "A Critical Note on the Relation Between Correlative and Analytic ways of Thinking," presented at the workshop on studies of Chinese philosophy at Chinese University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, March 20,

2007). "A Methodological Framework for Cross-Cultural Understanding and Constructive Engagement," presented at the 10th Symposium of Confucianism/Buddhism Communication and Philosophy of Culture hosted at Huaan University, Taiwan (Taiwan, ROC; March 17, 2007) and at the SJSU Philosophy Department Alumni Conference "Comparative Philosophy" (San Jose, USA; April 25, 2007).

Carlos Sanchez

Writes that he "was awarded APA National Prize in Latin American Thought in Washington D.C., December 2006; Awarded CSU Summer Research Fellowship, which I used to visit UNAM in Mexico City where I conducted research into 20th century Mexican philosophy; Published article, "Jorge Portilla's Phenomenology" in the APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues; Published article, "From Ortega y Gasset to Mexican Existentialism" in *Southwest Philosophical Studies*; Article entitled "Husserl's Way to Authentic Being" has been accepted for publication in *Human Studies: A Journal for Philosophy and the Social Sciences*; Presented several papers in places like Sacramento, Portland, El Paso, and Washington DC; I was inducted into CLAFEN, the Latin American Phenomenology Circle, as an Associate Member (1 of 9 current US scholars in this organization); Awarded, in

September of 2006, US Department of Education's Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)'s Achievement Award in New York City; this Award was in recognition for my lifetime—yes "lifetime"...I was as surprised as you—educational achievements and continual commitment to educational equity. I was the youngest person ever to receive this prize, usually reserved for university presidents and CEOs. It was quite an honor. Bill Clinton gave the keynote speech. As a result, I have been invited to give the Keynote Address at this year's Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education, taking place November 10, 2007 at UC Davis. I hear thousands of people will attend. I am very, very nervous. Finally, I served as a Leadership Coordinator for SJSU's "Leadership Today: Creating Community in a Diverse World," a weeklong retreat held at Asilomar, CA., in January. Leadership Today is a leadership development program designed to train advanced student leaders to positively and effectively build community around issues of diversity; 30 student leaders and 7 faculty and staff mentors participated. It was an eye-opening, unforgettable, experience."

Bill Shaw

Bill Shaw spent the spring '07 semester teaching in the SJSU program in Bath, England. The program, which has been going for about 15 years, takes SJSU students to Bath--one of the loveliest cities in England--where they

live with English families and take SJSU courses. Students can satisfy all their upper-level GE courses (including 100W) in Bath, and most of them do an internship with a local company or non-profit organization as one of their courses. There are weekly field-trips and plenty of opportunity for student's to travel on their own. About 30 students were in this year's program.

Janet Stemwedel

Since last year, I traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia to present a paper on the explanatory work done by the concept of the chemical bond at the Philosophy of Science Association meeting; to the North Carolina Science Blogging Conference at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to deliver a keynote address on how blogging works as a species of scientific communication; to IBM Almaden to lead a session on research ethics for undergraduate research interns; and to the International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry Summer Symposium at University of San Francisco to present papers on the prospects for anti-realism in chemistry and on what philosophers of science mean by "theory".

Rick Tieszen

was on leave during the 2006/2007 AY, thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship. During the first part of the year, until mid-March, I worked at home on two book projects. One project is on

systematic and historical connections between various figures in the phenomenological movement and philosophers of logic and mathematics. This includes discussions of Husserl, Frege, Hilbert, Brouwer, Heyting, Carnap, Weyl, Becker, Mahnke, Kaufmann, and Godel. The other project is an assessment and development of central ideas in Godel's philosophy of mathematics and logic.

From mid-March until late August I lived and worked in France. During April, May and June I was an invited visitor at the Institut d'histoire et de philosophie des sciences et des techniques (IHPST/CNRS) in Paris. While in Paris I gave lectures at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, the IHPST, the REHSEIS at Université Paris VI, and at a conference on intuitionism in Normandy (Cerisy). I also traveled to Finland to give a talk at a conference on phenomenology and mathematics. In July and August I was an invited visitor at the Archives Henri Poincaré/CNRS in Nancy. There I gave a lecture at Université Nancy 2/Archives Poincaré, and met with faculty and students to talk about mathematical intuition. Four papers I wrote for these various lectures will be published.

It was a wonderful and productive year but I'm glad to be back in San Jose and the beautiful Bay area, and I'm looking forward to my courses this fall.

Anand Vaidya

I spent this summer doing research at the Center for Consciousness at the Australian National University. I found the place to be one of the most exciting places to do philosophy. I attended a conference on Experimental Philosophy and Conceptual Analysis. It was really nice after teaching a course on this topic to see the actual people involved in the debate, debate the issue in a public forum. This year I look forward to finishing some projects in epistemology and the philosophy of mind.

Dan Williamson

Dan presented a paper in the Spring to the Philosophy Department Colloquium and then a paper at the Alumni Conference [both listed in articles on those topics above].

He writes "I continue to work with several ideas, including those pertaining to the idea of groups as a social ontology and epistemology and, as I argued in the paper, as a necessary extension of Foucault's thought. At this time, I am reading Sartre's Critique of Dialectical Reason and undertaking as I can other readings on the idea of groups, social ontology, etc."

Alumni News

The editor is eager to publish materials about alumni: please send to

tle403@aol.com or Tom Leddy, Department of Philosophy, 1 Washington Square, San Jose State University, San Jose, 95192 -0096

Tanzeen Doha

completed his M.A program in Philosophy at SJSU. He writes, "My thesis was on 'Pain and torture, and how empathy/solidarity can be used to recover from pain and ultimately formulate a collective ethics of care.' I am starting at SFSU this Fall to do a second M.A in Humanities. I hope to do a thesis on 'anti-foundationalist interpretation of Islam and its uses in recovery from pain in the postcolonial context'. And, I still continue to work with at-risk, behaviorally challenged youth for a non-profit organization."

Al Frankowski and Francine Wien

married in San Jose on July 15, 2007.

Matt Frise was accepted to Philosophy at UCSC.

Tanya Rodriguez has accepted a tenure-track appointment as an assistant professor, in the Department of Art, Music, and Philosophy at the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Kenneth Schieck,

1968, works for the California Employment

Department in Campbell, where he helps military veterans find employment. He is active in the International Association of Workforce Professionals.

Scott Stroud is at the Department of Communication Studies, University of Texas, Austin. He is finishing an applied ethics text with Prof. Manning. Scott went to an NEH seminar on pragmatism in New Mexico this summer.

Phil Williamson

is now a grad student in Philosophy at Albuquerque. He writes "I'll be the Teaching assistant for a Phil. 101 course next term, and I'm teaching Bio-medical ethics at the Community college. I made a brief visit to the Phil. Dept. but haven't really socialized much with my peers. The Library, which I visited early last week is fantastic. It dwarfs the meager Phil. collection at SJSU; at least with respect to more recent works. It is also an extremely comfortable place for study, (notwithstanding the Starbucks in the lobby!).

Wishing all of you every happy thing -- I'd love to hear from each of you, Stay in touch."

Benjamin Ten Cate

is now a Computer Systems Maintenance Technician With Cabrillo College since 2007

Randy Siever, B.A., works at Sparks Christian Fellowship, Sparks, Nevada.

He has been married to Sandy, his high school sweetheart, since 1976 and has three adult kids (Jake, Bethany, and Ian.) Randy received an M.A. in Christian Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary. He spent 20 years on the Young Life staff in four different states prior to this pastor gig at SCF. He also spent some short time selling used cars, health insurance and as an auto mechanic. This information is taken from his web site:
<http://www.scf.net/randysiever.asp>

Emeritus Faculty and other Former Teachers

Phil Davis writes "Aside from driving across the country a couple times and doing some research in the Plains states - mostly South Dakota and Montana - I have kept busy writing a sort of autobiography to be entitled either "My life on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations" or "The Scalping of the Great Sioux Nation." I have had occasion to research George Armstrong Custer - what a miserable, self-serving, but highly influential person he was - and am now investigating Indian alcoholism and the Indian Prohibition Laws. My father spent much of his career enforcing the federal law prohibiting the sale of alcohol to Indians, until that law was repealed. Alcoholism still persists on the reservations

and the Tribal Council at Pine Ridge at least has adopted its own prohibition against the sale of alcoholic beverages to Indians. Some sociologists have argued that the "firewater myth" is just that, a false claim the Indians are constitutionally more susceptible to the effects of alcohol than whites are. I am not so much interested in that sociological problem as I am in the attempts to deal with it in legal terms."

Amnon Goldworth

published "Disease, Illness and Ethics," Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics, 2005 14 (3) 346-351 and co-wrote a book, *Ethical Dilemmas in Pediatric: Cases and Commentaries* with Lorry R. Frankel, Mary V. Rorty, and William A. Silverman (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Local Conferences and Philosophy Talks

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

March 26 - 28, 2008

The Pacific Division of the American Society for Aesthetics invites papers and/or panel proposals for its annual conference. Submissions from persons in all arts-related disciplines, including graduate students,

are welcome. Paper submissions and panel proposals may be on any area of interest related to aesthetics and the philosophy of art. Suggested topics include aesthetic evaluation and taste, art and the sciences, concepts of artistic genres, history of aesthetics, new contemporary art forms and media, morality and art, interpretation.

Paper submissions should be accompanied by 100-word abstracts and must not exceed 3000 words in length (20 minutes in presentation time).

Panel proposals should include a general description of the topic or theme, and include the names and affiliations of all proposed participants and brief abstracts of papers.

The author of the best graduate student essay submitted will be awarded \$200. Submissions from graduate students, therefore, should be clearly marked as such.

Volunteers to serve as commentators and/or chairs of panels are also welcome.

Electronic submissions are highly preferred.

**Submission deadline:
November 15, 2007**

Dustin Stokes
Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
215 Huron Street
Toronto ON Canada M5S
1A2

d.stokes@utoronto.ca

American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting

**November 7 - 10, 2007,
Los Angeles. Go to
aesthetics-online.org
for more information.**

STANFORD

PHILOSOPHY Colloquium & Lecture Series

All talks are Fridays at 3:15 in Building 90, room 92Q unless otherwise noted. A public reception will follow the talks. Check their website for updated information: <http://www-philosophy.stanford.edu/>

November 9 Gerald Cohen

All Souls College, Oxford
³A Truth in Conservatism ²
Co-Sponsors: Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality and the Political Theory Colloquium

November 30 Edward Gibson

Department of Brain & Cognitive Science, MIT
Title to be announced
Co-Sponsors: Departments of Psychology and Linguistics

PHILOSOPHY
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(650)723-0985 <http://www-philosophy.stanford.edu/>

Santa Clara University

**2008 Philosophy
Department Austin J.
Fagothey, S.J., Conference**
will be held in Fall 2008, date to be announced. *The Philosophy of Rene Descartes*. The featured speakers will be: John Carreiro (UCLA), Dan Garber (Princeton), Alan Nelson (UNC/Chapel Hill), Marleen Rozemond (University of Toronto), and Catherine Wilson (Graduate School and University Center, CUNY)

American Philosophical Association

**2008 Pacific Division
Annual Meeting:** March 18-23, Pasadena, California

UC Santa Cruz

Sarah Richardson, Stanford University, **Title TBA**. Thursday, November 15, 4:00 pm; **Sam Cumming**, University of California, Los Angeles, **Title TBA**. Friday, November 16, 4:30 pm, This is a joint colloquium with the Linguistics Department; **Barbara Herman**, University of California, Los Angeles. **Title TBA** Thursday, February 21, 4:00 pm, **Lydia Patton**, Virginia Tech, Thursday, February 28, 4:00 pm, **Edouard Machery**, University of Pittsburgh

Title TBA, Thursday, March 6, 4:00 pm, **Grant Fisher**, University College, London
"Evidence in the context of action" Thursday, March 13, 4:00 pm, This talk is co-sponsored by the Institute for Humanities Research.

All colloquia will be held in the Cowell Conference Room, Cowell College, unless otherwise noted.

<http://philosophy.ucsc.edu/>

University of California, Berkeley

For upcoming talks go to <http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/events/upcoming> Of particular interest is a series



San José State
UNIVERSITY

of talks by Hillary Putnam, Oct. 8-12.

Selected Courses at SJSU to be offered Spring 2008

**Phil 107 Philosophy
and Literature,
Hadreas**

**Phil 119 Africana
Culture, Lott**

**Phil 120,
Eastern/Western
Philosophy, Mou**

**Phil 126,
Environmental Ethics,
Manning**

**Phil 133, Ethics in
Science, Stemwedel**
**Phil 134, Computers,
Ethics and Society,
Williamson and
Sonnier**
**Phil 159, Philosophy of
Mind, Tieszen**
**Phil 160, Philosophy of
Science, Shaw and
Sonnier**
**Phil 190, John Stuart
Mill, Shaw**
**Phil 290, Philosophical
Classics, Vaidya,**
**Phil 292, Aesthetics,
Leddy**

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