



**Newsletter:
Department of
Philosophy
San José State
University
Feb., 2014**

Editor: Tom Leddy

**Our Philosophy
Department Web Site
Address:**
<http://www.sjsu.edu/philosophy/>

**Letter from the
Chair, Peter
Hadreas**

I am honored to write about the accomplishments of the San José State Philosophy Department this year. Praise should be extended to so many of you I cannot adequately cover all who profoundly deserve it. To those who I leave out, please forgive me, there simply are so many.

First, our students. Daniel Wagnon told me several years ago he had a dream of attending the Ph. D. program at The New School for Social Research. Last year he was not only accepted to the New School, they awarded him full tuition and living expenses. Andrew Soto realized his aspirations in joining the Ph. D. program

with tuition paid at Texas A & M. Andrew Lavin is waiting on, and will likely have to choose between, a Wittgenstein studentship in Philosophy at Cambridge and a Fulbright Scholarship to Spain. We cannot leave out our indefatigable Will Parkhurst and June Brown who are at the University of South Florida. We miss them all, but take consolation in their burgeoning careers.

Among those who worked hard to produce this year's crackerjack Ethics Bowl Team are Karin Brown, Lucian Pino and Kyle Yrigoyen. Our team ranked top at the Regional Competition and we now sport an extraordinarily large trophy in the Philosophy Department Office. Our team has been selected to go the Nationals this month. I can't imagine a larger trophy should they win. Whatever it is we will display it proudly.

What to say about the Open Letter to Michael Sandel? There is simply not enough space to cite the extraordinary commendations it received. It created a wave of notices from national newspapers and magazines that has yet to ebb. It was published by The Chronicle of Higher Education on April 29th of last year, five days later it was cited by Tamar Lewin in The New York Times, then The Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Nation, and just a few weeks ago again in The New York Times, to mention a few of the national publications. In reaction to the letter in their Dec. 9, 2013 issue, the editors of The Chronicle of Higher

Education elected the San Jose State Philosophy Department to the nationwide top ten higher-education influence list for 2013. I personally was sent a commendation by Ralph Nader. As yet, I've heard nothing from President Obama or Michelle, but then again it's his second term and perhaps they've relaxed some in contacting influential organizations.

More significant than the extraordinary media visibility the letter engendered was the courage and honesty that spirited it. It was not only a matter of exercising our academic autonomy. It was a bold and frank letter. From conversations at the time, I know the writers of this letter were willing to lay down their careers and reputations for their convictions and principles of good education. I do not think I overstate matters when I say it was a shining moment that we may remember with pride for a lifetime. I cannot express enough gratitude to you all.

**MAKE A
FINANCIAL
CONTRIBUTION
TO PHILOSOPHY**

Alumni and other friends of the Philosophy Department who wish to donate to the Department should make out a check to the "SJSU Tower Foundation" with a note in the memo position that says "Philosophy Fund." 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 Tower Foundation, 1 Washington Square, San Jose, California 95192-0183.

Retirements and New Lecturer

Prof. Noam Cook

retired at the end of the summer. Some of his parting words include the following "I am deeply grateful to have been in this department. It is one of which we all can be justifiably proud. The range and calibre of scholarly work and the quality of teaching are exciting and important -- to each other, to our students, and to the field. Also, the level of collegiality and mutual respect is a rare and wonderful thing. The department that was envisioned when my cohort was hired has come to be. The department I leave is one in which I have felt my work valued and where I have found so much to value in the work of others -- and in your abiding company. With affection and respect, Noam" He also wrote "Not being fond of the "r" word, terms such as "go emeritus" or "go freelance" feel better. Indeed, I plan to continue with research and writing, and will have more time to do so." I do not have an exact date, but I believe Noam was with the department for 28 years.

Prof. Richard

Schubert retired as of this semester after 31 years of service to the university. (That's just the official number. His presence in the department goes back to the 70s at least.) We will miss our long-haired, motorcycle-riding, Wittgenstein expert. Where will we find another?

Michael Jordan, an alumnus from way back, is returning as a newly hired lecturer. Glad to see you again, Michael!

Peter Koestenbaum February 11th

Emeritus faculty member Peter Koestenbaum visited San Jose State to give a talk on February 11th, "Do you have the will to lead?" For the past three decades he has led his own consulting firm specializing in leadership training, his views drawn from the continental tradition in philosophy. Prof. Koestenbaum was at SJSU for a few days for other events with faculty and students. *The San Jose Mercury News* did quite a spread announcing his visit, "Q&A Peter Koestenbaum challenges executives to be better leaders" by Dan Nakaso, Jan. 31. Nakaso gives this as Koestenbaum's occupation: "Author, consultant and executive coach for businesses and local governments, including the city of Palo Alto, Ford Motor, Volvo, Renault, World Economic Forum, IBM, SE Banken (Sweden), LG Electronics (South Korea), Aspen Pharmaceuticals (South Africa) and Wells Fargo." Quite impressive.

Last Year's Annual Philosophy Department Conference, 2013, "Aesthetics in all of its manifestations"

The following papers were given at the annual conference. (Unless noted, all participants were faculty in our department.) Thomas Leddy, "Everyday Aesthetics in Light of Aristotle's Theory of Happiness," Noam Cook "Technology and Art as Social Practice," Alfred Jan (Alumnus, Philosophy, SJSU): "Gelett Burgess and the Aesthetics of Humor," Tony Nguyen, "Plato's White Stone: Does Plato's Criticism of Greek Empiricism apply to Modern Quantum Theory and Special Relativity?", Dan Williamson "Some Reflections on an Aesthetics of Place," June Brown (Graduate Student, SJSU) "Truth and Lies: The Paradox of Fiction." Janet Giddings. "Philosopher Poet: A Discussion of Edwin Markham's poems."

Colloquia and Guest Lectures

Tressie McMillan Cottom, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at Emory University, was here November 14 to speak about the increasing privatization of higher education (including at public universities like SJSU) and the MOOC movement, one talk hosted by CFA. The Center on Ethics and the Philosophy Department hosted a second talk, focused on the ethical implications of these developments in higher education.

Professor Carlos Sanchez (SJSU) delivered his University Scholar address on Oct. 29 at MLK Library.. His topic was "The History of

Latin American Philosophy.'
Congratulations to Carlos for
being named University
Scholar!

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer (Philosophy Major) on the Value of a Humanities Major

In an article for the *New York Review of Books* "On Reading Proust," Nov. 7, 2013, 30-32, Justice Stephen Breyer, in answer to a question from a student on what major to study for law, is quoted as saying "whatever major you want, as long as it has nothing to do with the law" (Breyer was a philosophy major at Stanford.) He further writes "We are only allowed to live one life: it's the human condition, there's no escaping it. In my view, only by studying the humanities can we hope to escape this fundamental limitation and understand how other people live, [b]ecause literature, history, or philosophy all provide extraordinary windows on the world. Foreign languages, too, are fundamental. ...when you're a judge and you spend your whole day in front of a computer screen, it's important to be able to imagine what other people's lives might be like, lives that your decisions will affect. ...So, yes, reading is a very good thing for a judge to do. Reading makes a judge capable of projecting himself into the lives of others, lives that have nothing in common with his own, even lives in

completely different eras and cultures. And this empathy, this ability to envision the practical consequences on one's contemporaries of a law or a legal decision, seems to me to [be] a crucial quality in a judge." (32)

Call for Papers: 21st Annual Conference of the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World

July 18-22, 2014
San Jose, CA

We invite submissions for the 20th-annual conference of SPCW. We welcome papers on all topics, from any and all philosophical traditions. The society fosters and supports productive philosophical exchange in a constructive environment. New members are always welcomed!

Standard submissions: papers with a maximum length of 3,500 words, and an abstract of 100 words or less. Alternative presentation and creative proposals will be given consideration.
Electronic submissions are preferred.

Submissions are due March 1, 2014

**Questions and submissions (prepared for blind review) should be sent electronically to:
Carlos Sanchez at carlos.sanchez@sjsu.edu or
Geoffrey Pfeifer at gpfeifer@WPI.EDU**

Conference Chair:

*Carlos Alberto Sánchez,
Associate Professor,
Department of Philosophy,
San Jose State University*

We welcome and encourage papers on *any topic* related to philosophy in the contemporary world (broadly construed). **Of particular interest this year, are papers that engage the debate over online learning, MOOCs (massive online courses), and the corporatization of the university.** However, other possible topics might include any of the following, many of which have been themes of conferences over the past 20 years: Multiculturalism and Philosophy, Philosophy of Race, Back to the things themselves, Theory and Philosophy, Contemporary Culture, Philosophy and Everyday Life, Democracy and Democratic Theory, Intersubjectivity: Self, Other, and Lifeworld, Sport, Play and Leisure, Time, History, and Social Change, Place and Space, Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, Work, Labor, Creation, Culture and Ethics, Philosophy of Place, Tradition and Memory, Bridging Analytic and Continental Philosophy, Power, Law and the Possibility of Peace

American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division, April 9-11

Every year, about forty philosophers meet at the Asilomar Conference Grounds (Pacific Grove) to discuss issues in aesthetics. The meeting is international

in scope and many of the leading thinkers in the field attend. Information can be found at <http://www.aesthetics-online.org/events/> The meeting is sponsored by the American Society for Aesthetics. A preliminary program is available on the site. There will be sessions on everyday aesthetics, humor, beyond art, fraudulent beauty, and fictional objects, among others. Tanya Rodriguez, an alumna, will be giving a paper on "Narrative Disruption: Jokes and Self-Protective Irony"

Special Rates for Students. Registration for the full conference for all students is at reduced fee of \$40. Simply go to the web site listed above to register online. Student membership in the society, which includes subscription to the Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, the leading journal in aesthetics, is \$35.

In the past, several SJSU students have attended sessions at Asilomar, one even chairing a session. Please contact Prof. Leddy tle403@aol.com for more information.

**American
Philosophical
Association, Pacific
Division, Annual
Meeting April 16-
20, 2014, The
Westin Gaslamp
Quarter, San Diego.**

For information, go to apa/online.org

Wednesday, April 14, 3pm:
APA Committee Session:
Book Symposium: Carlos Sanchez, *The Suspension of Seriousness: On the Phenomenology of Jorge Portilla*, arranged by the APA Committee on Hispanics. Chair: Grant J. Silva, Marquette Univ.; Speaker: Carlos Alberto Sanchez, SJSU; Commentators: Francisco Gallegos, Georgetown Univ.; Michael J. Monahan, Marquette Univ.; Amy Oliver, American Univ.; Cynthia Paccacerqua, Univ. of Texas-Pan American.

Karin Brown, Janet Stemwedel and Anand Vaidya will give a session on "Facilitating Learning among Online Egos: Impression Management in MOOCs and the Role of the Teacher" at the APA Committee Session: Open Online Courses in Philosophy arranged by the APA Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy.

Tom Leddy will comment on Robert Ginsberg, "Ruins Revisited: The Problematics of the Field of Aesthetics of Ruins" at the American Society for Aesthetics session on the aesthetics of ruins, Saturday, 6:00-9:00 pm.

Anand Vaidya will chair the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy session on Saturday 6:00-8:00 pm.

Department Prizes

**The Herman Shapiro
Memorial Scholarship
Award winner was
Michelle Mogannam.**

**The Temple Prize for
Outstanding Paper
went to June Brown.**

**The Lydia A. and
George V. Pinto
Scholarship (for
commitment to Social
Justice, Service to
Community, and Love
of Philosophy) went to
Will Parkhurst.**

**The Manor Prize for
Outstanding Logic
Student went to Kyle
Yrigoyen**

Philosophy Club:
[facebook.com/groups/165445374077/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/165445374077/) Weekly discussions are Tues. 5:30-7:00 pm in FOB 104.

**Teaching
Associates**

Graduate student Teaching Associates this semester include Carmel Weiler, Mitch Hernandez, Chris Barber, and Daniel Bohigian.

ETHICS BOWL

SJSU Team 2, coached by Lucian Pino and Kyle Yrigoyen, won the regional Ethics Bowl competition on December 7, 2013. Karin Brown was the faculty advisor. The team will continue to compete in the National Ethics Bowl competition on February 27, 2014. The competition is

hosted by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and will take place in Jacksonville Florida.

The team members are: Conor Kusich, Industrial Design major; Erika Villasenor, Philosophy major; Jason Farnsworth, Philosophy major; Priscilla Chung, Kinesiology major; KiWi Fan, Psychology major and Vincent Ianniello, Philosophy major. Alyssa Cortez (from team 1), Philosophy major, joins the team to compete for the national competition.

Thanks also to Dean Dominguez for his coaching efforts.

Center for Comparative Philosophy

Dr. Vaidya, the new director of the Center for Comparative Philosophy, plans to put on one conference each year for the next three years focusing on such topics as Mind and Moral Psychology, New Conversations in Cross-Cultural Philosophy, and Rethinking Metaphysics and Epistemology from the Perspective of World Philosophy.

In 2013 the CCP Workshop/Conference Series, Symposium Theme was “Yi-Jing Philosophy and Contemporary Philosophy and Society.” The event

was held on April 4, 2013

Allinson, Robert (Professor of Philosophy, Soka University of America): “The Concept of Opposites in Hegel, the *Yi-Jing*, Mao and Contemporary China”

Hadreas, Peter (Professor of Philosophy, Chair of Philosophy Dept, SJSU): “Plato's *Chora* and Lao Zi's *Dao*: from the vantage point of the *Yi-Jing* method”

Jochim, Christian (Professor of Humanities, Chair of Humanities Dept, SJSU): “Western Philosophical Critique of Modernity: with help from the *Yi-Jing* and *Dao-De-Jing*”

Mou, Bo (Professor of Philosophy, Director of CCP, SJSU): “A Reflection on the Nature of Ideographic Language in the *Yi-Jing*: Engaging the Lockean and Fregean Approaches”

Phan, Chanh (Assistant Professor of Humanities, SJSU): “Building Blocks of Reality: A Comparative Dialogue between the *Yi-Jing* and Western Views”

FACULTY NEWS

Karin Brown

Has forthcoming: Introduction to *Understanding the Concept of Empathy and Its Foundation in Psychoanalysis*, Lewiston/Queenston/Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press.

Anthony Korsund

In 2013, Anthony enjoyed having the opportunity to engage SJSU students on many levels professionally. Anthony served as a session chair for the 2013 SJSU Center for Comparative Philosophy Symposium on Yi-Jing Philosophy. Furthermore, having been promoted to Academic Advisor for the CASA Student Success Center, while continuing to teach philosophy and student success courses, has allowed Anthony to apply his professional training in philosophy and counseling in ways he hopes enriches student involvement and social justice within the SJSU community. Anthony has been serving on both the African American Taskforce and Latino Student Success Taskforce committees, supporting campus efforts to close the retention gap between underserved student populations and other student populations. In addition to his efforts to apply phenomenological, existential and counseling insights to problems concerning student success and social justice on the SJSU campus, Anthony has continued with his philosophical research. His research interests have shifted focus this past year from Asian philosophy to issues concerning philosophy as therapy and the philosophy of technology. In continuing with his passion for Asian philosophy, however, Anthony has frequently visited local Buddhist monasteries and meditation centers, with the purpose of furthering his development in

his practice of Buddhist mindfulness in teaching and counseling. His Buddhist mindfulness studies have also informed his, as yet, unfinished paper, tentatively titled *On Philosophy as Therapy*. His more recent research interests focus on the debate surrounding Transhumanism, or the idea that if human beings are capable of transcending their biology through new technologies, should they? To what degree are these technologies life affirming and potentiating to the human experience, and/or to what degree do they fail in this effort? Should we welcome a fully new human-like experience, and what would this mean? Is such a transformation inevitable? Anthony attempts to address these questions, as well as traditional issues concerning the philosophy of technology, in his course on Science, Technology and Human Values.

Tom Leddy

A review of my book *The Extraordinary in the Ordinary: The Aesthetics of Everyday Life*, Broadview Press (2012.) was published, in the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*: by Kevin Melchionne 71, 3 (213):296-298. I continue to write weekly posts for my blog *Aesthetics Today*. <http://aestheticstoday.blogspot.com/> In response to all of our discussions about MOOCs I published: "Are MOOCs Good for Students?," *Boston Review*, June 14, 2013, . <http://www.bostonreview.net/us/are-moocs-good-students> I also gave a paper on

aesthetics and happiness at our annual conference. I attended the American Society for Aesthetics national meeting in San Diego in October and chaired a session on natural and everyday aesthetics. That's my main interest these days and I am happy to have the chance to give a graduate seminar on the topic this semester. I'll be giving a paper on the definition of everyday aesthetics at the ASA meeting in Asilomar in April and a paper on the aesthetics of ruins at the APA meeting in San Diego. Also, outside my life as a philosopher, I was just elected president of the Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association.

Tommy Lott

will be speaking at a conference on "Slaveries Old & New" sponsored by the British Academy in London, March 27th and another conference on " The African Diaspora in the Mediterranean and in Asia" sponsored by the Centre for Africana Studies at Johns Hopkins University, April 25th.

Rita Manning

Rita published "Punishing the Innocent: Children of Incarcerated and Detained Parents" *Criminal Justice Ethics* (2011) 267-287.

Bo Mou

Published *Constructive Engagement of Analytic and Continental Approaches in Philosophy: From the Vantage Point of Comparative Philosophy (Philosophy of History and Culture)* Brill, 2013.

George Pinto

(alumnus, 1991) continues to volunteer his time with Goa Sudharop, a non-profit he co-founded in 2000. Goa Sudharop raises money for educational and environmental projects in Goa, India, and has also funded groups working on children and women's rights. This year ten eye camps to aid the blind and visually-challenged will be held in Goa. In addition, George is keeping his fingers crossed that the Vatican will finally canonize a Goan saint in the next year or so. He has been working with a friend on the Blessed Joseph Vaz cause for canonization since 2000, including a couple of trips to Rome to appeal to the Congregation of Saints. Most saints historically are from Europe and George hopes as a matter of justice, not for religious reasons, that other regions of the world get their due recognition. George enjoys teaching one Philosophy class a semester at SJSU while keeping himself busy at the CPA firm he co-founded in 2001. Last year, Silicon Valley Accountancy became the largest local firm in Northern California doing employee benefit plan audits.

Carlos Sanchez

Professor Sanchez had a busy 2013. He presented papers at several conferences, including the APA Pacific in San Francisco, the Southwest Seminar in Continental Philosophy at Texas A&M, the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World meeting at the University of Denver, and the American

Society for Intellectual History at UC Irvine.

In the fall, he was named University Scholar at San Jose State and presented on the history of philosophy in Latin America. He published papers in *Radical Philosophy Review*, the *Journal for the Philosophy of Life*, and the *Inter-American Journal of Philosophy*.

Spring 2014 promises to be even more hectic. Dr. Sanchez, along with colleagues at College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, have organized a two-day seminar on Mexican philosophy in April, 2014. He will be responding to critics of his book, *The Suspension of Seriousness*, at the APA Pacific division meeting in San Diego. A talk on his book will take place at Notre Dame de Namur University in late February. Dr. Sanchez is also serving as conference chair for the 21st Annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary world, which the SJSU philosophy department will host this upcoming summer, from July 18-22 [see earlier in newsletter for details]. Finally, Professor Sanchez is participating, as mentor, in the Preparing Future Professors Program, a joint project of SJSU and Stanford.

Jan Giddings

Last year was fruitful in many ways. First, our son JohnHenry married Heather Kim in September so that was a personal joy. On the professional side of life I began writing more papers,

and attending as many intellectually stimulating events as I could.

I attended a local conference of the Society of Christian Ethics at SCU in February. I heard a paper on “Breaking Down the Walls Between Neuroethics and Religious Ethics” by Harlan Stelmach, Dominican University (my alma mater). Harlan’s paper offered me information and ideas to consider in medical ethics.

I presented a paper at the 13th Annual Philosophy Department Conference here at San Jose State on May 4th. The paper “Philosopher Poet: A Discussion of Edwin Markham’s poems” was the start of my work on the American poet Edwin Markham and his philosophical theology. I am a descendent of Markham. In this first paper I asked the question whether “doing” poetry is doing philosophy. Some of our brilliant students offered much in the way of philosophical answers, meaning more questions!

Continuing to look for inexpensive learning opportunities that might add to my pedagogical skill-set I looked to one of my alma maters. The University of San Francisco offers alum learning opportunities for a small fee so I took a course in July on Jesuit Pedagogy: 1548-2025. The weeklong workshop was rich in content and offered tools to add to my teaching strategies. The Jesuits long history and knowledge of teaching is amazing. It was interesting to consider the future of education especially the uses of technology.

In October I attended a one-day workshop on Human

Trafficking at the Archdiocese of San Jose. It was both enlightening and terrifying. The San Jose Police Human Trafficking division presented data on how many people are thought to be enslaved in Santa Clara County. If you suspect someone is enslaved (owned) by another person, please call the Human Trafficking hotline: 1-888-373-7888. If anyone would like more information about human trafficking (modern slavery) I will be happy to pass on the information I learned.

In November I presented my first national conference paper. My paper, “Truly a Preacher: Religious Ideas and Themes in the poetry of American poet Edwin Markham (1842-1940)” was well received at the American Academy of Religion conference in Baltimore. With the support of two readers, philosopher Tom Leddy (SJSU) and theologian Dan Peterson (Seattle U), and after 20 edits at least, I came to enjoy writing the final draft! In the paper I argued that Markham had two major influences from which he developed a philosophical theology: his mother and Emmanuel Swedenborg. I am continuing to write on Markham.

A highlight in teaching medical ethics in the fall was adding a community service assignment to the learning process. The students were amazing. There were six tables set up around campus featuring information on Advanced Health Care Directives. Students made brochures, flyers, bookmarkers, and small info wallet cards. The results were excellent!

I have been invited to the Swedenborgian Church in San Francisco in March, to give a talk on Edwin Markham and the influence of Swedenborg on his work.

I am also developing a course on Ethics and Gambling in hopes we can offer it to students at SJSU. Another gambling paper I am working on is "Applied Tillich: Gambling as a Major Concern." I hope to submit it to a conference for this year.

Bill Shaw

Bill Shaw is working on the ethics of war from a utilitarian perspective, and he has two essays in this area that are about to be published, "Utilitarianism and the Ethics of War" in Ben Eggleston and Dale Miller, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Utilitarianism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), and "Consequentialism, War, and National Defense," *Journal of International Political Theory*, vol. 10, no. 1 (February 2014).

Rick Tieszen

I presented an invited paper, "Leibniz, Husserl and Gödelian Monadology" at the conference *Kurt Gödel, Philosopher: From Logic to Cosmology* in France in July and again in the Berkeley Logic Colloquium in October. The conference in France was sponsored by the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche, which has funded a multi-year project to transcribe and publish for the first time Gödel's philosophical notebooks. I am one of the international team members on this project. The contents of the

notebooks are proving to be very interesting.

At the beginning of December I presented an invited paper, "Mathematics, Logic and Transcendental Philosophy," in Israel (Jerusalem and Tel Aviv) at the conference *Intuition and Reason: An International Conference on the Work of Charles Parsons*.

Several invited papers are forthcoming: "Mathematics, Logic and Transcendental Philosophy: Kant and Husserl" in *Kant's Philosophy of Mathematics*, O. Rechter and C. Posy (eds.); "Arithmetic and Mathematical Evidence" in a special issue of *Inquiry* on evidence in mathematics; "Leibniz, Husserl and Gödelian Monadology" in a volume of papers from the aforementioned conference in France; and "Husserl and Gödel" for a volume on Husserl and logic edited by S. Centrone. I also published a review of G.E. Rosado Haddock's *Against the Current: Selected Philosophical Papers* on the online *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.

I was invited to give a talk in Tokyo at the end of February on the philosophy of mathematics. During the Spring term I plan to return to work on a book manuscript on the philosophy of time.

John Wilhelmsson

This appears on John's Amazon.com author's page. "After having studied and taught both philosophy and theology he decided to form Chaos To Order Publishing. The goal of Chaos To Order

Publishing is to create beautiful high quality books published more for their cultural and spiritual value than for their ability to turn a profit. On 12/12/12 his award winning San Jose State University master's thesis became the first Chaos to Order Publishing book entitled "The Transposition of Edith Stein: Her Contributions to Philosophy, Feminism & The Theology of the Body." This was followed up on 3/19/13 by "A Pilgrimage to Iceland." As both a working philosopher and Catholic speaker John is known for his enthusiastic style and thoughtful and independent interpretations. Born and raised in San Jose, John currently resides just close enough to the university to walk there on the mornings he teaches." John recently published through his press "Tales of the Theotokos: Mary in the Personal, Historical, Scriptural, and Spiritual Realms" (2013).

Dan Williamson

As time permits, I am continuing to work on themes emerging from the contemporary interests in place and space. It was research on those themes that began with a paper I presented last Spring at the APA Pacific Division, "Foucault's Aesthetics: Place, Space and Ecology", and a variation of that at the Alumni conference, "Some Thoughts about Place". These themes are an interesting mix of social and political theory, a continuing interest in the essence of the concepts of what is a group, along with strong doses of Arendt, Foucault and

phenomenology, not to mention corresponding ecological ideas as well. At some point in the future I would like to present a seminar at SJSU on these ideas.

Emeritus

Philip E. Davis

continues to write and publish. His latest is "An Intimate History of My Adventures on Two Indian Reservations." North Charleston, So. Carolina: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013. Davis received his Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Yale, and his AB degree from Harvard. As a blurb on bookish.com puts it, he "has published books and articles on moral, legal, and modern philosophy. Current interests, besides the plight of the American Indian, include the pragmatic thought of William James, O.W. Holmes, Jr., Mark Twain, and Thomas Jefferson."

Alumni News

The editor is eager to publish materials about alumni: please send to tle403@aol.com or Tom Leddy, Department of Philosophy,

Al Frankowski is Assistant Professor at Northeastern Illinois University. Frankowski's web site says he "is currently working on a book length manuscript called *The Cassandra Complex: On Violence, Racism, and Mourning*, that analyzes the role of post-racial memory in the context of the aesthetics of memorials to cultural trauma." Al published "The Violence of Post-Racial Memory and the Political Sense of Mourning" in *Contemporary Aesthetics*, the online journal, Oct. 7, 2013.

Alfred Jan published *A Gelett Burgess Sampler: Ethics and Aesthetics* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012)

"collected by Alfred Jan, who introduces the book. In it are 13 examples of the brilliant wit and droll style of the man who is infamous for the "Purple Cow" poem. Burgess has recently been revived by Ramble House and this book is an excellent introduction to this enigmatic man of the 20th Century." He also edited *The Best of Spicy Mystery Volume 1* by John Bard et. al., (Altus Press, 2012)

Holly Lane, who was not an alumn of our department but took lots of philosophy classes when she was here, recently had a show of her art at the San Francisco Museum of Craft and Design, "Holly Lane: Carving Allegories." She also received the 2012-2013 Pollock-Krasner Individual Artist Grant.

Christopher Kinney is currently an adjunct professor in philosophy at Ashford University, DeVry University, and South University.

Sara Rettus is Associate Faculty member at Mission College.



San José State
UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy
1 Washington Square
San Jose, CA 05192-0096