

SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Newsletter: Department of Philosophy San José State University Feb., 2016

Editor: Tom Leddy

Our Philosophy Department Web Site Address:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/philosophy/> For the archives of the old newsletters look at Quick Links on the first page and click on “events and newsletters.” There was no 2015 issue.

Letter from the Chair

There is something surreal about feeling oneself to be a relative youngster and then finding oneself Department Chair. If I’m honest about how long I’ve been here (since Fall 2002), it’s clear that “youngster” is probably not an accurate description of me. However, I am blessed to be Chairing surrounded by faculty who were active when I joined the department, and who are now at least as active in the life of the department and the life of the mind.

The people whose very large shoes I have to fill are still here. Luckily for me, that means they are providing

their sage counsel and tireless help.

We have reason to hope that we are emerging from a stretch of years where the university was focused on cutting resources to fields that were not obviously connected to a particular vision of what life, work, and education in the 21st Century ought to look like. That vision seemed to imagine science, technology, and commerce as the fields of human endeavor that mattered — which meant a loss of support, both material and moral, for the College of Humanities and the Arts and for the Department of Philosophy.

With a change in administration at the University, there are hopeful signs. Material and moral support are being offered, if still cautiously, for teaching, research, and service that embrace a broader understanding of human flourishing. We arrive at a moment where we have space to imagine the future of the Department without having to combat external forces that question whether Philosophy ought to have a future here.

What kind of future do we want to build?

I hope that we can develop our degree programs and curriculum to present philosophy in a way that is immediately relevant to, and

concretely useful in navigating the complexities of life in the Silicon Valley, in the United States, and in an increasingly globally connected world, while maintaining contact with longstanding human concerns at the center of various philosophical traditions. We’ll continue to teach core areas of philosophy and to support students preparing for graduate school and law school, as well as offering courses that support other majors. We will also build on our current strengths to help students explore philosophical dimensions of an increasingly scientific and technological world, to grapple with the challenges and opportunities of increasingly multicultural societies, and to develop the analytic tools that may prove to be essential at a historical moment when individuals are reexamining their relationships to political, social, and economic institutions.

Our goal, in other words, is to provide students not only with tools for thinking, but also with tools for living.

Of course, our philosophical work is not confined to the classroom. We will continue to engage across campus and in the broader community, whether in elementary schools or in jails, in community events or in cyberspace. We will nurture our students, supporting their

intellectual growth and helping illuminate career paths where their skills and qualities of mind will be valued. We will rekindle our relationships with our alumni, emeritus faculty, and friends of the department, fostering a community in continuing dialogue about what matters and how we can make a difference in the world. We will reach out to find the students of Philosophy who haven't yet realized that they are meant to be students of Philosophy. (After all, since at least the time of Socrates, corrupting the youth has been our core business.)

Part of what makes it surreal to find myself Chair is the clear sense that the future of our Department is connected to a much larger future we will share. It's a lot of responsibility, but it's hard for me to imagine a better team than this to take on the challenge. Thank you for being a part of that team.

Janet Stemwedel

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

Rita Manning, Rick Tieszen and Peter Hadreas have all entered the Faculty Early Retirement program. Although they are all officially retired they will continue to teach for the department: so we are very fortunate not to be losing their vast expertise and their genial presence.

New Faculty

Krupa Patel,
University of New Mexico, M.A., San José State. See more on Krupa in the Alumni section.

Trevor Gullion, M.A.
San José State, 2012, B.A., 2009. ABA Specialist at Oak Grove School District

Noah Friedman-Biglin, Ph.D. University of St. Andrews. See more on Noah in the Alumni section.

Carlos Sanchez: University Scholar

Professor Carlos Sanchez (SJSU) delivered his University Scholar address on Oct. 29 at MLK Library.. His topic was 'The History of Latin American Philosophy.' Congratulation to Carlos for being named University Scholar!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Annual Philosophy Department Alumni Conference, May 7, 2016: Call for Papers.

After a hiatus of a couple years, the annual Alumni Conference is back! We will be meeting from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Flames on San Fernando Street. Paper topic is open. If you are a professor or instructor who teaches for the Philosophy Department you need only submit a paper title and perhaps a paragraph on the topic. If you are an alumnus or a student you may submit a paper. This year I would like everyone to keep presentations to 15 minutes. Works in Progress are OK. Please submit to Tom Leddy at Thomas.Leddy@sjsu.edu. We have a somewhat shorter time slot than in previous years, so every paper may not be accepted. **Deadline is March 15, 2016. The annual banquet will be held right afterwards in the same restaurant: Flames on San Fernando Street. If you submit a paper please let me know whether you would also like information about the banquet.**

American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division, April 6 – 8, 2016

Special Rates for Students. Registration for the full conference for all students is at the nominal fee of \$15. Society members actually charge themselves more in order to defray expenses associated with allowing students to attend at such a low cost. Simply go to the web site listed above to register online.

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.

Go to <https://sites.google.com/site/asapacificdivision/home/conference-program> for the conference program.

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Annual Meeting

3/30/2016 to 4/3/2016 The Westin St. Francis, 335 Powell Street, San Francisco

Rick Tieszen will be on a panel for the Society for Phenomenology and Analytic Philosophy: "Fifty Years of California-style Phenomenology."

Tom Leddy will be giving a talk on transcendence and film at the Karl Jaspers Society of North America session.

As mentioned below under Student Accomplishments,

students Kalahan Stoker will also be giving a papers at the APA meetings..

Department Prizes

The Herman Shapiro Memorial Scholarship went to

Joe Glover 2015

Erika Villasenor 2014

The Temple Prize for Outstanding Paper went to

Christine Ibarra 2015

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

Keith Burnett 2015

Alyssa Cortez 2014

The Manor Prize for Outstanding Logic Student went to

Ryan Ruiz 2015

Ron Allen 2014

The Arthur Ordaz Award went to 2015 to

Serena Espino, Verbatim Vu, Paul Whitfield, Casey Smith, Michael Rubio, and Hau Nguyen

In 2014 it went to

Christopher Barber Lucien Pino

Arthur Ordaz

Award is named after Arthur Ordaz. **See the alumni section for more information about Arthur.** The prize is for philosophy majors and/or M. A. students in general: a total of \$1000 for the purchase of philosophy books and philosophy research materials.

Philosophy Club

Contact Philosophy Club: [facebook.com/groups/165445374077/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/165445374077/) Weekly discussions are Tues. 5:30-7:00 pm in FOB 104. Topics have ranged from tacit knowledge to nudism. This semester they are going to try to attract some speakers to present and are organizing a trip to the APA Pacific conference.

Student Accomplishments

Kalahan Stoker will be giving a talk at the APA meeting in San Francisco "Embarrassment and Shame: What's the Difference?" Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy.

Michelle Nilan is giving a talk at the APA meeting in San Francisco at the Society for Comparative and Asian philosophy. Topic: "Emotions: A Cross-cultural and Multi-disciplinary Approach."

Teaching Associates

TAs for Fall 2015 were:

Jason Greene
Michael Rubio
Ryan Ruiz
Django Runyan
Casey Smith
Steve Yahn

TAs for Spring 2016 are:

Jason Greene
Michael Rubio
Ryan Ruiz
Casey Smith

Visiting Scholar from China

Yang Wu ("Butler"), a Ph.D. student from Fudan University in Shanghai, is here this academic year as a research scholar (working on Marxist theory). Bill Shaw is her department sponsor.

ETHICS BOWL

Michael Jordan, one of our adjunct professors, is currently running our Ethics Bowl activities. This past December he organized the CA Regional Ethics Bowl sponsored by the SJSU Philosophy Department and the APPE held on Dec. 5th, 2015 at SJSU. Twenty teams from three states competed in the all-day event. SJSU had two teams competing and SJSU team 1, coached by Michael Jordan, finished in second place and earned a bid to the National IEB Championships held in Virginia on February 22, 2016. CSU Bakersfield won the event. SJSU team 1, comprised of Matteo Poort, Michael Monte, Baltazar Lopez, Lemar Karimi, and Adrian Esquivias, came in second. This team is currently preparing for the IEB National Championships. Kyle Yrigoyen coached SJSU team 2. SJSU will compete against the top thirty-six teams in the country.

The Ethics Bowl is a national program sponsored by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (www.indiana.edu/~appe/ethicsbowl.html) which requires students to analyze difficult ethical problems drawn from practical and professional contexts. Students present and defend their solutions to these problems in a format that closely resembles a debate. Participation in the Ethics Bowl enhances the students' educational experience as they develop research skills, skills in philosophical, political,

financial, and legal analysis, and communication skills. More importantly, participation in the Ethics Bowl hones their leadership skills as they confront and develop constructive solutions to ethical issues in practical and professional life.

Report for 2014-15

Last spring Michael coached a Bioethics debate team that competed in the National Undergraduate Bioethics Bowl championships held at Florida State University April 10-12, 2015. Out of a field of twenty teams the SJSU team finished in 5th place. The Bioethics Bowl is in conjunction with the annual National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference. Michael Jordan, Dr. Rita Manning and Janet Giddings are currently preparing a team to compete in a competition held at Case-Western University in April 2016. 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 continued to compete in the National Ethics Bowl competition on February 27, 2014. The competition was hosted by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and took place in Jacksonville Florida.

The team members were: Conor Kusich, Industrial Design major; Erika Villasenor, Philosophy major; Jason Fransworth, Philosophy major; Priscilla Chung, Kinesiology major;

KiWi Fan, Psychology major and Vincent Ianniello, Philosophy major. Alyssa Cortez (from team 1), Philosophy major, joined the team to compete for the national competition. Thanks also to Dean Dominguez for his coaching efforts.

Center for Comparative Philosophy

<http://www.sjsu.edu/centercomphil/>

In Spring 2016, the Center for Comparative Philosophy at San José State University will hold a one-day symposium, an engaging-discussion-oriented workshops on the theme “How Constructive Engagement Strategy of Comparative Philosophy Is Possible: Critical Reflection and Further Engagements”, on 30th April 2016 (Saturday, at Conference Room 225, King Library, SJSU). This symposium also marks the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the two “constructive engagement” sister projects “Davidson’s Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy” (its conference held in 2004, and its anthology published in 2006/Bril) and “Searle’s Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy” (its conference held in 2005, and its anthology published in 2007/Brill). Though this workshop is concerned primarily with a range of relevant fundamental meta-methodological and meta-philosophical issues, it will focus more on the engagement between

resources in contemporary epistemology & metaphysics and relevant resources from *Yi-Jing* philosophy, Daoism, Buddhism, etc. with regard to their joint contribution to such exploration. The speakers include (but are not limited to): John Searle (UC Berkeley); Chenyang Li (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore); Bo Mou (SJSU). [More details to be announced.]

2015 Spring Term CCP Conference: Buddhism in Conversation was held on May 2, the following papers were given:

“Critical Thinking from Buddhist and Hindu Sources” Anand Jayprakash Vaidya
“Hindu and Buddhist Perspectives on Absence” Nirmalya Guha, “Negation and the Hexagon & Mohist Logic” Jean Yves Béziau & Bo Mou, “Buddhist-Jain, and Gandhian Contributions to the African-American Civil Rights Movement Purushottama Bilimoria” Tommy Lott, “Hindu and Buddhist Perspectives on Animal Ethics” Veena Howard. “Social, Political, and Legal Issues in Immigration” Rita Manning & Jessica Smith

COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY An International Journal of Constructive Engagement

of Distinct Approaches toward World Philosophy

Prof. Bo Mou reports that this journal which he edits has published Volume 7 No. 1 (January 2016). It includes: Corey L. Barnes “The Social Nature of Individual Self-Identity: Akan and Narrative Conceptions of Personhood.” Christopher G. Framarin, “Moral Saints, Hindu Sages, and the Good Life. David Grandy, “Sunyata in the West,” Jingjing Li, “Buddhist Phenomenology and the Problem of Essence,” and Hans Van Eyghen. “Book Review on The Philosophical Challenge from China (edited by Brian Bruya)

FACULTY NEWS

Karin Brown

published “Is assessment destroying the liberal arts?” *Thought and Action*, Summer 2015. This journal is published by the NEA.

<http://www.nea.org/home/63426.htm>

Peter Hadreas

“I retired as of this past August 1, 2015 and I have now signed up for the Faculty Early Retirement Program which allows me to teach during Spring semesters for as much as five years.

I spent this past summer and fall working on a writing project which I hope will be

something less than fantastical. It is a project I have dreamt of pursuing for many years. What I am hoping to complete -- I think I am more than half done -- is a reconsideration of how Descartes would have written The Meditations were he alive in today. I am delighted that I have the opportunity to work on such a book, even if it never reaches the light of a kindle screen. No matter. It has given me the privilege to think through, as best as I can, how the great and grave topics addressed by Descartes might be addressed today. As it works out I'm drawing heavily on figures that I see as the seminal ones for our times. They are not so modern, but I believe their thought has been so revolutionary and influential that current philosophical trends presuppose, or should presuppose, their work. In particular, these revolutionary thinkers are James, Frege, Husserl and Whitehead.

I'm also finishing a manuscript on the import of a distinction drawn by Plato and Aristotle not adequately discussed, to my knowledge, in commentary. It is the notion of hyper-dying, hyperapothneskein, which appears in the Symposium and in the Nicomachean Ethics."

Tom Leddy

Since the last newsletter I published the following articles: "Overcoming Dualism: Textual Meaning Discovered and Invented," forthcoming 2016 in a book titled *Interpretation and Meaning in Philosophy and*

Religion ed. Dirk-Martin Grube (Leiden: Brill) "Estetica del Quotidiano e Fotografia," translation of my paper, "Everyday Aesthetics and Photography," in *Estetica E. Pratica del Quotidiano* edited by Giovanni Matteucci (Milano: Mimesis Edizione, 2015) 49-69. "Experience of Awe: An Expansive Approach to Everyday Aesthetics," *Contemporary Aesthetics* 13 (2015) <http://www.contempaesthetics.org/newvolume/pages/article.php?articleID=727> - "Shusterman's *Thinking Through the Body* and Everyday Aesthetics," *Contemporary Pragmatism*, vol. 12 (2015) *Author-Meets-Critics Symposium on Richard Shusterman's Thinking Through the Body* 79-99. "Blogging," *American Society for Aesthetic Newsletter*, 34: 3 Winter 2014. "Defense of Hume's Sentimentalist Theory of Taste," *Aesthetics for Birds*, blog <http://www.aestheticsforbirds.com/2014/10/a-defense-of-humes-sentimentalist.html> Oct. 13, 2014.

I published three articles in *The Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, 2nd Ed., ed. Michael Kelly (Oxford U. Press, 2014); "Anti-Essentialism," "Pretty," and "Marx Wartofsky,"

I also published "Everyday Aesthetics and Happiness," *Aesthetics of Everyday Life: West and East* ed. Liu Yuedi and Curtis Carter (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2014); "Everyday Aesthetics and Photography," *Aisthesis. Pratiche, linguaggi e saperi dell'estetico*, 7, no. 1 (2014):

45-62. Available at: <http://fupress.net/index.php/aisthesis/article/view/14610>.

Forthcoming is the third edition of my article "John Dewey's Aesthetics" in the online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

Outside of philosophy I published an art review: "Sin Agua Sin Vida" in the blog "Erin Goodwin Guerrero-West Coast Art Musings" March 2014, <http://www.eringoodwinguerrero.com/ewResume.html>.

This article was also translated into Spanish and used as a wall text when the show moved to Guadalajara, Mexico.

I gave the following papers: "When is Food Art? And Can it Ever be Fine Art?" American Society for Aesthetics national meeting, Savannah Georgia, Nov. 12, 2015; Arnold Berleant author meets critics session American Society for Aesthetics national meeting, San Antonio, Texas, October 2014; "Robert Ginsberg on Ruins," American Society for Aesthetics session at the American Philosophical Association, April 19, 2014. and "Defining Everyday Aesthetics," American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division Meeting, Asilomar, April 11, 2014.

I have also been named a member of the Edotproa;; Board for the journal *Contemporary Aesthetics*.

Rita Manning

Published “Care, Normativity and the Law,” *Care Ethics and Political Theory*, Maurice Hamington, ed. Oxford University Press, forthcoming

“Immigration Detention and the Right to Health Care,” *Bioethics and Culture*, Wanda Teays and Michael Boylan eds., Roman and Littlefield, 2014 “A Review of Nancy Fraser, *Fortunes of Feminism: from State-Managed Capitalism to Neoliberal Crisis*, *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy* (2014)

She also gave the following papers “Care, Normativity and the Law,” Western Political Science Association Meeting, April 2014 “Reproductive Technology and the New Eugenics” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Meeting, February 2014 Comment on “Professional Norms and Institutional Exploitation” by Daniel Koltonski, American Philosophical Association Meeting, March 2013

Bo Mou

In the recent two years (2014/15) after the last issue of the Newsletter, I have completed my relevant academic work in three connections.

First, I have completed the following published or forthcoming research articles in the areas of philosophy of language and logic, epistemology, philosophical methodology, Chinese philosophy, and comparative philosophy: (1) “On the Double-Reference Character of “Hexagram” Names in the *Yijing*: Engaging Fregean &

Kripkean Approaches to the Issue of How Reference is Possible,” *Frontiers of Philosophy in China* 9/4 (2014): 523-537; (2) “How the Validity of the Parallel Inference is Possible: From the Ancient Mohist Diagnose to a Modern Logical Treatment of Its Semantic-Syntactic Structure”, forthcoming; (3) “Quine's Naturalized Epistemology and Zhuangzi's Daoist Naturalism: How Their Constructive Engagement is Possible,” in *The Philosophical Challenge from China*, edited by Brian Bruya (MIT Press; 2015), 303-337; (4) “Rooted and Rootless Pluralist

Approaches to Truth: Two Distinct Interpretations of Wang Chong's Account”, *Comparative Philosophy*, 6/1 (2015): 149-168; (5) “On Constructive-Engagement Strategy in Studies of Chinese Philosophy”, forthcoming.

Second, as editor of the journal *Comparative Philosophy*, I together with the editorial team and the relevant authors have worked out the recent five issues of the journal (volume 5 no. 1 and no. 2, volume 6 no.1 and no. 2, and volume 7 no. 1).

Third, as one channel of international academic-cooperation and as one way of enhancing the vigor and vision of our philosophy program, in the 2014-15 academic year I co-supervised two Ph.D. Candidates in philosophy from two of the top universities in China who are awardees of the Chinese Government Scholarship and carried out doctorate researches at SJSU (as “Visiting Scholars”): ZHOU

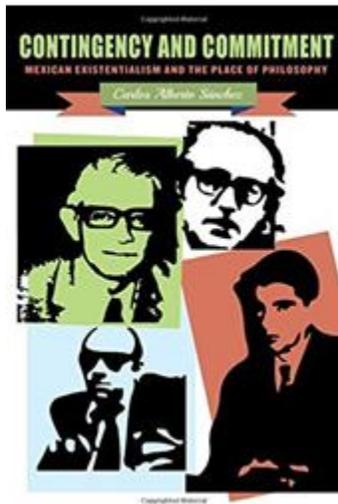
Hongyin (周宏胤) from Sun Yat-sen University (中山大学) focusing on philosophy of language and comparative philosophy; DING Xiaojun (丁晓军) from Nanjing University (南京大学) focusing on comparative philosophy and logic. Currently and in the coming years, at Routledge's invitation and under its contract, I am working on a four-volume-set anthology project, *Chinese Philosophy: Critical Concepts in Philosophy*. My work on a monograph book project, *Reference and Predication*, is in substantial progress.

George Pinto (M.A.

1991, SJSU Philosophy Department) spent some time last year with the non-profit organization, Goa Sudharop (current President) on a major event to encourage girls ages 11-15 to take STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) subjects in college to improve their job and career prospects. Goa Sudharop collaborated with CISCO, Greenlight for Girls (Belgium), and the Centre for Incubation and Business Acceleration (India) to hold two workshops for 200 girls on January 16 and 17, 2016 in the state of Goa, India. More workshops are planned in the future. In addition, Goa Sudharop held a number of free eye clinics in 2014 and 2015 to provide glasses for poor people in Goa. George continues to enjoy teaching part-time in our department, which he has done for nearly 20 years. During that time, his hair has gone from black to grey, a deceptive sign of wisdom.

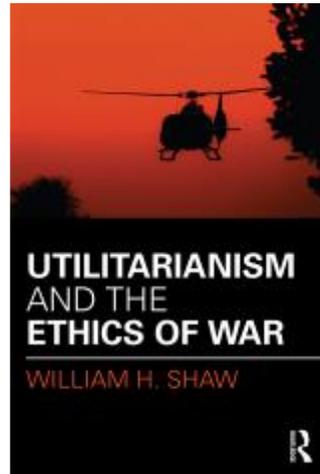
Carlos Sanchez

was promoted to Full Professor this past summer, which means that it's time to settle into his office, finally! He continues to serve as the Graduate Program Advisor, a role he cherishes greatly. He recently published his third book, *Contingency and Commitment: Mexican Existentialism and the Place of Philosophy* with SUNY Press (the cover image is below) and has a contract with Oxford University Press to put together the first-ever anthology of 20th Century Mexican Philosophy. In addition, he will coordinate a Symposium on Mexican Philosophy in April and deliver the Keynote Address for the Annual Meeting of the Western Association for Educational Opportunity Personnel earlier that month. On March 3, Carlos will also deliver the Plenary Keynote address at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy in Portland, Oregon. You can reach him at carlos.sanchez@sjsu.edu



Bill Shaw

Published a monograph: *Utilitarianism and the Ethics of War*. **Routledge**, 2016.



This is in the Series: War, Conflict and Ethics. The book offers a detailed utilitarian analysis of the ethical issues involved in war, specifically, when, if ever, are we morally justified in waging war, and if recourse to arms is warranted, how are we permitted to fight the wars we wage? In addition, the book deals with the challenge that realism and relativism raise for the ethical discussion of war, and with the duties of military personnel and the moral challenges they can face.”

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Pb: 978-1-138-99896-4 | £19.99

Rick Tieszen is working on a short ebook

intended for a 'popular' audience, called *Simply Gödel*. The following papers are forthcoming: “Husserl on Kant, Logic and Mathematics” in a two volume collection on Kant’s philosophy of mathematics, edited by O. Rechter and C. Posy. “Husserl and Gödel”, forthcoming in a volume on Husserl and logic, edited by S. Centrone. “Leibniz, Husserl and Gödelian Monadology”, forthcoming in *Gödelian Studies on the Max-Phil Notebooks, Volume 1*, Presses Universitaires de Provence.

Rick published “Eidetic Results in Transcendental Phenomenology: Against Naturalization”. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, and “Arithmetic, Mathematical Intuition and Evidence”. *Inquiry* 38(1) (2015), 28-56, in a special issue on mathematical evidence, edited by D. Føllesdal.

Continuing his explorations of connections with Buddhism Rick gave a paper: “Phenomenology in the Western Tradition of Philosophy”, invited talk at Land of Medicine Buddha, Soquel, California, August 18, 2015

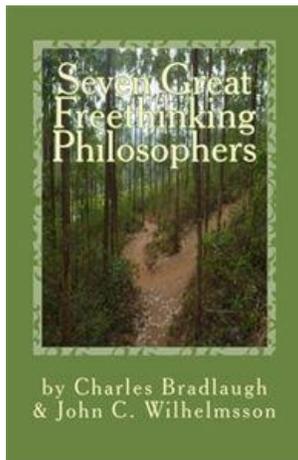
John Wilhelmsson

writes that he has “published two new books about philosophy over the last two years. The first, *Readings in Classical Ethics*

<http://www.c2op.com/Readings-In-Classical-Ethics.html>

has become the reader for all

of the ethics courses I teach. It is an anthology yet was edited by me and features my work on Edith Stein's philosophy of empathy in the final selection. The second, *Seven Great Freethinking Philosophers*. <http://www.c2op.com/Seven-Great-Freethinking.html> was just published in November. It is a sort of revival of the work *Half Hours With The Freethinkers* by Charles Bradlaugh yet edited by me and with new selections on Augustine, Averroes, and Stein authored by me. I am particularly pleased with the selection on Averroes as it promotes understanding between Christianity and Islam at a time when such understanding is sorely needed.



Emeritus

Philip E. Davis

published *A Pragmatic Theory of Public Art and Architecture*. (CreateSpace. 2015). Professor Davis now divides his time between his home in Charlottesville, VA, and another in Upper St.

Clair, PA. He writes that he is “currently finishing up a book on deontic logic” and hopes that it will be his *magnum opus*. He is 88.

Noam Cook

Writes: “Since I “retired” in the summer of 2013, I have continued to work on various research and writing projects. These mostly have to do with the nature of practice (I argue, for example, that practice always precedes and enables knowing, not the other way round), and issues of practice, technology, and responsibility from a systemic perspective (particularly as this relates to understanding how we ought to think and act in order not to undermine the capacity of the earth to sustain human life).

Among the things I’ve been doing are the following.

I was delighted to co-author with other faculty members from the Department a book chapter titled, “The Open Letter to Michael Sandel and Some Thoughts About Outsourced Online Teaching”, which I understand is to be published at some point.

I gave the Open University’s third John Beishon Memorial Lecture, delivered at the 2013 International meeting of the American Society for Cybernetics in Bolton, UK. A paper based on the talk,

titled, “Making Distinctions: Reflections on Learning, Knowing and Evaluating” appeared in *Kybernetes* Vol. 43 No. 9/10, 2014.

I gave a keynote address on “Practice, Knowing, and Innovation: a Systemic Perspective” at the Japanese Academic Association for Organisational Science, Nagoya, Japan in October 2014. I plan to write this up as a paper this year.

I was an invited participant at a workshop on “Governing the Anthropocene: Cybersystemic Possibilities”, sponsored by the VW Foundation and held at Herrenhausen Palace in Hannover, Germany in July 2015.

In August 2015, I gave the concluding keynote address at the annual meeting of the International Society for Systems Sciences, in Berlin. The talk was titled, “A Delicate Balance: the Interdependence of Natural, Artefactual, and Human Systems”. I’ve been invited to submit a paper based on the talk for an essay collection from the conference to be published in late 2016 or early 2017.

I continue to sing with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus (this being my 19th season). Our CD of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony was released in 2013, and a CD including our performance of Beethoven’s

Mass in C was released in 2015.”

Alumni News

The editor is eager to publish materials about alumni: please send to Thomas.leddy@sjsu.edu or Tom Leddy, Department of Philosophy,

Aaron Adam B.A. 2011, who is at UC Irvine Law School and has been UC Irvine Law Review, Lead Article Editor (2014 - 2015), writes: “ I just received a job offer to be part of the Gideon’s Promise Law School Partnership Project. Gideon’s Promise is an organization based out of Atlanta that is devoted to reforming public defense in the South. The organization pairs law schools and students with public defender organizations throughout the South. For the first year in a partner public defender office, the school covers the salary of the student. Then, within a year the partner office agrees to move the student into permanent employment (hence the partnership). I received an offer to work with the public defender’s office in Lafayette, Louisiana, and thus will be taking the bar there this coming July.

I’m very excited about the opportunity. I have traveled to Mississippi a couple of times with the law school to volunteer with a nonprofit organization there during my spring breaks and found that I really love the South. Of course, there are a number of access to justice issues and

issues with the criminal justice system that are not as commonly found in coastal California.”

Christopher

Barber, B.A. 2012, M.A. 2014, is a free-lance philosophical writer, tutor and teacher.

Adam

Belohradsky, B.A. 2014, is a Sales Associate at Gap Inc./Old Navy Orange County, and was Lead Account Manager at K2 Consulting Inc in 2014. His LinkedIn account says he is “seeking an opportunity in the tech, gaming, and/or media spaces where I can apply my extensive logic, interpersonal, and leadership skills.”

Colin Caret

, B.A. 2004, is now Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Underwood International College at Yonsei University, South Korea. Before that he was a postdoctoral research fellow on the Foundations of Logical Consequence project at the University of St. Andrews. He completed his PhD at the University of Connecticut. His areas of expertise are logic, epistemology, and the philosophy of language. He edited in 2015 [with Ole Hjortland] *Foundations of Logical Consequence*, Oxford University Press.

Stacey Chang is a first year law student at Santa Clara. Stacey was on the Ethics Bowl team 2012-13.

Christopher

Cloos M.A., 2009. is working on a PhD at University of California at Santa Barbara and has two articles forthcoming in 2015 “Responsibilist Evidentialism,” *Philosophical Studies* and “Reflective Equilibrium – A Brief Introduction,” in *Methods in Analytic Philosophy*, ed., Joachim Horvath, Bloomsbury. He also has a philosophy blog at <http://christophercloos.com/>

Kelly Ferris,

B.A.2011, is an Executive Assistant Driver Group, L.L.C. since February 2015

Timothy Fitzgerald,

Obituary. Timothy had not completed his degree when he passed away on Jan. 21, 2014. He published A Diamond in the Rough a book on the recession that began in July 1981 in which unemployment went to 10.8 percent. This was the second volume in a trilogy memoir about his involvement in left political activism in San José. The first volume was The Wawona Brotherhood: The San José State Campus Revolt, and was about his experience at San José State in the 60s and 70s.

Aaron Fiorucci,

B.A., 2013, writes “I found myself selling enterprise storage for a company called Pure Storage in Mountain View. We actually just went public a couple weeks ago so I get to ride the roller coaster that is Silicon Valley for a

while. Quite a 180 degree flip from law school, but I have always been passionate about tech so I found a way to get into the field without too much technical training. Believe it or not, I work on the same floor as two other philosophy majors here!"

John Freese

B.A. Philosophy and Psychology (Pre-Theological), writes on his web page: "Following his graduation from San José State he attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. After the split in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, he graduated from Christ Seminary Seminec in 1975, and was ordained in Burlingame, CA in 1976 (having been called as an Apartment Minister in the Burlingame/San Mateo area)." He is pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church. He writes in 2015 that has been "in present pastorate since 1991. Recipient of Gertrude Welch Ecumenical Award and Richard Peterman Good Steward Award. Multiple time president of California Council of Churches and of Council of Churches of Santa Clara County. Engaged in workers' rights activities."

Noah Friedman-

Biglin, Ph.D. University of St. Andrews, 2014, M.A. San José State, 2009. Noah's areas of specialization are: History of Analytic Philosophy (especially Rudolf Carnap and the Vienna Circle), and Philosophy of Logic. Thesis Title: "Carnap's Conventionalism: Logic,

Science, and Tolerance" Now has an article "Carnap's Tolerance and Friedman's Revenge. *Logica Yearbook* 2014, and a book review "Between Realism and Explanation: Review of An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mathematics by Mark Colyvan" *Metascience*, (23): 269 – 271

Matthew Frise

B.A. 2007, has recently written: "This May I am graduating from the University of Rochester with a Ph.D. in Philosophy. On June 1, 2015, I begin a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship at Baylor University, as part of the Nature and Value of Faith project. Presently I have a visiting dissertation fellowship at Saint Louis University, as part of the Philosophy and Theology of Intellectual Humility Project. In 2010 I graduated with an M.A. in Philosophy from UC Santa Cruz."

Brenda Hood, B.A. and MA. 2009 is a Contracts Associate at Pharmacyclics a Biotechnology firm.

Alfred Jan, M.A.

Applied Option: Aesthetics 1992, co-edited *The Best of Spicy Mystery* Vol1 (2012) and *The Best of Spicy Mystery* Vol 2 (2015), as well as *A Gelett Burgess Sampler: Ethics and Aesthetics* (2012). He believes his education in philosophy has enabled him to better inform his critical thinking and writing. His MA gave him "tools to better participate in the discourse about various genres of art."

Michael Jordan,

M.A., is teaching for the SJSU Department of Philosophy and is coordinator of the Ethics Bowl. He ran the Ethics Bowl when it met at San José State this summer.

Riley King, B.A.

2014, is studying at the University of Georgia School of Law

Rick Morris, M.A.

2013, a graduated student in Philosophy at UC Davis, Wrote to Rita: "I'm currently in my third year at UC Davis. I finished up my coursework last year and have been busily working away at my prospectus this year. Our reading project together in my last semester at San José State on the ethics of the Paleo diet has transformed into a project looking at the conceptual and theoretical issues surrounding evolutionary approaches to the health sciences more generally. This has accompanied a shift to specialize in the philosophy of biology, rather than applied ethics. (My adviser is Roberta Millstein.) He will be presenting a paper at the APA Pacific Division this year. "Praise, blame, and demandingness" jemorr@ucdavis.edu

Paul Newberry,

B.A., M.A. 1973, writes in 2015 that he "began teaching with just a couple of courses, first at Bakersfield College (one course) and then at Portland C.C. (one course) in 1980-1. After working several years for a civil

engineering firm here in Bakersfield and feeling like this was not really for me, I pursued teaching in earnest in 1986. After a few years and with the encouragement of my colleagues, I entered a PhD program at Claremont Graduate University in 1990 and completed my studies in 1995. A few years later I landed a tenure-track position at CSU Bakersfield.”

Shirindokht

Nourmanesh, B.A. 1998, and received an M.A. in English in 2007. She taught Art Appreciation, Introduction to Philosophy, and Principles of Ethics at Northwestern Polytechnic University 2011-2015, and is a lecturer who teaches writing at SJSU. She is working on a Ph.D. in Transpersonal Psychology from Sophia University. She was Interim Library Director at Sofia University in 2015.

Art Ordaz,

Obituary, M.A. 1999, was a regular presence in the philosophy department in the 1990s. Professor Leddy remembers having many philosophical conversations with him. Art was an older student and benefitted from the students over-60 program when he was at SJSU (paying only \$45 per semester in fees!). Arthur had wanted to go on to study for a Ph.D. with a focus on realism. He also had an interest in counseling for drug and alcohol abuse. The Arthur Ordaz award was established in his honor.

Michael

Pankrast, M.A., notes on his LinkedIn page that he teaches as an adjunct at Argosy University and Ashford University and works as a marketing writer for Hoffman Construction in Portland.

Leila Parello, B.A.,

1982, M.A., 1985, has been teaching Philosophy at Grossmont College in El Cajon since 1997 and is owner School of Ballet Arts since 2011. She says her experience working in our Logic Lab has helped her to become an instructor for logic and critical thinking classes. Without that experience, she never would have had the self-confidence to do so. She is working on pursuing further graduate study to explore the question, as she has put it to me “role of imitation in learning with respect to internal, mental representations and exploring the degree to which behaviorism undermined the mentalist approach, while ideas from the Rationalists and the fields of linguistics and semiotics have done the opposite. How can we explain the performing art forms without some sort of learning process that involves imitation?”

Krupa Patel, M.A.,

2008? is currently at University of New Mexico in the graduate program in Philosophy. Her interests are Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, Phenomenology, and Plato. She also started teaching here in the Philosophy Department

as an adjunct. Welcome Krupa.

Geoffrey

Propheter, M.A.

2006, writes on his web page that he is “a PhD student in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy.” In addition, he is “a research assistant on the Significant Features of Property Tax project. My concentration is in state and local public finance with a particular focus on consumption tax policy.” Geoffrey currently teaches courses at Long Island University in public policy in the School of Business, Public Administration and Information Sciences. He is also a Property Tax Analyst for The New York City Independent Budget Office.

Brain Prosser,

M.A. 1999, studied at Fordham University and received his PhD at UC Santa Cruz in 2013. He is an adjunct professor at San José State. He published “Knowledge of the Heart: Ethical Implications of Sociological Research with Emotion.” *Emotion Review* 7 (2) (2015):175-180.

Ruby (formerly Reuben)

Rutledge, MA 1988

Obituary. Sadly, we heard the Ruby passed away on 2016. Ruby had been a doctoral student at the California Institute of Integral Studies between 2003 and 2009. She completed a second MA in Asian and Comparative Studies there. Her Linked in

page says that he was studying Indo-tibetan Buddhism, Hinduism including SE Asia, and Zoroastrian and that he had published in the International Journal of Indic Studies, India in October 2012. Ruby was well known in San José as a lover of the visual arts and was often seen at art openings around town. She was especially known for the colorful artistic costumes we wore to such events. Ruby was an artist and a photographer. On one web posting she described her photographs in this way “Art (these photographs) represent the non-understandable aspects of Being. Because Existenz cannot be described in rational terms, it is in non-rational forms of the cipher that are used to understand it. Common symbols are used to represent the non-understandability of Being”. Addison-Penzak JCC of Silicon Valley Levy Family

Rosie Rocha, B.A., 2013, writes in 2015 that “After graduating, I worked at a middle school in Santa Cruz, CA in the administration department and realized my love for education so I decided to join AmeriCorps and do a year of service with City Year in Boston, Massachusetts.”

Tanya Rodriguez, B.A. 1999, is now teaching Philosophy at Sacramento City College. She published, “Numbing the Heart: Racist Jokes and the Aesthetic Affect,” Contemporary Aesthetics Vol. 12, 2014.

Dan Searles is a first year law student at Santa Clara. He is also a Fitness Professional II Addison-Penzak JCC of Silicon Valley Levy Family Campus www.apjcc.org/training

Andrew Soto, M.A. 2014, is in the PhD program of the Philosophy Department at Texas A & M. His interests are: Latin American Philosophy, Critical Race Theory, Classical American Philosophy, Existentialism, Pragmatism, Social and Political Philosophy, Africana Philosophy.

Scott Stroud, M.A. 2002, published *Kant and the Promise of Rhetoric* (2014).

Peter O’Sullivan, B.A. 2002, had received an MFA in Creative Writing, SJSU in 2007 and is a lecturer at San José State since 2010 in first-year writing. He is also a teacher of Excel Test Prep since 2010, teaching grammar and essay writing to students preparing for both the SAT I exam and the ACT exam.

Erika Villaseñor B.A. 2014, is at UC Berkeley Law, J.D. candidate, and just finished her first semester. She is a volunteer grassroots organizer for Reform Immigration FOR America.

Amit Vyas, B.A., is V.P. of Sales at Highfive since 2014, His web site says “Amit is responsible for building and scaling a high-

performance sales organization and driving all revenue growth. Known for his energy, motivating leadership style and sharp attire, Amit brings over 15 years of experience across IT, networking, direct and channel sales.”

Takeshi Young, is a SEO Manager (Marketing and Advertising) at Optimizely,

Kyle Yrigoyen, M.A., 2013, who won our Manor Prize for Outstanding Logic Student, is now teaching in our department as a Lecturer. He teaches courses in logic & critical thinking, philosophy of science, philosophy of technology, ethical theory, and applied ethics. Kyle has also been involved in the Ethics Bowl as a volunteer since 2013.

David Yang, B.A., 2013, is a High School English Teacher at CIEE. He is also a Hardware Evaluation Volunteer for Free Geek and a Emergency Services Officer volunteer for the Civil Air Patrol.

Wayne Yuen, B.A. 2000, M.A. 2002, is a full-time faculty member in Philosophy at Ohlone College. He recently edited *The Walking Dead and Philosophy: Zombie Apocalypse Now* (Open Court, 2012)

Gottlob Frege

by Peter Hadreas,
January, 2016

The Begriffsschrift is worth the study.

The Grundlagen makes clear what was muddy.

And both make former philosophers -- anybody --
into a muddled and befuddled fuddy-duddy.

Without language thought can't be apprehended.

But language slips and slides and must be mended.

It produces many a blind sighting.

So, Frege produced his concept-writing.

'A rat' screamed a woman and swooned.

An object she thereby presumed.

'A rat' said the rat-catcher and displayed it.

With a concept he thereby conveyed it.

'a rat,' you see, is logically ambiguous.

It depends upon words that are contiguous.

'A rat' can some life-long rat identify

or 'a rat' can features rodentine ratify.

So, we really ought to be more exact

about how objects and concepts interact.

The mind can picture an object and review it

But for concepts a pix is nix; the mind can't do it.

And since thoughts are of objects and concepts compounded.

By the mind, thoughts can be only plumbed and sounded.

