



Newsletter: Department of Philosophy San Jose State University

Editor: Tom Leddy

in the program this fall – far more than from any other department. I think this shows our department’s commitment to and enthusiasm for teaching philosophy. And we do it well. Today I received the student evaluations of our teaching from last semester and was once again impressed by the incredible job our faculty is doing in the classroom.

Bill

March 2002
Volume 3, Issue 1

Letter from the Chair

Department Web Site

www.sjsu.edu/depts/philosophy/

Check out the many additions to this web site, including a site for the Philosophy Department Community Outreach Committee.

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Fall 2002 classes

Earlier this month, my wife Carolyn said, at the end of a particularly busy and stressful week at work, “Well, that one week, all by itself, wiped out two years of being on leave (in Zimbabwe).” I knew what she meant. When things get busy around SJSU, as they seem to be right now, it’s hard to believe one was ever away. On the other hand, even though – or maybe “because” – both students and faculty seem busier than ever, the department is humming along.

As you’ll read about in this newsletter, the department and the philosophy club have various activities planned, including the alumni conference and annual banquet. In addition, the Ethics Bowl team is busy preparing for the national championship to be held soon in Cincinnati, and the department is nearing the end of a long process of searching for two new assistant professors to join our faculty next academic year [see announcement of the acceptance of Branden Fitelson, below]. The search process can be tiring, but it’s also exciting for all of us who are involved in shaping the face of the department for years to come. Another exciting development is the MUSE seminar program for incoming students next year. This program lets an instructor teach a course to a small group of first-year students on any subject the instructor wants to, as long as he or she is passionate about it. Ten instructors from our department will be teaching

Bill Shaw Announced as Wang Nominee

Bill Shaw was one of four SJSU Professors from SJSU to have been nominated for the 2001-2002 Wang Family Excellence Award. He and the other SJSU nominees will be competing with nominees from all 23 of the CSU campuses. The Wang award recognizes the exemplary contributions and achievements of CSU faculty and/or administrators. The winners will be announced at the May 14-15 meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees.

Bill has also been accepted for The CSU International Faculty Partnership Seminar June 23-28 in Queretaro, Mexico. The Seminar Theme is “A Common Future: What Divides and Unites Us.” The seminar will focus on academic and pedagogical issues intended to promote ties between CSU faculty and their Mexican counterparts.



SJSU News

President Caret reports (Feb. 7): "On the academic front, the campus is booming, with high enrollments continuing this spring and running nine to ten percent ahead of last year at this time in both FTEs and head count. ...

On January 29, the CSU Board of Trustees approved our master plan for the campus and the design for Phase 1 of our student housing project. When all three phases are completed over the next 10 years, we will be able to provide housing for 5,700 students and transitional housing for 400 faculty and staff. Working with the San José Redevelopment Agency, Spartan Shops has also acquired four Victorian homes at Fourth and Washington streets, which will be renovated and rented this fall at below-market rates to interested faculty and staff. ...

At the opposite corner of the campus, the library project continues to move ahead on time and on budget. Thanks to all for your patience and good humor this month as construction trucks bring in the precast concrete skin panels of the building."

New Faculty Member Starting Fall 02

Branden Fitelson, PhD University of Wisconsin-Madison, just accepted a position of Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department. Branden's areas of specialization are Philosophy of Science, Logic, and Automated Reasoning. He also has considerable knowledge in Mathematics, Decision Theory, Game Theory, Philosophy of Biology, Artificial Intelligence, and Epistemology. Among numerous other articles, he has written "Measuring Confirmation and Evidence," with Ellery Eells in *Journal of Philosophy* XCVII (Dec.

2000). He is currently Acting Assistant Professor at Stanford. We are pleased and honored that he has decide to join us. Welcome, Branden!

Faculty Member Retires

Professor Jarrett Brock

is now officially retired from the Philosophy Department. During his tenure as Chair of the Department several now tenured faculty were hired, including **Tom Leddy**, **Rita Manning**, and **Bill Shaw**. He will now have time to concentrate on sailing, jazz, reading, and the joys of home life in Santa Cruz. We will miss your wit, advice, and encouragement, Jarrett!

Baptism

George and Harriet Pinto's son **LIAM FERENS PINTO's** baptism occurred on Jan 13, 2002, Sunday. At Holy Spirit Catholic Church, and was followed by a Champagne & wine buffet lunch at Fung Lum Restaurant.

Spring 2002 Alumni Conference on Asian Philosophy



Saturday, April 27, 2002, 10:30am-5pm San Jose State University, University Club, 408 S. 8th Street San Jose, CA, 95192

Deadline for proposals is March 15, 2002.

Presentation of papers should be 20 minutes in length, followed by a 15 minute Q&A. Proposals in the following categories are available: Muslim Philosophy, Confucianist Philosophy

A light continental breakfast, lunch, and tea will be provided. **Donations to subsidize the cost of food are welcome.** Event is wheelchair accessible. Sign language interpreters will be provided upon request.

Call George Pinto at 408-924-4293 or email georgepinto@yahoo.com for further information.

NO CHARGE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

10:30-10:40am ARRIVAL & WELCOME

10:40-11:15am MUSLIM PHILOSOPHY (speaker 20 minutes, 15 min Q&A)

11:20-11:55pm SIKH PHILOSOPHY (speaker 20 minutes, 15 min Q&A) *Vishwa Mohan Tiwari*

12:00-12:35pm ASIAN AESTHETICS (speaker 20 minutes, 15 min Q&A) *Cynthia Rostankowski*

12:35-1:15pm LUNCH

1:15-1:50pm JAPANESE PHIL (speaker 20 minutes, 15 min Q&A) *Noam Cook*

1:55-2:30pm HINDU PHILOSOPHY (speaker 20 minutes, 15 min Q&A) *Scott Stroud*, "Moral Thought in Ancient India: Sankara on Freedom"

2:35-3:10pm BUDDHIST
PHILOSOPHY (speaker 20
minutes, 15 min Q&A) *Karin
Brown*

3:10-3:30pm TEA BREAK

3:30-3:45pm ALUMNI – SJSU –
PHIL DEPARTMENT RELATIONS

3:45-4:20pm CONFUCIANIST
PHILOSOPHY (speaker 20
minutes, 15 min Q&A)

4:25-5:00pm TAOIST
PHILSOPHY (speaker 20
minutes, 15 min Q&A) Bo Mou,
"Eternal *Dao*, Constant Names,
and Language Engagement: On
the Opening Message of the *Dao-
De-Jing*".

5:00pm WRAP UP

6:30-9:00PM PHILOSOPHY DEPT.
ANNUAL BANQUET, Fairmont
Hotel, Pagoda Chinese
Restaurant, 170 South Market
Street, San Jose.

For further information, please
contact George Pinto at 924-4293
or georgejpinto@yahoo.com.
You must pre-register by April 15,
2002 for the conference. The
conference is free. Dinner at the
Fairmont follows the conference
and is \$25 per head; \$15 per
student. No-host drinks.
For dinner tickets, make your
check payable to "SJSU
Foundation" and mail by April 15,
2002 to:

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
Attn: George Pinto
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, Ca, 95192-0096
Or leave check in George's mail
box (do not leave cash).

Philosophy Café

Sandra Garrison no longer runs this
group. (See Alumni News for news
about her. She can be reached still at
java@mac.com)

The club however continues. The
topic for February was "What is
Love?" with reference to *The
Mastery of Love* by Miguel Ruiz.

PhilosopherCafe@yahoogroups.com

Nov. 11, 2001: The Philosophy Department

booth was featured in the
Spartan Daily article on the
Showcase for Learning. Prof.
Shaw is shown gesticulating
(philosophically?) to two
students. Our whiteboard
says "Philosophical
Discussion ...join in..
(Philosophical Advice: 5
cents.)"

Lecture on Moral Reasoning and Sept. 11.

On Feb. 13 at the Spartan
Memorial Hanan Alexander,
professor of philosophy at
Haifa University, Israel, and
formerly provost of the
University of Judaism in Los
Angeles, spoke on "**Religion
and Moral Reasoning after
September 11.**" This talk
was co-sponsored by the
Jewish Studies' Levinson
Memorial Lecture and College
of Education's Villemain
Fund.

Upcoming Local Conferences

**The American
Society for Aesthetics**

Pacific Division will be
meeting **March 27-29** at Asilomar
Conference Grounds in Pacific
Grove. It will include such papers as
Roger Seamon, "Is Poetry Post-
Moral?", and John Fisher, "The
Original Brillo Box, Too? Noel
Carroll on the Art Status of Mass
Art." There will be a special session
on The Aesthetics of the Home on
Wed. March 27 7:30-8:15, led by
Cynthia Rostankowski, Humanities,
SJSU and Tom Leddy, Philosophy.
Check out the ASA web site.
[http://www.aesthetics-
online.org/events/pacific/index.html](http://www.aesthetics-online.org/events/pacific/index.html)

**2002 Austin J. Fagothey,
S.J. Philosophy
Conference Santa Clara
University**

Moral Status

Saturday, May 4, 2002

"All sessions will be held in
the Wiegand Room, Arts and
Sciences Building. Prior to the
conference, each of these
distinguished scholars is preparing a
paper with the title listed below;
however, they will not be reading it.
These papers will be available for
review by anyone planning to attend
the conference by contacting the
Conference Director after April 15.
At the conference itself, after each
scholar makes some brief
introductory comments on her or his
paper, we will engage in a discussion
of it. As space in the conference
room is limited, please contact the
Conference Director to reserve a
seat.

Conference Schedule

8:30 am Registration and Coffee

9:00 am Bonnie Steinbock (State
University of New York, Albany)
"Moral Status, Moral Value, and
Human Embryos"

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10:15 am Break

10:30 am Daniel Dombrowski (Seattle University) "The Argument From Marginal Cases"

11:45 am Lunch

1:00 pm Frances M. Kamm (New York University) "Moral Status: Rights Beyond Interests"

2:15 pm Mary Anne Warren (San Francisco State University) "Moral Status: A Multicriterial Account"

3:30 pm Break

3:45 pm J. Baird Callicott (University of North Texas) "The Pragmatic Power and Promise of Theoretical Environmental Philosophy: Forging a New Discourse"

5:00 pm Conclusion

Conference Organizer:

Lawrence Nelson
Department of Philosophy
Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053-0310
408-554-4093
lnelson@scu.edu

Registration: \$20. All students: free.
SCU faculty and staff: free.

The Subject of Meaning in the Arts: "(Dis)junctions Conference: The Center Does Not Hold"

The ninth annual humanities graduate student conference at the University of California, Riverside; April 5-6th, 2002.

For more information visit the Disjunctions Conference website at

<http://www.geocities.com/disjunctions>, or contact the committee at

disjunctions@hotmail.com.

Bay Area Hume Symposium

There will be a one or two day Hume Symposium at Stanford, dates not settled, but most likely a weekend in late April or May. It is too late to submit a paper.

American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division

This year's meeting is March 27-31, 2002, Seattle, WA at the Seattle Westin. The Presidential Address will be by Prof. Paul Churchland, University of California, San Diego.

Retired Faculty

Amnon Goldworth, retired SJSU, spoke on "The Case of the Maltese Conjoined Twins: To Live or Not to Live." How do we decide whether or not to separate two conjoined twins surgically if only one can survive? Goldworth is a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Senior Medical Ethicist in Residence at the Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, California. The answer is that when medical ethics experts disagree, the decision should be left to the parents. In this case, the parents did not want the operation. There was some good discussion of what you would do if you woke up and discovered that a great violinist was sharing your kidney. One participant said that it depends on how great the violinist is, and how

great one's own life has been up to this point. Others disagreed.

Peter Koestenbaum

Go to

http://www.fastcompany.com/change/change_feature/koestenbaum.html

to read an interview with Peter entitled "Life After Death" in the October 2001 edition of Fast Company magazine. In this article, he "reflects on what the shock of death teaches us about leadership - and how to move forward without forgetting."

See also, *Freedom and Accountability at Work: Applying Philosophical Insight to the Real World*, by Peter Koestenbaum and Peter Block

Pinto Prize

Michael Richard received the 2001 Pinto Prize in the Fall. He will be honored at the annual banquet this Spring.

About the Pinto Prize. In the Spring of 1992, George Pinto, a philosophy M.A. graduate, established the Lydia A. and George V. Pinto Scholarship in the name of his parents. An annual financial award (currently \$200) was to be made in the Fall term of each year, beginning with Fall 1992. The recipient would be a graduating senior planning to study philosophy in graduate school; this award money would help defray the costs of applying to graduate programs. In addition, the student who receives this award must demonstrate "a love for Philosophy, involvement in the

community, and a commitment to social justice.”

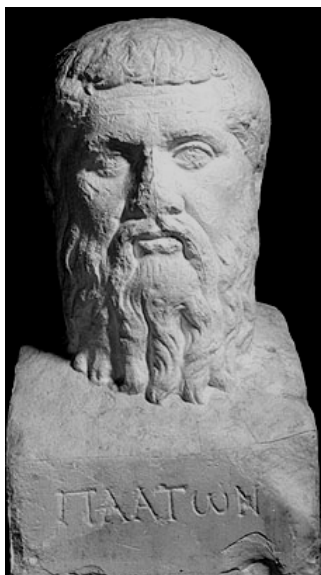
Past winners of the Pinto Award have been: **Carlos Sanchez, Tanya Rodriguez, Brian Prosser, Kimberley Areton, Debra Yantis, George Baker, and Michael Roberts.**

Society for Student Philosophers

The inclusion of graduate and undergraduate students in the American Philosophical Association is of prime importance for both the professional future of the discipline and the intellectual growth of its students. As such, the Society for Student Philosophers was formed in 2001 to provide an outlet for student participation at the division meetings of the American Philosophical Association.

Please feel free to email the Society with any suggestions or comments you may have.

Scott R. Stroud
San Jose State University
Director, Society for Student Philosophers



Faculty News

Noam Cook delivered a paper titled "Turing, Searle and the Wizard of OZ" as part of the Department colloquium series, Fall 2001. He gave an earlier version of the paper at the 12th Biennial International Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology in Aberdeen, Scotland in July 2001. He gave an invited presentation at a workshop on "Tacit Knowledge" at MITRE corporation in Washington, DC last November. He will give a presentation on "Systems, Sustainance, and Stability: Technology and the Environment" at an invitational workshop at Harvey Mudd College in February. He will be chair and commentator for three sessions at the Pacific Division meeting of the APA in March. He will give a talk on Japanese philosophy, called "Place and Practice," as part of the Department Conference this April. His articles, "Technology, Tradition and Craft: Part of What a Flute Is" and "Understanding Practice: Action, Dialectic and Deliberation in Policy Analysis" (the latter coauthored with Henk Wagenaar) are in press.

Peter Hadreas was elected to the Board of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation which oversees the Chair in Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University among other things. He is delighted to be teaching the Graduate Seminar "Pleasure, Pain, Happiness and Well-Being" during Spring, 2002. He has taken up mountain climbing and treks through high deserts over the past few years. He and Cathy hiked the Inca Trail last summer and they also spent Thanksgiving in the Mojave Desert this past November! (Yes, reptiles do seem to like cranberries.) Perhaps this is related to a deepened understanding of Kierkegaard on the Leap of Faith, Sartre on Nausea, and Heidegger on Angst.

Tom Leddy has been focusing on community involvement as a result of the NEH Seminar he took on Pragmatism and Culture last summer. He is now President of the Roosevelt Park Community Association, wrapped up in issues of liquor licenses, traffic, drug houses, and so forth. He plans to organize a writing of the history of the community (which lies between Julian and 280, Coyote Creek and 28th St.), publish a newsletter, and increase community awareness. Tom is writing a paper on the nature of community, and has finished another on environmental aesthetics.

Tommy Lott was editor or co-editor for four books and a journal: *African-American Philosophy: Selected Readings* (Prentice-Hall, 2002), *African Americans and Social Justice: Essays in Honor of Bernard R. Boxhill* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002), with John P. Pittman, *Companion to African-American Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2002), with Julie K. Ward, *Philosophers on Race* (Blackwell, 2002), and *Nineteenth Century Contexts* 22:2 (Spring, 2000). He published various articles including "Patriarchy and Slavery in Hobbes's Political Philosophy," in *Philosophers on Race*, "Kara Walker Speaks: A Public Conversation on Racism, Art, and Politics," in *Black Renaissance Noire* 3:1 (Fall 2000) 69-91, and "Du Bois's Anthropological Notion of Race" in Robert Bernasconi, ed. *Race* (Blackwell, 2001) 59-83.

Bo Mou has been very busy since he last contributed to this newsletter. He edited, wrote the "Introduction," and contributed an essay to the anthology volume *Comparative Approaches to Chinese Philosophy* (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing Company, forthcoming in 2002). He edited, wrote the "Preface," and contributed the Chinese translation of one research essay and one survey article to the anthology volume *Contemporary Inquiries into Fundamental Issues of Philosophy*

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(Beijing, China: The Commercial Press; 2002) (in Chinese). His recently published articles include, "Becoming-Being Complementarity: An Account of the Yin-Yang Metaphysical Vision of the Yi-Jing," invited essay in *POLYLOG: Forum for Intercultural Philosophy*, 7 (2001), pp.1-24, "Moral Rules and Moral Experience: A Comparative Analysis of Dewey and Laozi on Morality," in *Asian Philosophy*, Vol.11, No.3 (2001), pp.161-178. "Eternal Dao, Constant Name, and Language Engagement," in *Comparative Approaches to Chinese Philosophy* (Ashgate; forthcoming in 2002). (The article is a substantial expansion and revision of a previous publication.) "A Survey of Recent Development of Philosophy of Language and Mind," contributed to *Contemporary Inquiries into Fundamental Issues of Philosophy* (Beijing, China: The Commercial Press; 2002) (in Chinese). He translated and revised a Chinese version of his "A Metaphilosophical Analysis of the Core Idea of Deflationism," *Contemporary Inquiries into the Fundamental Issues of Philosophy* (Beijing, China: The Commercial Press, 2002). Bo also gave various talks during his visit to China in July and at the conference, "Language, Thought and Reality: East West Perspectives," California State University at Chico in April. In other activities, he was interviewed on the methodological issue of studying Western and Chinese philosophies, by a reporter from *Philosophy Currents* (a Chinese monthly philosophy journal published by Institute of Philosophy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) on August 7; the interview was published in *Philosophy Currents* 2002 volume, No.1. Finally, he was appointed as a member of the Committee on International Cooperation of The American Philosophical Association.

George Pinto The California Society of CPAs has invited George to be its state audit instructor for the

ERISA continuing education class in California which is taught to fellow CPAs. ERISA is the Employee Retirement Income Security Act passed by Congress in 1974 which governs retirement accounts. In light of the recent ENRON 401k) Plan scandal, this is an especially timely topic. Perhaps a few Arthur Andersen accountants will sign up for the class! The local chapter of Silicon Valley CPAs has nominated George to Chair its ERISA committee starting May 2002.

George has been nominated for the DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD presented annually by the California Society of CPAs to one CPA who has performed distinguished public service in the state.

The winner will be announced shortly.

SJSU will present George its first GOLD Award (Graduate of the Last Decade) for the College of Arts & Humanities at the Tower Award dinner on May 4, 2002. The award is presented to one alumnus from each college who has "brought honor to the University through their achievements".

George will be a panel participant at the Goa Convention in Houston in July 2002. Goa is George's ancestral state in India. Also on the panel is Goa's Chief Minister (equivalent of Governor). Topic "Opportunities for Goa's development".

Finally, George is coordinating the Annual Philosophy Department Alumni Conference this year, as well as the Department Banquet, in addition to teaching his students. Thanks George!

Barbara Scholz presented recent research on the philosophical foundations of linguistics at the University of California Santa Cruz in early January 2002. Later that month, some of her collaborative

work with G.K.Pullum was presented at a symposium on "Arguments from the Poverty of the Stimulus for Linguistic Nativism" at Stanford University. This presentation included research that will appear in early 2002 in a special double issue of "The Linguistic Review" that features Scholz and Pullum's critical examination of poverty of the stimulus arguments. On February 14, a short essay on the folk-psychological and scientific use of the word 'innateness' will appear in the journal "Nature".

Scott Stroud has been busy working on his thesis on Kant and with an interesting Philosophy 110 class that he is teaching. Scott just got back from a Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum Conference in sunny Florida, where he presented "Defending Kant's Ethics in light of the Modern Business Organization." At the Western meeting of the American Academy of Religion this spring, Scott will be presenting "Plantinga on Evolution, Naturalism, and Reliable Belief: A Reply to Fitelson & Sober." During the APA meeting in Seattle, he will be presenting two papers, "Cartesian Ethics and the Principle of Habituation" for the Society for Student Philosophers and "Narrative and Articulate Action: Mythic Construction of Identity and Meaning in the Bhagavad Gita and the Phaedrus" for the Field-Being Interest Group.

Scott was also fortunate enough to have his "Mystical Anti-Semitism and the Christian Identity Movement: A Narrative Criticism of Dan Gayman's The Two Seeds of Genesis 3:15" (Co-authored with Jon F. Schamber) accepted for the Journal of Communication & Religion, 24, and his "Multivalent Narratives and Indian Philosophical Argument: Insights from the Bhagavad Gita" accepted for the Journal of Indian Philosophy & Religion, 7. In terms of future Indian philosophical projects, Scott also has his

“Exemplar & Moral Judgment: The use of Particular and Theory in Kant & Sankara’s Moral Philosophy” accepted for presentation at a Society for Indian Philosophy & Religion conference in Calcutta, India (although he is still searching for funding for this adventure).

Rick Tieszen writes:

I spent the fall semester on a sabbatical leave in Europe. Most of the time was spent in Holland, at the University of Utrecht. Utrecht is the home of the Archives of the famous mathematical intuitionist L.E.J. Brouwer. I did some research in the Archives, organized two seminars (one on set theory and one on general philosophy of mathematics), and participated in a reading group with Karl Schuhmann and some graduate students on Husserl’s *Philosophy of Arithmetik*. All told, it was a very fruitful visit. Apart from the work, however, the tone of many other things around us changed after September 11. In November we went on to visit Paris and Rome. While in Rome I read Livy, Tacitus, Seneca, Marcus Aurelius and others in the evenings and then went to visit sites mentioned by them during the day. That was most enjoyable.

In Holland I completed a long draft of “Husserl’s Logic”. The paper will appear in *The Handbook of the History and Philosophy of Logic*, edited by D. Gabbay and J. Woods (Springer Verlag). A preprint of “Brouwer and Weyl: The Phenomenology and Mathematics of the Intuitive Continuum” appeared in the Utrecht-Leiden Logic Group preprint series. This is the first paper on which I have worked as a co-author. It turned out to be a very natural and easy process in this case. The paper will appear this June in a special issue of *Philosophia Mathematica* that I am editing on the topic of phenomenology and mathematics. At the moment I’m working on two invited papers. One is for a volume on *Phenomenology and the Philosophy of Mind*, D. Smith and A. Thomason (eds.). The

other is for a new Routledge volume on *Continental Philosophy of Science*, Gary Gutting (ed.).

Other than that, I’m keeping the guitar tuned up, planning to do some hiking, and looking forward to my classes this semester.



Godel and Einstein, Princeton University, 1950



Searle recording the Reith Lectures for BBC in London, summer of 1984, where he first presented the “Chinese Room” argument. © BBC photo

Department Tenure-Track Position Search Talks

Because of our busy searches this year for two new colleagues, there have been no colloquia this Spring. However, candidates gave papers on the following dates: Jan. 22, Bill Jaworski; Jan 23, Barbara Scholz; Jan 25, Charles Siewert; Jan 28, Branden Fitelson; and Feb 4, Manuel Vargas.

Philosophy Department Colloquia: Fall 2001

Peter Seuren, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands spoke on, and defended a revised version of Aristotelian Predicate Calculus. Oct. 31.

Noam Cook, SJSU Philosophy, “Turing, Searle and the Wizard of OZ” Nov. 15.

Student News

Philosophy Club and *Geist*: Uncommon Knowledge

Dear Friends and Fellow Philosophers,

The Symposium cordially invites you to submit your papers for publication in the 4th issue of *Geist: Uncommon*

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Sense. Geist is an annual journal published by SJSU Philosophy Club. The deadline to submit your paper is March 15th, 2002. Works submitted for consideration can address any subject area of philosophy, but should not be more than 6,000 words (about 12 pages, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced, MLA style bibliography.) You are welcome to email me your work at vladsankin@yahoo.com or drop it off at the Philosophy Department (Faculty Offices, Room 201.)

Everybody is welcome to join us for a conversation and refreshments at our regular club meetings. If you'd like to be notified of the time and place of the next meeting, please email me.

I sincerely await your submissions and hope to see you at the next meeting.

Vladislav Sankin,
President,
SJSU Philosophy Club
vladsankin@hotmail.com

Ethics Bowl

The Philosophy Department's Ethics Bowl Team is gearing up for the national competition in Cincinnati, Ohio on February 28, 2002. The Ethics Bowl competition is a great way for students to learn more about philosophy in a friendly, yet competitive environment involving teams composed of students from other universities. While the SJSU team did well at the regional competition in Chico in the Fall, they hope to really excel in Cincinnati. The team competing at the nationals is composed of returning member Ben Ten Cate, along with new members Ramon Jimenez, Thanh Nguyen, and Lisa Velez. The team's coaches, Scott Stroud and Jim Lindahl, both think that the team is going to make the department proud in Cincinnati (perhaps by besting Richard Greene's team from Utah).

ISREE Events

Science and Religion

Nov. 2, 2001. Andrew Toy of the Spartan Daily reported on a viewing of a video conference taped in October at Harvard titled "Science and Religion: A Multimedia Discussion." The event was sponsored by the Institute for Social Responsibility, Ethics, and Education over three days in November. Jane Goodall, Jane Goodall Institute (ethology) and William Newsome of Stanford University (cognitive neuroscience) were featured. Richard Keady, director of ISREE, led the discussions.

Nov. 15 MULTIMEDIA DISCUSSION The series of multimedia presentations "Science and Religion: What Does It Mean to be Human?" continues. World-renowned scientists tackle issues of religion, ethics and belief. Discuss issues with the SJSU community after the video presentation. Sponsored by the Institute of Social Responsibility, Ethics, and Education, the Comparative Religious Studies Program and the Catholic Campus Ministry. See <http://www.ectn.org>. Contact Richard Keady at 408-924-4312, rkeadv@email.sjsu.edu.

Theology and the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence

Thurs. Nov. 7, 2002 12:00. Eng. Auditorium Rm. 189. Featured panelists:

- **Ted Peters, PhD, Systematic Theology**

- **Michael Shermer, PhD, History of Science**

- **Seth Shostak, PhD, Astronomy**

Introduction: Marshall R. Goodman, Provost, SJSU

Moderator: Richard Scheinin, San Jose Mercury News.

Sponsored by the ISREE. Funded by Emilio (Chick) D'Arpino.

BODY PHILOSOPHY

It used to be the case that philosophers were not supposed to care about their bodies. That is gradually changing, through Merleau-Ponty, Nietzsche, Foucault, Dewey, Shusterman, and other philosophers who care about improvement of body as well as mind. Shanti Yoga Center provides classes in Iyengar Yoga and other things. Tom Leddy strongly recommends it (although he still cannot touch his toes or stand on his head: that is to come).

Local Restaurants and Coffee Houses

Camera Three Café

on 3rd St. This is a great little place to hang out and watch the world go by. Most of the really good movies of the last twenty years have been shown here and at Camera One and the Towne Cinema.

Café Nanos

This is a great place to get sandwiches – very international. The falafel is excellent, as is the Mediterranean salad. Prices are reasonable. One dish can easily serve two. The coffee here is also very good

Cat' sCaf at 140 Paseo de San Antonio, across from campus on 4th Street. This comes close to the Platonic Form of a small coffeehouse. The homemade pastries are excellent. This is a new and struggling coffeehouse, so please patronize it.

Plagiarism Opinions Studied

Lisa Bernasconi surveyed her 139 Intro to Philosophy students recently regarding their attitudes toward plagiarism. Here are the results:

10% say that they sometimes feel tempted to plagiarize because so many other students are doing it.

83% believe they know what constitutes plagiarism and what does not.

68% believe that plagiarism is as bad as stealing the final exam ahead of time and memorizing the answers.

9% agree with the statement: "If my roommate gives me permission to use his or her paper for one of my classes, I don't think there is anything wrong with doing that".

7% believe plagiarism is justified if the professor assigns too much work in the course.

12% agree that "The punishment for plagiarism in college should be light because we are young people just learning the ropes".

26% say that if a student buys or downloads free a whole research paper and turns it in unchanged with his or her name as the author, the

student should be expelled from the university.

70% say "Plagiarism is against my ethical values".

80% disagree with the statement, "Because plagiarism involves taking another person's words and not his or her material goods, plagiarism is no big deal".

50% think it's okay to use something you have written in the past to fulfill a new assignment because you can't plagiarize yourself.

57% say that, "If I lend a paper to another student to "look at" [quotes not on survey], and then that student turns it in as his or her own and is caught, I should not be punished also".

50% believe that if students caught plagiarizing received a special grade for cheating (such as an XF) on their permanent transcript, that policy would deter many from plagiarizing.

In the 3 sections I surveyed, there were no more than 10 students total who had ever had any detailed explanation in high school or college about what constitutes plagiarism. They know it is bad, and most of them know that they mustn't "copy", but many of them need more information. I find it helpful to spend most of one class period on the topic. It is possible to relate it directly to Philosophy in terms of the ethical issues involved.

The survey and two quizzes for determining whether or not students do know when to cite sources and what plagiarism is come from:

Harris, Robert A. *The Plagiarism Handbook*. Los Angeles: Pycszak Publishing, 2001.

Lisa Bernasconi.

Thanks Lisa. We can all use this!

Outreach

George Pinto writes "If you want to advertise an event, you can have SJSU's radio station do a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for free." Their phone number is 924-KSJS or visit the website www.ksjs.org for specific contact info. This should be a must for publicity for our events.

Donations to Department

The Philosophy Department has many needs that cannot be met by University Funds. In particular, we like to provide prizes to students for excellent work. There are more good students than we have prizes. We also can use funding for our Colloquium series. This series has been partially funded by the College of Humanities and Arts, but not on a regular basis. It would be particularly valuable if we could have funding for an annual conference in Philosophy or for a special alumni event.

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

PALO ALTO FRENCH FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS THE ESSENTIAL NEW WAVE

Get your philosophy in filmic form.

"For its third series, Palo Alto French Film Society honors the filmmakers

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of the French New Wave that marked generations of filmmakers to come and changed irrevocably the art of filmmaking in France and around the world.

Starting from February 10, and running until April 7, Palo Alto French Film Society will present Sunday matinees at the Aquarius Theatre (430 Emerson Street in Palo Alto). All the films presented form the quintessential New Wave and each film individually has since been hailed as a prototype of its genre.

This series is presented with the cooperation and support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris (MAE) and the Consulate General of France, San Francisco.

This series is launched as part of Palo Alto French Film Society's mission to link the past with the present in an effort to embrace modern cinema as a continuity and a testimony to past cinematographies.

All films are in French with English subtitles. Tickets \$8 regular and \$6 for seniors over 62, students with ID, children under 11. For full details visit www.pafff.org. Tickets available only at the theatre."

Annual Philosophy Department Banquet

The Annual Banquet will be held in conjunction with the Alumni Conference. See pg. 2.

Alumni News

Sandra Garrison writes that she has moved "to Olympia, Washington where my husband is

finishing his education and where I will be looking for a new job. I hope to start hosting a new Philosopher Cafe up here in Washington." She regrets not being able to host the "Philosopher Cafe that I started at the Barnes & Noble at the Pruneyard over a year ago back in September of 2000." She writes to the members of that group, "Should any of you care to reach me you can contact me at this email address, java@mac.com... I've really enjoyed being a part of all of our thought-provoking discussions and have definitely enjoyed having the chance to be with such intelligent and caring individuals. Thank you all for being a part and making our philosophy discussions truly enjoyable and interesting."

Joel C. Hunt writes, "My recent activities and interests for the newsletter include the following: 1) I am currently teaching Bible full-time at Valley Christian High School in San Jose; 2) I am currently teaching Systematic Theology for the LEAD School of Silicon Valley, a wing of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; 3) My areas of interest in philosophy are Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology."

Paul Newberry, BA Philosophy 1972 and MA Philosophy 1979. "Wanted to let you (all) know that last year I received tenure here at Cal State Bakersfield. My path to tenure was decidedly unorthodox. When I entered the MA program, Dr. Eastman told me he'd let me in, but not if I was entering with an eye to teach--the job market for college teachers (this was '76) was not bad, he said, but nonexistent. Teaching philosophy was not my intent, so I came on into the program. However, in 1986 I started teaching part-time at CSUB and the local CC. I liked it, went to Claremont Graduate University for a PhD, got into a tenure line, etc.

I am very appreciative of the education (and experiences) from

SJSU. I especially remember with fondness Peter Koestenbaum and Herman Shapiro (the chair of my thesis committee).

Thanks for sending along the newsletter--it's interesting to read about what's new and to hear about what's become of the veterans.

Best wishes,
Paul Newberry
Associate Professor of Philosophy
CSUB"

Eric Palfreyman writes "My main achievement (other than the completion of my MA at SJSU) has been to survive the Nortel Networks layoffs in 2001 - where over 50% of the workforce was let go. What has been interesting is that with my MA in Philosophy I have survived literally thousands of MBAs and Masters Degrees in EE, MIS and CS. When people tell you the Philosophy degree is vocationally useless unless you want to teach, remind them of the non-technology survivor of a high tech company. In addition to my full-time job, I teach classes in Critical Thinking and Critical Writing at the community college here and really enjoy that (except for the grading!). We cover critical thinking skills in both literary sources and in philosophical essays. For most students, they have never read Kant or Sartre or W. James or Thoreau or Emerson; or they have had only superficial introductions to them.

I currently serve on the City of McKinney Library Advisory Board and previously served on the Tourism Services Advisory Board. These boards report directly to the City Council and provide analytic and advisory input as the council members provide direction to the city. It's actually a really enjoyable thing to be involved in. I recommend it.

I give monthly lectures to our church on a variety of topics. Recent topics have included, "An Overview of Just-War Theories", "Why a Post-Modern Society Should Study the Old Testament", and "William James' Writings on Mysticism and the Modern Religious Experience".

I thoroughly enjoyed working on my MA in Philosophy at SJSU and want to thank the faculty who supported us as we tried to follow in their footsteps. Earning this degree and the thinking, work and activities involved in earning it are real highlights in my life.

Best Regards to all . . .

--Eric

John Sullins is about to complete his PhD at Birmingham University (SUNY) New York. He has articles forthcoming: "Building Simple Mechanical Minds: Using LEGO Robots for Research and Teaching Philosophy," in *The Digital Phoenix II* (Bradford Press), and "Knowing Life: Possible Solutions to the Practical Epistemological Limits in the Study of Artificial Life," in *The Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Artificial Intelligence*. He also published two book reviews last year: one of "Robot: Mere Machine to Transcendent Mind," in *Computers and Society* 13:2 (June, 2001) and of "Hal's Legacy: 2001s Computer as Dream and Reality" in the same issue.

Philosophy Students Over 60

Let's say you got a BA in Philosophy several years ago, and you always wanted an M.A., and now that the economy is sliding downhill somewhat, you decide that

now is the time to redirect your energies.

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

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

San José State University has established a permanent program which allows California residents 60 years of age or older to enroll in regular session courses without payment of application fees and with reduction in the levels of others. Applicants in this program must register after regular students have registered for classes. For further information, call Jane Boyd at Reach Program 924-5950.

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

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

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

Poetry Corner

The Enron Blues

A Business Ethics Blues song by Rita Manning

Worked all my life at Enron,
Saved most every day (Repeat)
Always took my paycheck and put
10% away

Tried to be loyal,
Tried to do things the Enron way
(Repeat)
Turned down other offers to work for
Kenneth Lay

Kenny always told us
Enron stock is here to stay (Repeat)
Buy Enron stock and you'll all be
rich some day.

I did what Kenny told me
Got a 401K (Repeat)
Put all my bets on Enron,
Now it's a cold and rainy day.

Today I read the paper
Seems like Kenny knew the score
(Repeat)
While I was buying Enron,
Kenny's selling more and more.

Enron paid no taxes
Got a total tax free ride (Repeat)
Yet when they needed something
Called Dick Cheney to their side.

I'm putting groceries on the table
By selling on Ebay (Repeat)
Sold an Enron code of ethics
Never read by Kenneth Lay.

Seems the good old boys in Texas
Are tryna make their mark (Repeat)
Bush, Cheney and their buddies
Leave the country in the dark.

What do I tell my babies
When they come to take my house
(Repeat)
I'll tell them f--- you Enron
I ain't going like a mouse.

I'm getting me a lawyer
A very high priced shark (Repeat)
Ain't gonna move my family
To a lousy trailer park.

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Every time I read the paper
Gotta write another verse (Repeat)
Ain't getting any better
It's just getting worse and worse.

I got the Enron blues
Got money still to lose (Repeat)
Bush, Cheney and their buddies

On the 6 o'clock news.

Selected Courses Offered Fall 2002

[We do not yet have times and places for these.]

Philosophy of Art: Tom Leddy

Medical Ethics: Rita Manning

Philosophy and Feminism: Rita Manning

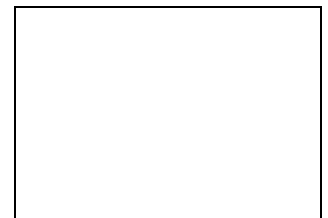
Intermediate Logic: Rick Tieszen

Plato: Tom Leddy

African Philosophy: Simon Mawando

Epistemology and Metaphysics: "The Role of Probability in Metaphysics." Branden Fitelson

San Jose State University
Department of Philosophy
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0096



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

