

# Newsletter: Department of Philosophy San Jose State University

Nov. 2003

Editor: Tom Leddy

## Letter from the Chair

When I tell people that I am currently department chair, they inevitably point out that I picked an interesting time to take on this task. The economic downturn, the continuing evidence of corporate corruption, the war in Iraq, the current state budget crisis, the uncertainty about who would be governor and how this would effect us, the continuing fallout from 9/11, our own search for a new campus President--all these things have and will continue to have, a major impact on life in our section of the Ivory Tower. As I look at how these events have shaped the philosophy department, I notice a number of trends.

First, the difficult challenges that we are facing, as a nation and a world community, prompts many people to do some serious soul-searching. The quest for meaning often leads students to the Philosophy department and we have certainly noticed this on our campus. Our enrollments are up even though the campus enrollments are down. Students are more serious in their philosophy classes, the Philosophy Club is seeing record numbers of students at their events, and our the frosh seminars in the MUSE program filled to capacity almost as soon as they were posted. As a department, we are proud of how we have risen to the occasion, helping to bring a sense

of rationality to a culture paralyzed by fear, and being a small part in helping students bring a heightened and more critically reflective sense of personal meaning to their own lives.

Another trend is the new focus on corporate misconduct. We went from the go-go nineties to a time when stories of misconduct compete for space on the front page. Our very popular course, Professional and Business Ethics, has long been instrumental in shaping the ethical climate of the Silicon Valley, and we now pursue this with renewed urgency. Our other offering in practical ethics-- Contemporary Moral Issues; Science, Technology and Values; Environmental Ethics; and Medical Ethics-- have been joined by a new course, Ethics in Science. Through our large complement of courses in this area, we will continue to spread the word that Ethics is a necessary part of the good life and the flourishing community.

The economic climate coupled with the state budget crisis and the recall were felt in our department in a number of ways, but as chair I am perhaps most aware of their effect on the department budget. I have found myself saying no to numerous important projects. Indeed, I often feel like I am doing triage in an emergency room.

Through it all, I have been immensely proud of our faculty, students and staff. Tutors volunteered for the first month of the semester to staff the Philosophy and Logic Lab. Faculty are teaching more students and stretching to do the committee work that must be done for the department, college and university. Our fantastic department administrator generously put off her retirement to help us through the current crisis, and to help me to learn all the ins and outs of this challenging job.

Yes, we do live in interesting times. Philosophers are great tealeaf readers

and gadflies, partly because we deal with such large and seemingly timeless questions and partly because we have a global and deeply historical perspective. We in the Philosophy Department at San Jose State University take our role very seriously and we vow to continue to take an active role in shaping our university, community, country, and world. Sure it's no small task, but with the help of our very talented faculty and staff; bright, engaged and hard working students; and loyal alums, we do expect to change the world.

**Rita Manning**

## Department Web Site

[www.sjsu.edu/depts/philosophy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/philosophy/) We have a revised web site. The new web site features categories of curriculum, faculty, resources, and community. Some faculty have added biographies. Earlier editions of this newsletter are available under the News section of our web site.

## New Martin Luther King Library

Clark Library is no more. You have no doubt read about and seen our amazing new double library: a library for the City of San Jose and for SJSU. An important new feature is that journals are now in open stacks. Students and faculty can now get their fix of *Ethics* or the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* just by going to the third floor of the library. Another feature is that a special page of the library web site is now devoted to Philosophy. How do you get there? Go to [Sjlibrary.org](http://Sjlibrary.org), then to Articles and Databases under Quicklink, then choose SJSU Subjects, and then, under P, choose Philosophy. The page includes the *Philosopher's Index*, a *Bibliography of Asian Studies*, and many full-text sources. Especially relevant to

philosophy is *Jstohr*. I have found that this full-text site has an even better search engine than the *Philosopher's Index*. This is the wave of the future, ready-or-not. So check it out.

Harry Meserve, Philosophy Department library liaison, says that the library will now make sure that Philosophy is listed with the other disciplines in the library maps. He welcomes suggestions on how to make the philosophy web page described above more useful. You may reach him at [Harry.Meserve@sjsu.edu](mailto:Harry.Meserve@sjsu.edu)

**Report on Spring  
2003 SJSU  
Philosophy  
Department Alumni  
Conference on  
“Crime in the Suites:  
Ethics in Business  
and Public Policy”**

**Saturday, April 26, 2003.**

About 60 people attended the alumni conference this year. Professor Bill Shaw, Chairperson, made some introductory comments, referring specifically to business ethics scandals in the news. Professor Dick Schubert (SJSU faculty and alumnus) gave the first talk, followed by a panel discussion by Ramon Jimenez and Colin Caret (philosophy undergraduates). Al Frankowski (graduate student) describes this part of the conference below. After lunch there was a talk by Professor Tom Leddy on “Aesthetics and Business Ethics” which explored possible connections between the two fields. Peter Hadreas read his entertaining and thought-provoking dialogue, “Aristotle and Machiavelli interviewed on Wall Street Week in Review.” Eric Meece (alumnus) gave a paper, “The Value of Gold: ethics and world views,” and Karin

Brown finished the day with a talk about Buddhism and business ethics.

**This event was co-sponsored by the College of Humanities and Arts Alumni Board. Thanks also to George Pinto for all of his hard work on this conference.**

“What is Martha Stewart Cooking Up? [insider trading]”

Professor Schubert stated that it is very likely Martha Stewart had insider information due to her relationship with the owners of the company she held shares of stock in. It seems she did nothing wrong if she had informed her broker to sell if the stock dropped below a certain point, but this is also unlikely. However, Martha Stewart may have had information that others did not have access to. Is there anything wrong with this? We have a principle of fairness and a right to information. A woman from the city who knows a lot about antiques finds someone selling an antique chest. She knows the chest can be sold for \$2500.00. The seller does not know this information and he agrees to sell it to her for \$75.00. Is anything wrong here? Not particularly, the buyer did conceal what she knew but the burden may be on the owner of the chest to find out what the chest is worth if he is worried about getting ripped off. Martha Stewart’s case is not similar to this one, because she had access to information about her stock that others could not find out and concealed this knowledge when selling.

Second example: A man buys a car. He checks everything and the car looks fine. He drives away and after a short time the car breaks down. He takes the car to the mechanic and the mechanic informs him the pistons are shot and that the previous owner put sawdust in the engine to conceal this. In this case the owner has clearly done something immoral: he sold a car that was flawed, he knew it was flawed and concealed the flaw from the buyer. This is analogous with the Martha Stewart case because she sold

her stocks and the buyer had no access to the information she had. The stocks were worthless and she knew it.

Ramon and Colin "Prozac, Eli Lilly, Walgreens, and the Ethical Responsibility of Doctors"

The case: former patients who had been treated for depression in the past received free samples of Prozac weekly in the mail. A Walgreens’ pharmacist and the clients’ doctors provided the information. Some people had only used Prozac once and had a bad reaction to it, some had never used Prozac but had been treated for depression. Receiving the Prozac weekly signaled a violation of privacy.

Ramon- the doctors and the pharmacists have two professional codes to abide by: one "do no harm" and the other is "protecting privacy of the patient." Eli Lilly’s advertising campaign violates both of these, and they are responsible because the doctors and pharmacists should not be asked to do such a thing in the first place. One should hold the corporation responsible as well as the doctors and pharmacists at Walgreens for violating these ethical codes.

Colin- basically agrees with Ramon but does not find it necessary to go after the corporation for responsibility. The responsibility is on the doctors and pharmacists who released the information. It is unclear if a corporation is a moral agent, and Eli Lilly advertisers were just trying to do their job. The real focus should be put on the doctors and pharmacists who released the personal information of the clients.

Ramon- corporate responsibility- without holding corporations responsible, the corporations become phantom entities and can continue with unethical practices. The pharmacists and doctors were propositioned by Eli Lilly and that means they share some of the

responsibility for violating the privacy and safety of the targeted population.

Colin- it is more important to focus on the questionable medical practices. The doctors did not abide by their ethical codes.

## Deceased Whit Deiningger

Whitaker Thompson Deiningger, born Dec. 20, 1922, died on June 29, 2003. He is survived by his children Whitacker Thompson Deiningger Jr., Prescott Deiningger, Chris Deiningger, and Sarah Vasquez, by his brother Don T. Deiningger, and by eight grandchildren and one great grandchild. Whit was a favorite in the department, well known for his cheerfulness, his love of philosophy and his engaging manner. Whit graduated Cum Laude from Amherst in 1944, served in the army during World War II, and then completed his Masters and Ph.D. at Columbia University. After marrying Harriet Prescott, he moved to San Jose State, where he taught for thirty-three years both in Philosophy and in Humanities. Whit was famous for his generosity, towards his community, his church, his students, and the philosophy department.

After retirement, Whit was heartbroken by the death of his wife, Harriet. Yet he came to develop a close and rewarding friendship with Carolyn Black, also retired from the Philosophy Department, during his last years.

Whenever I think of Whit I will remember his animated philosophical conversations. Sometimes talked so fast he often neglected to finish his sentences or provide the missing premises: you just had to keep up.

Memorial donations may be made in Whit's name to the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis or to Christ the Good Shepherd.

## Spring 2004 Alumni Conference Announcement

The Philosophy Department plans to have the fourth annual one-day conference on Saturday, April 24, 2004. The topic for this Spring's Alumni Conference is:

### “Philosophy in a New Key: Recent Developments in the Field.”

The title is a reference to, and in honor of, an important and under-recognized American philosopher, Suzanne Langer. 1895-1985.

Langer was born in New York city, graduated from Radcliffe College, earned a doctorate from Harvard in 1926, and taught at Radcliffe, Columbia, and Connecticut College. She studied under Alfred North Whitehead and was strongly influenced by Ernst Cassirer. Her most famous work was *Philosophy in a New Key* (1942) which saw symbolism as central to logic, psychology, and art. She also published *Feeling and Form* (1953). Her last major work was *Mind: An Essay in Human Feeling* (1967, 1972, 1982). She was the inventor of the phrase “virtual reality.”

This is not a conference on the philosophy of Langer: the title is merely suggestive, and any papers related to the themes Langer addressed in her life, or any recent developments in philosophy are welcome.

**Deadline for papers and proposals is Feb. 1, 2004.**

## Arnold Weekend



This is *not* a reference to our new Governor-elect!

**The Philosophy Department had its annual get-away weekend in Arnold, California, which happened this year on the weekend of Oct. 10. Boating, swimming (for those who can handle the cold!), hiking, wine-tasting, poker-playing, and other non-philosophical activities were on the agenda. We had a great group dinner at Tallahans Café in Arnold. Participating cabins were Mike and Claudia's, Rita and Ron's, Mary Ann and Gene's, and Tom and Karen's. Thanks to Rita for organizing this and hosting the Saturday night party, and to Mary Ann for hosting a breakfast at her place on Sunday morning.**

## Department Prizes

**The Shapiro Prize winner for Spring of 2003 was Ramon Jimenez**

**The Temple Prize winner for Spring of 2003 was Phillip Williamson**

## Upcoming Local Conferences and Talks

**American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Sheraton/Hilton, Pasadena, California, March 24-28, 2004.**

**ASA Pacific Division Annual Meeting, March 31 to April 2, 2003, Pacific Grove, California**

Here is the call for papers "Papers on any topic in aesthetics are invited. Proposals are welcome for author-meets-critics sessions, panels, and symposia. Volunteers to serve as session chairs or commentators are also welcome. Papers, accompanied by a 100-word abstract, should run 10-12 standard pages and

take no longer than 20 minutes reading time. In all cases, papers must be submitted in electronic format, either by email or by disk. Deadline: December 1, 2003 Roger Seamon, Program Chair, 521-1355 Harwood St., Vancouver, B. C. V6E 3W3, Canada, <rseamon@interchange.ubc.ca>

### Stanford University Philosophy Department:

November 14: Patricia Marino, Stanford University, "Expressivism, Deflationism, and Correspondence"

November 21: Jennifer Whiting, University of Toronto, (Title To Be Announced)

December 5: Bas van Fraassen, Princeton University "Structural Realism"

### University of California, Berkeley:

Oct. 30 Jim Pryor, Princeton University

Nov. 1-2 Conference: Meeting of the Pacific Study Group of the North American Kant Society, Howison Library. Keynote Speaker: Michael Friedman, Stanford University (details to be announced)

Nov. 12 Alan Hajek, Cal Tech

Nov. 20 Stephen Yablo, MIT

Dec. 10 Robert May, U.C. Irvine

Feb 12 Rosalind Hursthouse, University of Auckland

Mar. 4 Julia Annas, University of Arizona

Mar. 10 Mic Detlefsen, Notre Dame

Apr. 1 Alison Simmons, Harvard University

Apr. 13/15 David Kaplan, UCLA

## Faculty

**Noam Cook** co-authored an article "Understanding policy practices: action, dialectic and deliberation in policy analysis" with Hendrik Wagenaar in *Deliberative Policy Analysis Understanding Governance in the Network Society* ed. Maarten A. Hajer, Hendrik Wagenaar, May 2003. The web site for the book describes it in this way: "What kind of policy analysis is required now that governments increasingly encounter the limits of governing? Exploring the new contexts of politics and policy making, this book presents an original analysis of the relationship between state and society, and new possibilities for collective learning and conflict resolution. The key insight of the book is that democratic governance calls for a new deliberatively-oriented policy analysis."

**Branden Fidelston** left us to take a position at the University of California at Berkeley. We wish him good luck!

**Peter Hadreas** is on leave, working on his book on pleasure. Perhaps more dramatically he has taken a couple weeks off to do a trek in Nepal with his wife, Cathy. (Tell us if you find any wise men hidden away up there, Peter.) Peter published "Aristotle on the Vices and Virtue of Wealth" in the *Journal of Business Ethics* S II 02; 39 (4): 361-376. *The Philosopher's Index* description is: "Drawing primarily on the *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book IV, Chapter 1 disquisition of the virtue of liberality, Aristotle's account of the vices of virtue of wealth is discussed in detail. Historical differences between Aristotle's post-Periclean



and modern postindustrial ideas of ownership, finance and trade organizations are introduced so to evaluate the relevance of Aristotle's approach to current investigations in business ethics. It is concluded that the lasting value of Aristotle's approach lies in its capacity to incorporate wealth into a comprehensive ordering of human goods."

**Tom Leddy.** Tom is wrapped up in his teaching this semester: a seminar on Aristotle, his upper-division Philosophy of Art, and the lower-division Introduction to Aesthetics. He had a book review on the *Routledge Companion to Aesthetics* come out in the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, and another will appear there in the near future on Ellen Dissanayake's *Art and Intimacy*. Tom gave a paper on "Fractal Aesthetics" at the Asilomar meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics in April. He was happy to receive the "Professor of the Year" award from the Philosophy Club in April, 2003, and is looking forward to teaching a seminar on Nietzsche again in the Spring.

**Tommy Lott** was editor with John P. Pittman of *A Companion to African-American Philosophy: Blackwell Companions to Philosophy* (Blackwell Publishing: Malden MA, 2003 ) A blurb reads: "This wide-ranging, multidisciplinary collection of newly commissioned articles brings together distinguished voices in the field of Africana philosophy and African-American social and political thought. Topics covered include philosophic traditions; the moral and political legacy of slavery; Africa and diaspora thought; gender, race, and racism; legal and social philosophy; and aesthetics and cultural values." He also published an article in this anthology, titled "African Retentions."

**Rita Manning** As can be seen from the Chair's letter, Rita was

elected Chairperson of the Philosophy Department. Thanks, Rita, for taking on this challenging job. We hadn't mentioned earlier that Rita had published "Rousseau's Other Woman: Collette in *Le devin du village*" *Hypatia*, Spr 01; 16(2): 27-42. *The Philosopher's Index* description is: "The life and work of Rousseau, the musician and aesthetician, has been largely neglected in the debate about Rousseau's views on women. In this paper, I shall introduce a new text and a new female figure into the conversation: Collette, the shepherdess in *Le devin du village*, an opera written by Rousseau in 1752. We see an ambiguity in Collette--the text often expresses one view while the music expresses another."



**Bo Mou** writes "The anthology volume *Comparative Approaches to Chinese Philosophy* which I edited, wrote "Introduction", and contributed to, was recently published by Ashgate Publishing Ltd., in UK. Together with Chad Hansen, I am currently working on a source book project, *Western and Chinese Philosophy: Comparative Texts and Readings*, under contract with Blackwell. I am also working on some invited writings: (1) "Concept of Truth and Multiple Facets of the Speech-act Equivalence Thesis,"

invited essay for the anthology, *The Illocutionary Role of the Concept of Truth*, edited by Dirk Greimann and Geo Siegwart (Germany: de Gruyter); (2) some entries to the second edition of *the Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Macmillan Reference USA)."

**Bill Shaw**, who is on sabbatical this year, published *Ethics at Work: Basic Readings in Business Ethics* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2003)

**Rick Tieszen** published "Godel and the Intuition of Concepts," *Synthese* D 2002; 133(3): 363-391. "Godel has argued that we can cultivate the intuition or 'perception' of abstract concepts in mathematics and logic. Godel's ideas about the intuition of concepts are not incidental to his later philosophical thinking but are related to many other themes in his work, and especially to his reflections on the incompleteness theorems. I describe how some of Godel's claims about the intuition of abstract concepts are related to other themes in his philosophy of mathematics. In most of this paper, however, I focus on a central question that has been raised in the literature on Godel: what kind of account could be given of the intuition of abstract concepts?"

Rick also published "Brouwer and Weyl: The Phenomenology and Mathematics of the Intuitive Continuum," *Philosophica Mathematica* Je 02; 10(3): 203-226. "Brouwer and Weyl recognized that the intuitive continuum requires a mathematical analysis of a kind that set theory is not able to provide. As an alternative, Brouwer introduced choice sequences. We first describe the features of the intuitive continuum that prompted this development, focusing in particular on the flow of internal time as described in Husserl's phenomenology. Then we look at choice sequences and their logic. Finally, we investigate the

differences between Brouwer and Weyl, and argue that Weyl's conception of choice sequences is defective on several counts.”

Rick writes: “Most of my news at the moment concerns various writing projects. A collection of some of my papers will be published by Cambridge University Press under the title *Phenomenology, Logic, and the Philosophy of Mathematics*. I’m now preparing the manuscript, which will include a long introductory essay. An invited paper, “Husserl’s Logic”, will appear in the *Handbook of the History and Philosophy of Logic* (Elsevier). Another invited paper, “Is There a Place in the Philosophy of Mind for Consciousness of Abstract Objects?”, will appear in the collection *Phenomenology and the Philosophy of Mind* (Oxford University Press). A paper called “Free Variation and the Intuition of Geometric Essences” is forthcoming in the journal *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. “Science as a Triumph of the Human Spirit and Science in Crisis”, will appear soon in the collection of invited papers called *Continental Approaches to Science* (Routledge). I’ve completed a paper on Heidegger and Husserl on the technological understanding of Being but I haven’t yet tried to publish it. I’m working on a paper on the ups and downs of computational functionalism in the philosophy of mind. It’s a critique of computational models of mind, somewhat in the spirit of Nagel, Searle, Jackson, and McGinn. I’m enjoying my logical theory and philosophy of mind classes very much this term. I’ve got lots of good students in these classes who are engaging the issues with great gusto.

In my spare time I’m doing some hiking and I’m experimenting with various electronic effects involving guitar, percussion and amplifiers. I’ve also managed to do some star gazing with some of the local astronomy clubs.”

**Dan Williamson** wrote the following to explain his current research interests:

**What does it mean to say that ethics has a history?** The presuppositions since Plato have been that morality or ethics requires a timeless basis, a foundation, upon which to judge right or wrong. I have complete respect for Plato. He had the “guts” to face off with Thrasymachus, and we—as philosophers and teachers--know who this man is. Yet Plato’s answer, that ethics must have a metaphysical foundation, doesn’t convince me. Ethics is about how we are with another. That “how” isn’t a dogma, but rather articulates itself in what always dwells manifest in our being as we are, phenomenologically if you will. It is ontology, it is relationship. Foundation is about ideology. Relativism is an ineffectual claim since the worry of relativism comes from its opposition to the need for foundation. Perhaps, as both Plato and Aristotle along with many others of the Ancient World would remind us, ethics is how we are with ourselves and others. But the culture currently available doesn’t make this a possibility. The democratic experiment that is America claims that this is possible. I disagree for a multitude of reasons, while agreeing that the contract that we do have should make that possible. Foucault, Nietzsche, Taylor and MacIntyre are all right in pointing out the history of ethics, but they all fall short of explaining or motivating what a plausible ethics should be. And rather than starting with a metaphysics or ontology that explains an ethics, I am now insisting that an ethics should explain a metaphysics or ontology.

**Wayne Yuen** and Richard Greene (who formerly taught at SJSU) published a short piece “Why We Can’t Spike Spike?: Moral

Themes in Buffy the Vampire Slayer” on-line at *Slayage: The Online International Journal of Buffy Studies* (2001) <http://www.slayage.tv/essays/slayage2/greeneandyuen.htm>.

More famous, perhaps, is his article, also with Richard Greene, “Morality on Television: The Case of Buffy the Vampire Slayer.” *Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Philosophy*. ed. James B. South. (Chicago: Open Court Press, 2003.) 271-81.

Wayne also got married June 29 to Tiffany Yale. Congratulations Wayne.

## Retired Faculty

**Arthur Cody** published “Words, You, and Me” *Inquiry* 45 (3): 277-294.

**Amnon Goldworth** is on the editorial board of *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics The International Journal for Healthcare Ethics and Ethics Committees*.

## Former Professors in the Department

**Andrew Ward** is an “Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy at Georgia Institute of Technology, the Director of the Georgia Institute of Technology's "Philosophy, Science and Technology Program", and a faculty member of Georgia Institute of Technology's Cognitive Science Program. While at Georgia Institute of Technology, Ward has also served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the School of Public Policy. Ward's current research interests include the impact of information technologies on the development of communities and their politics, measurements and conceptions of (health) underinsurance as they bear on the

formation of national and state-level policy decisions, ethical issues in the allocation of health care resources, and pragmatist conceptions of explanation in the social sciences and cognitive sciences.

andrew.ward@pubpolicy.gatech.edu  
<http://www.gcatt.org/otp/staff/ward.htm>

**Stephen Voss** published "Descartes: Heart and Soul" in "Psyche and Soma: Physicians and Metaphysicians on the Mind-Body Problem from Antiquity to Enlightenment", Wright, John P (ed) (Clarendon, Oxford Pr : Oxford, 2000) Stephen is at the Dept of Philosophy, Bogazici University, 80815 Bebek-Istanbul, Turkey, or voss@boun.edu.tr.

## Philosophy Department Colloquium: Fall 2003

Tom Leddy, SJSU, gave a Colloquium talk on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> titled "Arts-Based Approaches to the Appreciation of the Natural Environment." He illustrated it with slides of picturesque art and of the works of Andrew Goldsworthy, a contemporary environmental artist.

# Student News

## Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Club put together an excellent Annual Banquet after the Alumni conference, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Trieu Chau Restaurant. Semester. Thanks to Ben Tencate and Sarah Stillman for organizing.

Here's a report from Sarah, who is now President: "This has been a very busy semester for the Philosophy Club. We have continued our monthly program, "Shadows on the Wall," where the group comes together the first Monday of the month to watch a film. It is followed by a philosophical discussion that looks at the film through the eyes of a philosopher. The films that we have done recently include *The Boondock Saints* and *Donnie Darko*. For the month of November we will be presenting *Brazil* the Terry Gilliam film about one man's battle against a totalitarian bureaucracy. We also brought in a professor from the University of Sanskrit in Kerala, India, Dr. T. Arya Devi, to share with us the history of Indian Logic. The Philosophy Club also showed active support by staffing the Showcase display and enticing young converts to the department. We are in the works for planning the dedication of the Michael F. Schmidt Library (FO 235) with a commemorative plaque and reception in his honor. We are requesting personal reminiscences and encomia to be shared at the dedication as well as any donations to go toward the plaque. It has been an invigorating semester of learning and dialogue for the Philosophy Club and it only continues to flourish. To be put on the informational list e-mail: [sjsu\\_philosophy\\_club@yahoo.com](mailto:sjsu_philosophy_club@yahoo.com) and also take a look at the new and improved website: [www.sjsu.edu/depts/philosophy/club](http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/philosophy/club)"

**Debra Yantis** has been active in local politics, as Vice-President of San Jose's Spartan-Keyes Neighborhood association. According to the *Mercury News* the group has been "recognized for its problem-solving and beautification efforts, including a massive garden project near the Seventh Street on- and off-ramps of Interstate 280." Janice Rombeck, Aug. 18, 2002 "Nominees are sought for community award."

## Ethics Bowl

The Philosophy Department at San Jose State has sponsored an Ethics Bowl team for the past six years. Each year the team sent all its members to the regional competition in Chico and sent a smaller group to the national competition which is held in conjunction with the annual conference of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. This year we want to add a Business Ethics competition at Loyola in Los Angeles to our schedule.

This year the Ethics Bowl Team is Co-captains: Colin Caret and Ramon Jimenez  
Members: Ivan Zaigralin, Kimberly Whelan, Lora Hunter-Franks, and Annie Bao.  
Prof. Karin Brown is advising.

The Ethics Bowl is a national program sponsored by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, which is a group composed of academics and professionals from a wide variety of fields. (See their web site at <http://www.indiana.edu/~appe/>) Each year the national competition hosts approximately 40 student teams from colleges around the country. Modeled on television's College Bow, the Ethics Bowl requires students to analyze difficult ethical problems drawn from practical and professional contexts. This past year's cases included cases in Business Ethics, Legal Ethics,

International Law, Health Care Ethics, Ethics in Education, and Ethics in Policing. Students present and defend their solutions to these problems in response to questions asked by judges in a format that closely resembles a debate. They compete with other schools from around the country and are judged on their understanding of the issues, the cogency of their solutions, and the strength of their oral presentations. Throughout the year the team works with two faculty coaches from the Philosophy Department, two student coaches, and two reference librarians. The cases are assigned by the competition organizers, and students prepare a lengthy case analysis with an annotated bibliography for each case. They then work on polishing their presentations of the cases for the competitions.

We hope to send students to three competitions this year. The first is the regional Ethics Bowl competition in Chico on December 6. The second is the national competition in Cincinnati on February 26. The final event is the Business Ethics competition at Loyola in Los Angeles April 11-12th. (See their website at <http://www.ethicsandbusiness.org/for/night.htm>)

Participation in the Ethics Bowl enhances the students' educational experience as they develop research skills, skills in philosophical, political and legal analysis, and communication skills. In addition, they design a casebook for use by instructors in various applied and professional ethics courses, thus sharing their expertise with many other students. More importantly, participation in the Ethics Bowl enhances their awareness and understanding of the moral dimensions of practical and professional life.

**If you would like to help sponsor this year's team, please send your contribution to the Philosophy**

**Department, San Jose State University, 1 Washington Sq., San Jose, CA 99192-0096. Make your check payable to the SJSU Foundation, and indicate "Philosophy Department Ethics Bowl Team" in the memo.**

Rita Manning

## Teaching Associates

We have three Teaching Associates this semester. Paul Bashaw is teaching Phil 57 Critical Thinking, Edward Buchanan IV is teaching Introduction to Philosophy, and John Ward, Phil 57 Critical Thinking.

## Local Restaurants and Coffee Houses

**Good Karma: Vegan Deli and Sandwiches** 322 East Santa Clara Street, east of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. It is not often that we can advertise an excellent and inexpensive restaurant with a philosophical theme. The owner likes to talk philosophy. Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30 am - 9 pm , Sat-Sun: 9:30 am - 9 pm

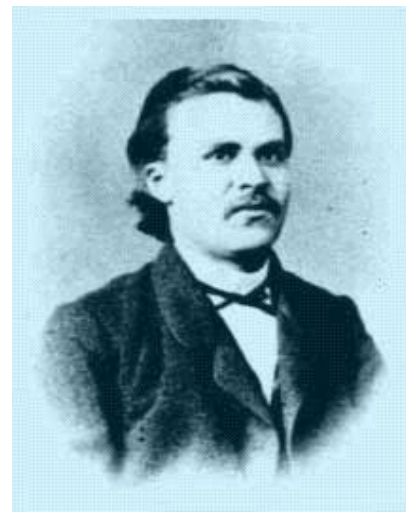


**Cat'sCaf** at 140 Paseo de San Antonio, across from campus on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. This is a nice place to drink coffee, read, and watch the passing scene, and it is so close to the department.

## 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. Rita Manning, Department of Philosophy, 1 Washington Square, San Jose, California 95192-0096.



Friedrich Nietzsche

## Alumni News

**Dirk Bruins** is starting a Nursing Program at San Jose State to get a nursing B.S. As he puts it: "I am joining the real world." He is still teaching at Evergreen and will



be teaching Phil 110 here during Winter Session. He is also finishing up his MA in Natural Science at SJSU.

## Uma Chandrasekharan

recently published a paper which “ makes the case for using ICTs for the educational, social-developmental and healthcare needs for children. Through the brief mention of several case studies, the paper describes the author's ongoing work at the Center for Knowledge societies in Bangalore.” Development by Design 2002 ThinkCycle. She is Research Officer at the Center for Knowledge Societies in Bangalore, where she handles UN accounts.

## Don Ciralou M.A. 1983?

"Mr. C" has taught at West Valley for over twenty years. In 1995, he received a full-time appointment in Philosophy. Many of our students over the years have been strongly influenced by Mr. Ciralou.

## David G. Danielson

teaches Philosophy at CSM and recently received a Ph.D. from Summit University of Louisiana. David regularly comes to the Alumni Conference and other events at SJSU.

## Roger Hall

“joined the West Valley College Philosophy faculty in 2000. He teaches Logic and Introduction to Philosophy. He holds an M.A. in Philosophy from San Jose State, and a B.S. in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Nebraska. In addition to having taught philosophy at other local colleges, Mr. Hall has also worked as both a physicist and a technical writer.” This information was taken from his web site.

## Noel Hendrickson

is Currently at James Madison University and was at the University

of Cincinnati for 2002-03. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2002. His thesis was “The Contingency of Choice: Developing and Defending a New Method and Theory in the Philosophy of Freedom and Action” (advisor: Keith Yandell) He taught a graduate course on Contemporary Metaphysics while at Cincinnati. He published “Against an Agent-Causal Theory of Action” [\*Southern Journal of Philosophy\*](#). Spr 02; 40(1): 41-58.

## Eric Palfreyman

writes: “ I remember my last communique indicated a certain smugness in retaining hi-tech employment and outlasting many engineers and MBAs. That good fortune ended in 2002. I joined the ranks of 70,000 Nortel Networks employees who were laid off while our CEO collected \$100,000,000.00 in bonuses, stocks, perks, salary and benefits. Good news is I'm teaching (bad news is it's only part time) philosophy at the Community College here. I've been teaching one class a semester for six semesters in English. This semester, I'm doing an Introduction to Philosophy class -- and loving it. I have done my first paid publishers book review (new biography on Ray Bradbury -- one of my favorite authors), and have published several Op/Ed pieces in local/regional papers. I've begun a book I hope to be able to actually write. I'm also very active on the official Ray Bradbury web site Message Boards, providing insight, interpretation and answers to questions. Unpaid, but quite fun. I have also begun a photographic portrait business that is going okay, ut not enough to pay all the bills.”

## Leila I. Parello B.A., 1982, M.A., 1985

recently wrote: “I am an adjunct Philosophy professor at Grossmont College, and have been for the past five and a half years. I have also taught, most recently for Palomar College and The Art Institute of California. At

Grossmont, I teach Logic, Critical Thinking, and Problems in Aesthetics. I created the present course last fall when Zoe Close offered me the opportunity. Problems in Aesthetics was a course that had been taught before, though not for some time. I am really enjoying it, and have you [Prof. Leddy] to thank for the Philosophy of Art class I took in 1985. I also teach beginning adult ballet for Cuyamaca Community Learning. When I am not working for the other colleges, I substitute teach for the San Diego public schools, with the single subject credential (English) I got in 1996.”

## Sheila Pickett MA

**1970s** We recently discovered that one of the leaders of the San Jose visual arts community, Sheila Pickett, graduated with an MA from our department. Sheila is a Board Member of the *San Jose Institute for Contemporary Art*. She and her husband, Ralph, can be seen regularly at art events throughout the South Bay area. A web site titled *Saratoga News* notes that “Pickett is volunteering as interim executive director of the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art and vice president of the board of directors, which focuses on major fundraising. She conducts art docent tours and has created docent training materials. Pickett has devoted numerous hours helping math-phobic women overcome their feelings of hopelessness.” She also participated in 1998 in a panel discussion of the drawings and paintings of Phe Ruiz in 1998 at MACLA/San José Center for Latino Arts.

## Richard K. Payne, is

Dean of the Institute of Buddhist Studies at the Graduate Theological Union. He has been at GTU since 1995. His latest book, *Approaching the Land of Bliss: Religious Praxis in the Cult of Amitabha* (Studies in East Asian Buddhism, 17), is co-edited with Kenneth K. Tanaka

**Brian Prosser** published with Prof. Andrew Ward (formerly of SJSU) "The Virtual Classroom and Computer Mediated Instruction" <http://www.ccsr.cse.dmu.ac.uk/conferences/ccsrconf/abstracts99/ward.htm>

**Tanya Rodriguez**

Tanya is in the PhD program in Philosophy at the University of Minnesota. She gave a paper "Racist Joking: Irony and Empathy" at the National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics in San Francisco on Oct. 3. And Tanya got married this semester: congratulations!

**Carlos Sanchez**

is working on a Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico. He taught a course on Current Moral Problems there in the summer. He writes that he has finished up his course work and "right now I'm beginning to work toward writing the prospectus. My focus is (or will be, I hope) on theories of meaning in Husserl, Scheler, and Ortega and the impact these had on the Latin American philosophers, Carlos Astrada and Jose Gaos. I'll narrow it down further later. Right now I am also in charge of the Max Scheler archives at the University of New Mexico, which gives me an opportunity to do research, along with something meaningful like setting up the archives for generations to come. And that's pretty much it, for me. I'm taking a phenomenology course and working on getting something published."

**Vladi Sankin**

writes, "I've spent last year working (as a volunteer) for Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley. It is a non-profit organization that provides legal services to low-income residents of Santa Clara County. For my work at PBP I was awarded Volunteer of the Year 2003 by Santa Clara County Bar Association. I've been working

for PBP because I am considering going to law school."

**Scott Stroud**

is working on a Ph.D. at Temple University. He has been taking classes from Mohanty, Margolis, and Guyer. He gave a paper at the American Society for Aesthetics in San Francisco on Oct. 3 titled "Kant on the Role of Beauty in Moral Motivation." He continues to work on the Society for Student Philosophers that meets with the APA. Scott also published "Prophecy Girl and the Powers That Be: The Philosophy of Religion in the Buffyverse," in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Philosophy*. Ed. James B. South. (Chicago: Open Court Press, 2003.) 271-81.

**John Sullins**

recently finished his PhD at SUNY Binghamton and just got a tenure-track job at Sonoma State. He published "Building Simple Mechanical Minds Using Lego Robots for Research and Teaching in Philosophy" *Metaphilosophy* Ja 02; 33(1-2): 110-122 "In this essay I discuss how I built a cognitive-robotics lab using inexpensive LEGO 'superscript r' MINDSTORMS 'superscript tm' robot kits. The lab has provided pedagogical and research opportunities for a number of philosophy courses, and I briefly describe the results of those efforts. I also describe how one might build a ilar lab. Philosophers need to be more directly involved in the field of robotics. There is much work to do in tidying up the philosophical debris left by the last wave of robotics research, which the researchers have been unwilling or unable to do themselves."

**Rafael Ulate**

M.A. 1998 is summer administration manager for the Continuing Studies Program at Stanford University.

**Barbara Upton**

Barbara Upton joined the West Valley College Philosophy faculty in 1996. She teaches Introduction to

Philosophy, World Religions, and World Philosophers on Death.

**Gil Villagram**

published an opinion piece "The Consequences of Intervention" Sept. 3, 2002 in the Mercury News. Gil is a lecturer in the College of Social Work at SJSU.

**Selected Courses  
Offered Spring  
2004**

**Phil 09 Math and Logic for G.E. T 19:00-21:45 Tieszen**

**Phil 70A Ancient Philosophy TR 10:30-11:45 Leddy**

**Phil 70B Modern Philosophy MW 13:30-14:45 Henslee**

**Phil 70B Modern Philosophy TR 13:30-14:45 Lott**

**Phil 107 Philosophy and Literature TR 15:30-16:45 Bernasconi**

**Phil 120 Eastern and Western Philosophy MW 15:00-15:15 Mou**

**Phil 126 Philosophical Values and the Environment W 16:00-18:45 Crockett**

**Phil 133 Ethics and Science MW 12:00-1:15 Stemwedel**

**Phil 155 Philosophy of Law MW 12:00-1:15 Manning**

**Phil 190 Analytic Philosophy TR 15:00-16:15 Scholz**

**Phil 290 Nietzsche W 19:00-21:45 Leddy**

**Phil 292 Japanese Philosophy M 19:00-21:45 Cook**

The editor is eager to publish materials about alumni: please send to [twleddy@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:twleddy@email.sjsu.edu) or Tom Leddy, Department of Philosophy, 1 Washington Square, San Jose State University, San Jose, 95192 -0096

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