

FALL 2007

KANSAS Philosophy Φ

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NEWSLETTER OF THE KU DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY VOL. 6 NO. 1

FROM THE CHAIR—

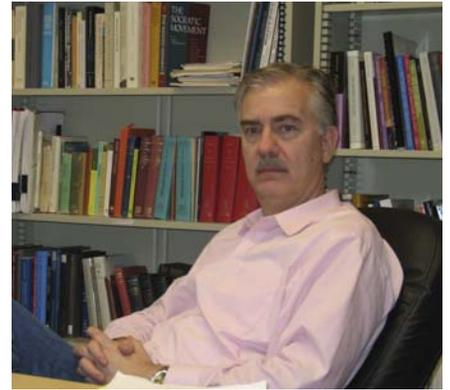
Gnothi sauton—know thyself, the Socratic imperative at the heart of the philosophical enterprise, took on a specifically institutional coloring for us in the last year and a half. At the behest of a new Dean of the College and a new Provost, the Department undertook a re-assessment of our priorities and aims and put together a vision to guide the development of the Department in the next several years. The plan was integrated in to the College's strategic plan, and we have already begun carrying it out; let me share with you our plans for the future and the progress we've already made.

We have decided to make the philosophical excellence of the KU Department our number one priority. Our hiring strategy will be to go after the very best philosophers we can get, at the assistant, associate, and perhaps even at the full professor levels. We want to make the KU philosophy program as strong as possible; the fields of specialization, per se, are less important than core philosophical excellence. We hope to bring greater visibility, and higher national rankings, to KU Philosophy in this way. The College supports this vision of the future of the department. Indeed, with their support, we have already begun to implement that vision. Last spring we were able to woo a fast-rising young social and political philosopher away from Texas A & M to take up an associate professor position here at KU. You can read more about Derrick Darby elsewhere in this newsletter. He is particularly interested in strengthening the Department's research and teaching ties with the Law School. For years the Department has jointly administered a JD / MA in Philosophy program with the Law School; now for the first time we will be offering graduate seminars cross-listed with the Law School, and Derrick plans on team-teaching some of these with Law School faculty.

We're also very excited to welcome a new assistant professor this year: Scott Jenkins, an excellent scholar and philosopher who specializes in German philosophy from Kant on. (Again, more news on him elsewhere in this newsletter.) In our hiring over the next several years we hope to continue our success in recruiting excellent philosophers such as Scott and Derrick.

Ingra Schellenberg, who had just joined us in fall 2006, has taken a position at the University of Washington (joint appointment in philosophy and the medical

school). We wish her well! We were very lucky to be able to hire Larry James, a recent Syracuse Ph.D., as a visiting assistant professor to teach ethics and applied ethics courses this year.



Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find news on the 2007 E.H. Lindley Lecture recently given by Seyla Benhabib, and about other department events over the past year. In addition, there are updates on the faculty and, of course, alumni news. We have heard from quite a few alumni this last year, and we very much appreciate your keeping us informed of what's happening in your lives, both professionally and otherwise. If you haven't been in touch with us recently, please consider doing so! We look forward to including updates about even more alumni in our next newsletter.

With very best wishes,

Tom Tuozzo
ttuozzo@ku.edu

2007 E.H. LINDLEY LECTURE

On October 26, 2007, Seyla Benhabib, Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University, presented the 2007 E.H. Lindley Lecture on the topic: "Is There a Human Right to Democracy? The Vicissitudes of Rawlsian Public Reason." Professor Benhabib has authored seven books, the most recent of which, *Another Cosmopolitanism*, came out from Oxford University Press in 2006. She gave trenchant critiques of the conception of "decent non-liberal peoples" Rawls develops in his *Law of Peoples*, as well as of Martha Nussbaum's attempt to found human rights on a neo-Aristotelian philosophical anthropology. Since many in the department (and in the audience) have considerable sympathy with the Rawlsian and Nussbaumian projects, discussion after the lecture was particularly interesting.

2006-2007 PHILOSOPHY LECTURE SERIES

We had our usual full roster of visiting lectures given by distinguished visitors in 2006-2007, including one former KU department member (Gary Shapiro):

Derrick Darby, Texas A&M University, "All Hands on the Plow: Recognizing Rights and Freedoms" (Langston Hughes Lecture Series)

Wendy Donner, Carleton University, "Autonomy and Community in John Stuart Mill" (Co-sponsored by Women's Studies and the Humanities and Western Civilization Program)

Graeme Forbes, University of Colorado at Boulder, "Identity and the Facts of the Matter"

Thomas E. Hill, Jr., University of North Carolina, "The Importance and Limits of Moral Rules" (2006 Lindley Lecture)

Dale Miller, Old Dominion University, "Mill's Utopian Utilitarianism"

Nathan Salmon, University of California at Santa Barbara, "Numbers versus Nominalists"

Gary Shapiro, University of Richmond, "Directions of the Earth: Nietzsche and Geophilosophy." (Co-sponsored by the Hall Center Philosophy and Literature Seminar)

Jesse Prinz, University of North Carolina, "The Emotional Basis of Morals"

Georges Rey, University of Maryland, "Empty Representations in Linguistic Perception"

In fall 2007, we have had the following lectures (including, once more, a former colleague, Fred Rush):

Eric Brown, Washington University in Saint Louis, "Socrates the Stoic? Rethinking Protreptic, Eudaimonism, and the Role of Plato's Socratic Dialogues"

John Deigh, University of Texas "Moral Agency and Criminal Insanity"

Fred Rush, University of Notre Dame "Remnants of Beauty"

Bernard Reginster, Brown University "Nietzsche's 'New Happiness': Longing, Boredom, and the Elusiveness of Fulfillment"

2008 E.H. LINDLEY LECTURE

Every once in a while a calendar year in which the Lindley Lecture is given in the fall is followed by one in which the Lecture is given in the spring; in those cases, we get two of these lectures in a single academic year. Such is the case this year: in the spring David Wiggins will deliver

the 2008 Lindley Lecture. Professor Wiggins has published numerous books and articles; perhaps his most influential books have been *Needs, Values, Truth: Essays in the Philosophy of Value* (Third Edition: Oxford 1998) and *Substance and Sameness* (Cambridge 1980; issued in a revised edition in 2001 as *Substance and Sameness Renewed*). More recently he has published *Ethics: Twelve Lectures on the Philosophy of Morality* with Harvard University Press (2006). The details on his lecture are as follows:

2008 E.H. LINDLEY LECTURE

David Wiggins, Wykeham Professor of Logic (Emeritus) at Oxford University "**Is There Order Among the Varieties of Goodness?**"

March 27, 2008

Kansas Room, Kansas Union

THE KU PHILOSOPHY SUPERSEMINAR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

As many of you will remember, one of the most exciting and distinctive features of the KU Philosophy Graduate Program is our history of "superseminars." These seminars, which are often team-taught by two professors, are "super" in that the Department brings out to Lawrence for a multi-day visit three to four distinguished philosophers whose work is being studied in the seminar. We have brought such prominent philosophers as Hilary Putnam, Colin McGinn, Martha Nussbaum, Hubert Dreyfus, and Michael Walzer to KU for these superseminars.

Visitors stay for around three days, during which they meet with the seminar, and give a colloquium paper to the department as well as a more general public talk to the university community. Most importantly, they meet in a variety of informal venues with the students and faculty of the seminar, where some of the most exciting philosophical exchange takes place. As you might expect, superseminars are some of the most rewarding experiences graduate students get at KU. And it is one of the unique characteristics for which the KU graduate program is known throughout the profession.

In Spring 2008 we are once again having a superseminar. Teresa Robertson and Kevan Edwards are team-teaching a seminar on a topic at the intersection of the philosophy of mind and the philosophy of language. There follows below more information on this seminar. But let me take a moment here to say that neither the College nor any other branch of the University provides us with guaranteed funding to cover the considerable expense involved in bringing three or four top-notch philosophers to KU for three or four day long visits. For each seminar we must solicit the College and

other University entities for their support. Given fiscal exigencies, it is getting more difficult to pull this off, and promises to get even more difficult. *For that reason, we are establishing a special endowment fund earmarked for supporting future superseminars. Please consider making a contribution!*

SPRING 2008 SUPERSEMINAR ON LANGUAGE AND MIND

Teresa Robertson and Kevan Edwards will be running the graduate/faculty superseminar in the spring of 2008. The topic of the seminar will be *The Primacy of Reference: Language and Cognition*. The seminar will be centered around visits from three of the leading figures in contemporary philosophy of language and mind: Scott Soames, Jerry Fodor, and Stephen Neale. Each of the visitors will be participating in one or more meetings of the seminar and will deliver both a departmental colloquium and a larger public lecture (sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities). Alumni who are interested in participating in any of the events associated with the seminar are encouraged to contact Kevan (kevan-edwards@ku.edu) or Teresa (teresa@ku.edu).

Upcoming public events associated with the spring 2008 superseminar:

Scott Soames, University of Southern California: "Interpreting legal texts: what is, and what is not, special about the law"

Tuesday, March 11, 7:30-9:30pm
Hall Center for the Humanities

Scott Soames, "Truth and meaning-in perspective"

Wednesday, March 12, 4:30-6:00pm
Burge Union, McCook Room

Stephen Neale, CUNY: "Underdetermination"

Tuesday, March 25, 4:30-6:00pm
Burge Union, McCook Room

Stephen Neale, "Language, the law, and web pornography"

Wednesday, March 26, 7:30-9:00pm
Hall Center for the Humanities

Jerry Fodor, Rutgers: "What kind of theory is the theory of evolution?"

Wednesday, April 9, 7:30-9:00pm
Hall Center for the Humanities

Jerry Fodor, "Evolution without adaptation"

Thursday, April 10, 7:30-9:00pm
Hall Center for the Humanities

WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY

Derrick Darby



Derrick joined the department this fall as an associate professor with tenure. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in philosophy and his BA in philosophy (with honors) from Colgate University. He has taught at the University of Virginia, Northwestern University, and most recently Texas A & M. Derrick specializes in social and political philosophy and African American philosophy, with special focuses on questions having to do with the nature and value of rights and freedom, and on the relationship between the legacy of race and racism and liberal political thought. Derrick is particularly interested in strengthening the ties between the Law School and the philosophy department, and will be offering a graduate seminar cross-listed with the Law School in spring 2008.

He brings his lovely wife Angela and two daughters with him to Kansas.

Scott Jenkins



Scott joins us this fall as an assistant professor. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 2003, and comes to us from Reed College, where he taught as a visiting assistant professor. Scott specializes in Kant, German Idealism, and Nietzsche. His partner, Megan Kaminski, is a poet and teaches as a lecturer in KU's English department.

Larry James



Larry joins us this year as a visiting assistant professor. He received his Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 2006, with a dissertation on "The Meaningfulness of Life." (Talk about the big questions...) Larry's area of specialization is ethics, and he is helping us out by teaching some of the courses that Don Marquis (away on leave) and Ingra Schellenberg (left for University of Washington) would have taught.

Larry's fiancée Elizabeth is in KU's MBA program.

FACULTY NEWS

John Bricke was one of the four symposiasts in a session on the new Clarendon Edition of Hume's *Treatise* (eds. Norton and Norton) at the International Hume Society meeting. The meeting was held at Boston University in August 2007.

Ann Cudd was awarded the 2007 Byron Caldwell Smith Award for her book, *Analyzing Oppression*, published in 2006 by Oxford University Press. This award, administered by KU's Hall Center for the Humanities, is given every two years in recognition of a book of outstanding scholarship authored by a resident of Kansas. Ann's book has already been the subject of several "Author meets Critics" sessions at various philosophy conferences; the Bryon Caldwell Smith Award is just the latest recognition of the excellence and impact of her work. She continues to serve as Director of KUs Women's Studies Program.

Derrick Darby (see New Faculty) has recently had his book manuscript, *Rights, Race and Recognition* accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. He has already begun work on his next major research project. In addition to drawing on the experience of blacks in the United States of America, he will draw on the experience of blacks in South Africa and Brazil to determine the role that government should play in securing freedom in a liberal society with a history of racial hierarchy and racial discrimination. With respect to Brazil, Prof. Darby spent two weeks of the summer in São Carlos, Brazil, where he taught an accelerated seminar on race and American liberalism at Universidade Federal de São Carlos at the invitation of Núcleo de Estudos Afro-Brasileiros and the Masters Program in Education and Social Science. During his first year on the KU faculty he will take up matters related to this research project in his fall African American philosophy seminar and in his spring seminar in KU Law School. A final note: his book, *Hip Hop and Philosophy: Rhyme 2 Reason* (Open Court, 2005), coedited with Tommie Shelby (Harvard University), has been translated into Portuguese. As Derrick remarks, "Perhaps I will finally be able to understand my contribution to the volume, "Yo! It Ain't No Mystery: Who is God?" (a paper on the paradox of God's omnipotence) after I learn how to read Portuguese this year!" Interestingly, famed rapper KRS-One recently cited the original edition as an "excellent, excellent, hip hop book" in a MP3.com interview.

Richard De George says that last December's APA meeting was the most exciting he has ever attended. He was awakened at 4:20 am by the fire alarm. When he opened his hotel room door, he found impenetrable black, acrid smoke. He crouched and felt his way four doors to the right to the emergency exit. The fire, he later learned, was in the elevator lobby four doors to his left! He presented papers at the meetings of AMINTAPHIL, of

the Society for Business Ethics, and of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, but they were much less exciting meetings. He published six journal articles during the year. One of them, "Ethics and the Corporation as a Social Construct," appeared in the Italian journal *Politea*, and he was surprised on receiving the issue that it also contained a fifty page article on "The Contribution of Richard De George to Business Ethics as Applied Ethics." He is Co-PI on a \$300,000 three-year NSF grant on Ethics in Science and Engineering Education. Under that grant he taught two workshops on how to integrate ethics into science and engineering course to science and engineering faculty from KU, K-State, and UMKC. He is also co-teaching this semester an interdisciplinary graduate seminar on Ethics in Science and Engineering. After teaching at KU since 1959, he decided this year to enter phased retirement as of the Fall, 2007, and so will have the Spring, 2008, semester off.

Kevan Edwards has survived his first year at KU. After moving to Lawrence in the summer of 2006, he spent his first few months finishing and defending his Ph.D. thesis entitled, *Referentialism Without Compromise* (Rutgers University, October 2006). In the fall of 2006, he had his first experiences teaching a large lecture course and a graduate seminar and wrote a paper called, "What concepts do" (forthcoming in *Synthese*). In the spring of 2007, Kevan gave talks to the KU Linguistics Department and the Cognitive Psychology Proseminar. He plans to continue building connections with these departments and is currently working with faculty from these and other departments on a proposal for a minor program in Cognitive Science. Kevan spent much of the spring organizing (e.g. fundraising) an upcoming 'superseminar' that he will be co-teaching with Teresa Robertson in the spring of 2008. More information about the superseminar is available elsewhere in this newsletter. Recently, Kevan has been appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies. He is still trying to figure out exactly what this entails.

Ben Eggleston, who has taken on the role of Director of Graduate Studies this fall, has two forthcoming papers "Genetic Discrimination in Health Insurance: An Ethical and Economic Analysis," in Aine Donovan and Ronald Green (eds.), *The Human Genome Project in College Curriculum: Ethical Issues and Practical Strategies* (University press of New England) and "Conflicts of Rules in Hooker's Rule-Consequentialism," to appear in the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*.

A. C. Genova is now doing research on contemporary 'two-dimensional semantics' – a current movement that is a reaction to the work of Saul Kripke. His article "Transcendentally Speaking" is forthcoming in *Kant-Studien*. Tony is also working on what he calls 'a deflationary theory of existence.' He has been reappointed to the Board of Directors for the North American Kant Society.

Larry James (see New Faculty), before joining us in the fall, spent summer 2007 presenting a number of different papers on the meaningfulness of life in Birmingham, England, and in Twente, Netherlands. This October he presented a paper at the Northwest Philosophy Conference in Portland. In addition to his scholarly presentations, he recently published a paper discussing whether it is possible to have genuine trust in institutions.

Scott Jenkins (see New Faculty) has an article, "Hegel's Concept of Desire," scheduled to appear in the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* in 2008. His current work focuses on Nietzsche's views on value and self-knowledge, and he will be teaching a graduate seminar on Nietzsche in the fall of 2007.

Don Marquis will be spending this year at the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University as the Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching. His essay "The Moral-Principle Objection to Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research," appeared in *Metaphilosophy*, vol. 38, no. 2-3 (April 2007). Another essay, "Abortion Revisited," appeared in *The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics* which was published in March 2007.

Rex Martin was on sabbatical leave in 2004-05, at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, where he had a fellowship for the year. Among the things he did at the Center were a couple of articles: one was on Rawls's controversial theory of human rights, as developed in his book *Law of Peoples* – this paper appeared in *Principles and Political Order: The Challenge of Diversity*, edited by Haddock, et al. (Routledge 2006); the other paper, on just war theory and the notion of humanitarian intervention, was published in the *Journal of Social Philosophy* in 2005.

Martin and David Reidy (KU Ph.D., 1997) were the co-editors of *Rawls's Law of Peoples: A Realistic Utopia?* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006). This book was one of Choice Magazine's Outstanding Academic Titles for 2006. Martin taught Political Philosophy (668) and Philosophy of Law (674) in Fall 2006 and in Fall 2007 he is teaching Political Philosophy again, this time with Paul Schumaker in Political Science as co-teacher, and a seminar on Rawls.

In Spring 2008 Rex Martin will be a visiting fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Study (the Collegium is affiliated with the University of Helsinki). During his term of appointment (in April and May) Martin will conduct a seminar on Rawls's *Law of Peoples* for fellows at the Collegium and other interested persons.

Teresa Robertson has published an article titled "Does the New Route Reach Its Destination?" with Graeme Forbes which appeared in *Mind* 115 (April 2006) and has submitted the article, "Essential and Accidental Properties" for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. She is teaching Phil. 800: Graduate Tutorial for a rather large group of new graduate students and is preparing to team

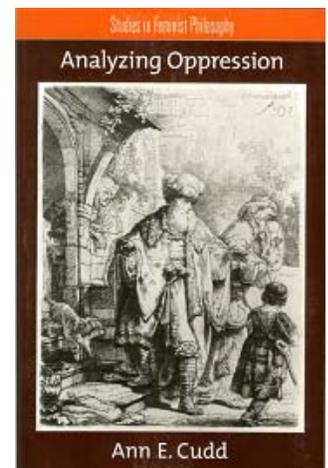
teach the superseminar with Kevan Edwards in the upcoming spring semester.

Tom Tuozzo is happy to report that the job of chair of the department is every bit as exciting as you might imagine it to be. (If only Angelina Jolie wouldn't call so often!) Nonetheless he managed to pull himself out of the office to deliver a paper entitled "Reflective and Divine Pleasures in Plato's *Philebus*" at the Eighth International Plato Symposium in Dublin in July. An article entitled "Practical Wisdom and the Value of Virtuous Action, or: The Limitations of Rationalist Interpretations of Aristotle's Ethics" is forthcoming in a volume of essays on Aristotle's notion of practical wisdom. He also presented papers on Aristotle's physics and ethics at the Central APA and at the annual meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Society. Tom hopes to complete a monograph on Plato's *Charmides* by the next newsletter!

James Woelfel, while continuing as Director of the Humanities and Western Civilization program, has also had two books published. The works are titled *Patterns in Western Civilization*, fourth edition, two volumes, senior editor (other editors: Sarah Chappell Trulove, Stephen Auerbach, Rachel Epps Buller), author of or contributor to 22 chapters, Boston, MA: Pearson Custom Publishing, volume I, 2006, 426 pp; volume II, 2007, 362 pp. and *The Existentialist Legacy and Other Essays on Philosophy and Religion*, Lanham, MD: University Press of America, forthcoming, 2006, 153 pp. An article, "Culture and Patriarchy: The Egalitarian Vision of Woolf's Three Guineas," in Ronald J. Weber, ed., *Core Texts, Community and Culture: Working Together in Liberal Education*, Lanham, MD: University Press of America, forthcoming (2007).

PROFESSOR ANN CUDD'S BOOK HONORED

Ann E. Cudd, Professor of Philosophy and Director of Women's Studies, is the winner of the 2007 Byron Caldwell Smith Book Award, presented by the Hall Center for the Humanities. Cudd won the award for her book, *Analyzing Oppression*, published by Oxford University Press in 2006. The Byron Caldwell Smith Award was established at the bequest of Kate Stephens, a former KU student and one of KU's first women professors. As an undergraduate, Stephens learned to love the study of Greek language and literature from Professor Byron Caldwell Smith. In his name, she established this award,



given biennially to an individual who lives or is employed in Kansas and who has written an outstanding book published in the previous two years.

DONOR SUPPORT

Thanks to donor support, the Department was able to present the following awards to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students at the Spring 2007 Honors Banquet:

Nelson Scholarship: Andrew Flanery
Brownstein-Young Awards: Bradford Bray and Nathaniel Ramsey
Warner Morse Scholarship: Karac Vander Yacht
Warner Morse Prize in Ethics: Aaron Levine
Warner Morse Prize in History of Philosophy: Adam Lockridge
Warner Morse Prize in Metaphysics and Epistemology: Kristin Kennalley
Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship: Anne Morgan
Art Skidmore Awards: Anne Morgan and Nathan Cox
Departmental GTA Award: Monica Gerrek
Summer Templin Fellowships: Anne Morgan, Monica Gerrek and Pelle Danabo
Robinson Essay Contest: Aaron Dopf (1st place) and Clark Sexton (2nd place)

Warner Morse Undergraduate Scholarships are given to outstanding juniors majoring in philosophy. The Arthur Skidmore Awards are given to one or two of the top senior majors in philosophy. The J. M. Young Awards are presented to one or two of the top senior majors in philosophy. The Warner Morse Prizes in the various areas of Metaphysics/Epistemology, Ethics, and History of Philosophy are given to a student who has done outstanding work in each of the areas. Templin fellowships are awarded to graduate students for academic excellence and special circumstances. The Robinson Essay Contest is held every spring and both undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit a paper for a cash prize.

We especially want to thank the individuals and businesses who contributed to the Philosophy Department Endowment Fund over the past year. These contributions help fund the above awards possible. This support is also invaluable for funding such events as the yearly Honors Banquet, receptions, and dinners for visiting speakers. Most of these expenses must be paid out of endowment funds; your continued support is crucial, and deeply appreciated. So we particularly wish to thank:

Brian Armstrong, Martin and Ineta Bebb, Larry Blackman, Dan Born, Donald Brownstein, Lyndsey and Ryan Chamberlain, Amy and David Coopman, Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Crawford, Crocker Claims Service, Jay and Rebecca Curtis, Dr. and Mrs. Richard De George, Ben Eggleston, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Enberg, FBL Financial

Group, Inc., Finlinger Financial Services, Inc., Garvey Kansas Foundation, Jack Horner, Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. McFarland, Dr. Jon M. Mikkelsen, Richard Newton, Michael R. Payne, Larry C. Poague II, Mr. and Mrs. William Roberts, Dr. and Mrs. Terry Sader, Kara W. Tan Bhala, Christopher K. Tankersley

AUSLEGUNG

Auslegung, the philosophy journal put out by KU graduate students, is still going strong. Issue 28.2 came out in the spring, and Peter Montecucollo, the current editor, reports that issue 29.1 is at the printer. Peter thinks 29.1 is the strongest issue of *Auslegung* he's seen in his time at KU. (Past editors may want to see how it stacks up to their own favorite issue.)

With this issue the journal also sports a new design. If you would like to subscribe to *Auslegung* (or submit an article to it), you may contact Peter at montecpe@ku.edu



2006-2007 DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

Pinfei Lu, 'Citizens and Gender Justice: Toward Equality in a Pluralistic Democracy,' 2006. Advisor: Ann Cudd.

Tamela Ice, 'Rethinking the Paradox of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's Sexual Politics: From Woman's Alienation, Psychological Oppression and Bad Faith to Liberty,' 2007. Advisor: Ann Cudd.

Monica Gerrek, 'Normative Sentimentalism and Animal Ethics,' 2007. Advisor: Ben Eggleston

CURRENT GRAD STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Stacy Elmer presented a paper entitled "A Phenomenological Approach to Damasio's Neurological Theory of Consciousness" at the conference "Towards a Science of Consciousness" this past summer in Budapest, Hungary. She also held a Summer Internship at the Biomedical Research at the National Institutes of Health, completing a research project concerning the Ethics of Post-Trial Access to Antiretroviral Therapies.

Monica Gerrek presented a paper entitled "An Introduction to Normative Sentimentalism" at the 2007 Conference for Value Inquiry and at the 2007 meeting of the Ohio Philosophical Association, both in July.

Nick Simmons presented a paper entitled "On Fodor's Theory of Theory of Mind: Why He May Need to Make Another Concession" at the Virginia Tech Graduate Philosophy Conference 2007 in November.

Meredith Trexler attended the conference "Plato's *Timaeus* Today" at the University of Illinois in September.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI/AE: *After the last newsletter, we heard from.....*

David White (BA in philosophy and German Literature in 1964) studied international business and eventually went to work for the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York - a very big deviation from his philosophy studies. But he has always been happy that he studied philosophy as it makes one a much more well rounded person. Since 1972, David has worked and lived outside the US as an international banker for all but 4 years, including 10 years in Mexico and Colombia, 1 year in Germany, 3 years in London and 17 years in Hong Kong and Singapore. He is currently living in Singapore with his Peruvian born wife Noemi, whom he met in New York where she was studying modern dance with the Alvin Nikolais Modern Dance Company. He retired from his position as Head of International Risk Management for MBIA Insurance Corporation in London in 2004 and originally returned to Singapore with the idea of being semi-retired and doing some consulting. But he soon found himself working with a friend and ex-colleague in New York to start a new global financial guarantee company focusing on the upper end emerging markets of Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and South Africa. David still has ties with KU and currently is on the Advisory Board of the Max Kade Center for Germanic Studies run by Frank Baron in the German Department.

James Nickel (PhD 1968) is Professor of Law and Affiliate Professor of Philosophy at Arizona State University. From 1982-2003 he was Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado, Boulder. In 2005 he won the Philosophical Quarterly's essay prize for his paper, "Poverty and Rights." In December 2006 Blackwells published a heavily-revised second edition of his 1987 book, *Making Sense of Human Rights*.

Paul Draper, (BA 1978) a double major in physics and philosophy, mentioned specifically taking courses from, including Profs. Cole, Martin, Woelfel, De George, Marquis, and - notably - Michael Young, but chose physics as a more promising career path, and it served him well for two decades. While teaching and doing research at the University of Texas at Arlington (the campus closest

to the Superconducting Supercollider project), he was recruited by and eventually joined the science textbook publishing industry, where he has been ever since. Lately that work has moved strongly into digital publishing strategy, as the notion of what publishers provide to instructors and students changes. He still has ties to KU since his father still teaches in the Molecular Biosciences Department and he also worked in grad school with Phil Baringer, who is now another faculty member at KU.

Paul has continued to maintain an interest in philosophy, particularly in the junction between the philosophy of science and the philosophy of religion, and he has had the opportunity to be involved in a number of panel discussions about this over the years. He just learned that there is a fellow at the Philosophy Florida International University with exactly the same interests, and is either slightly reassured or slightly discomfited that they both share the name Paul Draper.

Heather Bussing (BA, 1983) emailed the department from Santa Rosa California. She recently left a law firm and is now doing motion and brief writing for other lawyers and handling cases - only the ones she really likes. Her life is full with two young sons and also as a semi-professional photographer. She also teaches legal research and writing and advanced legal writing at a local law school and credits her success to her philosophical training and especially to Rex Martin who taught her how to really unpack ideas, turn them around and inside-out and look at them. Her philosophy experience gave her the confidence to expand ideas, criticize them and create her own. Some days, she remembers that asking good questions is way more interesting than having the "right" answers.

Jim Stramel (BA, 1983) has taught Philosophy at Santa Monica College since 1992. After he received his B.A. in philosophy from the University of Kansas, he attended the University of Southern California receiving his M.A. and Ph.D. in 1996. His specialties are ethics and applied ethics, gay/lesbian studies, philosophy of sex, and epistemology. His dissertation was on the ethics of disclosures of gay identity by one's self and by others (coming out and outing), and he has published several articles in the field of Gay Studies. Prof. Stramel is the first person in the field of philosophy to complete a dissertation in gay studies and attain tenure. He was also a founding member of the faculty of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood.

Erika Blacksher (BA, 1986) has just completed her PhD from the University of Virginia (bioethics) and now is a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at Columbia University in New York, New York. Her dissertation focused on children's health inequalities and the capacity of John Rawls's theory of justice to secure the health and development of society's least advantaged children, the family as a subject of justice, and the role of public health in promoting children's health. Current

research includes a project to examine the implications of capability theory for health research, ethics, and policy as well as the development of an ethical framework for assessing health policies that address both structural and individual level contributors to poor health outcomes.

Brian Armstrong (BA in Philosophy and Slavic Languages and Literatures, 1993) has also contacted the department to give us an update. After an M.A. in Comparative Literature at The University of Oregon (1996), he took time off (working for Wired magazine in San Francisco) before entering the Ph.D. program in Philosophy at The Pennsylvania State University. He has just recently (early September 2007) successfully defended his dissertation on the ethical purpose of Wittgenstein's Tractatus.

Chris Campolo (MA, 1994) is a faculty member of the department of Philosophy, at Hendrix College and in his spare time has taken up beekeeping (seven hives) which he says is a wonderful way to spend time even though he hopes people won't think of him as being "geeky."

Andrew R. Jones (BA 1994) has recently completed his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Oregon and accepted a position as an assistant professor at California State University, Fresno starting Fall 2007.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Another year, the department is growing and things keep changing. Wescoe Hall has undergone some major remodeling (the balconies behind the auditoriums are now enclosed and the departments of Spanish and History are located there) and there is more remodeling to come. If any of you were housed on the first floor of Wescoe (the basement), you will remember the not-so-level floors and ceilings that gave one the impression of being some sort of carnival fun house, the next phase of work will address those issues. With the construction on the first floor and the move of other departments to new locations, all of the philosophy faculty, staff and GTAs are now on the third floor in the same general area.

The department's web page (<http://www.philosophy.ku.edu/>) has been updated (thanks to Kevan Edwards's effort) and hopefully you will find it easier to navigate.

We also want to thank Pam LeRow in the CLA&S Word Processing Center for helping us get this newsletter in its final form.

We encourage you to keep in touch. It's always fun to get the emails from alumni, even though it doesn't seem like that much time has passed for us, it is amazing all the things that you all have accomplished. Cindi Hodges, chodges@ku.edu

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