

FALL 2008

KANSAS Philosophy



<http://www.philosophy.ku.edu/>

NEWSLETTER OF THE KU DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY VOL. 7 NO. 1

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

I write this in mid-November, as the country is celebrating the election of our first African American president. A time of great change for the nation, and (to compare great things with small) a time of change for the department, too. Rex Martin, who has been a leading light of the department for many years, is in his last semester teaching for us, and will become emeritus at the end of the spring. To honor his remarkable career of research and teaching, on November 8 the department put on a one-day conference on themes that Rex has treated in his work. Four of Rex's past students or collaborators delivered papers in his honor, with four others giving comments. Details of the conference can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

A lot has happened since last year's newsletter. We had a very successful graduate superseminar in spring 2008, and are right now in the midst of another. Superseminars are seminars, often team-taught, for which we bring to campus three to four eminent philosophers to meet with the seminar and more informally with students and faculty. Speakers also often give a less technical lecture, co-sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities. These talks have drawn large crowds, and are followed by extensive discussion with the audience. These superseminars are a great way to expose our grad students to some of the top philosophers in the world, as well as to recharge the faculty's batteries. We are very happy to be able to keep this tradition going. The year 2008, in fact, is the first year that we've had two back-to-back superseminars, which has certainly kept us on our toes.

In May we had a bumper crop of Ph.D.'s, four of whom landed good jobs or post-doc. We honored them, and other degree and prize recipients, at our May Honors Banquet.

Our efforts to "grow" the department have been meeting with success. As announced in our previous newsletter, last year Derrick Darby and Scott Jenkins joined the faculty. This year we have been joined by Dale Dorsey, a young assistant professor who got his Ph.D. from UC San Diego and spent a year at the University of Alberta before coming to KU. Dale is no stranger to the area, having spent part of his childhood in Baldwin City, where his father taught economics at Baker University.

Unfortunately, one of our promising young assistant professors, Kevan Edwards, left us at the end of last

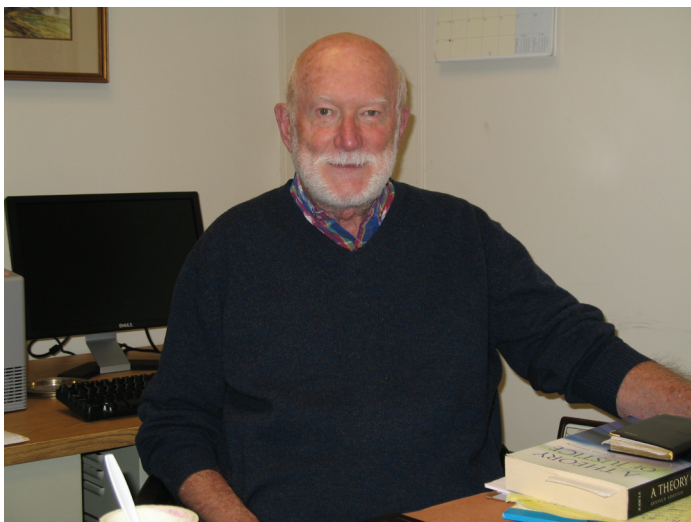
year to take up a position at Syracuse University, where his wife Sascha also got a position (in the History of Art Department). Kevan and Sascha had been looking to solve the academic "two-body problem" of finding jobs in the same town; we're happy they succeeded, and wish them luck in Syracuse.



We're happy to be hosting two visiting professors from California State University at Fullerton this year. One of these, Amy Coplan, is also no stranger to KU, having received undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and Classics here in 1996. She got her Ph.D. in 2002 from Emory University, working under Cynthia Willett (who, some of you may remember, herself taught at KU in the mid-1990's). Amy works in philosophy of film, aesthetics, philosophical psychology, and in ancient philosophy. She'll be teaching our upper-level aesthetics course in the spring.

Also visiting from California State University at Fullerton is Ryan Nichols, who got his Ph.D. from Ohio State in 2002. Ryan published *Thomas Reid's Theory of Perception* with Oxford University Press in 2007. Beside early modern philosophy, Ryan has interests in the philosophy of religion, applied ethics, and epistemology. He has also recently been developing an interest in Chinese philosophy, in which he has been aided by his ability to speak and read Chinese. Ryan will be teaching our upper-level Chinese Thought course in the spring.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find information about the 2008 Lindley Lecture (given by Davidiggins, of Oxford University) and about other department events over the past year. You will also find updates on the faculty, as well as reports we've received from alumni. It is always a pleasure to hear from alumni and friends of the department, so please take a moment and let us know what you've been up to. Also, we would like to put together an email list of alumni, so that we can communicate with you more often without the expense of snail-mail. So even if you don't have time to fill us in on your exciting life (as I hope you do), please take a moment to **send us your email address**. You can send an email with the subject line "Alumni email" to chodges@ku.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.



A CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF REX MARTIN: "PHILOSOPHY, LAW AND HISTORY"

At the end of this academic year Rex Martin, who has taught in the KU Philosophy Department since 1968, will retire. On November 8, 2008, the Department hosted a one-day conference in his honor. Participants were: David Reidy (in absentia because of sudden illness), Paul Schumaker, David Duquette, Gary Shapiro, James Nickel, Allan Hanson, Carl Wellman, and Derrick Darby.

We shall soon be posting pictures of the event on our website. If you would like to congratulate Rex, his email is rexmartin@ku.edu or RexMartin@kc.rr.com.

SUPERSEMINARS

In the spring semester of 2008 Teresa Robertson and Kevan Edwards team-taught a graduate superseminar in the philosophy of language and the philosophy of mind. The seminar, on "The Primacy of Reference: Language and Cognition," brought three world-class philosophers to Lawrence at different times throughout the term to meet with students, both formally and informally. The visitors were Scott Soames (University of Southern California), Stephen Neale (Graduate Center, City University of New York) and Jerry Fodor (Rutgers, State University of New Jersey).

This fall we've been having another superseminar, this time on political philosophy. Taught by Rex Martin and Derrick Darby, this seminar, on "Rights, Freedom and Equality," has already brought Jerry Gaus (University of Arizona) and Loren Lomasky (University of Virginia) to Lawrence. Richard Arneson (University of California at San Diego), the third of the three visitors in connection with this seminar, visits Lawrence on December 5, 2008.

2008-2009 PHILOSOPHY LECTURE SERIES

This fall we have hosted a number of visiting lecturers to give talks on their current research. We have several more such talks scheduled for the spring. These lectures are free and open to the public, so if you are in town, do come join us.

Gerald Gaus, University of Arizona, "Is Public Policy Possible?", October 3, 2008

Loren Lomasky, Corcoran Department of Philosophy, University of Virginia, "What Do We Owe the World's Poor?", October 24, 2008

Connie S. Rosati, University of Arizona, "Well-Being and the Good," November 10, 2008

Sharyn Clough, Oregon State University, "Gender, Germs, and Dirt: Cultural Impacts on Natural Bodies," November 20, 2008

Jonathan Kaplan, Oregon State University, "When Socially Determined Categories Make Biological Realities: Understanding Black/White Health Disparities in the U.S.," November 21, 2008

Richard Arneson, University of California, San Diego, "Varieties of Cosmopolitanism and the Ideal of Global Justice," December 5, 2008

Remy Debes, University of Memphis, title to be posted to web later, February 6, 2009

Ryan Nichols, California State University at Fullerton, title to be posted to web later, February 11, 2009

Amy Coplan, California State University at Fullerton, title to be posted to web later, February 26, 2009

Location and time of lectures are located and updated as necessary on the department website:

<http://www.philosophy.ku.edu/Events/visitinglecture.shtml>

2008 E. H. LINDLEY LECTURE

On March 27, 2008, David Wiggins, Wykeham Professor of Logic (emeritus) at Oxford University, delivered the 2008 Lindley Lecture. His talk, on the topic "Solidarity and the Root of the Ethical," developed further certain themes that Wiggins treated in his recent book, *Ethics: Twelve Lectures on the Philosophy of Morality* (Harvard University Press, 2006). Drawing on such disparate sources as Simone Weil, David Hume, and Roman law, in this lecture Wiggins develops a genealogy of morals that gives a central place to a primitive "human recognition of the human" that can put a limit to the claims of the aggregative reasoning characteristic of most forms of consequentialism. The Department will soon publish the revised essay in pamphlet form, and will offer it for sale for the modest sum of \$6.00. If you wish to purchase a copy, please contact Cindi Hodges.

VISITING FACULTY



Amy Coplan is visiting this year from Cal State Fullerton. Her current research interests include moral psychology, ancient Greek philosophy, feminism, and aesthetics. She is currently co-editing an interdisciplinary collection with Peter Goldie titled *Empathy: Philosophical and*

Psychological Perspectives, which will be published by Oxford University Press in 2009. She is also editing a collection of essays on the film *Blade Runner* for Routledge. In 2008, she contributed an entry on the topic of "Empathy and Character Engagement" for the *Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Film* and another on the topic of "Horror" for the new edition of the *Blackwell Companion to Aesthetics*. She also published a paper on Terence Malick's *The Thin Red Line* and co-authored two papers with Heather Battaly on the TV show *House M.D.*, one for a collection of essays on the show being published in November 2008 as part of Wiley Blackwell's Popular Culture Series and another for *Film and Philosophy*. She participated in too many conferences, including the Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association and the American Society for Aesthetics, the "Aesthetics Anarchy" Conference at the University of Indiana, the Society for Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image at the University of Wisconsin, and a fabulous conference titled "Virtue and Vice: Intellectual and Moral" at Cal State Fullerton. She hopes to catch up on her email some time before the year 2010 though she's not making any promises.



Ryan Nichols is spending the year at KU as a visitor, far from southern California and his home institution of Cal State Fullerton. He has just published a book with Oxford University Press called *Thomas Reid's Theory of Perception* (2007). His second book is an introduction to

philosophy called *Philosophy Through Science Fiction* (Routledge), written with the help of Fred Miller and Nick Smith. It has just (9/08) come out. Ryan is continuing his research in Early Modern by writing some papers about the Scottish Enlightenment, one of which—"Natural Philosophy and Its Limits in the Scottish Enlightenment"—has just been published in

Monist. He is finishing up the new Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on Thomas Reid. Ryan has taken a newfound interest in the intersection of experimental philosophy, evolutionary psychology and classical Chinese philosophy. He serves on the Pacific APA program committee and serves as a referee for project proposals in philosophy on behalf of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

NEW FACULTY HIRE



The department is very happy to welcome **Dale Dorsey** as a new Assistant Professor in Philosophy. Dale is adjusting to his first year at KU while teaching a graduate seminar on welfare and axiology. He recently presented papers at the Rocky

Mountain Ethics Congress as well as the International Society for Utilitarian Studies. Reflecting Dale's somewhat schizophrenic research interests, he has recently published papers in the *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* on David Hume's moral philosophy ("Hume's Internalism Reconsidered"), in *Philosophical Studies* on Peter Singer's strong principle of beneficence ("Aggregation, Partiality, and the Strong Beneficence Principle"), and in *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics* on the proper construction of a political basic minimum ("Toward a Theory of the Basic Minimum"). In the coming year he is looking forward to making progress on a book manuscript on the latter topic.

2007-2008 DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

Roksana Alavi, 'Race and Oppression: Philosophical Issues in Voluntary Oppression.' Advisor: Ann Cudd, 2008.

Keith Coleman, 'The Logical Problem of Identity.' Advisor: Teresa Robertson, 2008.

Monica Gerrek, 'Normative Sentimentalism and Animal Ethics.' Advisor: Ben Eggleston, 2008.

Hyun Chul Kim, 'Mental Causation, Intentional Action and Explanatory Practice.' Advisor: John Bricke, 2008.

FACULTY NOTES

John Bricke's essay "Liberty and Necessity" appeared in new *Blackwell Companion to Hume* (ed. Elizabeth Radcliffe); another article, "The Clarendon Edition of Hume's Treatise: Book I" is to appear in *Hume Studies*. He presented an invited paper "Which Passions? What Values?" at the 35th International Hume Conference in Iceland in August. Prof. Bricke taught a seminar in ethics last semester focused on the work of David Wiggins (our Lindley Lecturer), John McDowell, and Donald Davidson.

Ann Cudd stepped down from her position as Director of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies on July 1, 2008 to become Associate Dean for the Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She will continue to teach one course for the Philosophy Department. She published "Rape and Enforced Pregnancy as Femicide: Comment on Claudia Card's 'The Paradox of Genocidal Rape Aimed at Enforced Pregnancy'," in the *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, vol. XIV(2008):190–199. In the past year she presented a paper entitled "The Clinical Conceit: Uncovering the Causal Antecedents of Domestic Violence" at the Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable in Seattle, Washington; and "Resistance is (Not) Futile: Feminism's Contribution to Political Philosophy," at the 2nd Annual Society for Analytical Feminism Conference in Lexington, KY. She is currently working on a book on capitalism and feminism, under contract with Cambridge University Press.

Derrick Darby has made a smooth transition to KU after joining the department last year. He has increased the visibility of the department within the University. He added a new law and philosophy seminar to the course offerings of both the philosophy department and the Law School. He taught the inaugural course on reparations last spring and will be co-teaching (with law professor Richard Levy) a seminar on socioeconomics rights during the upcoming spring semester. This fall he is co-teaching with Rex Martin a department superseminar on rights, freedom, and equality, and he has organized a major symposium on law, reparations, and racial disparities for the *Kansas Law Review*. Derrick is grateful for the generous financial support of several units within the University that have sponsored these events, and hopes that their success will generate more support for the philosophy department in the near future. Derrick was appointed as a faculty research associate of the Institute for Policy and Social Research, and he has created new ties between the department and social scientists working on issues of social inequality. Derrick was one of two faculty members at KU to be awarded a Keeler Intra-University Professorship. And the Friends of the Hall Center for the Humanities awarded him a generous book subvention for his forthcoming book, *Rights, Race, and Recognition* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Last November **Richard De George** returned to the University of Louvain, Belgium, where he received his Ph.D. in philosophy in 1955 while a Fulbright scholar. It was his first visit since he was student. There he presented a paper at a meeting of the European Business Ethics Network and was an invited panelist as the Network celebrated its 25th anniversary. He remarks that the center of the medieval town was little changed since his student days. He also gave lectures on "Privacy, Public Space, and Non-Governmental Surveillance" at Indiana University, and on "Academic Freedom: Who Needs it?" at the University of Wisconsin. He published "An American Perspective on CSR and the tenuous Relevance of Jacques Derrida" in *Business Ethics: A European Review*, and "Reflections on 'Citizenship, Inc'" in *Business Ethics Quarterly*. A booklet, *The Uneasy Relationship of Ethic, Business and IT: Conversations with Richard T. De George* appeared in Italian. During the summer he co-taught the third faculty workshop on integrating ethics into science and engineering courses. While enjoying phased retirement he is currently working on the 7th edition of his book *Business Ethics*.

Ben Eggleston was tenured and promoted to associate professor and continues to serve as director of Graduate studies. His recent publications include a *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* paper on rule consequentialism and a book chapter on genetic discrimination in health insurance, and this fall he attended conferences in Boulder and Berkeley. At both conferences, he presented a paper arguing for act utilitarianism as a basis for judicial decision making.

Since the last newsletter, **A. C. Genova** has published two papers. The first, 'Externalism and Token-Identity,' appeared in the *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, LXV, 22–3247 (2007) and the second, 'Transcendentally Speaking,' was published in *Kant-Studien*, 99, issue 1 (2008).

Scott Jenkins had an enjoyable and productive first year at KU. He completed a paper entitled "Nietzsche's Questions Concerning the Will to Truth" and more recently returned to research on modern views of spatial perception, the nature of space, and the relation between these topics. This year he will be teaching a graduate seminar on Nietzsche's early use (and abuse) of Schopenhauer's philosophy. Scott has also been appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies, and he looks forward to advising the philosophy club and meeting more of the undergraduates in the department.

Don Marquis was, during the 2007–2008 academic year, Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching at The University Center for Human Values at Princeton University. His teaching load of one course per year allowed him time for research on his book on abortion and also time to work on papers on Epicurus' s argument that our death is not our misfortune, on a moral issue concerning the

legalization of physician-assisted suicide, and on the donation after cardiac death protocol. He completed work on a paper titled "Abortion and Human Nature" which was published in the June 2008 issue of *The Journal of Medical Ethics*. He read the paper at the City University of New York, the University of North Carolina, the College of New Jersey and Princeton. He also gave talks at the University of Maine, at the University of Delaware and to a number of classes and groups at Princeton. He satisfied the "teaching" aspect of his appointment by organizing an all-afternoon panel concerned with whether it is wrong to end early human life. Almost all participants on the panel were from Princeton or close by, and all were well known for their publications on the subject. A very wide spectrum of views on the subject were defended and discussed. The auditorium was full. The discussion was a model of civility on a subject where civility is often nowhere to be found.

Marquis is on sabbatical leave from KU during the 2008–2009 academic year.

In spring and summer 2008 **Rex Martin** worked on several papers, one on Rawls, one on rights, one on Collingwood, and one on "Two Concepts of Rule Utilitarianism," which came out in the *Journal of Moral Philosophy* this summer. He was a visiting fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Study in April and May. At the end of his stay he took a little Baltic lecture tour, giving papers at Tampere (Finland), Stockholm, and Vilnius (in Lithuania). The one in Stockholm was especially challenging and enjoyable, he said, because it was a paper on Fourteenth Amendment Jurisprudence delivered to a group of Law Faculty members from Stockholm and Uppsala.

This fall 2008 he is again teaching Political Philosophy with Paul Schumaker in Political Science as co-teacher, and a seminar on Freedom, Rights, and Equality with Derrick Darby as co-teacher. This is a superseminar (involving three guest scholars at various points during the term), and Darby and Martin have co-organized a lecture series at the Hall Center for the Humanities with these three guests giving public lectures on the general topic, 'What does a liberal society owe the disadvantaged?'

Fall 2008 will be Martin's last semester of teaching at KU. He will retire at the end of May 2009.

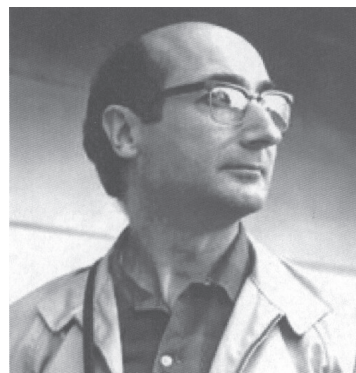
Teresa Robertson had a partial maternity leave for the 2007–2008 academic year. In the fall semester, she taught the graduate tutorial for the incoming students, getting back in the classroom just 18 days after her daughter was born. In the spring semester, Prof. Robertson co-taught the superseminar in philosophy of language and mind with Kevan Edwards. The class had great visits with Scott Soames (of USC), Stephen Neale (of CUNY), and Jerry Fodor (of Rutgers). In March, due to a flight cancellation, her comments on a paper by Michael McGlone were delivered by David Braun at the Pacific Division Meeting of the APA. In April, "Essential

vs. Accidental Properties" together with a supplement on arguments for origin essentialism appeared in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

Tom Tuozzo has recently given papers on Plato's *Philebus* (2008 Pacific APA) and on the methodology of Plato interpretation (2008 Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy), and is currently finishing a monograph on Plato's *Charmides*. He's looking forward to getting back to work on Aristotle!

James Woelfel presented a paper, "Descartes and the Existentialists: The Continuing Fruitfulness of the *Cogito*," at the annual conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses in Plymouth, MA in April 2008. Two previous papers have been selected for publication in forthcoming volumes of essays: "Culture and Patriarchy: The Egalitarian Vision of Woolf's *Three Guineas*," and "Galileo in Kansas: The Strange Timeliness of the *Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina*." Last summer he taught HWC 500/EURS 511, German Intellectual and Cultural Life from Unification to Reunification, as part of the KU summer study abroad program in European Cultural Studies. The course included two weeks in Berlin with twelve KU students.

ALFONSO VERDU 1925–2008



Prof. Alfonso Verdu died Sunday, March 30, 2008, at his home. He was born April 7, 1925, in Alicante, Spain, the son of Bernardo and Carmen Chiva Verdu. He studied Japanese cultural history and literature in Japan from 1951 to 1954, and theology in Frankfurt, Germany, from 1954 to 1958. He set his special

studies in Munich, Germany, in 1959 and received a Ph.D. in 1963. Mr. Verdu became professor for religious studies and philosophy of religion at the International Jesuit University in Tokyo. He left the university and the Jesuits after he received dispensation from Pope Paul VI. He was accepted as a visiting lecturer by the department of philosophy at Kansas University in 1966 and in two years became associate professor of philosophy and east Asian studies. Prof. Verdu taught many courses on Eastern Philosophy, Buddhism and Medieval Philosophy during his tenure. He was promoted to full professor in 1972 and retired in 1990. He authored books on Eastern and Buddhist thought.

Alfonso was a philosopher of great erudition and an inspiring teacher who made a profound impression on generations of students. Donations in his honor may be made to the KU Endowment Association (Philosophy Department).

DONOR SUPPORT

Thanks in large part to generous donor support, the Department was able to present the following awards to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students at the Spring 2008 Honors Banquet:

Nelson Scholarship: Nicole Tichenor
Brownstein-Young Awards: Dylan Black, Joel Burnett
Brownstein-Skidmore Awards: Chris Mitchell, Jaran Moten
Warner Morse Scholarship: Nicole Tichenor
Warner Morse Prize in Ethics: Alan Brockman
Warner Morse Prize in History of Philosophy: Andre Flanery
Warner Morse Prize in Metaphysics and Epistemology: Polina Demina
Departmental GTA Award: Jennifer Kittlaus
Templin Fellowships: Nathan Colaner, Nathan Cox, Dusan Galic, Stacy Elmer, Andrew McFarland, Brad Musil, Bill Simkulet, Nick Simmons
Robinson Essay Contest: Bill Simkulet (1st place), Stacy Elmer, Matt Waldschlagel (honorable mentions)

Warner Morse Undergraduate Scholarships are given to outstanding juniors majoring in philosophy. Two Arthur Skidmore Awards, and two J. M. Young Awards, all generously funded by former KU professor Don Brownstein, are awarded to rising senior philosophy majors and/or graduate students. The Warner Morse Prizes in the various areas of Metaphysics/Epistemology, Ethics, and History of Philosophy are given to students who have done outstanding work, respectively, in these areas. Templin Fellowships are awarded to graduate students for academic excellence. 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:

Linden Appel, Brian Armstrong, Dr. Terry Armstrong, Martin and Ineta Bebb, Karen Reeder Bell, Larry Blackman, Donald Brownstein, Heather Bussing, Rosemary Crock, Crocker Claims Service, Finlinger Financial Services, Inc., Garvey Kansas Foundation, Dr. David and Linda Wyllie Mannering, Rex and Donna Martin, Richard Newton, Judy Paley, Michael R. Payne, Larry C. Poague II, William and Sue Oatman Roberts, Terry and Angela Sader, Dr. James and Lauren Swindler, Raj and Kara W. Tan Bhala, Christopher Tankersley, Dr. William and Karen Tankersley III.

CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Stacy Elmer was recently in Washington, DC collaborating with Vence Bonham from the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health for a presentation titled "Technologies that Relate Genetic Predisposition, Susceptibility and Risk to Phenotypes ascribed to Racial Categories," which was presented at the 2008 ASTAR National Judges' Science School: *Advanced Genetic Technologies*.

Jennifer Kittlaus was named one of the four 2007–2008 Outstanding GTAs by the Office of Graduate Studies.

Monica Gerrek was awarded The Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics at Case Western University. This prestigious fellowship is for two years and Monica started her work there this fall.

William Simkulet presented his paper titled "Objections to Modal Fictionalism" at the 2008 Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference last March. He has also presented at the Central States Philosophy Association 2008 Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Pelle Darota Danabo received the Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award for his dissertation on the attempt to impose liberal democracy, rooted in possessive individualism, in African countries.

Matt Waldschlagel, besides receiving an honorable mention for the Robinson Essay Contest, presented one of his papers, "Arrow's Theorem and the Defense of Democracy," at two conferences. The first conference was the 10th annual Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference at the University of Colorado at Boulder in April 2008; the second conference was the 25th annual International Social Philosophy Conference for the North American Society for Social Philosophy at the University of Portland in July.

In November, 2008, Matt will present another paper "Patient Autonomy, Rational Non-Interventional Paternalism, and the Ethics of Blood Transfusions for Jehovah's Witnesses," at the Mississippi Philosophy Association's Medical Ethics Conference at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

During the Spring 2009 semester, he will be the Director of the Humanities and Western Civilization Study Abroad Program. In addition to coordinating site visits to local museums and major historical sites and overseeing two GTAs, he'll be teaching Western Civ I and II to about twenty KU students in Florence, Italy and Paris, France. He's looking forward to teaching Descartes and Rousseau in Paris and Machiavelli and Galileo in Florence.

AFTER THE LAST NEWSLETTER, WE HEARD FROM.....

Jack Horner (MA, 1977) is a systems engineer and vice president in his 27th year with Science Applications International corporation (SAIC) and lives in Santa Fe, NM. The job of a systems engineer, he reports, is to ensure that if project requirements call for Pegasus, the project doesn't deliver "just a truckload of horse parts." In the last 10 years, he has published several papers on quantum logic, hypervelocity impact phenomena, software engineering, and computational medical diagnostics. He has recently been appointed to the board of the KU Biodiversity Institute and is on the editorial board of *Cancer Informatics* and *The Open Proteomics Journal*. In his spare time, he has been writing an automated deduction system of Aquinas's *On Being and Essence*, as a consequence of which his wife has accused him, he says, of "having one of the finest minds of the 13th century."

Eric Berg (PhD, 2005) is the new prelaw advisor at MacMurray College where he is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion. He has also published a paper "Norman MacClean: His life as a Scholar" in the *Icfai Journal of American Literature*.

David Reidy (PhD, 1997), Associate Professor of Philosophy and Adjunct Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Tennessee, has been named one of eight "Lindsay Young Professors of Arts and Sciences" at UT. Lindsay Young Professors are selected for their having successfully integrated high quality teaching with an active and fruitful research agenda.

David and Jeppe von Platz (graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania) have won the 2009 Berger Prize from the APA Committee on Law and Philosophy for their article "The Structural Variety of Historical Injustices" published in the *Journal of Social Philosophy*.

Robert Hull (PhD, 1991), Professor of Philosophy at West Virginia Wesleyan College, was recently awarded a West Virginia Humanities Council fellowship and a West Virginia Wesleyan College faculty innovation grant. He was also recently the recipient of two teaching awards: one, for exemplary teaching, awarded at the College's annual convocation, and another, for outstanding teacher, awarded by the College's honors students. He has also initiated a regional undergraduate research conference, the Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Research Conference; the 6th MAURC will take place in the spring of 2009. To top it off, he was recently promoted to Professor from Associate Professor. Robert remarks: "Nobody can have these sorts of outcomes without excellent teachers and mentors, and at KU Professors Morse, Cole, Martin, Shapiro and (particularly) Genova were huge, positive influences in my academic life."

Tom Bontrager (BA, 1983) was an undergrad philosophy major at KU from 1979 to 1983. After KU, he went to New York to study music and got his master's in trumpet at Juilliard in 1986. He played full-time till about 1995, when he veered off into computer programming, for reasons that are still not clear to him. This fall Tom will matriculate in the philosophy doctoral program at the CUNY Graduate Center here in New York. He's really happy this worked out, because he had intended to return to philosophy for a long time but never seemed able to make the push.

He is tentatively focusing on philosophy of science and perhaps aesthetics of music, which may involve philosophy of time. Tom has a virtually unlimited interest in Kant, thanks to Tony Genova, Mike Young and Warner Morse, but so far CUNY is not looking like the place to pursue it.

He sends greetings to everyone in the department and hopes all are doing well.

Jim K. Swindler (PhD, 1978), Professor and Chair of the department of Philosophy at Illinois State University, has published "Normativity: From Individual to Collective," in *Journal of Social Philosophy*, Vol. 39, No. 1, Spring 2008. Along with Peter H. Hare, Michel Weber, Oana-Maria Pastae, and Cerasel Cuteanu, Jim was one of the co-editors of *Pragmatic Politics and Pragmatist Culture* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008).

David Duquette (PhD, 1985) is Professor of Philosophy at St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin. He has been teaching courses in the history of philosophy and in social and political thought and is currently developing a course on international ethics. He has published regularly in his area of specialty, Hegel and Marx, and in 2003 edited a volume entitled *Hegel's History of Philosophy* for SUNY Press. He has recently been working in the area of the philosophy of human rights and just war theory. In August 2008 he started his five year appointment as Associate Dean for Humanities and Fine Arts at St. Norbert College.

Alok Ahuja (BA, 1984) has been appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District. Ahuja, 43, of Lee's Summit, is a member of Lathrop and Gage L.C. He holds a bachelor's degree in English and philosophy from the University of Kansas and a law degree from Yale Law School. At Lathrop and Gage, he has briefed and argued cases in several areas including environmental, telecommunications, employment, commercial, insurance coverage, tort, civil rights and criminal matters. Ahuja will fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Patricia Breckenridge, who was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court in September.

Three former alumni and one current graduate student were on the Southwest Philosophical Society Program for the meeting held on November 14-16 in Kansas City. **Ted Vaggalis (PhD, 2002)** Associate Professor at Drury College, chaired a session; **Nathan Colaner** (present

grad student) and **Jim Swindler (PhD, 1978)** Professor at Illinois State, commented on papers and **Deborah Heikes (BA, 1991)** Associate Professor, University of Alabama, Huntsville, presented a paper.

Curtis W. Spencer (BGS, 1995) has been building businesses. Since 1996, he has been working as a publisher, putting out eight different magazines: four apartment magazines, two real estate magazines, one auto magazine and one variety magazine. His last magazine in print was sold in Dallas during the summer of 2006. He currently has in production four online media/marketing businesses, with completion expected by December 2008.

In addition, he owns a recruiting firm focusing in the areas of health care and restaurants. In all, he has built for himself or assisted others in building seventeen businesses.

As a part of his life's journey Curtis intends to return to academia. He hopes to spend his retirement years teaching philosophy after attaining his financial goals.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We have spent the last five months exiled to the second floor of Wescoe, but late in December we will be moving back to our old—but newly—improved office space. All the faculty and the main office will now be located on the south side of the third floor.

While getting ready for the conference for Rex, I'm reminded constantly about all the students, staff and faculty who have come through the department doors at one time or another and how fast time does fly. Dodie Coker has retired from the front office staff ranks, but we welcomed Sondra Speer who has a background in religious studies and understands what it is like to be a graduate student. I do on occasion see Janice Criss Doores (another former staff member) and she is doing well and usually accompanied by one or two grandchildren. I enjoyed receiving wonderfully funny notes from Heather Bussing (BA, 1983), hearing about fly fishing from Eric Berg (PhD, 2005) and a surprise visit from Chris and Delilah Caldwell (both PhDs from 2004) and their son who turned a small Eiffel Tower in my office into a rocket ship.

As always, please stay in touch via my email chodges@ku.edu so that we can include you in our next newsletter. —Cindi Hodges

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