



Newsletter: Department of Philosophy San Jose State University October, 2005

Editor: Tom Leddy

New Faculty Member!

Anand Jayprakash Vaidya was hired as an Assistant Professor starting this Fall. He was born in Evanston, Illinois, and raised in Texas, Saudi Arabia, India, and Germany. He lived in Saudi Arabia from 5 to 15. He left the country with his mother shortly after the first Gulf War, and moved to California. Anand initially studied existentialism, phenomenology, and logic at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. With a growing interest in logic he transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles. There he studied logic, philosophy of language, and the metaphysics of modality. After a brief return to India in 1999 he entered graduate

school at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

His graduate research focused on epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of mind & psychology. He wrote his qualifying exam on Modal Rationalism, a thesis concerning the relation between conceivability and possibility that is often used to argue against materialist conceptions of mind. His dissertation *The Epistemology of Metaphysical Modality* is an investigation and evaluation of classical and contemporary accounts of epistemic access to metaphysical modality. Anand received his Ph.D in 2005 from UCSB. His primary research interests are in metaphysics & epistemology (especially of modality), and philosophy of mind & psychology. His teaching interests include: history of philosophy (ancient through contemporary analytic), applied ethics, meta-ethics, and logic.

Outside of academic research and teaching you can find Anand doing any of the following: reading, cooking, playing guitar, hiking, running, yoga, weight training, traveling, chess, ping-pong, and pool. [This account is taken from Anand's SJSU web site.]

Outstanding College Alum Nominated

Prof. Manning nominated John Sullins, Associate Professor of Philosophy at

Sonoma State University, for the Gold Award (outstanding college alum in last 10 years.) John recently published "Building Simple Mechanical Minds: Using LEGO® Robots for Research and Teaching in Philosophy," in *Cyberphilosophy*, pp. 104-117, Blackwell Publishing, 2002.

Outside Philosophy, John completed the Masters Fencing Program at San Jose State University (1994). He teaches foil, epee, sabre, and various historical arms. He has trained in fencing pedagogy under many skilled fencing masters including Maestro William Gaugler and Military Master at Arms Ralph Sahn (1986 to 1994). He has taught at numerous fencing schools and programs since the mid 1980's and was a cofounder and manager of the Tri Cities Academy of the Sword in Binghamton, New York 1998-2002. [This material was taken from the Sonoma State University web site].



ISREE News

In 2004-5 the Governing Board of ISREE [Institute for Social Responsibility, Ethics, and Education] updated its

asked him what he was.
McCullough said that he was
interested in Buddhism. And
the bellhop said, "I love
Buddha too."

police to lie during interrogations.”
Spartan Daily News.
Sept. 18, 2005
Cheeto Barrara
“University Continues
its Fight Against
Cheating.”

Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Club has numerous events planned for the current semester. From our “philosopher of the week” to a debate on whether or not computers will be alive, we are trying to *do* philosophy in varied and interesting ways. The “philosopher/topic of the week” lays claim to a piece of the department’s hallway where people may find numerous biographical quips, informative articles and pictures that prepare them for a discussion that occurs during our meetings. Some of the upcoming (not a comprehensive list) philosophers that will take the center stage are: Hannah Arendt, Karl Marx, Ayn Rand and Ortega y Gasset.

The hope of centering on a specific topic or philosophy for a week is to expose philosophy students to as many different and underrepresented philosophers and topics as possible. To be notified of all upcoming events send an email to sjsuphilosophyclub@gmail.com and ask to be added to our Google group. See you during the semester, Kevin.

Geist A Graduate Journal of Philosophy

Geist is an academic journal sponsored by The Symposium, SJSU Philosophy Club, in cooperation with the Department of Philosophy at San Jose State University. The journal is focused on publishing philosophical papers by undergraduate and graduate students from SJSU and the greater academic community, and is published every Spring semester. “The purpose of the journal is to promote the study of philosophy. It also provides students the opportunity to publish their work for the first time. Graduate students are highly encouraged to send in their work.” All philosophical paper topics are accepted. All papers are reviewed anonymously.

Vol. VII, Spring 2005 was edited by Trung Le. Associate editors were Sara Rettus, Phillip Hadley, Krupa Patel, Phillip Williamson, Kevin Fox, and Tanzeen Doha. Layout was by Melikamp and cover by Annie Bao. The journal

was made possible by funds provided by the Associated Students of SJSU. This time the four articles were all from students outside our university. They covered such topics as the American Dream, quasi-realism, abstract classes, and Bachelard’s history of science.

The deadline for submission for the next journal is March 1, 2006. See the back page of the journal or the department web site under the philosophy club for submission guidelines. Contact: sjsu_philosophy_club@yahoo.com

Philosophy at the Theatre

About forty members of the Philosophy Department went to watch *Hannah And Martin*, at the San Jose Repertoire Theatre, May 2005. The play focused on confrontations between two philosophers: Hannah Arendt and her mentor Martin Heidegger. Professors Peter Hadreas and Tom Leddy led a discussion afterwards for interested members of the audience: the actors and the director

were also present to answer questions. The Philosophy Club organized this event.

Department Weekend in Arnold



Department Armada at Lake Alpine

Several members of the Department met for an annual weekend in Arnold, CA. in late September. Wine-tasting, boating, and hiking were among the activities pursued.

SPRING 2005 SJSU PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT ALUMNI CONFERENCE

“The Any Topic in Philosophy Conference” Conference was held Saturday, April 23, 2005 at San Jose State University in the University Club



Wall Street Week Under
Review," has been published
by *Business Ethics: A
European Review*. Vol. 14,
No. 3. Fall, 2005. I /P A24(y)-106erld mA241y

Advanced Study at Harvard
University.

Janet Stemwedel

writes: at the Biennial
meeting of the Philosophy of
Science Association in
Austin, TX

(November 2004) I was co-
organizer of a Symposium
session on Strategies of
Modeling in Biology and
Chemistry. As part of that
session, I presented a paper,
“Getting More With Less:
Experimental Constraints and
Stringent Tests of Model
Mechanisms of Chemical

Colin Caret is a philosophy graduate student at the University of Connecticut. At the Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in April, he commented on a

Tecnológica del Norte de
Guanajuato, Unidad
Académica Victoria). My
wife and five-year-old son
are Mexican and, although
my name belies my
background, I am Mexican-
American.

Last week I started a
Master's Degree program in

Date: Saturday, May 13,
2006

Speakers: Shimon Malin,
Colgate University;
Margaret Morrison,
University of Toronto;
Katherine Brading,
University of Toronto;
Richard Healey, University
of Arizona: Craig Callender,
UC San Diego

Many professors and

Phil 290B, Selected
Philosopher/Period, Bill
Shaw

Phil 292, Alasdair
MacIntyre and the revival
of virtue ethics, Dick
Schubert

Department Web Site

<http://www2.sjsu.edu/depts/philosophy/index.htm>

Library Philosophy Web Site

In order to access materials relevant to philosophy go to SJLibrary.org, then to Articles and Databases, then to SJSU Subjects, then down the alphabet to Philosophy. The "user name" is your Library Card number, and your password is the access