



**Newsletter:  
Department of  
Philosophy  
San Jose State  
University  
October, 2007**

Editor: Tom Leddy

**Our Philosophy  
Department Web  
Site Address:**  
[sjsu.edu/philosophy/](http://sjsu.edu/philosophy/)

**MAKE A  
FINANCIAL  
CONTRIBUTION  
TO PHILOSOPHY**

Alumni and other friends of the  
Philosophy Department who  
wish to donate to the Department  
should make out a check to the  
"SJSU Foundation" with a note

**Philosophy Award  
Recipient Gains  
National Recognition**

Tim Hawkinson, Art,  
1985, although not a  
philosophy major, is  
probably our most  
famous recipient of the



engagement between distinct approaches for the sake of their joint contribution to the common philosophical enterprise. Comparative philosophy, understood in this way, reflects one significant trend in the current reflective practice towards world philosophy.

SJSU Colloquium Series.

Now, as the CCP has been formally established, all the philosophy instructors, philosophy students or other interested persons are welcome to become Associate Members, who are entitled and encouraged to attend and participate in all the activities to be organized and sponsored by the CCP.

The CCP will sponsor multiple lecture talks per academic year, organize conferences and workshops, coordinate relevant international academic cooperation and exchange, collect/translate scholarship from diverse philosophical traditions, and support relevant course developments.

The 2007-08 CCP Lecture Series will be listed below with the

Topic: *How to Read Islamic Philosophy*

**Spring 2008**

***Philosophy Colloquium***

**January 30, Wednesday, 4:00 pm, 2008 / Place to be announced**

Speaker: **Robert Audi** (Professor of Philosophy and David E. Gallo Professor of Business Ethics, University of Notre Dame)

Topic: *Moral Knowledge and Truth* (tentative topic)

***Center for Comparative Philosophy 2007-8 Lecture Series (Spring 2008: I) & Philosophy Colloquium***  
**March 5, Wednesday, 4:00 pm, 2008 / Place to be announced**

Speaker: **Dagfinn Føllesdal** (Clarence Irving Lewis Professor of Philosophy, Stanford University, USA / formerly Professor and Chair at Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo, Norway)

Topic: *Bridging the Gap Between Analytic Philosophy and Continental Philosophy*

CCP Discussion Session  
at Philosophy 119  
“Africana Philosophy and Culture”  
March 18, Tuesday, 1:30-2:45 pm, BBC 323

Guest Speakers: **Percy Hintzen** (Professor in African-American Studies, UC Berkeley)  
Commentator: **Tommy Lott** (Professor of Philosophy, San Jose State University)

Topic: *A Critical Examination of Social-Political Implications of Western Indian Identity*

***Philosophy Colloquium***  
**April 8, Tuesday, 4:30 pm, 2008 / Place to be announced**

Speaker: **Michael Katz** (Professor of Education, San Jose State University)

Topic: *Caring and Teaching Ethics*

***Center for Comparative Philosophy 2007-8 Lecture Series (Spring 2008: II) & Philosophy Colloquium***

**May 7, Wednesday, 4:30 pm, 2008 / Place to be announced**

Speaker: **Manuel Vargas** (Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of San Francisco)

Topic: *Culture and the Value of Philosophy: The Latin American Case*

**Contact:**  
Prof. Bo Mou  
Department of Philosophy, 408-924-4513  
[bmou@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:bmou@email.sjsu.edu)

**The Colloquia for Spring 2007 were:**

**Jan 31, Robert Audi**, Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, “Ethical Theory and Moral Judgment: From Classical

**Report on San Jose  
State University  
Philosophy  
Department  
Annual Spring  
Conference  
3 & R P S D U D W L W H  
3 K L O R V R S K \  
May 5, 2007**

Prof. Noam Cook,  
SJSU, introduced us to  
Eastern issues with  
“Nishida, Kuhn, and  
how we know: toward  
an epistemology of  
practice.” Phil  
Whiamson, M.A.,  
SJSU, gave a slide-  
illustrated talk on



Prof. Bo Mou, SJSU,  
opened the conference  
with a talk on "A  
Methodological  
Framework of Cross-  
cultural Understanding  
and Constructive  
engagement." Prof.  
Peter Hadreas, SJSU,  
followed with “Liszt  
and Schopenhaueriana  
on the transcendent and  
transcendental.” Peter  
illustrated his  
presentation with a  
musical performance  
from Liszt. Liszt  
grappled with a musical  
conundrum that also  
worried Schopenhauer.

features include an offering of Retreats at a wonderful rural resort at Mount Shasta, California and a Conversation Forum in which my ideas about conversation, juxtaposed to Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy, are underway in a robust

## FACULTY NEWS

### Noam Cook

Noam Cook is on leave for the 2007-08 academic year. He will be working on research and writing projects. This work is in two areas. First, he is developing (with a Dutch colleague and co-author) a conceptual framework for an "epistemology of practice" and its application to cases in technological and public policy settings. The idea here is to see practice as having an epistemic dimension, rather than seeing knowledge as giving rise to practice. This research is being conducted in the US and the Netherlands. Second, he is working on a conceptually-related project in philosophy of technology that sees practice as having a technological dimension, rather than seeing certain kinds of objects as technologies. He is also trying to develop the ability to do one thing at a time without feeling guilty.

### Peter Hadreas

Peter writes, "My book, *A Phenomenology of Love and Hate*, I am assured, will be available from Ashgate Publishing, beginning the middle of September (2007). I'm concerned, of course, with how well it will be received. If favorable, a second, nearly completed, book on pleasure and pain will follow.

I am very excited about the mediated version of Philosophy 186 that Rita Manning, Carlos Sanchez, Bill Shaw, Janet Stemwedel, Sarah Stillman, and Anand Vaidya, with Keith Sanders, Media Producer with the TV Education Network, have been putting together over the past several months. It not only includes film recordings of sixteen lectures delivered by the group. It also contains a collection of playlets with Sarah Stillman enacting the role of the business ethics deprived protagonist. The project brings the need for business ethics directly to the SJSU student. There are also twenty-two discussions of business ethics cases that accompany the lectures. I am very honored to be associated with this project!

I have been hammering out a way of revisiting the ancient topic of the connection between metaphysics and music. Right now this consists in a presentation of a transcendental etude by Franz Liszt with a Schopenhauerian explanation of why it deserves to be called 'transcendental.' I offered a version of this project at West Valley College this past

November, and again at the philosophy department alumni conference this past May. Another performance is scheduled this October as one of the collection of events that SJSU Alumni College is offering in celebration of SJSU's 150th anniversary. It is a work in progress, but perhaps, in time, there will be chance to demonstrate a direct response to the ancient question.

### Michael Katz

writes "I am currently the President of the Philosophy of Education Society and will give a talk on "Teaching with Integrity" at our annual conference in Cambridge, Mass. April 11-14th (any members of the dept. interested in joining the society or submitting a paper--see attached flyer. Deadline is Nov. 1); I am also President of the California Philosophy of Education Society and do the program for that group--we are small and now are meeting only once a year. This is a two year term. I gave a paper entitled "Competing Conceptions of Caring and Teaching Ethics to Prospective Teachers" at the Annual Philosophy of Education Conference in Atlanta in March of 2007; it will be published in their yearbook. A longer version of this paper was given at the annual meeting of the British Philosophy of Education Society in Oxford in March of 2007 (tell me if you need the exact dates for these); its title was "Competing Conceptions of Caring and the Teaching of Educational Ethics." If anyone is

interested in either paper,  
send me a note. Lawrence  
Quill and I will be submitting  
a paper comparing teaching  
ethics through case studies  
and teaching it through  
literature and film--by Sept.  
15th; more on that later. And  
he and I have been asked to  
submit a book proposal on  
"Trust and Accountability in  
Education" to the University



2005-2007, and a Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy editor, 2004-present.

Geo Siegwart (London: Routledge; 2007), pp. 178-197. "A Methodological

## **Rita Manning**

gave a paper, "Care, Family and Distant Strangers" at the conference on Philosophy and the Family at University of Birmingham (UK) in June, and is giving a paper, "Challenges for a Global Politics of Care" at this meeting: ASSOCIATION FOR FEMINIST ETHICS AND SOCIAL THEORY September 2007 Conference Clearwater Beach, Florida Her book, co-authored with Scott Stroud, *Practical Ethics: Living and Leading with Integrity*, was completed this summer and will come out in January. She gave a talk at the Spring APA, at an author meets critic session organized by the RPA on *Toward a New Socialism*, edited by Anatole Anton and Richard Schmitt.

It is widely agreed that Rita is doing a stunning job as Department Chairperson.

Rita continues her other career as a singer and has recently entertained members of the department at the Arnold retreat (with Peter Hadreas) and in San Francisco.

## **Bo Mou**

Prof. Mou's activities include Articles Published: "Concept of Truth and Multiple Facets of the Speech-act Equivalence Thesis," in *Truth and Speech Acts: Studies in the Philosophy of Language*, edited by Dirk Greimann and

2007). "A Methodological  
Framework for Cross-  
Cultural Understanding and  
Constructi

systematic and historical  
connections between various  
figures in the  
phenomenological movement  
and philosophers of logic and  
mathematics. This includes  
discussions of Husserl, Frege,

Department in Campbell, where he helps military veterans find employment. He is active in the International Association of Workforce Professionals.

**Scott Stroud** is at the Department of Communication Studies, University of Texas, Austin. He is finishing an applied ethics text with Prof. Manning. Scott went to an NEH seminar on pragmatism in New Mexico this summer.

### **Phil Williamson**

is now a grad student in Philosophy at Albuquerque. He writes "I'll be the Teaching assistant for a Phil. 101 course next term, and I'm teaching Bio-medical ethics at the Community college. I made a brief visit to the Phil. Dept. but haven't really socialized much with my peers. The Library, which I visited early last week is fantastic. It dwarfs the meager Phil. collection at SJSU; at least with respect to more recent works. It is also an extremely comfortable place for study, (notwithstanding the Starbucks in the lobby!).

Wishing all of you every happy thing -- I'd love to hear from each of you, Stay in touch."

### **Benjamin Ten Cate**

is now a Computer Systems Maintenance Technician With Cabrillo College since 2007

**Randy Siever**, B.A., works at Sparks Christian Fellowship, Sparks, Nevada.

He has been married to Sandy, his high school sweetheart, since 1976 and has three adult kids (Jake, Bethany, and Ian.) Randy received an M.A. in Christian Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary. He spent 20 years on the Young Life staff in four different states prior to this pastor gig at SCF. He also spent some short time selling used cars, health insurance and as an auto mechanic. This information is taken from his web site:  
<http://www.scf.net/randysiever.asp>

## **Emeritus Faculty and other Former Teachers**

**Phil Davis** writes "Aside from driving across the country a couple times and doing some research in the Plains states - mostly South Dakota and Mr Fu5(d)-2-10(g0 G[( )] 30000912 4-24(f5327.a)-5u0.00000912 0 612 792 re



**Title TBA**, Thursday, March 6, 4:00 pm, **Grant Fisher**, University College, London  
**"Evidence in the context of action"** Thursday, March 13, 4:00 pm, This talk is co-sponsored by the Institute for Humanities Research.

All colloquia will be held in the Cowell Conference Room, Cowell College, unless otherwise noted.  
<http://philosophy.ucsc.edu/>

University of California, Berkeley

For upcoming talks go to <http://philosophy.berkeley.edu/events/upcoming> Of particular interest is a series



of talks by Hillary Putnam, Oct. 8-12.

### **Selected Courses at SJSU to be offered Spring 2008**

**Phil 107 Philosophy and Literature, Hadreas**  
**Phil 119 Africana Culture, Lott**  
**Phil 120, Eastern/Western Philosophy, Mou**  
**Phil 126, Environmental Ethics, Manning**

**Phil 133, Ethics in Science, Stemwedel**  
**Phil 134, Computers, Ethics and Society, Williamson and Sonnier**  
**Phil 159, Philosophy of Mind, Tieszen**  
**Phil 160, Philosophy of Science, Shaw and Sonnier**  
**Phil 190, John Stuart Mill, Shaw**  
**Phil 290, Philosophical Classics, Vaidya,**  
**Phil 292, Aesthetics, Leddy**

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