

Department of Philosophy
San Jose State University

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Note From the Acting Chair

This will be my last note as Acting Chair. Bill Shaw will be back in the saddle as Chairperson in the Fall. It certainly has been an interesting and rewarding two years, and I would like to thank all of the faculty and students who have been helpful in a variety of ways. This semester has been an eventful one in that we have had on campus four applicants for the tenure-track position. Although all of the applicants were quite impressive, in the end we chose Dr.



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Pinto Prize

Melanie Morra is winner of this year's Pinto Prize. The criteria for

controls the masses. While others toil endlessly with logically organizing their lesson plans, I've already received my A and am on to the philosophy class that I'm taking "just for fun" with Joe Waterhouse!

Peter Hadreas had his paper "Aristotle on the Vices and Virtue of Wealth," accepted for publication in *The Journal of Business Ethics*. He delivered a paper, "Aristotle and Incest," at colloquium session of Eastern Division meetings of A. P. A., New York, Dec. 29, 2000, and again at a session of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy at SUNY, Binghamton, Oct. 2000.

Tom Leddy published "The Pleasures of Tchotchke," co-written with

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(b) an essay on whether the constitution protects the right to vote for President, and (c) a more detailed analysis of the Supreme Court's *Bush v. Gore* decision applying my more general theoretical account (presented in the book) to the opinion, concurrence, and dissents. Some of this will be added to the book, some of it presented as separate articles, but I'm still thinking about the practical considerations here and haven't decided once and for all."

Scott Stroud has been quite busy this past year taking classes in the philosophy department and with his own research. Since mid-1999, he has presented 17 papers at scholarly conferences, and has 5 more conference papers pending. Some examples of presented work include "Timeless Stories East and West: The Philosophical Narratives of the *Bhagavad Gita* and *The Thin Red Line*" (International Meeting of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy), "Insights from Hinduism: Incorporating the *Bhagavad Gita* into Ethics Across the Curriculum" (Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum), and two new papers on his own project of Indian rhetoric, "Multivalent Narratives: Extending the Narrative Paradigm with Insights from Ancient Indian Rhetoric" and "Multivalent Narratives and Indian Rhetoric: Insights from the *Bhagavad Gita*" (Western States Communication Association Conference). One of his papers on the Christian Identity movement got him quoted in a special report in the January 28, 2001 *Joplin Globe* newspaper (Missouri).

Scott has recently had 5 of his papers published, including "Habermas and Debate Theory: A Putative Link between the Theory of Communicative Action and Traditional Resolutive Typologies" in *Argument at Century's End: Reflecting on the Past and Envisioning the Future*, (2000) T. A. Hollihan (Ed.), (pp. 325-333).

Annandale, CA: National Communication Association, "Debate for Philosophy and Critical Thinking Courses" in the Teaching Supplement of *Informal Logic*, (20), 2000, TS10-TS16, and "*Diabolus in Musica: The Rhetorical Vision of Slayer,*" *Speaker and Gavel* (37), 2000, 50-60.

He is occupied now with 4 articles that have been accepted with revision, including a fun paper titled "Technology and Mythic Narrative: *The Matrix* as Technological Hero-Quest" for the *Western Journal of Communication*. Also accepted is the report of a past empirical study titled "Connections between Moral Development and Formal-Pragmatic Presupposition Awareness" for *Communication Reports*. Scott's project on Indian rhetoric is also making headway with "Ethics, Metaphysics, and the Training of Citizens: Utilizing the *Bhagavad Gita* in Western Public Speaking Courses" being accepted by the *Southern Communication Journal* and "Tempering Public Speaking Pedagogy with Insights from the *Bhagavad Gita*" being accepted by the *Journal of the Wisconsin Communication Association*. He's waiting to see how his luck goes with 4 other works under review.

Scott spends his spare time teaching classes for this department and for the Communication Studies Department at SJSU, and earns beer money teaching public speaking classes at Chabot College.

Carlos Sanchez held an exhibit of the paintings of Jason Luchetti at his apartment at 508 South 11th St. #15, San Jose with the reception on Friday Nov. 17.

Rick Tieszen writes: "I was invited to speak at the San Jose Intercollegiate Philosophy Club last October. My talk was an attempt to answer the question "What is phenomenology?" I was pleased to see such a large and enthusiastic

group of local philosophers at this event. Late in March I'll give a talk at SUNY-Buffalo on "The intuitive continuum and the revision of logic". This will be no honeymoon for the classical logicians. A visit to Niagara Falls is on the schedule for the next day. A few days later I'll give a talk in an American Philosophical Association group session meeting of the Society for the Study of Husserl's Philosophy. The talk will be on "Logic and Consciousness". Otherwise, I'm completing some of the work I mentioned in the last newsletter and looking forward to a sabbatical leave next year. In the Fall I especially enjoyed my "Phenomenology Today" seminar and my "Science, Technology and Human Values" course. Thanks to the students for making these classes so rewarding. At the moment, I'm finding it very stimulating to work through the *Critique of Pure Reason* with the students in my Kant seminar. Some extracurricular activities? Playing racquetball, attending anti-inauguration galas, occasionally making some astronomical observations, and practicing blues guitar.

Dan Williamson will be giving a paper at SUNY, Binghamton University, April 27-28, *Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture* (PIC). His paper is titled, "Rebellion and Resistance: A Reflection on Foucault and Camus." The paper argues that the Left has to take a careful look at the concept of power Foucault fashioned. Camus provides a history of power and knowledge in revolutions and rebellions that supports Foucault's basic perceptions. The Left, he argues, has uncritically maintained and repeated the same kind of power that has led it to failures in the past. In order to overcome this obstacle, the Left--or any set of marginalized groups on the basis of gender, race or class--has to invent a new form of power that elides the tendencies of power to construct knowledges

(ideologies) that marginalize. These tendencies of power play the same games of domination used by discourses that oppress; e.g.: as they are embodied in homophobia, racism, sexism and classism.

Institute for Social Responsibility, Ethics and Education

The Ninth Annual Francis T. Villemain Lecture was held on March 8. Eamonn Callan, Stanford Professor of Philosophy of Education spoke on “Democratic Patriotism in a Multicultural World.” The Philosophy Department was one of the sponsors of this event. Afterwards, the ISREE sponsored a lunch at Hawgs. Many philosophy professors and students attended and there was an animated discussion after the talk and during the lunch. Thanks especially to Michael Katz for organizing this talk.

Ethics Bowl

Once again the Ethics Bowl team has done a fantastic job at the regional ethics bowl competition held at CSU Chico! The team consisted of Gary Buzzell, Vladi Sankin, and Ben Tencate under the direction of Prof. Richard Greene. The team came in 2nd place, missing 1st place by a margin of only 7 points.

The team went on to compete in the National Competition in Cincinnati. Beth Griffith joined them as a fourth member. There, they came in fifth! Congratulations for a job well done!

Classroom Guests

Dagfin Follesdall of Stanford University spoke to Rick Tieszen's phenomenology class on December 5th. "Phenomenology Today"

Philosophy Club

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until she retired. She has been
retired for 17 years. Mildred says
she took her degree in Philosophy for
personal enrichment but gained from
it since she became a technical wise

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Artificial Life” Ludus-Vitalis. 1998;
6(10), 105-119.

Philosophy Students Over 60

You can begin, resume or continue
your college education for only
\$46.50 per semester!

Several of our students are older
persons seeking to open up new
horizons of learning through study of
the great philosophers, or
concentration on some of the key
problems in the various philosophical
traditions.

One of our students, **Jim Dix**, is
teaching his own class this semester
as a Teaching Associate. Here’s an
open letter from Jim. “Greetings
from somewhere in the SJSU
Philosophy Department... I have to
say I’m enjoying my semester
immensely. I’ve rarely worked



