



**Newsletter:
Department of
Philosophy
San Jose State
University
Feb., 2014**

Editor: Tom Leddy

**Our Philosophy
Department Web Site
Address:**

Latin American Philosophy.'
Congratulations to Carlos for
being named University
Scholar!

**Supreme Court
Justice Stephen
Breyer (Philosophy
Major) on the
Value of a
Humanities Major**

In an article for the *New York Review of Books* "On Reading Proust," Nov. 7, 2013, 30-32, Justice Stephen Breyer, in answer to a question from a student on what major to study for law, is quoted as saying "whatever major you want, as long as it has nothing to do with the law" (Brayer was a philosophy major at Stanford.) He further writes "We are only allowed to live one life: it's the human condition, there's no escaping it. In my view, only by studying the humanities can we hope to escape this fundamental limitation and understand how other people live, [b]ecause literature, history, or philosophy all provide extraordinary windows on the world. Foreign languages, too, are fundamental. ...when you're a judge and you spend your whole day in front of a computer screen, it's important to be able to imagine what other people's lives might be like, lives that your decisions will affect. ...So, yes, reading is a very good thing for a judge to do. Reading makes a judge capable of projecting himself into the lives of others, lives that have nothing in common with his own, even lives in

completely different eras and cultures. And this empathy, this ability to envision the practical consequences on one's contemporaries of a law or a legal decision, seems to me to [be] a crucial quality in a judge." (32)

**Call for Papers:
21st Annual
Conference of the
Society for
Philosophy in the
Contemporary
World**

July 18-22, 2014
San Jose, CA

We invite submissions for the
20th-annual conference of

hosted by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and will take place in Jacksonville Florida.

The team members are: Conor Kusich, Industrial Design major; Erika Villasenor, Philosophy major; Jason Farnsworth, Philosophy major; Priscilla Chung, Kinesiology major; KiWi Fan, Psychology major and Vincent Ianniello, Philosophy major. Alyssa Cortez (from team 1), Philosophy major, joins the team to compete for the national competition.

Thanks also to Dean Dominguez for his coaching efforts.

Center for Comparative Philosophy

Dr. Vaidya, the new director of the Center for Comparative Philosophy, plans to put on one conference each year for the next three years focusing on such topics as Mind and Moral Psychology, New Conversations in Cross-Cultural Philosophy, and Rethinking Metaphysics and Epistemology from the Perspective of World Philosophy.

In 2013 the CCP Workshop/Conference Series, Symposium Theme was “Yi-Jing Philosophy and Contemporary Philosophy and Society.” The event

was held on April 4, 2013

Allinson, Robert (Professor of Philosophy, Soka University of America): “The Concept of Opposites in Hegel, the *Yi-Jing*, Mao and Contemporary China”

Hadreas, Peter (Professor of Philosophy, Chair of Philosophy Dept, SJSU): “Plato's *Chora* and Lao Zi's *Dao*: from the vantage point of the *Yi-Jing* method”

Jochim, Christian (Professor of Humanities, Chair of Humanities Dept, SJSU): “Western Philosophical Critique of Modernity: with help from the *Yi-Jing* and *Dao-De-Jing*”

Mou, Bo (Professor of Philosophy, Director of CCP, SJSU): “A Reflection on the Nature of Ideographic Language in the *Yi-Jing*: Engaging the Lockean and Fregean Approaches”

Phan, Chanh (Assistant Professor of Humanities, SJSU): “Building Blocks of Reality: A Comparative Dialogue between the *Yi-Jing* and Western Views”

FACULTY NEWS

Karin Brown

Has forthcoming: Introduction to *Understanding the Concept of Empathy and Its Foundation in Psychoanalysis*, Lewiston/Queenston/Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press.

Anthony Korsund

In 2013, Anthony enjoyed having the opportunity to engage SJSU students on many levels professionally. Anthony served as a session chair for the 2013 SJSU Center for Comparative Philosophy Symposium on Yi-Jing Philosophy. Furthermore, having been promoted to Academic Advisor for the CASA Student Success Center, while continuing to teach philosophy and student success courses, has allowed Anthony to apply his professional training in philosophy and counseling in ways he hopes enriches student involvement and social justice within the SJSU community. Anthony has been serving on both the African American Taskforce and Latino Student Success Taskforce committees, supporting campus efforts to close the retention gap between underserved student populations and other student populations. In addition to his efforts to apply phenomenological, existential and counseling insights to problems concerning student success and social justice on the SJSU campus, Anthony has continued with his philosophical research. His research interests have shifted focus this past year from Asian philosophy to issues concerning philosophy as therapy and the philosophy of technology. In continuing with his passion for Asian philosophy, however, Anthony has frequently visited local Buddhist monasteries and meditation centers, with the purpose of furthering his development in

Society for Intellectual
History at UC Irvine.

In the fall, he was named
University Scholar at San
Jose State and presented on
the history of philosophy in
Latin America. He published
papers in *Radical Philosophy
Review*, the *Journal for the
Philosophy of Life*, and the
*Inter-American Journal of
Philosophy*.

Spring 2014 promises to be
even more hectic. Dr.
Sanchez, along with
colleagues at College of
William & Mary in
Williamsburg, Virginia, have
organized a two-day seminar
on Mexican philosophy in
April, 2014. He will be
responding to critics of his
book, *The Suspension of
Seriousness*, at the APA
Pacific division meeting in
San Diego. A talk on his
book will take place at Notre
Dame de Namur University
in late February. Dr. Sanchez
is also serving as conference
chair for the 21st Annual
meeting of the Society for
Philosophy in the
Contemporary world, which
the SJSU philosophy
department will host this

I have been invited to the Swedenborgian Church in San Francisco in March, to give a talk on Edwin Markham and the influence of Swedenborg on his work.

I am also developing a course on Ethics and Gambling in hopes we can offer it to students at SJSU. Another gambling paper I am working on is "Applied Tillich: Gambling as a Major Concern." I hope to submit it to a conference for this year.

Bill Shaw

Bill Shaw is working on the ethics of war from a utilitarian perspective, and he has two essays in this area that are about to be published, "Utilitarianism and the Ethics of War" in Ben Eggleston and Dale Miller, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Utilitarianism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), and "Consequentialism, War, and National Defense," *Journal of International Political Theory*, vol. 10, no. 1 (February 2014).

Rick Tieszen

I presented an invited paper, "Leibniz, Husserl and Gödelian Monadology" at the conference *Kurt Gödel, Philosopher: From Logic to Cosmology* in France in July and again in the Berkeley Logic Colloquium in October. The conference in France was sponsored by the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche, which has funded a multi-year project to transcribe and publish for the first time Gödel's philosophical notebooks. I am one of the international team members on this project. The contents of the

notebooks are proving to be very interesting.

At the beginning of December I presented an invited paper, "Mathematics, Logic and Transcendental Philosophy," in Israel (Jerusalem and Tel Aviv) at the conference *Intuition and Reason: An International Conference on the Work of Charles Parsons*.

Several invited papers are forthcoming: "Mathematics, Logic and Transcendental Philosophy: Kant and Husserl" in *Kant's Philosophy of Mathematics*, O. Rechter and C. Posy (eds.); "Arithmetic and Mathematical Evidence" in a special issue of *Inquiry* on evidence in mathematics; "Leibniz, Husserl and Gödelian Monadology" in a volume of papers from the aforementioned conference in France; and "Husserl and Gödel" for a volume on Husserl and logic edited by S. Centrone. I also published a review of G.E. Rosado Haddock's *Against the Current: Selected Philosophical Papers* on the online *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.

I was invited to give a talk in Tokyo at the end of February on the philosophy of mathematics. During the Spring term I plan to return to work on a book manuscript on the philosophy of time.

John Wilhelmsson

This appears on John's Amazon.com author's page. "After having studied and taught both philosophy and theology he decided to form Chaos To Order Publishing. The goal of Chaos To Order

Publishing is to create beautiful high quality books published more for their cultural and spiritual value than for their ability to turn a profit. On 12/12/12 his award winning San Jose State University master's thesis became the first Chaos to Order Publishing book entitled "The Transposition of Edith Stein: Her Contributions to Philosophy, Feminism & The Theology of the Body." This was followed up on 3/19/13 by "A Pilgrimage to Iceland." As both a working philosopher and Catholic speaker John is known for his enthusiastic style and thoughtful and independent interpretations. Born and raised in San Jose, John currently resides just close enough to the university to walk there on the mornings he teaches." John recently published through his press "Tales of the Theotokos: Mary in the Personal4 514.096 o12e:ys(s).(a) 4 (i

phenomenology, not to mention corresponding ecological ideas as well. At some point in the future I would like to present a seminar at SJSU on these ideas.

Emeritus

Philip E. Davis

continues to write and publish.

His latest is “An Intimate History of My Adventures on Two Indian Reservations.”

North Charleston, So. Carolina:

CreateSpace Independent

Publishing Platform, 2013.

Davis received his Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Yale, and his

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