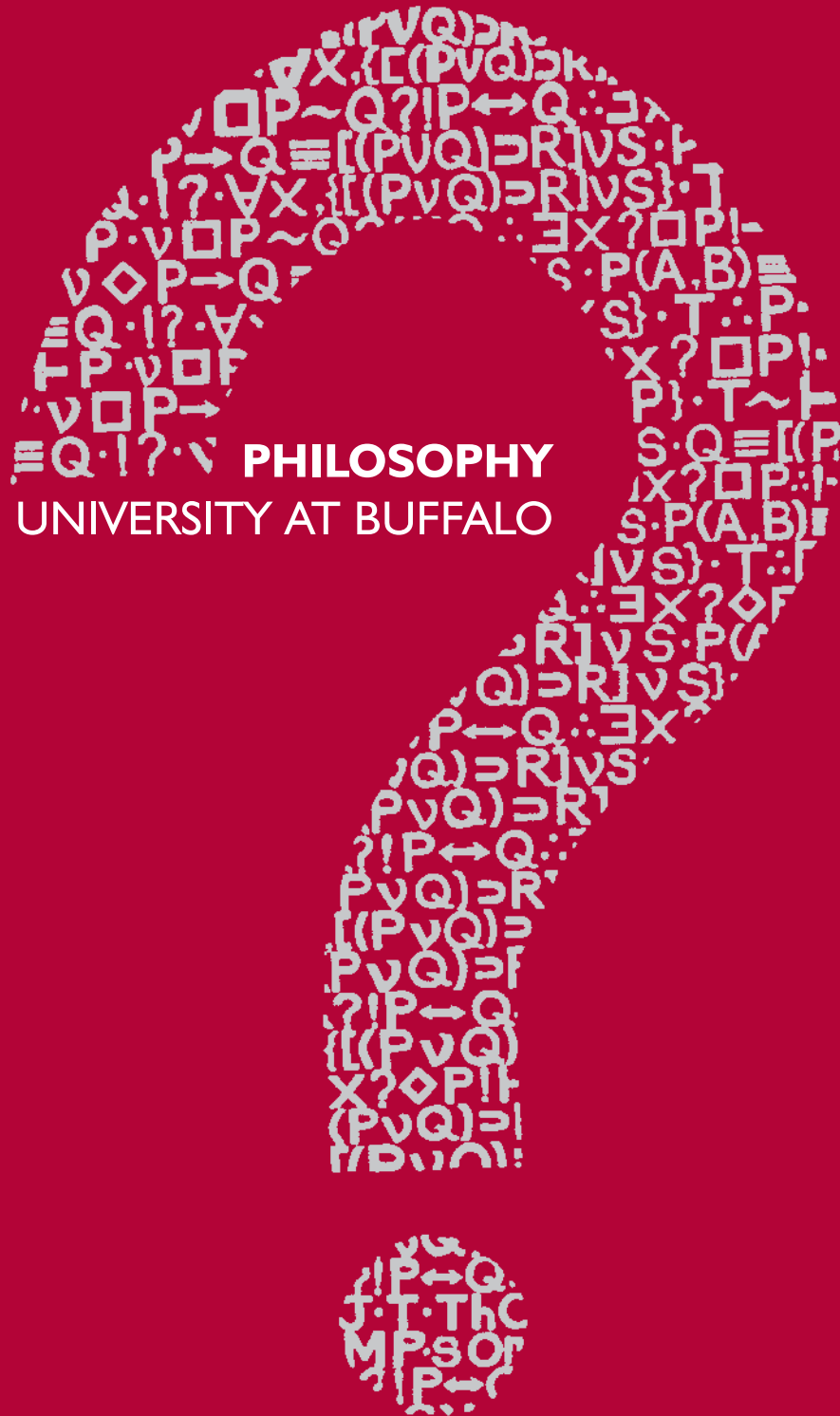


noûsletter





noûsletter

from the EDITOR

Several years have passed since the last issue of the Noûsletter in October 2003. Just as issue number 16 was due for creation, Eva Koepsell, the long-time Assistant to the Chair of the Philosophy Department, elected to retire from service. I took up Eva's former position in November 2004 and spent the next year learning the many tasks that are the responsibility of the person in this position. Aside from routine tasks, I have spent the last several months reorganizing the department website with the help of many department members and much further training. I especially wish to acknowledge the input of our former web manager, Elisa Ruhl, for showing me the ropes regarding what is for me a new skill.

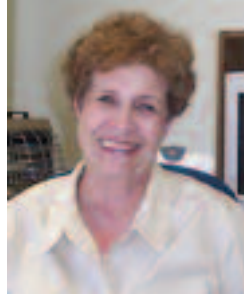
In the course of revamping the website, the thought occurred to me that perhaps the time had come to embrace 21st century technology and move the Noûsletter from a hard copy format to a web-based one. The Executive Committee agreed and at that point the two projects became conjoined. This then is the first online version of the Philosophy Department Noûsletter.

Since so much has happened in the department between October 2003 and now, I decided to create two issues in rapid succession. This first one, labeled January 2005, will cover the period from the October 2003 issue to the end of 2004. The next issue, to be published in the summer of 2006 will cover the period from the beginning of 2005 to the end of the Spring 2006 semester. Subsequent to that, each new issue will appear in the summer, chronicling the events of the past academic year and those in planning for the next one. I hope you find this new format useful.

All readers of the Noûsletter are encouraged to submit information for inclusion herein. Please send such submissions to me at pspenner@buffalo.edu.

Cordially, Paul Penner

ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIR CHANGE



In October of 2004 Eva Koepsell retired from the position of Assistant to the Chair in the Philosophy Department. Eva ably served in this post for fifteen years, managing our course scheduling, finances and conference hosting with flair and creativity. A party in her honor was held in September 2005 at the Roycroft Inn in East Aurora at which she received our both heartfelt thanks and a highly individualized parting gift: a photograph from our own Professor Peter Hare, flanked by poetry in Chinese and Korean contributed by Professors Jiyuan Yu and Kah Kyung Cho. We all wish her a happy retirement.



The post of Assistant to the Chair is now filled by Dr. Paul Penner who received his PhD from our Department in 1994. Paul brings to his administrative duties not only a useful set of practical and management skills from his years as an entrepreneur but also a knowledge of philosophy. He is author of *Altruism: An Inquiry into Motivation* (Rodopi 1996), and he has recently completed a new study on the rise of religious fundamentalism in the 20th and 21st centuries.

NEW FACULTY



Assistant Professor James Beebe joined the Philosophy Department faculty in Fall 2004. Dr. Beebe is a native of Austin, Texas. His wife is Wendy Beebe and they have one daughter, Madeline. James has never lived in a snowy place before. We'll see how he holds up in Buffalo.

Dr. Beebe received his doctorate in philosophy from Saint Louis University in 2001. James taught at Louisiana State University for three years before coming to UB. His past research has focused on the intersection between epistemology and the cognitive sciences, and on the nature of truth. His is currently turning his attention toward the nature of a priori knowledge and conceptual analysis.

VISITING FACULTY, RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS



Dr. Ingvar Johansson visited the Philosophy Department during the Fall 2004 semester. Ingvar is a researcher at the Institute for Formal Ontology and Medical Information Science (IFOMIS) at Saarland University in Germany. He taught a portion of that semester's version of Problems in Ontology which focused on realist issues in ontology.

Pierre Grenon, also a researcher at IFOMIS, spent the entire Fall 2004 semester in the department. Pierre taught an Integrative Graduate Education Research and Traineeship (IGERT) course which provided an introduction to spatiotemporal and geographical ontologies, balancing philosophy and information science.

FACULTY PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES



Kah Kyung Cho

On August 27, 2003, at the German Phenomenological Society International Conference on "Mensch, Leben, Technik", Cho presented a plenary session concluding paper entitled "Pflege des Lebens und Technik des Lebens".

On September 30, 2003, at the First Kyoto University International Symposium to Integrate Diverse Environmental Studies, Cho was a panelist with Professor Klaus Held of Wuppertal, Germany.

In May 2004, the Chinese University of Hong Kong sponsored the first PEACE (Phenomenology for East Asian Circle) Conference with China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan attending as member nations and Europe and America attending as associate members. The member nations came together as a group for the explicit purpose of stressing a two-way intercultural exchange in phenomenology between East and West. Cho played a major role in bringing phenomenologists from all East Asia together. He led the way to examine the broader implications of "Eurocentrism" in philosophy. The theme of this first of a series of biennial meetings was "Identity and Alterity". Cho presented the keynote address with the title of "The Imperative of Grounding Phenomenology in Tradition". He also drafted the PEACE Mission Statement which was adopted and which will be circulated to over seventy international phenomenological organizations.

In 2004, Cho served as member of the Nominating Committee for the Kyoto Prize in the category of philosophy. In August, the committee announced the selection of Juergen Habermas for this honor.

In October 2004, Cho was named Consulting Editor of SANSAI, the Journal of the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies at Kyoto University, Japan.



John Corcoran

The University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) has conferred on John Corcoran the degree Doctor Honoris Causa. To celebrate this occasion the Department of Logic and Moral Philosophy organized an international symposium in his honor. It was held on

October 9-10, 2003 at CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS AVANZADOS/CASA DE EUROPA Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and organized by the Área de Lógica y Filosofía de la Ciencia de la U.S.C. Department of Logic and Moral Philosophy Faculty of Philosophy.

Supported by:

- Sociedad de Lógica, Metodología y Filosofía de la Ciencia en España
- Sociedad Española de Filosofía Analítica

Sponsored by:

- Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología
- Xunta de Galicia
- Universidad de Santiago de Compostela

Organizing Committee:

- José M. Sagüillo (President)
- Concha Martínez (Secretary)
- José L. Falguera (Secretary)

Professor Stewart Shapiro, O'Donnell Professor of Philosophy at the Ohio State University, and Professor José Sagüillo, Catedrático (Distinguished Professor) of Logic at the University of Santiago de Compostela, are both former graduate students in philosophy at the University at Buffalo.



David Hershenov

Hershenov was the recipient of a 2004 Young Investigator Award. This is a university-wide award for researchers at the beginning of their careers who have already done exceptional work. The award was presented at a ceremony on May 26, 2004.



Carolyn Korsmeyer

In Fall 2003, Korsmeyer was appointed as the new Department Chair, replacing John Kearns, who resumes his teaching course load as a faculty member.

In Fall 2004, Korsmeyer was a visiting professor at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Barry Smith

The Volkswagen Foundation has awarded 913,200 euros (the equivalent of 1,125,000 U.S. dollars) to Smith for his project "Forms of Life: Philosophical Dimensions of Contemporary Biomedical Research." The project is in collaboration with Professor Heinz Sass of the Institute for Human Genetics, University of Leipzig and Professor Pirmin Stekeler-Weithofer, Institute for Philosophy, University of Leipzig.

Smith, recently-named SUNY Distinguished Professor at the University at Buffalo, is the director of the Institute for Formal Ontology and Medical Information Sciences (IFOMIS).



Project details: “Forms of Life: Philosophical Dimensions of Contemporary-Biomedical Research” is an interdisciplinary collaborative project involving philosophers, biologists and medical informaticians. Its goal is a unified, synoptic and philosophically grounded theory of the most important founda-tional concepts of biomedical

research. This theory will be developed and refined in close collaboration with scientists engaged in empirical research. It is designed to serve as the foundation for a new strategy for organizing and integrating information in the domain of biomedical informatics, and thus to show how philosophical research can enjoy a genuine practical relevance. It should thus also have consequences for philosophy itself, for example by providing new impulses for bioethics and medical ethics and by contributing to a new self-understanding of philosophy.

Emeritus Faculty



Richard Hull

In 2004, Hull published Volume 5 of the *Presidential Addresses of the American Philosophical Association 1941-1950*.

Hull also published an article in *Free Inquiry* entitled “Pascal’s Wager Not a Good Bet”.

Hull has an entry entitled “Reproductive Technology” in Alan Sobel’s *Encyclopedia of Sex* and several entries in John Shook’s *Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers*.

Hull has started a new book series, *Lived Values and Valued Lives*, which is devoted to biographies (auto and non-auto), fiction and other reflections by philosophers and philosophically-inclined individuals about the values in their lives and what it is to live by those values. The series is being published by Editions Rodopi as a special series in their Value Inquiry Book Series.

Adjunct Faculty



David Koepsell

Dr. David Koepsell, currently the Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism, has received a one year appointment to Yale University for Fall 2006-Spring 2007. The appointment is entitled the Yale University Donaghue Initiative Visiting Scholar in Research Ethics. The Donaghue Initiative is part of the Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics. David’s project is entitled “Individual and Collective Rights in Genomic Data.” He will be delving into the question of whether individuals have or can assert any ownership interest in their own genomic data. This is an issue in modern genomic sciences given that pharmaceutical companies are “bio-prospecting” and stand perhaps to profit significantly by discoveries of existing genes in remote populations. Twenty percent of the human genome is already owned by universities and companies.

FACULTY AND STAFF PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

Jim Lawler’s New Korean Family

On June 6, 2004, my son Michael married Eun-Ah Kim in a traditional Korean wedding in Jeonju, (South) Korea. The wedding ceremony took place at the Jeonju Traditional Culture Center. Sharon and I wore striking Korean “han-boks,” gifts to us from Korean family members.



The ceremony itself was long and elaborate, but enjoyable and full of humor. Dancers entered the outdoor grounds clanging cymbals and ringing instruments and swinging around with lots of zip. Then the dancers called to the back door through which they had entered to see if the groom was ready to come in, or whether he had absconded as they suspected. Michael had to shout quite loud before they were convinced he was really there. In the case of Eun-Ah, who entered concealed in a beautifully painted wooden litter, carried by four men, the dancers insisted that the box was empty and had it shaken vigorously until everyone could hear Eun-Ah's scream from within. All but Eun-Ah found this quite funny.

Michael, in a deep blue floor-length gown and tall hat with black "ears" on its sides, first enters from the back, going up the "aisle" carrying a screen in front of his face. He is proceeded by his brother, in a pale green hanbok, carrying a wooden goose. Michael takes the goose, a symbol of fidelity, and ceremoniously, with a deep bow to the floor, places it before a side room in the front, in which Eun-Ah's aunt, representing her deceased mother, sits in a brilliant pink hanbok. When Michael leaves, the aunt comes to the door and chooses to take in the goose, or not—thereby giving the family's permission for the marriage.

Such ceremony continues with many parts, all the while the Master of Ceremony, who is not a religious personage, comments on the on-going procedures. There is elaborate ceremonious exchanging of cups and drinking of wine by bride and groom, separated from each other by a table laden with foods of various kinds, under which sit a live rooster and hen, duly constrained by cloth bonds. One can only guess what the rooster and hen were meant to convey.

The bride and the groom exchange deep bows toward each other, two for the bride and one for the groom, representing the harmony of yin and yang. The bride all this while covers her face with her arms, held in front of her, elbows up and hands draped with a beautifully embroidered cloth hanging. Her arms are supported on each side by attendants who must keep them in place before her face as she bows down to the floor. The couple also exchange cups of wine, assisted by their attendants.

At intervals in the ceremony dancers and actors intervened with traditional performances, including a kind of Romeo and Juliet story told by the performers. There was a beautiful dance in which the dancers rhythmically throw out their long sleeves in a graceful flare to the beat of the music. Less rhythmically but entertaining, apparently, to the audience, the fathers of the bride and groom were obliged to perform their own dance. They were, by all reports, magnificent.

Finally, in a manner of speaking, the bride and groom come together in the front of the altar-table and bow to the audience—going slowly and graciously to the floor. The audience applauds, and the wedding is completed. There was no kissing.

I'm not sure what happened right after that, but the ceremony continued in a separate room behind the altar-table. The parents are seated on the floor before a table with food and drink, of which the ceremoniously partake. The bride and



groom bow to the parents—again slowly and down to the floor. Sharon and I then throw small fruits into the lap of the bride, symbolizing a wish for many children. We then give advice and good wishes to the new couple.

Such was a small, but unforgettable part of our wonderful two-week visit to Korea with Dr. Oak Bae Kim, an engineering professor in Jeonju, and our new large Korean family.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

MA Program



Paul May
BS University at Buffalo (2003)
Interests: Ontology, Metaphysics,
Philosophy of Science, Logic

Sadlocha, Joseph
BA SUNY College at Plattsburg
(2004)
Interests: Social
and Political
Philosophy

van den Broek, Hans
MD State University of Leiden,
The Netherlands (1960)
Interests: Medieval Philosophy

PhD Program

Hitoshi Arima
BA International Christian University, Tokyo (2002)
MA Case Western Reserve University (2004)
Interests: Bioethics



Leigh Duffy
BA SUNY College at Geneseo
(2000)
Interests: Logic, Comparative
Philosophy

Brian Imiola
BA Niagara University (1986)
MA University at Buffalo (1996)
Interests: Ethics

Kristo Miettinen BA,
BS Cornell University (1986)
MS University of Pennsylvania
(1989)
MBA Rochester Institute of Technology (1998)
Interests: Ontology, Metaphysics

Joseph Palencik
BA Kent State University (1998)
MA Kent State University (2004)
Interests: Aesthetics, Existentialism



Russell Pryba
BA Hamilton College (2004)
Interests: Continental Philosophy,
Philosophy of Language,
History of Philosophy

Paul Symington
BA Roberts Wesleyan College
(1999)
MA Northeastern Seminary (2001)
MA Boston College (2004)
Interests: Metaphysics, Ethics,
Phenomenology, Philosophy of
Religion



Camille Wicher
BA University at Buffalo (1977)
MSN University at Buffalo (1981)
JD University at Buffalo (1989)
Interests: Bioethics

GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

“State of the Discipline: Interdisciplinary Movements in Philosophy”

Keynote speaker: Ronald de Sousa, University of Toronto
March 6, 2004 [website](#)

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

“Aesthetic Theory: Origins, Trends and New Directions”

Keynote speaker: Ted Cohen, University of Chicago
April 1, 2004 [website](#)

GRADUATE STUDENT INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONFERENCE

April 24, 2004

STUDENT AWARDS AND HONORS



Jeffrey Dueck

In May 2004, Jeffrey Dueck was awarded a College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Dissertation Fellowship for the 2004-05 academic year. Jeff’s areas of interest include Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Religion, Ethics, American Philosophy.

In September 2004, Jeffrey was awarded the Romanell Prize for his work on his dissertation, “Ways of Life: Their Nature and Justification.” The Romanell Prize is awarded annually to a graduate student in philosophy in the dissertation year of study. In order to be eligible for this prize, the student’s studies must be in the area of American Philosophy.

His topic is described by Jeffrey as “a pragmatic and naturalist account of foundational values, using primarily Dewey and James. This is done in response to some of Alasdair MacIntyre’s concerns, including his revitalization of Virtue theory, and also deals with some Kierkegaardian existentialist concerns. The bulk of the work is an attempt to understand foundational values in pragmatic/naturalist terms. After doing all this, the last chapter looks at how current issues of pluralism about values (especially moral and religious values in light of exclusive beliefs and standards of evaluation) can be understood by my presentation, along with some suggestions for progress on these issues.” His committee was chaired by Distinguished Teaching Professor Peter Hare.



Elisa Ruhl

In December 2004, Elisa Ruhl was appointed a seat on the Committee on the Status and Future of the Profession of the American Philosophical Association. The three-year national-level appointment begins July 2005. The APA committee focuses on trends in philosophy education and the “conditions relevant to the employment of philosophers in academic and non-academic work.” Elisa is a third-year doctoral student interested in Ethics, Action Theory, Social Philosophy, and Aesthetics. She is the President of the Graduate Philosophy Association and is the department’s George F. Hourani Fellow.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

One of the most important services of the Noûsletter is to allow alumni of the Philosophy Department to keep in touch with each other's activities, both professional and personal. I continue to encourage all of you to submit such information to me at pspenner@buffalo.edu for inclusion in future issues. Here is what you sent in for the period of October 2003 to December 2004 in alphabetical order.

Peter Barker PhD 1975

Peter sent us a list of his publications in 2004:

Barker, P., "The Copernican Revolution: A cognitive historical approach" in *Science, Cognition and Consciousness*, Li Ping et al. (eds.) (Nanchung, China: JiangXi People's Press, 2004), pp. 75-95.

Barker, P., "Astronomy, Providence and the Lutheran Contribution to Science" in *Science and Vocation*, A. Menuge (ed.) (St. Louis: Concordia Press, 2004), pp. 157-87.

Barker, P., "How Rothman Changed His Mind" in *Astronomy and Astrology from the Babylonians to Kepler*, A. Bowen et al. (ed.) (Centaurus, 2004), 46: 41-57.

Barker, P., "Cosmology", "Kepler, Johannes" and "Stoicism" in *Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World* (New York: Scribners, 2004).

Xiang Chen, Hanne Andersen & Peter Barker, "Kuhn's Theory of Scientific Revolutions and Cognitive Psychology" in *Cognitive Studies of Science and Reasoning*, P. Li & X. Chen (eds.) (Nanchung, China: JiuangXi People's Press, 2004), pp. 263-93.

Richard Beatch PhD 1994

Richard provided an account of his professional and personal changes in the 2002 to 2004 period:

I remained a faculty member and director of the Philosophy

program at Weber State University until may 2000 at which point I was promoted to Associate Professor of Philosophy. I then resigned from my position and moved to the San Francisco Bay area to join a medium sized high-tech start-up as an ontologist. I stayed there until October 2002 at which point I was laid off when the dot.bomb hit.

I started at Allstate Insurance Company in Chicage in December 2002 and have been there ever since. While I was hired to do stuff related to ontology, my role has evolved into a broader scope as an architect responsible for content management, search, and taxonomy across the enterprise. This involves setting direction for the use of technology across the enterprise in these areas. I am also responsible for determining which software the enterprise should purchase.

In addition to my day job, I am active in research on business ethics. I am working with Northwestern University's graduate program in management on a course on the philosophy of business.

Shortly after moving to the San Francisco Bay area, Jennifer and I were divorced. I am remarried to Andrea and we are expecting a son in January 2005. We live in Evanston quite close to Northwestern University.

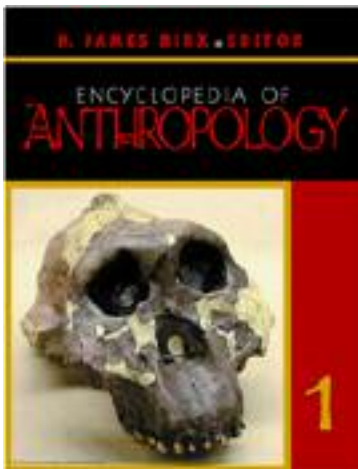
H. James Birx PhD 1971

Jim is professor of Anthropology at Canisius College in Buffalo. He is editor of SAGE Publications' *Encyclopedia of*

Anthropology: <http://www.anthropologyref.com>. To access this site, use the Username: Anthropology and the Password: SAGEPUB. Jim sends the instructions to click on the Samples bar at the left of the Homepage. One of his four entries is "Marvin Farber". Jim says he was a "wonderful professor".

Gwen Burda MA 1995

Gwen brings us up to date on some of her professional and



personal activities: I'm living in Philadelphia where I've been working at the Chemical Heritage Foundation for four and one half years. I'm currently the Web Editor and Content Authority for the Foundation's Website, <http://www.chemheritage.org>.

I have two wonderful cats and I helped my parents celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 2004. My last real vacation was spent in Utah at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, a place everyone should visit at least once.

Craig Clifford PhD 1981

Craig not only brings us up to date, he also shares some departmental history with us:

I am currently teaching philosophy and directing the honors programs at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. My website has lots of information: <http://www.tarleton.edu/~cclifford>. [Check out especially: <http://www.tarleton.edu/~cclifford/photos1.htm> — Paul] The honors website has even more: <http://www.tarleton.edu/honors>. Perhaps of interest along these lines is that one of the Visiting Scholars for the Presidential Honors Program here was Dick Hull. There are lots of information and photos of him on the honors website. For the record—and his version of this is different—I never completed a course with him in Buffalo but, due to his good nature and respect for different perspectives not to mention our shared Southern roots, we became friends and have been ever since. I did start one course, though. Dick, in keeping with his irrepressible optimism, offered a course on rationality which, he thought, would bring together the students in the

analytic and continental camps. (I don't know what it's like now, but back then camps we were.) The first day of class, Terry O'Connell of the analytic camp says, "I suppose that Hegel would say a rock is rational." I, of the continental camp and Texas temper, said, "That's the stupidest f—ing thing I've ever heard in my life." Dick put his head down on the seminar table and covered it with both hands. Angelo DeSantis, of the continental camp and Rhodes Island Italian disposition, then proceeded to give a ten minute dissertation on how and why Hegel *would* say a rock is rational. Most of us in the continental camp dropped the course a few days later but, in retrospect, I'd have to say we shouldn't have. I did have enough sense to stay friends with Dick.

James Delaney PhD 2004

Jim tells us that he is currently an assistant professor at Niagara University, a place usually awash with our alumni. He has a book forthcoming from Thommes Continuum Press entitled *Rousseau and the Ethics of Virtue*.

Ronald Epp PhD 1971

Ron is the Director of Shapiro Library at Southern New Hampshire University and sends us this summary of his professional career: As you can see, I've deviated from the traditional professorial path through pursuit of a second masters degree in library science, forsaking a tenured position, accepting a challenge of being the managing editor of a monthly publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries, returning to teaching, then entering academic library administration these last years.

SUNYAB Professors John P. Anton, Lynn Rose and Paul Kurtz were the triumvirate that guided my intellectual development both during the late 1960's and to the present day. In retrospect, it seems that they fostered in me the spirit of the philosophical detective, a fervent craving for empirical fact to substantiate a theoretical framework. Although I've published over my professional life and found the most satisfying schol-

arship to be collaborative, it is researching rather than the authoring that is the most satisfying. As I mature, knowing that the research can be handed off at any time to an archive for use by the next generation is of growing importance to me.

Presently I am writing a biography of George Bucknam Dorr (1853-1944), the father of Acadia National Park, a much neglected conservation activist of the early decades of the 20th century. A student and then colleague of William James and Josiah Royce, his legacy has been largely ignored by the National Park Service.

For the last five years, I have tracked down the extensive archival records of Mr. Dorr and his closest allies, Harvard President Charles Eliot and John D. Rockefeller Jr. Now I find that the accumulated documentation in my study has forced me to make a decision that most scholars choose to ignore: what to do with a lifetime of accumulated non-monographic scholarship, those offprints, reprints, manuscript copies, even class notes that we all accumulate. I've chosen to close the circle and send off a file cabinet of periodical literature on ancient philosophy to the University of South Florida where John P. Anton still holds court. He has assured me that it will be a boon to the philosophical detective work of the coming generation of philosophers. And so the torch is passed...

Robert Giuffrida PhD 1976

Bob writes in:

I am currently employed with an area business school doing grant development and general academic administration. The school's name is Mildred Elley and has been in existence in the Albany area since World War I. I have kept my fingers in philosophy somewhat. See my website at: <http://www.bobsphilosophycorner.org>. It contains an essay I wrote in philosophy of mind called "Mary, Mind and Magic". I am married to Barbara McTague who was an undergraduate philosophy major at UB while I did my graduate work there. She is currently employed with the NYS department of Health.

James Henderson PhD 2002

A recent graduate of the department, Jim catches us up on important events in his life:

I'm still at Pitt-Titusville. Most of my time is spent teaching, developing new classes and, recently, changing diapers. Still. I found time to present a paper at the APA in Chicago this spring. I'm currently working on two papers, one on the propensity interpretation of probability and the other on Albert's many-minds interpretation of quantum mechanics. They are both page turners, I assure you.

The big news is the birth of my daughter on 17 August. She is healthy and happy, which makes my wife and I happy, if a little tired and not so productive as we'd like.

Ranjoo Herr PhD 1992

I am very happy to share with you good news. I have started a new tenure-track position in the Philosophy Department at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts. The teaching load is 2-2 and, best of all, is very close to Boston.

Derek Heyman PhD 1995

Derek has continued his interest in Asian philosophy: I recently gave a paper examining karma and where it would fit into a worldview informed by Western science, although one that is open to metaphysical speculation. I gave the paper at the 2004 Vedanta Conference held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Philip Iobst PhD 1975

Phil, like many of us, has had a number of different careers: I taught philosophy at Penn State Erie for 13 years up to 1980. Then I reinvented myself as a corporate executive and worked for Hammermill Paper, International Paper, Erie Insurance and Hamot Hospital all in Erie, Pennsylvania, where my wife had a steady job and my children a place they thought of as home. Having established such a long business

resume, I rejoined Penn State Erie in 2000 in the Black School of Business as a full-time lecturer in management. I teach courses in Management, Consulting, Entrepreneurism and Business Ethics. So the path turned out to be a circle.

David R. Koepsell PhD 1977

Here's the latest from David:

I am Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism, and was recently recognized by Business First of Buffalo as one of their "40 under 40" community leaders. I have been lecturing all over the world in this role at CSH including teaching for two weeks at CFI's Summer Institute at Moscow State University where I taught Scientific Naturalism and Critical Thinking. I also teach the Graduate Research Ethics course at UB as an Adjunct Professor in the Philosophy Department.

Zosimo Lee PhD 1990

Zosimo was last in Buffalo in 2000 together with two other classmates. They gave a symposium on Philosophy in Asia sponsored by the department. Here are his further activities:

The latest news that I can share is that I was appointed Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of the Philippines in August 2004. Similar to the College of Arts and Sciences at UB, we have departments in Anthropology, Geography, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Philosophy as well as a Population Institute. We have one hundred seventy faculty members and about three thousand five hundred students. I have been enjoying my work as Dean. Aside from the maintenance functions, I am trying to venture into some new ground, encouraging interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work and collaboration among the faculty. Bioethics is getting a good boost with a newly approved Diploma program in collaboration with the College of Medicine. This might eventually become a Masters of Arts program since there seems to be a demand for training in this field coming from members of the

Ethics Review Board. The College is fairly active within the Philippines as well as in the Asian region. A lot of our faculty members get invited to conferences to read papers and we have a good number of visiting professors and scholars as well.

Aaron Lercher PhD 1999

As of the 2004-5 academic year, Aaron was teaching at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC. He has had a paper, "What is the Goal of Proof?", published in *Logique et Analyse*, and another, "Is Anyone to Blame for Pollution?", in *Environmental Ethics*.

Eric G. Little PhD 2002

In 2004, Eric received a special appointment at D'Youville College. Here is the announcement from the college's newsletter:

Eric G. Little, Ph.D., has been named as director of a newly formed center to study cognition, ontology and learning, according to college officials.

He will act as liaison between the college's doctoral programs and potential research funding sources such as private foundations and various government entities. A reciprocal relationship with the college's Grant Development Research Committee is being formed and will share technical resources and co-investigators.

Plans include linking D'Youville with Baldwin Wallace in Berea, Ohio, the University of Wisconsin in Greenbay, and the University at Buffalo. This alliance will focus on an interdisciplinary, research-based approach to learning functions and education practices," Little said.

Elizabeth Millan-Zaibert PhD 1998

Elizabeth writes:

I am still at DePaul University. Recently I co-edited an anthology on Latin American philosophy with Jorge Gracia

and a collection with Arleen Sales entitled *The Role of History in Latin American Philosophy*. I have also been working on early German Romanticism including an article entitled “Early German Romanticism and Postmodernism: Misunderstood Variations on a Critique of Modernity” in an Italian collection, *Prospettive sul Postmoderno* edited by N. Limnatis and L. Pastore (Milano: Mimesis, 2005), and an article in *Philosophy Today* called “The Revival of Early German Romanticism in the Anglophone World”.

My husband, Leo Zaibert, and I were in Leipzig in 2004-5. We were each awarded Humboldt Research Fellowships. I finished my book on Schlegel and did some research for a book on Alexander von Humboldt’s romantic conception of nature.

John Mulhern PhD 1970

Mary Mulhern has supplied us with an update for both her and her husband John:

John is currently Director of Professional Education at the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, he is Adjunct Associate Professor of Government and Adjunct Associate Professor of Classical Studies. He teaches two very interesting Honors Courses in Classical Studies: Ancient and Modern Constitution Making, and Classics and the American Government. He recently published “Parrhesia in Aristotle” in *Free Speech in Classical Antiquity*, Ineke Sluiter and Ralph M. Rosen (eds.) (Brill, 2004). In Fall 2004, he read “Ethos and Mos in St. Paul, the Apostolic fathers, and Beyond” at the 29th International Conference on Patristic, Mediaeval, and Renaissance Studies at Villanova University, “The Ariste Politeia and Aristotle’s Intended Audience” at the International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy at Fordham University, and an advanced version of the same paper at the Society for Greek Political Thought at the Northeastern Political Science Association.

Mary Mulhern PhD 1970

Mary has retired from the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at Drexel University to become Senior Fellow at Brookside Institute. In Fall 2004, she read “Graphical Representation of Aristotle’s Syllogistic in the Commentatorial Tradition” at the PMR Conference at Villanova and in January read “Aristotle’s Formal Language” before the Society of Ancient Greek Philosophy at the American Philological Association in Boston. She was delighted to chair the session at Fordham in which John Corcoran presented an early version of his Aristotle, Boole and Tarski opus and is happily again part of JC’s lively email logic forum.

Dennis Patterson PhD 1980

Dennis is a Distinguished Professor of Law and Philosophy at Rutgers University School of Law as well as the director of the new Institute for Law and Philosophy at that school. He sends in these two web addresses for information on his activities and on the Institute: <http://camlaw.rutgers.edu/testing/dennispatterson.html> and <http://www.lawandphil.rutgers.edu/>

Constance Perry PhD 1994

Connie has lots to report: 2003 and 2004 were very eventful for me. I was granted tenure effective July 2004! But my greatest pride is the birth of my son Duncan Ethan Perry on October 24, 2003. Kevin and I find him to be an endless source of joy and entertainment.

I haven’t been doing much writing lately. I wonder why?! But I did write a review in June of Finn Bowring’s text *Science, Seeds and Cyborgs: Biotechnology and the Appropriation of Life*. You can read the review at <http://mentalhelp.net/books/books.php?type=de&id=2220>.



Jaime Ramos PhD 2002

Jaime is currently the Chair of the Philosophy Department of the National University of Columbia in Bogota.

Eric Reitan PhD 1993

Eric was awarded the Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence at Oklahoma State University in Fall 2004. At the time of his writing, he was going up for tenure and was confident of the outcome. His son, Evan, is energetically rearranging the house and his parents lives many times a day.

John Shook PhD 1994

John is editor of the Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers, a four volume set, published in 2004 by Thoemmes Press.

Walter Simpson PhD 1975

Walter is still on campus after all these years. He writes: I continue as UB's Energy Officer and director of the UB Green Office which serves as UB's advocate for campus environmental stewardship (<http://wings.buffalo.edu/ubgreen/>). I have been Energy Officer, a continually evolving position, since 1982. Over the years, my primary responsibility has been catalyzing the university's energy conservation program which is nationally recognized. Recent projects include working with a team of UB and state agency staff to develop the UB High Performance Building Guidelines, a 150 page design manual which will help UN incorporate green design principles into new construction and major renovations. (See: <http://wings.buffalo.edu/ubgreen/leos/ubhpguidelines.pdf>)

This document has gone statewide and will influence building design by other state agencies and SUNY campuses.

I have also been instrumental in UB's wind energy purchases and in current plans for a 100 KW photovoltaic array on the roof of Norton Hall. I do a monthly commentary on UB's NPR station, WBFO, called "Reality Check", discussing various social, political and environmental issuesw from a liberal point of view. In Spring 2005, I will be working with a group of UB undergraduate students on a project to calculate and analyze UB's greenhouse gas emmissions and to develop a plan to reduce the university's climate change impact.

Steven Storch PhD 1997

Steve is another multiple career person:

I taught for several years after receiving my PhD, most recently at North Carolina Central University. Then I decided to go back to school and get a J.D. I have opened a solo practice here in Durham, North Carolina. I have been happily married for 15 years and have four children.

Sarah Worth PhD 1997

The Carolinas seem to be attractive to our graduates:

Sarah received tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy of Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. In August 2004, she married William Price who teaches in the Military Science Department at Furman.

Roger Worthington PhD 2001

When he last wrote, Roger was in the process of changing jobs: He had just accepted a lectureship in the School of Medicine at Keele University (England) teaching medical law and ethics. This is a permanent (part-time) post that started in January 2005 around which I can arrange consultancy work for some medical organizations, or as Roger says: organisations.

EVENTS

FALL 2003 CONFERENCE

On Tuesday, October 28, 2003, The Department of Comparative Literature, The Samuel P. Capen Chair in Philosophy, And Melodia E. Jones Chair in French presented: “Are There Ethical Universals in the East and the West? From the Viewpoint of Phenomenology” by Professor Tadashi Ogawa (Kyoto University, Japan)

On Thursday, October 30, 2003, Professor Ogawa and Professor Kah Kyung Cho presented a panel Discussion on East/West Perspectives: “‘Method’ versus ‘Way’ as a Philosophical Issue”

SAMUEL P. CAPEN CONFERENCE**“Philosophy and the Interpretation of Pop Culture”**

April 2-3, 2004 [website](#)

SPRING 2004 LECTURE SERIES**“Jesus and Jefferson: Violence in the Context of Religion and Politics”**

Speaker: **Emeritus Professor Newton Garver**

SPRING 2004 DEPARTMENTAL COLLOQUIA

Date	Event
Thurs 2/12	Alvin Plantinga (Notre Dame) “An Evolutionary Argument Against Naturalism”
Thurs 3/4	Jim Delaney (University at Buffalo) “Abortion, Decency and Justice”
Thurs 3/11	David Koepsell (Center for Inquiry; University at Buffalo)

“The Phenomenology of Valuing: Menger and Exact Laws”

Fri 3/26 **Peter Simpson** (CUNY)
“Aristotle’s *Amerikanon Politeia*”

Wed 3/31 **Rudolph Luethe**
(University of Koblenz)
“Radical Utilitarianism and the Protection of Human Life: Critical Remarks on Peter Singer’s Ethics”

Fri 4/16 **Lynn Rudder Baker**
(University of Massachusetts/Amherst)
“A New Look at Mental Causation”

Wed 4/21 **Barry Smith**
(University at Buffalo)
“The Gene Ontology”

SPRING 2004 BUFFALO LOGIC COLLOQUIA

First Meeting: **Thursday, February 19, 2004**

SPEAKER: John T. Kearns (Philosophy, University at Buffalo)
TITLE: An Improved Introduction to the Logic of Speech Acts

Second Meeting: **Thursday, April 1, 2004**

SPEAKER: George Boger (Philosophy, Canisius College)
TITLE: Reviewing informal logic’s complaint about formal logic

SUMMER 2004 BUFFALO LOGIC COLLOQUIA

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: A common mode of estimating the amount of matter in a ... printed book is to count the number of words. There will ordinarily be about twenty ‘thes’ on a page, and, of course, they count as twenty words. In

another sense of the word 'word,' however, there is but one word 'the' in the English language; and it is impossible that this word should lie visibly on a page, or be heard in any voice Such a ... Form, I propose to term a Type. A Single ... Object ... such as this or that word on a single line of a single page of a single copy of a book, I will venture to call a Token. In order that a Type may be used, it has to be embodied in a Token which shall be a sign of the Type, and thereby of the object the Type signifies. – Peirce 1906, Ogden-Richards, 1923, 280-1.

First Meeting: **Wednesday, June 30, 2004**

SPEAKER: **Leonard Jacuzzo** (Philosophy, University at Buffalo)

TITLE: **Asymmetry of Methods and the Purpose of Studying Logic**

Second Meeting: **Wednesday, July 7, 2004**

SPEAKER: **John Corcoran** (Philosophy, University at Buffalo)

TITLE: **Meanings of Statement, Proposition, and Sentence (tentative)**

Third Meeting: **Wednesday, July 14, 2004**

SPEAKER: **John Corcoran** (Philosophy, University at Buffalo)

TITLE: **Schemata**

Fourth Meeting: **Wednesday, July 21, 2004**

SPEAKER: **David Hitchcock** (Philosophy, McMaster University)

TITLE: **Stoic Propositional Logic: A New Reconstruction**

Fifth Meeting: **Wednesday, July 28, 2004**

SPEAKER: **John Corcoran** (Philosophy, University at Buffalo)

TITLE: **Meanings of Argument (tentative)**

FALL 2004 BUFFALO LOGIC COLLOQUIA

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: GOALS AND RESULTS OF FORMALIZATION: The principles [to be applied in the construction of logic and mathematics] serve the purpose of securing for the knowledge acquired in logic and mathematics the highest possible degree of clarity and certainty.-Alfred Tarski, Introduction to Logic, (1941/1946, 117). In practice, however...a gain in exactitude and methodological correctness is accompanied by a loss in clarity and intelligibility.-Alfred Tarski, Introduction to Logic, (1941/1946, 174). Sometimes the treatment is more painful than the disease and sometimes the treatment actually makes the disease worse.-Frango Nabrasa 1956

First Meeting: **Wednesday, September 22, 2004**

SPEAKER: **John Corcoran** (Philosophy, University at Buffalo)

TITLE: **The Architectonic Beauty of Aristotle's Logic**

Second Meeting: **Tuesday, October 5, 2004**

SPEAKER: **Volker Peckhaus** (Philosophy, University of Paderborn)

TITLE: **Algebra of Logic, Quantification Theory, and the Square of Opposition**

Third Meeting: **Thursday, October 14, 2004**

SPEAKER: **Barry Smith** (Distinguished Professor, Philosophy, University at Buffalo; Research Scientist, National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis)

TITLE: **The Logic of Biological Classification**

ABSTRACT: Biomedical research increasingly involves the computerized navigation through large bodies of information deriving from research in areas such as functional genomics or from the biochemistry of disease pathways. To make such navigation more effective controlled vocabularies have been developed, which are designed to allow data from different sources to be unified. One of the most influential developments in this regard is the so-called Gene Ontology, or GO, created in the

FALL 2004 DEPARTMENTAL COLLOQUIA

Date	Event
Thurs 9/9	Ingvar Johansson (University of Leipzig) "Truthmaking: A Cognition-Independent Internal Relation with Heterogeneous Relata"
Thurs 9/23	Newton Garver (University at Buffalo) "Good and Evil in The Green Knight"
Thurs 10/7	Susan Vineberg (Wayne State University) "Beauty's Cautionary Tale"
Thurs 10/28	James Beebe (University at Buffalo) "Reliabilism, Truetemp and New Perceptual Faculties"
Thurs 11/4	C. D. C. Reeve (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) "Aristotle on the Virtues of Thought"
Thurs 11/11	Joel Kupperman (University of Connecticut) "Philosophical and Empirical Investigations of Value"

late 1990s by an international consortium of biologists. GO consists of a list of some 20,000 standardized terms describing cellular constituents, biological processes and molecular functions, organized into hierarchies via relations of class subsumption and parthood. Here we seek to provide a rigorous account of the logic of classification that underlies GO and similar biomedical ontologies. Drawing on Aristotle and on Jan Berg's formalization of Aristotle's theory of definitions, we develop a system of axioms and definitions for the treatment of biological classes and instances. The presentation will be accessible to a broad and diverse audience of philosophers, biologists, computer scientists, linguists and logicians.

Fourth Meeting: **Friday, October 15, 2004**

SPEAKER: **Stewart Shapiro** (O'Donnell Professor, Philosophy, Ohio State University, Columbus; Fellow in Logic, University of St. Andrew, Scotland)
TITLE: **Vagueness in Context**

Fifth Meeting: **Saturday, October 16, 2004**

SPEAKER: **Stewart Shapiro** (O'Donnell Professor, Philosophy, Ohio State University, Columbus; Fellow in Logic, University of St. Andrew, Scotland)
TITLE: **Corcoran as Mathematician**

Sixth Meeting: **Thursday, December 2, 2004**

SPEAKER: **George Boger** (Philosophy, Canisius College)
TITLE: **Aristotle's *Prior Analytics* A7 and A23**

2004 HOURANI LECTURESHIP SERIES

K. Anthony Appiah, Princeton University, Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy and the University Center for Human Values presenting the lecture series: "**The Ethics of Identity**".

Dr. Appiah will also be in residence in the department during the weeks of September 27th, 2004 and October 18th, 2004.

poster & lecture schedule • biography • book

CONFERENCE

The Metaphysics of Medicine:

Speakers include **Alfonso Gomez-Lobo, Christopher Boorse, Randolph Nesse, Olivier Bodenreider, John Martin Fischer, Jeff McMahan**

November 13-14, 2004

METRIC MANIA

As we all know, one of Eva Koepsell's many talents is as a poet. My taking over the position of Assistant for the Chair from Eva requires me to fill her shoes, figuratively speaking. For example, one of the wags from the tech support group has taken to calling me Eva 2.0. Now, I have absolutely no talent writing poetry straight up, but I do turn out a song or two occasionally, which lyrics are akin to poetry. I present here a modest example.

One of the most contentious issues to yet come before the American people, more so than abortion, gay marriage, or tax cuts and increases, is the need someday for us to convert to the metric system of measurement. This will only happen apparently when we are the last country on Earth (including the English) to give up on the English system of measurement, or whatever this god-awful mess is that we work with now. Imagine if you will, a family deep in the Appalachians in the year 2105 having at last to deal with the conversion to metric measure:

Well, I turned on the radio to find out if it'd rain,
If we went on a picnic down by Tucker's Spring.
The man said it was sunny, the temp was twenty-two.
I said, "What?" He said, "Celsius". I din't know what to do!

Well, we're gonin' metric Mama, we're ready to convert.
You'd better learn the grams per pound,
Or you're gonna lose yur shirt.

Now to go from pounds to kilos, you simply divide,
By 2.20 417 396 85.
I tend to get in trouble when I try to watch my speed,
'Cause I always get kilometers mixed up with centipedes!
(Let's see now, 100 feet = one centipede, right?)

Well, we're goin' metric Mama, we're ready to convert.
You'd better learn the grams per pound,
Or you're gonna lose yur shirt.

I know all about kilos, that's how I buy my dope,
And I also know one mitre is the hat size of the Pope.
But I went to buy a two quart jug of milk for Betty Sue,
The man said, "I've got a one litre size, you s'pose that'll do?"
(I says, "Well. I guess..." But it seemed to me it was a case of
a lost litre.)

Well, we're gonin' metric Mama, we're ready to convert.
You'd better learn the grams per pound,
Or you're gonna lose yur shirt.

Ya know, it just goes to show ya. Ya give those gover'mint
fellers a centimeter and they'll take a kilometer!

Note: For those of you inclined to sing this to someone, it's a
talkin' blues.