

# The Philosopher's Forum

Newsletter of the Philosophy Department, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

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## I. Note from the Department Chair, Dr. George Schedler

Greetings from Carbondale!

Since the last newsletter, the Department's graduate students and faculty have continued to receive recognition as the scholars we all know they are. This semester, one of our very professionally active retired faculty, Dave Clarke, delivered a lecture on "Discourse Relativity and Pragmatism" as part of our Departmental Colloquium series.

Of course, our regular faculty continue to produce very significant scholarly work. One example is Indiana University Press's recent publication of Tony Steinbock's book, *Phenomenology and Mysticism*. And the faculty continue to receive recognition and awards from the scholarly community. In May, for example, Larry Hickman was named the Phi Kappa Phi scholar for 2007.

Our graduate students are very professionally active as well. They hosted the tenth annual Building Bridges conference this semester. In conjunction with that conference, Hans Joas of the University of Erfurt, Germany delivered the Wayne Leys Memorial Lecture. We owe a debt of gratitude to Tony Giambusso and all the graduate students behind the scenes who have helped him.

In December of this year, Frances Stanley will retire from her position as technical editor of the Library of Living Philosophers. We wish her well in whatever pursuits she may take up. And, of course, we send our best wishes to all our alums and friends.

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## II. GPSU Fundraising Update

### Philosophy Department Fund-Raising Successes

As many of you might already know, the GPSU (Graduate Philosophy Student's Union) has been working on establishing a permanent endowment in order to provide moneys for student-driven projects and opportunities for professional activities for philosophy students. Endowments with the SIU Foundation start at \$25,000. Once we reach this fund-raising goal, we can establish an endowment that pays out a respectable annual return. I am happy to report that we are within sight of establishing this endowment. We only lack a few thousand dollars! This is a great success for us. Honestly, we thought that the endowment was years away, but it appears that we are only a few months away from establishing our endowment.

I would like to thank all of our alumni and others who have generously donated to our project. Without your help we could not have dreamed of this success. I would also like to thank the previous outside funding coordinator and treasurer of the GPSU, Eric Weber. Eric's initiative and creativity in finding opportunities for fund-raising and his tireless activities toward the goal of a permanent endowment have created big shoes for me to fill.

If you have any questions or have any suggestions, I would be pleased to correspond or talk with you. I can be reached by e-mail at [belldar@siu.edu](mailto:belldar@siu.edu) or by phone at 618-453-7454.

Justin Bell  
Treasurer and Outside Funding Coordinator, GPSU

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## III. Individual Scholarly Activities

### Faculty

#### Thomas Alexander

I have two forthcoming articles: "The Music of Nature, the Way of Water, and the Light of a Thousand Suns: Pragmatism and Asian Aesthetics" in *The Journal of Aesthetic Education* and "Hartley Burr Alexander: Humanistic Personalism and Pluralism" in *The Pluralist*. I delivered a talk in October for the Xavier University Colloquium Series, "Healing Logos: Plato's Phaedo as Catharsis."

#### Doug Anderson

I had two sessions on *Philosophy Americana* in the last year: American Studies Association in Oakland and Western Canadian Philosophical Association in Saskatoon, SK. I published the following essays and articles: "Reading Water: Intuition, Insight, and Risk" in *Philosophy, Risk,*

*and Adventure Sports*; "Emerson's Schellingean Natures" in *Cognitio*; another version of this paper is in a collection on Emerson from SUNY Press; two essays on Peirce are coming out in collections from Oxford and Blackwell; and my paper, "Peircean faith" appeared in a book on philosophy of religion in Germany. I gave three talks this fall and have another book manuscript, *Conversations on Peirce*, accepted to be published in a year or less. Also, the book I edited on the work of John McDermott, *The Drama of Possibility: Experience as Philosophy of Culture*, came out from Fordham Press this summer.

### **Randall Auxier**

#### *LIBRARY OF LIVING PHILOSOPHERS*

Our volume on *The Philosophy of Michael Dummett* appeared at the end of July. We are very pleased with it, and the response so far has been quite positive. Richard Rorty died in May, but he spent almost his last energy writing replies to the essays for his LLP volume. As a result, of 29 essays slated for the Rorty volume, we got excellent replies to 26. It will be a strong volume, and we are nearing completion on it. We are well along on the Danto volume and look forward to resuming our efforts on it as soon as the Rorty volume is off our desks.

Ms. Frances Stanley, Technical Editor for the Library of Living Philosophers, will take a well-earned retirement in December. She cannot be replaced, but we will be trying between now and then to find someone who can fill a big pair of shoes.

#### *THE PLURALIST*

Due to the support of SIUC and Oklahoma State, *The Pluralist* has completed its second volume, and the first number of volume 3 is currently in press. Subscriptions continue to grow and the journal is being noticed and praised.

#### PUBLICATIONS

Thanks to a sabbatical this past spring, I wrote a book entitled *Time, Will and Purpose: Living Ideas from the Philosophy of Josiah Royce*. This is a total reading of the development of Royce's philosophy in light of those ideas which are most viable and important to contemporary thought and practical life. It has been accepted for publication, and the final manuscript went to the press in early September. LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 2008, forthcoming; approx. 400pp.

"A Plurality of Persons in Relation: Bengtsson on Pluralism," part of a five-essay discussion and replies section for *The Pluralist* 3, no. 3 (Summer 2008): forthcoming.

"It's All Dark: The Eclipse of the Damaged Brain," in *Pink Floyd and Philosophy*, ed. George Reisch. LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 2007: 199-225.

"Vinnie's Very Bad Day: Twisting the Tale of Time in *Pulp Fiction*," in *Quentin Tarantino and Philosophy*, ed. Richard Grene. LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 2007: 123-140.

"The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful: A Phenomenology of Feline Aesthetics," in *What Your Cat Can Teach You about Philosophy*, ed. Steven Hales. LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 2007: forthcoming.

“The Varieties of Canine Experience,” in *What Your Dog Can Teach You about Philosophy*, ed. Steven Hales. LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 2007: forthcoming.

#### PRESENTATION

“A Plurality of Persons in Relation: Bengtsson on Pluralism,” read at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Persons, held at the University of North Carolina, Asheville, July 31-August 5, 2007.

#### **Douglas Berger**

##### PUBLICATIONS

"Intellect" in *Hinduism: Key Concepts and Methods*, Sushil Mittal and Gene Thursby, eds. London/ New York: Routledge, 2007: 194-206.

“Does Monism Do Ethical Work?” *Jahrbuch der Schopenhauer-Gesellschaft*, Matthias Kössler and Dieter Biernbacher, eds. Würzburg: Verlag Königshausen, 2007.

##### PRESENTATIONS

"The Social Meaning of the Middle Way: B.S. Yadav and the Madhyamika Critique of Indian Ontologies of Identity and Difference." American Academy of Religion National Conference, San Diego, CA.

"Selfhood and Personhood: An Intra-Hindu Scholastic Dialogue." Emory University-Oxford Campus, Pierce Program for the Humanities, Oxford, GA.

#### **Robert Hahn**

##### PUBLICATION

"Heidegger, Anaximander, and the Greek Temple" *Theorie der Architektur*, Supplementary volume, "Wolkenkuckucksheim – Cloud-Cuckoo-Land – Vozdushnyi zamok" Internet Journal publication: [www.cloud-cuckoo.net](http://www.cloud-cuckoo.net)

##### ANCIENT LEGACIES PROGRAM

Our 2008 season is now set for 2 new programs to Greece in May and June, and 4 new programs to Egypt (Jan, Mar, May, and June).

#### **Larry A. Hickman**

##### HONORS AND AWARDS

Honorary Doctorate (Dr. phil. h. c.), University of Cologne, October 2007.

The 2007-2010 Phi Kappa Phi National Scholar Award, August 2007.

##### PUBLICATIONS

*The Influence of Darwin on Philosophy and Other Essays in Contemporary Thought by John Dewey: A Critical Edition*. Editor. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2007.

“Pragmatic Paths to Environmental Sustainability.” *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* 20 (2007): 365-373.

“Some Strange Things They Say about Pragmatism: Robert Brandom on the Pragmatists’ Semantic ‘Mistake.’” *Cognitio* 8, no.1 (2007): 105-113.

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“John Dewey’s Social Vision.” University of Cologne, October 25, 2007.

“What’s Wrong with ‘No Child Left Behind’ and How to Fix It: Lessons from John Dewey.” Western Illinois University, October 18, 2007.

“Educating for Reform and the Reform of Education: Lessons from John Dewey.” Triennial meeting of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Orlando, Florida, August 10, 2007.

“Mid-20th Century Naturalism.” A six hour master seminar at the tenth Summer Institute in American Philosophy, Boulder, Colorado, July 13 and 14, 2007.

“The Skeptical, the Religious, the Politically Active, and the Queasy: Reading Paul B. Thompson’s *Food Biotechnology in Ethical Perspective*.” Society for Philosophy and Technology, Charleston, South Carolina, July 10, 2007.

“Postphenomenology and Pragmatism: Closer Than You Might Think?” Society for Philosophy and Technology, Charleston, South Carolina, July 9, 2007.

“Social Efficiency and Education: A Meditation on John Dewey’s *Democracy and Education*.” Soka Education Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan, June 13, 2007.

“The Scientific Basis of Dewey’s New Individualism.” International Conference on John Dewey, Reconstructing Democracy, Cosenza, Rossano, and Matera Italy, May 23, 2007.

Grants Received (On Behalf of the Center for Dewey Studies):

The Makiguchi Foundation for Education (Secured for the Center for Dewey Studies), \$10,000

#### SELECTED CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Immediate Past President, John Dewey Society

Federal Policy Committee, Association for Documentary Editing

Editorial Board, American Philosophical Quarterly

Advisory Board, BRC Education Fellows Program of the Boston Research Center for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Chair)

Board of Directors, International Pragmatism Society

Board of Directors, Dewey-Center Köln, University of Köln, Germany

Advisory Board, Center for Studies of Dewey and American Philosophy at Fudan University, Shanghai, China

**Anthony J. Steinbock**

PUBLICATION

*Phenomenology and Mysticism: The Verticality of Religious Experience*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007.

[http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=41797](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=41797)

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**Graduate Students**

**Bruce Buchanan**

PUBLICATION

"Nietzsche, Dewey and the Promethean Self." *Kinesis* 33, no. 2 (Fall 2007).

PRESENTATION

I delivered a paper at the Sustainable Transformations (philosophy of technology) conference on the fifth of October. The paper is an analysis of Don Ihde's concept of technology transfer.

**Ben Galatzer-Levy**

PUBLICATIONS

"Reparation and Reparations: Towards a Social Psychoanalysis." *Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society* 12, no. 3.

"Moral Thought at the Limits of Enlightenment: Kant and Sade." *International Studies in Philosophy* 39, no. 1.

PRESENTATIONS

"Aura and Diaspora: Walter Benjamin at Beit Ha-Tefusot." Annual Meeting of the European Studies Conference, Omaha, NE, October 5, 2007.

"Speech in Anticipation of the Other: A Defense of Politically Correct Speech from the Standpoint of G.H. Mead's Self Psychology and Ontology of Personhood." Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Columbia, SC, March 9, 2007.

**Charlie Hobbs**

PUBLICATION

"Pragmatism, Radical Empiricism, and Mounce's Account of William James." *William James Studies* 2, no. 1 (2007): <http://williamjamesstudies.press.uiuc.edu/2.1/hobbs.html>.

PRESENTATION

"Naturalism, Death, and Functional Immortality." 44th Annual Meeting of the Western Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Saskatchewan, October 28, 2007.

AWARD

Dissertation Research Award (from SIUC Graduate School) for Fall 2007, Spring 2008.

**Charles Klayman**

## PRESENTATION

I presented a paper titled "Emerson's Early Aesthetics" at the New Jersey Regional Philosophical Association at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ on November 3, 2007.

**Tibor Solymosi**

This past summer I traveled to the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom to participate in a panel on evolutionary biology and pragmatism at the biannual meeting of the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Science of Biology. There I presented a paper titled "From *The Principles of Psychology* to Dynamic Systems: The Influence of Darwin on James, Dewey, and Cognitive Neurobiology." This November, I delivered commentary at the Illinois Philosophical Association's meeting. Also this fall I will join the staff of the journal *Contemporary Pragmatism* as assistant editor.

**Mark Dietrich Tschaepe**

I defended my dissertation prospectus on Nov. 28th, which is an argument for pragmatic considerations in regards to mechanistic explanations, especially in regards to neuro-endocrinological explanations of psycho-social behavior. In addition, I am currently co-authoring a paper concerning the epidemiology of yellow fever and mechanism models with Dr. Mariola Espinosa of the SIUC history department. This summer I assisted Espinosa in the proof-reading and editing of her manuscript, *Epidemic Invasions: Yellow Fever and the Limits of Cuban Independence*, which is now in press with University of Chicago. This September, I presented an invited paper, "The Effects of Neuromodulation: An instrumental approach to understanding learning and culture," to the History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine group at Washington University, St. Louis. In November, I presented my paper, "Realizing Mythic Contributions: Two benefits Cassirer supplies to pragmatic thought," at the annual IPA conference in Edwardsville. This fall, I taught three courses at SIU-Edwardsville as a lecturer and worked as the Graduate Assistant editor of the Library of Living Philosophers in Carbondale; this spring I will continue in both positions.

**Seth Vannatta**

## PUBLICATION

"Radical Empiricism and Husserlian Metaphysics." *The Pluralist* 2, no. 3 (2007): forthcoming.

## REVIEW

Schleifer, Ronald, *Modernism and Time: The Logic of Abundance in Literature, Science, and Culture 1880-1930*. Cambridge: The University Press, 2000. (Reviewed in *Kinesis*, 2007, forthcoming.)

## PRESENTATIONS

"Reason and Revelation: Rational Idealism and the Sufism of Ibn Arabi." at Islamic Philosophy and Theology Today: International Graduate Conference at the University of Kentucky, September 30, 2007.

"Landscaping from the Outside In: Aesthetic Experience and Moral Vision." Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Graduate Student Agora, September 7, 2007.

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#### **IV. Alumni News**

##### **Don Morris (Ph.D. 1979)**

Donald Morris is currently teaching at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He recently published a book: *Opportunity: Optimizing Life's Chances* (Prometheus Books 2006). It is a multi-disciplinary exploration of opportunity from diverse perspectives including philosophy, religion, poetry, literature, history, sociology, biology, physics, law, criminology, anthropology, economics, entrepreneurship and political theory. Each perspective adds an additional dimension to our understanding of opportunity. Also addressed is the meaning of opportunism as well as conditions that are assumed to interfere with the recognition of opportunity such as poverty and stigmatization. The contents and a reader review may be viewed on Amazon.com.

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#### **V. Announcements**

##### **Call for Submissions to the Newsletter**

If you have items of interest for the newsletter, we'd love to hear what you've been doing. Where are you now, and what are you up to? If you're in academia, tell us about your publications, research projects, grants, conferences, or any other news. Please submit items for the next newsletter to [philosophersforum@gmail.com](mailto:philosophersforum@gmail.com).

Sean Lipham, Editor  
[slipham@siu.edu](mailto:slipham@siu.edu)