

Philosopher's Tome ♦ *October 2004*

Volume Number 6, Issue Number 1

**Newsletter of the Philosophy Department at
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale**

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1. Activities/ Travels/ Publications of Dept. Colleagues

Faculty

Thomas Alexander

I was elected to be Vice President (and President elect) of SAAP. My article, "Dewey's Denotative Empirical Method: A Thread Through the Labyrinth," is appearing in the forthcoming issue of *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, Vol 18, No. 3. (This can be accessed electronically at <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/jsp/>.) I have a forthcoming article on "Dewey, Naturalism and Dualism" in the Blackwell Guide to Pragmatism. Some of you may have missed my chapter, "Between Being and Emptiness: Toward an Eco-ontology of Inhabitation" in *In Dewey's Wake*, ed. William Gavin, SUNY Press (2003), which attempts to use Madhyamika Buddhism along with Deweyan naturalism to formulate an "eco-ontology."

Larry A. Hickman

GRANT RECEIVED

"The John Dewey Project." The National Endowment for the Humanities. \$75,000 outright and \$50,000 matching. For the period 1 January 2005 to 30 June 2006.

EDITED BOOK

John Dewey: Zwischen Pragmatismus und Konstruktivismus. (With Stefan Neubert and Kersten Reich). (Münster: Waxmann Verlag, 2004).

PAPERS PUBLISHED

"Pragmatismus, Konstruktivismus und Grundfragen einer Philosophie der Technologie."
John Dewey: Zwischen Pragmatismus und Konstruktivismus, edited by Larry A. Hickman, Stefan Neubert, and Kersten Reich, 99-113. Münster: Waxmann Verlag, 2004

"John Dewey – Leben und Werk." John Dewey: Zwischen Pragmatismus und Konstruktivismus, edited by Larry A. Hickman, Stefan Neubert, and Kersten Reich, 1-12. Münster: Waxmann Verlag, 2004.

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“On Hugh T. Miller on ‘Why Old Pragmatism Needs an Upgrade.’” *Administration and Society* 36, no. 3 (2004): 496-499.

“Pragmatism as Post-Postmodernism.” Dewey, *Pragmatism and Economic Methodology*, edited by Elias L. Khalil, 87-10. London: Routledge, 2004).

“Pragmatic Paths toward a Philosophy of Technology.” (In Chinese) *Jianghai Academic Journal* (Shanghai) (May, 2003): 36-41.

“Dewey, John.” *Blackwell Guide to American Philosophy*, edited by Armen T. Marsoobian and John Ryder, 155-173. Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell Publishing Co, 2004.

“Pragmatism, Postmodernism, and Global Citizenship.” *Metaphilosophy* 35, nos. 1 and 2 (January 2004):65-81. Reprinted in *The Range of Pragmatism and the Limits of Philosophy*, edited by Richard Shusterman, 63-79. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishing, 2004.

“John Dewey, *technologia pragmatica e apprendimento continuo.*” *Studi sulla formazione* (Firenze) 6, no. 1 (2003): 34-44.

“Johndewey.com: cosa sarebbe piaciuto e cosa no a Dewey di Internet.” *John Dewey: Una Nuova Democrazia Per Il XXI Secolo*, ed. Giuseppe Spadafora, 55-67. Roma: Anicia, 2003.

“Positivismo, pragmatismo e post-modernismo. La grande scommessa della pedagogia.” *Sense della politica e fatica di pensare*, ed. Antonio Erbetta, 148-155. Bologna: Cooperative Libreria Universitaria Editrice Bologna, 2003.

“Educare il cittadino globale. Perché il Ventunesimo Secolo ha bisogno di John Dewey.” *Sense della politica e fatica di pensare*, ed. Antonio Erbetta, 43-53. Bologna: Cooperative Libreria Universitaria Editrice Bologna, 2003.

PRESENTATIONS

“Nature, Social Control, and Social Efficiency: Educating for Democracy.” Central European Pragmatist Forum, Potsdam, Germany, June 3, 2004.

“Educating for Reform: John Dewey’s Pedagogy and Global Citizenship.” Daejin University, Seoul, South Korea, May 18, 2004.

“John Dewey’s Pragmatic Environmentalism.” Daejin University, Seoul, South Korea, May 18, 2004.

“John Dewey’s Pragmatic Environmentalism.” Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea, May 17, 2004.

“Cultivating a Common Faith: John Dewey on Religion and Education.” Meeting of the Korean Academy of Religious Education, Seoul, South Korea, May 15, 2004.

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"Pragmatism, Deflationism, and Technology." Presidential Address. Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Birmingham, Alabama, March 5, 2004.

"Pragmatism as a Philosophy for Twenty-First Century Education." New York University, New York, New York, February 5, 2004.

"Tools, Technology, and Terrorism." Meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, Washington, D.C., December 29, 2003.

"John Dewey's Pragmatic Technology," Conference on "Pragmatism and Philosophy of Technology." University of Tokyo-Komaba Campus, Tokyo, Japan, December 15, 2003.

"Pragmatism, Postmodernism, and Global Citizenship." Conference on "¿Una Nueva Ciencia Política?" University of Havana, Havana, Cuba, November 21, 2003.

"The Current State of Philosophy in the United States." Celebration of the International Day of Philosophy, University of Havana, Havana, Cuba, November 20, 2003.

George Schedler

I will be presenting my paper, "Should Peter Singer Become an Ethical Meat Eater?" at the Southwestern Philosophical Society annual meeting in New Orleans on November 13, 2004.

Andrew Youpa

"Rationalist Moral Philosophy," forthcoming in *A Companion to Rationalism*, Blackwell Publishing Co. 2005.

"Leibniz's Ethics," *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, August 2004. Here's the link to the entry: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/leibniz-ethics/>

Graduate Students

Dave Heise

I was awarded an SIUC Dissertation Research Award. I also gave, or will give, the following presentations:

"Can a Confucian Ethic Be Extended to Our Relationships with Nature?" Values, Rational Choice and the Will: A Special Conference on Values University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, April 1-3, 2004

"Confucianism, Aristotle, and Environmental Virtue Ethics" Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, Ca. June 20-23, 2004

An Interest-Based Approach to Teaching Philosophy: High School and University Applications" 1 hour workshop American Association of Philosophy Teachers 15th International Workshop / Conference on Teaching Philosophy, University of Toledo, August 4-8, 2004

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Group Discussion Facilitator Ethics in Everyday Life Conference Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, September 22-24, 2004

"How to Approach Ethical Problems" Keynote Address Ethics in Everyday Life Conference Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, September 23, 2004

Charlie Hobbs

PUBLICATIONS

"The Significance of the Inconsistency Between the *Apology* and the *Crito*" Dialogue Vol. 46, No. 2-3, April 2004, p. 67-79.

Abstract of "Philosophy, Pragmatism, and Rorty" (forthcoming in Southwest Philosophical Studies)

PRESENTATIONS

"Death: A Defense of Lucretius" Agora, January 23, 2004.

"Philosophy, Pragmatism, and Rorty" Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference (at University of Utah), February 28, 2004.

"Dewey, Wittgenstein, and Contextualist Epistemology" 31st Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, March 5, 2004.

"Philosophy, Pragmatism, and Rorty", 56th Annual Conference of the New Mexico/West Texas Philosophical Society (in San Antonio), March 27, 2004.

"Lucretius on Death: A Defense of Book III of *De Rerum Natura*" 10th Annual Duquesne University Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, April 3, 2004.

OTHER

Commentator for Kyongsook Kim's "Phenomenology as Philosophy," Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference, February 8, 2004.

Recipient of SIU Department of Philosophy's 2003-2004 Paul Arthur Schilpp Award for "good or outstanding scholarship".

Defended my masters thesis (June 16, 2004) entitled "Poetry, Atomism, and Death: A Defense of Lucretius" (Advisor: Dr. Thomas Alexander)

Attended, in July, the Summer Institute In American Philosophy (at the University of Oregon)

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Corey McCall

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Michel Foucault’s Historicophilosophical Practice: Fictioning, History, and the Question of Critique.” 42nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2003.

“Autonomy, Revolution, and Religion in Foucault,” *Identifications: Faith, Theory, and Identity-Making*, Purdue University, February 2004.

“John Dewey’s Ethics of Perception,” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Birmingham, Alabama, March 2004.

“Accessing Myth: Conceptions of Myth and Nature in Heidegger’s *Fundamental Concepts of Metaphysics* (1929-1930) and *Parmenides* (1942),” Participants’ Conference, Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Citta di Castella, Italy, July 2004.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

I have an art exhibition entitled “Taxonomies: Works on Paper” at the Longbranch Coffee House from August 28 until September 30. The reception is September 3 from 8-10pm. The show consists of work from 1996-2001. A couple of the works in the show are from my BFA thesis show at Truman State University in 1996, but the bulk of the work was produced while I was living in Boston, mainly from 2000-2001. I hope people get a chance to see the exhibit.

Matt Sanderson

PUBLICATIONS

“Attention Between Phenomenology and Experimental Psychology”, by Pierre Vermersch, translated with Amy Hanson, in *Continental Philosophy Review*, xxx: 1-37: 2004.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Bergson on Life, Mysticism and Society”, *12th Annual PIC (Philosophy, Interpretation, Culture) Conference*, Binghamton, NY, April 16-17, 2004

“Renewing the Problematic: John Dewey on the Consummation of Mystery”, *31st Annual Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Conference*, Birmingham, Alabama, March 4-5, 2004

“Finitude, Gratitude and Ethics in Heidegger, Derrida and Blanchot”, *28th Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference*, Memphis, TN, February 20-21, 2004

“Immanence Lost: Georges Bataille’s Mysticism of Mortality”, *Identifications: Faith, Theory and Identity-Making*, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, February 8-9, 2004

AWARDS

Graduate Doctoral Fellowship for the academic year 2004-2005

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Shane Stroup

I finished my first year as a PhD student here at SIUC by giving a paper on Thoreau and Chuang Tzu at the Society for Asian Comparative Philosophy (SACP) in Pacific Grove, CA. The paper went very well and I got some great feedback on my ideas. The area was beautiful, and I recommend attending their conference next year as it will be held in the same location.

This year I will be teaching Intro in the fall and finishing up my course work. I will also be presenting a paper at the Agora in Sept. in hopes of developing an idea I have been working on called "place-centered ethics".

On a personal note, I spent most of the summer helping my father on the ranch back in Wyoming. It was hot and it was dry, but it was nice to spend some time with the family. Kelly (my fiancée) and I also drove to Vermont for the last Phish shows. They were amazing! Though it was a bit sad also, no more Phish shows for us loyal fans. Oh well, Jimmy Buffet is still touring.

Travis Smith

I read my paper, "The Locus of Knowledge in Zhuangzi's Qiwu Lun" at the Midwest Conference in East Asian Thought, April 16-17, 2004 (held at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois).

This summer I received the Andresen Scholarship from the Philosophy Department to return to Middlebury, Vermont and study modern Mandarin at Middlebury College's immersion language program.

Lucian Stone

Lucian has accepted and begun a one-year position as visiting professor at Ball State University (Muncie, Indiana) in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department.

Dwayne A. Tunstall

PRESENTATION

"A Prolegomenon to a Phenomenological Philosophy of History," 55th annual New Mexico/West Texas Philosophical Society Conference, San Antonio, Texas, March 28, 2004.

PUBLICATION

Book Review of Thomas C. Dalton's *_Becoming John Dewey_*, *_Dialogue: Journal of Phi Sigma Tau*, the International Honor Society in Philosophy_ 46/2-3(April 2004): 119-120.

FELLOWSHIP

Recipient of Diversifying Higher Education Faculty for Illinois Fellowship (formerly the Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Program, or ICEOP, and IMGIP) for the 2004-05 academic year. Recipients of this fellowship receive a full tuition and fees waiver and an annual stipend for up to four academic years. In exchange recipients agree to work at an Illinois post-secondary educational institution for the number of years that they receive this fellowship.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Attended the Fifth Biennial Personalist Seminar: William James and Emmanuel Levinas at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina, July 12-16, 2004.

Panel

Lucian Stone, Dr. Cynthia Gayman, and Rebecca Rozelle-Stone are presenting a panel entitled "Simone Weil and the Experience of De-Creation" at the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) this fall (October 28-30) in Memphis, Tennessee. The titles of their individual papers may be found on the SPEP website.

2. Interview with Our New Professor

Professor Sara Beardsworth joined our department at the beginning of the school year. Ben Galatzer-Levy recently interviewed her so that those of us who have not yet had the opportunity to meet her can learn about her background and interests.

Where are you from?

I was born in London, England, grew up in the west of England near Wales, and returned to London for my final high school years and BA, which I took at the University of London.

Where did you go to school?

I did my MA at the University of Sussex and my PhD at the University of Warwick.

How did you become interested in Philosophy?

One source of the development of my interest in philosophy is expressed in an adage, which says that philosophy begins with disappointment in religion, politics, or love. My interest was fired by disappointment in politics: the legacy of Thatcherism in Britain and the sense that feminist politics – which had interested me first as a “grassroots” movement and then for certain insights into world events – had come to be dominated by internal conflicts. There seemed to be too little analysis of what these were about and what a feminist approach to the problems could be. In philosophical texts and discussion I found the reflective and historical inquiry that I was looking for.

What are your primary interests in Philosophy? What was the topic of your dissertation?

Social and political philosophy in the post-Kantian European tradition. Of course this covers a wide range of nineteenth- and twentieth-century philosophical thought. My first interest was Hegel and nineteenth-century philosophy, especially Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Freud. I wrote my MA thesis on the concept of anxiety in Hegel, Kierkegaard, and Freud. I chose this topic because I saw parallels between phenomenological risk in Hegel, Kierkegaard's work on anxiety and repetition, and how Freud's later thought on anxiety transformed the psychoanalytic concept of repetition. My way into continental feminism – my way back to feminist thought, if you like – was through the question of negativity in Hegel, on the one hand, and Freudianism, on the other. Kristeva's thought drew my interest

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first since these were specific elements of her mid-1970s writings. I wrote my PhD dissertation on Kristeva's use of Freud to critique the culture of Marxism. This wasn't a wholesale rejection of the philosophical legacy of Marx on her part. It reflected her first-hand knowledge of communist society, remembering that Julia Kristeva, like so many philosophers in the recent French tradition, is not herself French – she moved from Bulgaria to France in the late 1960s.

Why is this topic so important?

Kristeva was proposing that Freudian psychoanalysis discovered and articulated transformations in the subject and in meaning: what was ignored by Marxist culture's emphasis on transformation in the modes of production (dialectical materialism). These were issues of subject-object relationship, so I was following through the idea that a return to Freud is a return to Hegel. Even though she would never call herself a Hegelian, it was clear that Kristeva was recovering at least some aspects of Hegel's phenomenology and logic.

Why do you think we should be studying psychoanalysis in the philosophy department and not just in the psychology department?

Interestingly, there is an institutional factor here. Many analysts expand their research at the intersection of philosophy and psychoanalysis (for example, Jonathan Lear and Jessica Benjamin in the USA). Psychoanalytic research is increasingly finding a place in the academy through this intersection. Many are exploring areas of overlap between psychoanalytic and philosophical thought on, for example, subjectivity, history, action, and narrative. Moreover, psychoanalysis is a discourse whose development requires both the experience had in therapeutic practice, which is not static, and reflective concept-formation and self-criticism. This relationship is of interest to contemporary philosophy wherever there is a felt need not to isolate empirical and speculative modes of inquiry from one another. It also seems to me that, in certain areas of inquiry, the empirical moment in psychoanalysis – psychoanalytic experience itself – delivers insights that cannot be had otherwise. However, these insights need to be developed in the process of concept-formation. You can't cut one off from the other without losing the value and potential of psychoanalysis as a relatively new mode of inquiry in which many of the perennial philosophical questions have returned, perhaps in new and different ways.

Recently published book

The title of my book, *Julia Kristeva: Philosophy and Modernity*, announces the argument that psychoanalysis belongs in the tradition of modern thought. The book focuses especially on what I call Kristeva's trilogy of the 1980s: three books in which she proposes, according to a conviction shared with others, that what shows up in contemporary psychoanalytic experience are difficulties in maintaining selfhood, crises in love, and the incapacity for loss. These are not simply private and individual pathologies. Psychoanalysis is an active exploration of the forms of malaise that appear in late modern societies. For Kristeva, suffering subjectivity is a residue of the failings of modern secular discourses and institutions. I like Nietzsche's formulation of this idea: to suffer from reality is to be a piece of the reality that has come to grief. Psychoanalysis is therefore not simply a therapy that seeks to mend the self. It is also a broader inquiry into both the specific structure of the forms of suffering and what analytic experience reveals about the possibilities for modifying them. What especially interests me are certain problems and ideas that turn up in Kristeva's

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thought: questions about what makes adequate separateness and connections with others possible; how meaning is lost or recovered; how there can be values that are both believable and adequate to the world of everyday practice. I therefore underline in the book that Kristeva's psychoanalytic thought, her analyses of artworks, and her ethical ideas form a common project as an inquiry into the mediations of the fragmented moments of modernity.

What are you currently researching?

The immediate future is rather taken up with paper presentations that develop the same material. It tends to happen, of course, that a book's publication draws invitations to speak on what you have already done! I am also working on the early Frankfurt School, especially Adorno's attempts to develop critical and historical self-reflection in relation to political experience, once this experience is recognized to be transitory. I want to pursue this problematic by working at the intersection of critical feminist thought and Frankfurt School thought. I am also thinking about the idea of the ethics of exemplarity, which my Kristeva research came to converge on.

What are your nonphilosophical interests?

Ordinary stuff: movies, music, dinner with friends, travel, walking my dog. I'm a believer in the metaphysics of the ordinary.

What are the impressions of Carbondale and the philosophy dept at SIUC so far?

Very good. This is my first experience of living in small-town America (prior to this I have lived in Nashville and Memphis). Obviously everything is convenient with respect to everyday needs – no stress at all. And I find it friendly. Given my appreciation of ordinary life, this is a very good environment for me, and things that are not near by (like the art galleries that I need) can be found when traveling to conferences. I've also really enjoyed the odd day exploring the national forest and the lakes – ending with a glass of wine overlooking the vineyards. That really suits my European sensibilities!

The Philosophy Department has been very good, too. There is genuine collegiality, as well as the sense of a shared teaching endeavor. I like the good relations between faculty and graduates, and there are obviously curious and smart undergraduates. Plus there's the all important ingredient: the awareness of research going on all around.

3. Conference Reports

Report on the Collegium Phaenomenologicum

This summer I had the good fortune to attend the Collegium Phaenomenologicum in Citta di Castella, Italy for three weeks. The Collegium began some twenty years ago as a forum for professors to meet and discuss issues and texts in recent European thought. Gradually, the format was expanded to include lectures for students and faculty as well as a pre-conference for participants prior to the start of the conference.

The conference consists of three one-week seminars on selected figures and texts, generally on recent European thought (although one Collegium a few years ago was devoted to Plato and Continental approaches to his thought). This year's seminars were devoted to Kant's

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Critique of Judgment, Schelling's *Essay on the Essence of Human Freedom*, and Heidegger's lecture course "On Time and Being."

The format consists in three-hour lectures on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week conducted by an expert on the text in question. During the afternoons on these days, participants split up into smaller groups (generally five to eight people) in order to discuss the text with seminar leaders. The seminar leaders are also professors who are very familiar with the text in question. I thought the format worked very well.

On Tuesday and Thursday, other scholars presented papers on the text in question, generally one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The Collegium was a great experience. It presented me with an opportunity to meet fellow grad students and professors, eat great food, drink good wine, and learn to play bocce ball. If anyone would like to learn more about attending the Collegium or playing bocce ball in front of Morris Library, please let me know.

Corey McCall

Report on the 2004 Summer Institute in American Philosophy

The Summer Institute in American Philosophy was held this past July in Eugene, Oregon, at the University of Oregon. This is the second time it has been there at Oregon.

While attending the Institute, I lived in a dormitory named Carson Hall, as did many others. It was an interesting experience, and Joseph Grange was my neighbor. I liked the experience of living with philosophers, although there were a couple of times that I had to wait a bit to use the shower in my wing of the dorm.

We were all welcomed with comments by our own Ken Stickers, who also hosted the "Dissertations in Progress" sessions.

There were many interesting sessions, such as Steven Fesmire on "Pragmatist Ethics" and John Lachs on "Human Natures". Also of note is the fact that Lachs signed my copy of his *The Relevance of Philosophy to Life*. See me if you wish to see that.

Tom Burke offered a seminar on Mead. Nathan Houser offered a seminar on Peirce. Jacqueline Kegley offered a seminar on Royce.

Also of interest, especially for people interested in comparative work, was Joseph Grange's seminar on Confucius and Dewey -- by the way, Grange's newest book was just published this past summer by SUNY, and it is entitled *Dewey, Confucius, and Global Philosophy*. There was also a seminar given by David Hildebrand on his recent book entitled *Beyond Realism and Antirealism: John Dewey and the Neopragmatists* (Vanderbilt U. Press, 2003).

For those interested in going on a special excursion, planned by the U. of Oregon philosophy department, there was a choice between a trip to the Oregon coast or a wine-tasting tour near

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the state capital of Salem. I know that Dr. Hickman choose the wine experience, whereas I (and Dr. Stickers and Kelly Booth) choose the trip to the coast. Of course, there were many others on these excursions. Please consult Hickman about thoughts concerning the Oregon wine. As for the coast, I can say that it was absolutely amazing: I saw sea lions and sea otters. The sea lions were quite loud and smelly, and the sea otters seemed quite inquisitive about our presence. I felt quite inquisitive about them too.

Dr. Stickers made some concluding remarks at the start of the concluding plenary forum. This forum then proceeded with discussion from Susan Armstrong (Humboldt State), Nathan Houser (Editor of the Peirce Edition Project), and SIU's own Larry Hickman.

I was unable to attend the concluding reception at Professor Mark Johnson's house (Johnson is at U. of Oregon and was formerly at SIU), so I cannot comment on the events that transpired there.

It is my understanding that the Institute will be held in Oregon again next year, and I highly recommend it. It is a unique opportunity to learn and to meet interesting and important philosophers and scholars. It is also a very congenial group of people.

Charlie Hobbs

4. News from the Philosophy Department

Meet Our New Departmental Secretary Jeletta Brant

Jeletta Brant is our new departmental secretary. She is a two-degree graduate of SIUC with a B.S. in Speech Communication with a specialization in Public Relations and double minor in Journalism and Psychology from Dec. 1991 and an M.S. in Workforce Education and Development earned in Aug. 2003. Jeletta has worked in a number of offices during her 13 plus years at SIUC including the Public Policy Institute as Transcribing Secretary for Late Senator Paul Simon and most recently, in the College of Education and Human Services. Jeletta lives outside of Elkhart on 40 acres of reclaimed mine land with her mother, 5 dogs, and 2 cats.

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5. Announcements

John Dewey Reading Group

Tony Giambusso is organizing the Dewey Reading Group this semester. The group meets every other Monday at 3:30 PM at the Longbranch Coffee House, located at 100 E. Jackson in Carbondale. This semester the group is reading *Art as Experience* and *Experience and Nature*.

*If you have items of interest for the newsletter, i.e. publications, research projects, grants, conferences, or any other departmental news, please submit them to the editor
Sean Lipham at seanlipham@yahoo.com*