

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 to alums, retired faculty, and friends! Despite the fact the College of Liberal Arts faces a deficit at the end of this year, the Department is doing well. Dean Alan Vaux gave an overall positive report on the state of the Department in a recent meeting with the Department's faculty.

We had a well-attended Philosophical Collaborations conference in March. Also in March, Sara Beardsworth received word of her promotion and tenure from the Provost. In April, Tony Steinbock was honored at a special dinner in the Student Center as the College's Outstanding Scholar.

Our graduate students continue to be very productive and successful by presenting papers at conferences and receiving University fellowships and job offers once they are on the market.

So, the Department continues to excel. We look forward to another productive year in the Fall.

II. Individual Scholarly Activities

Faculty

Thomas Alexander

I delivered the Presidential Address at SAAP in March, "Eros and Spirit: Towards a Humanistic Philosophy of Culture." I stepped down, having served my two-year hitch.

Current research projects include putting together a collection of essays and a systematic study of the thought of Justus Buchler's "metaphysics of natural complexes" or "ordinal naturalism" as it has come to be called.

Volume 3, Number 1 of *The Pluralist* is devoted to the publication of a long manuscript by my grandfather, Hartley Burr Alexander: "Living Mind: An Inquiry into the Psychological and Logical Foundations of Human Understanding" along with a short biographical piece I wrote, "The Life and Work of Hartley Burr Alexander," and a longer survey of his philosophy, "Hartley Burr Alexander: Humanistic Personalism and Pluralism."

Randall Auxier

PUBLICATIONS

Bruce Springsteen and Philosophy: Darkness on the Edge of Truth. Edited by Randall Auxier and Douglas Anderson. LaSalle, IL: Open Court, 2008, 302 pp. Includes a co-written introduction, four chapters and an appendix by Auxier, two chapters by Anderson (one co-written with his son Russell), plus chapters by SIUC alums Heather Keith, Gary Herstein, and Russ Couch.

PRESENTATIONS

"Prophets and Profits: Heschel on Bruce Springsteen." Honoring Heschel at 100: An International Conference, held at the Center for Jewish Studies, Baylor University, Waco, TX, November 1-2, 2007.

"The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful: A Phenomenology of Feline Aesthetics." For the Philosophy Club and faculty of Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK, November 12, 2007.

Commentary on Anne Marie Bowery's "Socrates's Narrative Audience in Euthydemus." 69th annual meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, San Antonio, TX, November 9-10, 2007.

Commentary on Tanya Jeffcoat's "The Interpenetration of Being: Dewey and the Zen Person." 32nd Annual Mid-South Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, February 22-23, 2008.

Commentary on Jonathan Neufeld's and Sarah Tyson's "Tonally Acting Forms: Eduard Hanslick and the Politics of Musical Movement." 16th Annual Philosophical Collaborations Conference, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, March 27-28, 2008.

Commentary on George Allan's "Transforming Whitehead's Eternal Objects into Transient Empirical Possibilities," and Gary L. Herstein's "Irreducible Extension in the Unity of Whitehead's Thought." Society for the Study of Process Philosophy, Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, IL, April 18, 2008.

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

I continue to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the Foundation for the Philosophy of Creativity, the Southwestern Philosophical Society, and as Treasurer/Registrar of the Mid-South Philosophy Conference. I finished my stint as President of the Illinois Philosophical Association in January.

Douglas Berger

PUBLICATIONS

"Relational and Intrinsic Moral Roots: A Brief Contrast of Confucian and Hindu Concepts of Duty." *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 7, no. 2 (2008).

PRESENTATIONS

"The Blending of Heaven and the Human Will: Schopenhauer and China." Conference of the International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy, Beijing University, People's Republic of China, 2008.

"Did the Buddha Ever Really Go East? The Westernization of Buddhism in Hansen's Daoist Historiography." *Dao, Mind and Language: A Conference in Honor of Chad Hansen*, Hong Kong University, People's Republic of China, 2008.

"Relational and Intrinsic Moral Roots: A Brief Contrast of Confucian and Hindu Concepts of Duty." Midwest Conference of East Asian Thought, University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN, 2008.

"Mind and Consciousness in Classical Hindu Logic." 16th Annual Philosophical Collaborations Conference, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, 2008.

Larry Hickman

PUBLICATIONS

Pragmatism as Post-Postmodernism: Lessons from John Dewey. New York: Fordham University Press, 2007.

"Adjustment." *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lachs and Robert Talisse, 20-21. New York: Routledge, 2008.

"Dewey, John, Influence." *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lachs and Robert Talisse, 183-185. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Experimentalism.” *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lachs and Robert Talisse, 272-273. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Functionalism.” *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lachs and Robert Talisse, 306-308. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Instrumentalism.” *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lachs and Robert Talisse, 401-403. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Logic, Experimental.” *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lachs and Robert Talisse, 474-475. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Technology.” *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lachs and Robert Talisse, 751-752. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Torrey, Henry Augustus Pearson (1837-1902).” *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lachs and Robert Talisse, 768. New York: Routledge, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS

“Dewey, Hutchins, and the Great Books Debate.” New York Pragmatist Forum, Fordham University, New York, NY, March 27, 2008.

“Contributions of the ‘No Child Left Behind’ Initiative to the Formation of Intellectual Habits of Mind.” Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, East Lansing, MI, March 13, 2008.

“John Dewey’s Twenty-First Century Global Outreach.” First Conference of the John Dewey Research Center, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland, November 20, 2007.

“John Dewey’s Letters from Key West.” The Studios at Key West, Key West, FL, November 14, 2007.

Anthony J. Steinbock

Guest Professor at the University of Copenhagen/ Center for Subjectivity Research. March 5-April 2, 2008.

Elected to Executive Committee of Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

PRESENTATIONS

“Religious Experience, Mysticism, and the Question of Evidence: Crisis as Idolatry.” Crisis and Tradition: Phenomenological Horizons, European Rationality in the Break from Modernity: Studies in Phenomenology and Hermeneutics, Keynote, University of Helsinki, Finland, March 28, 2008.

“The Crisis Problematic in Husserl’s Generative Phenomenology.” Research Seminar, Department of Philosophy, University of Helsinki, Finland, March 27, 2008.

“Repentance: Immanence and Transcendence in Personal Emotions.” Center for Subjectivity Research, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, March 25, 2008.

“L’expérience religieuse, mysticisme, et la question de l’évidence.” Université Paris Sorbonne (Paris IV), France, March 22, 2008.

“Exemplarité et attention.” Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique: Séminaire des Archives Husserl 2007-2008, Ecole normale supérieure, Paris, France, March 21, 2008.

“Reducing the One to the Other: Kant, Levinas, and the Problem of Religious Experience.” Keynote, Religion and Subjectivity: Reconsidering the Relational Self, Copenhagen, Denmark, March 14, 2008.

“The Formation of Self and Otherness in the Experience of Trust.” Center for Subjectivity Research, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, March 12, 2008.

Ken Stickers

PUBLICATIONS

“An Outline of Methodological Afrocentrism, with Special Application to the Thought of W. E. B. DuBois.” *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*.

“Persons and Power: Max Scheler and Michel Foucault on the Spiritualization of Power.” *The Pluralist*.

“The Influence of Pragmatism on Max Scheler’s Sociology of Knowledge.” In *Between Pragmatism and Constructivism*, edited by Larry Hickman, Stefan Neubert, and Kersten Reich. New York: Fordham University Press, 2008.

“The Primacy of Value in Max Scheler and American Pragmatism.” In *American and European Values*, edited by Matthew Flamm and Krzysztof Skowronski. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS

“An Outline of Methodological Afrocentrism, with Special Attention to the Thought of W. E. B. DuBois.” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, March 15, 2008 .

“Locating Moral Agency in Market Economies.” Indiana University-Purdue University, Ft. Wayne, IN, February 14, 2008.

“The Primacy of Value in Max Scheler and American Pragmatism.” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Baltimore, MD, December 30, 2007.

“Jamesian Catholicism.” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Baltimore, MD, December 28, 2007.

Graduate Students

Tommy J. Curry

HONORS

I have recently been notified that I will be an Africana Research Center Post-Doctoral Fellow at Pennsylvania State University from 2008-2009. My position starts in August of this year, and requires more moving. I am very excited by this opportunity, as it will give me the much needed time and resources to finish two manuscripts I am currently awaiting word on. One where I am trying to republish William H. Ferris’ *The African Abroad or, His Evolution in Western Civilization: Tracing His Development Under Caucasian Milieu*, initially published in 1913 and a second manuscript entitled *John Edward Bruce: The Collection of the Philosopher Soldier* in which I am trying to publish “Bruce Grit’s” articles, letters, and columns on race and American imperialism from the late 1800s to mid 1900s.

PUBLICATIONS

“Firmen It Up: From Rousseau’s Theory of Natural Equality to the Resistance of the Historical Inequality of Races.” *C.L.R. James Journal* 14, No.1 (2008) Special Edition: Creolizing Rousseau, edited by Jane Gordon and Neil Roberts.

“The Derilectical Crisis of African American Philosophy and Its Culturalogical Reformulation: How African American Philosophy Fails to Contribute to the Study of African Descended People.” *Journal of Black Studies* (forthcoming)

BOOK REVIEWS

“Illuminated in Black: A book review of *Shades of Difference* by Richard W. Rees.” *Journal of African American Studies*. (forthcoming).

PRESENTATIONS

“The Lil’ White Man Who Could: Josiah Royce’s Cultural Perpetuation of White Supremacy.” Central American Philosophical Association, joint session of the Josiah Royce Society and the Personalist Discussion Group, Chicago, IL, April 19, 2008.

“The African Distanced from Themselves or the Culturo-logical Critique of His Education under a Caucasian Mileu: A Ferrisonian Response to the Humanist Orientation in Africana Philosophies of Education.” 32nd Annual National Conference of Black Studies, Atlanta, GA, March 19-22, 2008.

“Encountering the Un-encountered: Justifying the Culturo-logic alternative in “knowledge formation” in an effort to solve the paradigmatic crisis of Black studies, or overcoming the problem of comparative metaphysics articulated in the Banksonian analysis of the

methodological crisis of the Afri-centric concept.” 32nd Annual National Conference of Black Studies, Atlanta, GA, March 19-22, 2008.

“The Derilectical Crisis of African American Philosophy and Its Culturalogical Reformulation: How African American Philosophy Fails to Contribute to the Study of African Descended People.” Emerging Scholars Program, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, February 6, 2008.

“Saved By the Bell: Derrick Bell’s Racial Realism as Pedagogy.” Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting, Bergamo Conference Center, Dayton, OH, September 27-29, 2007.

Christina Gould

PUBLICATIONS

"The Role of the Lived-body in Feeling." Translation of Bernhard Waldenfels "Der leibliche Sitz der Gefuehle." *Continental Philosophy Review* 41, no. 2 (2008).

PRESENTATIONS

"Margaret Fuller: The Resolution of Crises through Love." Panel presentation at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, East Lansing, MI, March 15, 2008.

"Reflections on Being a Woman Philosophy Student: Lessons for the Profession." Panel presentation at the Central APA, Chicago, IL, April 18, 2008.

"Towards an Irreplaceable Solidarity: Accepting the Uniqueness of the Other." Max Scheler Society National Meeting in Conjunction with the Central APA, Chicago, IL, April 18, 2008.

“Husserl’s Fifth Cartesian Meditation: Genesis and Uniqueness as Foundational for Stasis and Similarity” has been accepted to be on a panel at SPEP which will be hosted by Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, October 16-18, 2008.

Charles Hobbs

PRESENTATIONS

"A Naturalistic Immortality." Indiana Philosophical Association Meeting at Butler University, Indianapolis, IN, April 12, 2008.

"Naturalism, Death, and Functional Immortality." 35th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, March 14, 2008.

"The Relevance of Pragmatism for Understanding Death." 32nd Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, February 23, 2008.

COMMENTARIES

Comments on Sarah Roe’s "The Attenuated Ramblings of a Madman: Feyerabend’s Anarchy Examined." 32nd Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, February 23, 2008.

Comments on Melissa Bergeron's "Cliffordian Knights of the Razor and the Jamesian Spiritual Sphere: Evidence and an Unseen Realm." American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore, MA, December 28, 2007.

OTHER

I have been offered and have accepted the position of Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. I begin teaching there in the Fall.

Tibor Solymosi

This spring I continue to serve as assistant editor to the international journal, *Contemporary Pragmatism*. In April I attended the Biomedical Ontology Workshop at the University at Buffalo, NY, where I learned much about "ontology" that I did not know. This spring I also accepted an invitation for the summer as a visiting scholar at the Center for Inquiry Transnational in Amherst, NY. I plan on spending most of my summer there, as well as participating in the Center's summer sessions on naturalism and humanism, titled "From Religion to Science."

Mark Dietrich Tschaepe

This past spring I have been writing my dissertation. In addition, I attended a Biomedical Ontology workshop at the Center for Inquiry in Buffalo, NY. Much of the early spring was spent at the University of Cincinnati, attending John Bickle's seminar, "Philosophy and Neuroscience." While in Cincinnati, I began two collaborative papers with Marica Bernstein concerning biological modeling and the use of marginal models in explanation, which we plan to finish sometime in the early summer. I am also in the process of editing Noriko Horiguchi's book, *Bodies in Motion: Women and Empire in Modern Japanese Literature*.

This summer I will be presenting a paper arguing for case-based bioethics to the World Congress of Philosophy in Seoul, Korea. In the fall I will be putting the finishing touches on my dissertation with the aid of the Dissertation Research Assistant Award.

Seth Vannatta

PUBLICATION

"A Phenomenology of Sport: Playing and Passive Synthesis," *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, 2008 (forthcoming).

PRESENTATIONS

"British Conservatism in O.W. Holmes's Legal Pragmatism." 3rd Annual Atlantic Coast Pragmatist Meeting at UNC-Asheville, NC, April 5, 2008.

"Self Discovery and Calling in Emerson's Philosophy of Education." Panel Entitled: "Beyond the Limits of Rationality Toward Transcendental Morality: Democracy, Education and Value in Emerson and Fuller." Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, East Lansing, MI, March 15, 2008.

“Problems in a Phenomenology of Sport: The Lived Body and the Question of Instant Replay.”
Battleground States: The Body and Culture, Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, OH,
February 23, 2008.

“History, Art, and Political Theory: The Failure of Enlightenment Dogmatism in a Postmodern
World.” Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities, January 12, 2008.

III. Alumni News

Eric Thomas Weber (Ph.D. 2007)

In August of 2007 my daughter Helen was born and experienced some difficulty. She has recovered significantly, and will do better and better with the daily attention she needs. She looks healthy, and continues to get stronger. My wife, Annie, and I have found work at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). Annie is in the department of University Development, and is pursuing an Ed.D. through Vanderbilt University. I am now teaching in an interdisciplinary department called Public Policy Leadership. My department has grown quickly. I've had the unique opportunity to play a part in picking half of my colleagues. I've attended a number of conferences, seeing some of my former colleagues and professors at Midsouth. I have four articles coming out in 2008 and one coming out in 2009. I'm working on two book projects, with one proposal to go out in the next few weeks. I've been awarded two grants for the summer of 2008 for research, and am waiting to hear about a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council to support a conference I'm organizing for the Mississippi Philosophical Association, for which I serve as Vice President. The conference will be held from November 20th to the 22nd of 2008 in Jackson, MS, at the University of Mississippi's Medical Center. The theme will be medical ethics, and we'll have paper awards for one or more graduate students and young faculty. Finally, I'm working with SOPHIA as Treasurer, under the leadership of Douglas Anderson. I'll be organizing a SOPHIA symposium in the Spring of 2009 at Ole Miss in Oxford, MS.

IV. Department News

Library of Living Philosophers

With the retirement of Frances Stanley as Technical Editor, the LLP office has been in transition. We have enjoyed the services of Leslie Brown and have been negotiating the long process of having Frances's position reclassified and redefined as an Administrative Professional's "Textual Editor" position, modeled on positions at the Center for Dewey Studies. With the support of the department, the chair, and the Dean's office, we have at length received approval for this important improvement in our staffing. As of this writing in early May, we have advertised the position and have received some good applications. We hope to have a new professional editor confirmed very soon. We thank Frances Stanley for her years of unselfish and excellent service to this department and to the LLP. She is missed, but enjoying her retirement.

The Pluralist

Volume 3 of our journal *The Pluralist* has been appearing, and we continue to receive generous support from SIUC and Oklahoma State. Subscriptions are growing, but we still encourage each of you to subscribe and to have your libraries subscribe. Our 3:1 was a special issue containing an unpublished book by Hartley Burr Alexander (HBA), the grandfather of our colleague Tom Alexander, and with the expert technical help of Matthew Morgan (the graduate assistant assigned to *The Pluralist*), and the University of Illinois Press, we were able to make HBA's old typescript "Living Mind" publicly available for the first time. It is a fine original investigation in pluralism and personalism, the two missions of the journal. Tom introduces the piece with his grandfather's history (HBA is the only person ever to be president of all three divisions of the APA, and was a very important philosopher in his generation), and Tom follows "Living Mind" with a detailed analytical treatment of its relation to HBA's extensive corpus of writings. Our 3:2 is currently in press and is a special issue treating the important book *The Worldview of Personalism* (Oxford University Press, 2006) by Jan Olof Bengtsson. This is the most significant original and historical investigation into the emergence of personalism to appear in the last eighty years. Five prominent scholars contribute articles on the book, and the author responds to the criticisms.

Also, Matthew Morgan has converted the website of *The Personalist Forum* into a permanent archival site, documenting the years during which the journal was published under that title. Please feel free to visit and admire Matthew's good work:

<http://www.siu.edu/~tpf/>

V. Announcements

Seventh Biennial Personalist Seminar

The Seventh Biennial Personalist Seminar will take place on July 13 - 18, 2008 at Western Carolina University. The program will center around Schelling and Emerson, with separate days devoted to metaphysics, theory of knowledge, ethics, and philosophy of religion. Douglas Anderson and Stephen Tyman will lead the discussions.

For information contact: Dr. James M. McLachlan, Philosophy and Religion, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723, jmclachla@email.wcu.edu.

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.

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seanlipham@yahoo.com