

# Alumni Newsletter



## Alumni Day Happening!

### The Panel



Mike Gorr, Moderator      Steve Carroll      Michelle Fesi      Mark Lindner      Stacy Parton

### Alumni Day Friday, October 17, 2003

This year for Alumni Day we assembled a panel of four alums for a discussion with the theme of career, obstacles they have faced and how they overcame them, how they made the most of their degree and how it helped them in career success. We were honored to have Steve Carroll (1978), Michelle Fesi (2001), Mark Lindner (2001) and Stacy Parton (1993) as our guests.

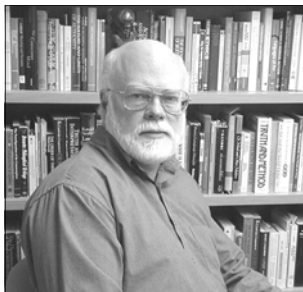
The evening began with a wine and cheese reception followed by the panel discussion and then dinner catered by Avanti's—always a favorite, door prizes and party favors. Acquaintances were renewed and new friendships made. We had a large turnout of students, faculty, and other invited guests who at times were on the edge of their seats asking questions and listening intently to the answers. These alums, who are successful in their non-traditional philosophy degree career paths, had much to share. The give and take between the panelists and with the audience was very exciting.

Everyone, not just students, left with a different understanding and appreciation of what you can do with a valuable degree in philosophy.

(For more about Steve, Michelle, Mark and Stacy, see "News From Alums".)

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## News from Normal

The department made its first tenure track hire in a decade in 2003. We hired a very promising young moral epistemologist, Todd Stewart (PhD, University of Arizona), who enhances existing studies in history of modern philosophy and epistemology as well as ethical theory and has made a successful beginning on a strong research program, having won a University Research Grant for this coming summer.

In spring 2003, the department awarded its first scholarship, supported by and named after former department chair Ken Kennard and his wife Marilyn. Foundation funds that formerly supported a high school essay contest were redirected to support an outstanding returning junior. The 2003 winner of the Kennard Scholarship was Mark Ritchie

and the 2004 winner is Doug Wick.

By a vote of the entire faculty Cindy Caldwell (Art, '77) was recognized with this year's Outstanding Senior Award. Cindy is graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA in philosophy, her second bachelor's degree. She is also graduating with a minor in Environmental Studies. The Outstanding Senior is recognized with a cash award and her name will appear on a plaque on permanent display in the department office.

This was a great year for the Illinois State University Philosophical Society, affectionately known at "the Club." Club officers, President Steve LeFebvre, Vice President Steve Bernardin, and Secretary-Treasurer Tyson Mohr shepherded a proposal through the Student Government Association bureaucracy to regain Recognized Student Organization status for the club for the first time in several years. This makes SGA resources available to the club and has already paid handsome dividends. So far they have been awarded funds to support the department's spring awards dinner, to help pay students' travel to conferences next year, and to begin an annual lecture series.

We have had a very good year in alumni relations. On Alumni Day four outstanding alumni returned to campus for a panel discussion on how their study of philosophy has influenced their work and lives. Panelists included Steve Carroll ('78), who is now a Senior VP at AC Nielsen in Schaumburg; Stacy Parton ('93), who is a Family Therapist in Normal; Michelle Fesi ('01), who is a Marketing Administrator in Chicago; and Mark Lindner ('01), who is a Library Technician in Normal. The program was well attended and well appreciated by both students and faculty.

Though the absolute numbers are quite modest, our 2003 Foundation donations advanced 58% year over year. Donations are used mainly for student recognition and support, particularly for scholarships and travel to conferences.

After many months of reflection, in the context of developing our program assessment plan, the department has decided to drop the B.S. major and to loosen the B.A. major requirements so that students and faculty will have more flexibility and more variety in their required course work. These changes will take effect in Fall, 2005.

Current statistics show significant increases in the numbers of philosophy majors and minors. As of the end of 2003, majors were up 11% and minors were up 30% year over year. The number of Fall 2004 matriculating majors (freshmen and transfers) is up 60% over last year. Our web site had 14555 visits in the fall term, 45% searching under "philosophy degree." We appear to be reaching and attracting a wider student constituency.

Turning to faculty accomplishments, in 2003, members of the regular philosophy faculty published one book and saw another accepted for publication, they published 11 papers, made 19 presentations at professional meetings and many more at public meetings, refereed nine journals articles and published three book reviews.

Prof. Alison Bailey was chosen as Interim Assistant Director of the Women's Studies Program for the current spring term and she has been appointed to serve as Interim Director starting in fall, 2004.

The Mind Project proceeds apace under a three-year \$553,000 NSF. Prof. David Anderson heads the cognitive science curriculum development project, which involves collaboration among several ISU departments and several colleges nationwide.

Prof. Kenton Machina will complete his tenure as Andes Endowed Chair of General Education in the coming Fall term. He completed the first year as co-principal investigator on a three-year, \$284,000 NFS grant to encourage matriculating women students to enter the fields of science and technology. After NSF review, the grant was renewed for a second year.

The Anderson and Machina NSF grants place the Philosophy Department second only to Biological Sciences out of the sixteen departments in the College of Arts and Sciences in total external grant generation. Philosophy is the smallest departments in CAS.

Chris Horvath was recognized for his many years of outstanding leadership and service both to the university and to the wider profession with the Strand Diversity Achievement Award. This is the highest service award the university can bestow on a member of the faculty.

Prof. Mark Siderits began a two-year leave (including a sabbatical) by serving in the fall as Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor at the University of Liverpool and lecturing on Indian philosophy at King's College London.

In the spring 2003, Prof. Simon completed his year-long appointment as Shultze Distinguished Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Northern Colorado.

I hope you have a great year and encourage you to stay in touch with your former teachers and come visit the department anytime you are in the neighborhood. Our doors are always open.

Best wishes,

Jim Swindler, Chairman

# News From Alums

## Steve Carroll (1978)

Steve Carroll is Senior Vice President of AC Nielsen, the world's largest market research company. He is responsible for managing their U.S. client service. There are nearly 1,000 associates in his group which is responsible for providing information and consulting to consumer package goods companies such as Proctor & Gamble, Kraft, Nestle, Unilever, and Coca Cola, etc. to help them develop pricing, promotion and new product strategies and executional tactics. His philosophy degree, which he uses every day, taught him how to think, write, and speak in a persuasive and compelling fashion. His ability to develop optimal business strategies and clearly communicate his vision for both his company and clients has allowed him to become the youngest executive ever to sit on the operating committee of AC Nielsen.

## Steven Brown (1989)

After receiving his BA degree in 1989, Steven graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis. Since then he has been practicing in Phoenix/Tempe. He has completed extensive post-graduate work in Acupuncture, and has Diplommat status with the International Academy of Medical Acupuncture. He is the owner of Brown Chiropractic & Acupuncture PC located in the LA Fitness Sports Club in Tempe which was the cover story in the 2003 issue #8 of *Chiropractic Economics*, a national magazine covering the economics of the Chiropractic profession.

Steven reflects on his Philosophy degree as having taught him the most important thing ever, how to think. How to reach conclusions that lead to productive decisions. He continues his comments that almost all unsuccessful people simply do not arrange their thoughts in a logical manner that enables them to achieve success. Success, in any field, starts in the mind, in that intangible thought process where goals are formed. If that thought process is flawed no amount of hard work will bring success. The study of Philosophy is essential for training the mind, which leads to success in whatever field you choose.

## Stacy Parton (1993)

Since graduating in '93, I've stayed in Bloomington/Normal working in social services. I am currently with the Baby Fold as a family therapist/adoption preservation. My psychology degree is most directly applicable to my current work as a child and family therapist, but my second major in philosophy has had a tremendous influence on my work as well. Studying logic and thought has helped me understand people's internal processes and logic in a way that psychology alone was lacking. In order to help someone make changes in their life, it is important to first understand their perspective on the world. My philosophy degree has given me the skills to understand my clients' view-points, even when they differ from my own.

## Michelle Fesi (2001)

Shortly after graduating from ISU in 2001, I moved to Chicago and began a career in insurance. My first employment after college was with a firm that underwrites insurance programs for Illinois public schools. As the Marketing Coordinator for the program I devised yearly marketing plans, managed the producers assigned to the program and presented quarterly marketing results to the Board of Trustees. I have recently started a new job with Arch Insurance Group as a Marine Underwriting Assistant. My job is primarily focused on individually evaluating accounts to ensure that they are an acceptable risk for my company (or at least that's what I am learning to do—I have not been there long.) Given the analytical nature of my job function I am always using the skills that I honed as a philosophy major.

## Mark Lindner (2001)

I want to begin with a big thank you to the department for choosing me as a distinguished graduate for Alumni Day panel this past year. This university, and especially the Philosophy Department has been very good to me in so many ways. This was an incredible honor for me and I really enjoyed our panel discussion format and my co-honorees, Stacy, Michelle and Steve. I had the privilege of being in a few classes with Michelle and we graduated at the same time. I truly enjoyed getting to know Stacy (and if you ever need a quality draft beer on me give me a call) and am happy to see someone making a positive difference in her community. I had a truly enjoyable evening with many and varied intelligent and interesting people, but I deeply regret not being able to spend any time with Steve. We are about the same age but our lives went in such completely different paths. A missed opportunity on my part I fear...

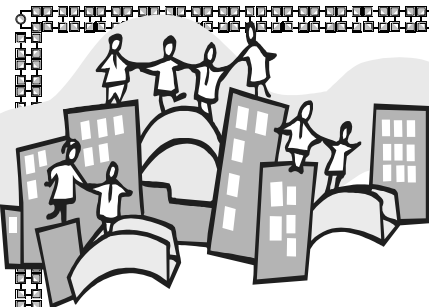
I work as a Library Technical Assistant at Milner Library in Access Services (Circulation, Reserves and ILL). I do many things, but my primary function is electronic reserves. I am also a graduate student at-large, which by the way, happens to be one of the most liberating experiences of my life. I take classes that I am interested in, particularly if they are from professors that I like as educators and scholars. ISU pays my tuition and fees as an employee. People sometimes laugh at me, but I do not intend to ever stop taking classes. I am in my third seminar with our own Dr. Horvath (2004 recipient of the David Strand Diversity Achievement Award, congrats Chris!) in this manner.

(continued to next page)

This year I was finally able to get my grad school application completed. I should know in early March if I will be able to start on my Masters in Library Science degree at UIUC this summer (*news update—Mark was accepted!*). This unfortunately means a return to other-directed studies for a while, but the end result is that I will be able to get a slightly better paying job that will allow me to ensconce myself at an academic institution for the rest of my life (at the minimum acceptable wage, since one could say I am well ensconced here...). I also hope to at sometime get another Masters degree in something along the lines of History, Philosophy, or Sociology of Science and Technology since many academic libraries require librarians to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> subject masters.

My hobbies are: Learning. Questioning or is it questing? Various reading/discussion groups that I'm in, which besides being intellectually broadening and stimulating provide me with a sense of community. Being a member of a community of scholars. Watching my children turn into the wonderful young adults that they are.

Last, but always foremost, I want to thank Donna and Iris for their never-ending love and support. Two finer women I have not known.



## If you have internships..... We have students!!!

Our Alumni Day Gathering reminded us again that many of our students take the skills, ie. critical thinking, problem solving, etc., they have acquired with their degree and seek employment into a wide range of fields. Often they find it frustrating to convince potential employers of the value of these skills. As philosophy alums you have certainly experienced this also. It occurs to us then that to find internship possibilities through our strong and supportive alum network for our majors would provide them with a much needed edge in the very competitive job market. Most other major disciplines provide such opportunities and it is well known that internships lead to greater employment potential or in the case of pre-law majors, acceptance into law school. Internships can be paid or non paid or taken for credit. Obviously there is a preference for a paid experience, however a non paid position would be a possibility if it were near the university or the student's summer address. If you or your current employer could offer this exciting opportunity to some of our majors please contact us.

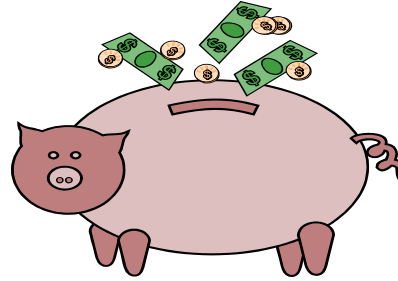


## WANTED!! YOUR BUSINESS CARD

We attend Open Houses each Fall and Spring semester, as well as a couple in the summer. The attendees are juniors and seniors in high school. They, and their parents, always ask, "But what CAN you DO with a Philosophy Major?" To help us demonstrate "What a Philosophy Major Can Do", we would like to make a display of business cards to show what our alums are doing. Would you please send us one of your business cards, along with a short description of what you do and how you use your background in philosophy.

Thank you! We appreciate your time!

# Thanks!!!



Dr. David Anderson  
 Marcus Anderson  
 Erik and Lisa Brihagen  
 Alliant Techsystems—matching Brihagen gift  
 Martha Burk  
 Robert Brunette  
 Robert & Catherine Carmody  
 John & Valerie Carroll  
 State Farm Companies Foundation—matching  
 Carroll gift  
 Bradley Cohen  
 Douglas Crossman  
 Kenneth Dooley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Durkin  
 Rev. Jon Ellingworth  
 Harris Bank Foundation—matching Durkin gift  
 James and Rita Farina  
 Stephen French  
 Sheri and Morton Glarborg-Jorgensen  
 David Goehrke  
 C N A Foundation—matching Goehrke gift  
 Dr. Michael Gorr  
 David Goulding  
 Dr. Julie Gowen  
 John Greuling  
 Dr. Nancy A. Slonneger Hancock  
 Libby Hatchel  
 John Jansa  
 Dr. Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard

Drs. Kenton and Connie Machina  
 David Mac Taggart  
 Michael Matejka  
 George Michalopoulos  
 David and Tricia Monier  
 Joe and Aubrey Montana  
 Ryan Peters  
 Darlene and Roger Raudabaugh  
 William Roach  
 Patricia Robillard  
 Ronald Rohlfig  
 Deluxe Corporation Foundation—  
 matching Rohlfig gift  
 Solomon Rutzky  
 June Salstrom  
 Kelly Sanders  
 David Shimanovsky  
 Dr. David and Norma Schmidt  
 James and Cindy Shively  
 John Stanis  
 Philip Stebbings  
 David Suryk  
 Dr. Jim and Laurie Swindler  
 Valeria Taylor  
 Gregory Taylor  
 Beth Tindall  
 Brandon Trueblood  
 Dr. Larry Waggle  
 Becky Williams

Once again a big thank you to all who have supported us. Our fiscal situation seems to be in a holding pattern though we have been asked to put back a portion of our budget as a reserve for possible cuts. If you live in Illinois you can't help but know things are still not good. As state support for the university declines, private support becomes ever more important. ISU has lost more than \$17 million in annual state funding over the past four fiscal years. There are many areas in the department to which you may contribute. Your contributions to the Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Philosophy Fund have been much appreciated by students. The Mind-Project has benefited from your generous contributions and your donations to the general department fund have helped us to send students to the Undergraduate Conference in Memphis, reward outstanding scholarship among the students, and provide other project support. We certainly understand that everyone is in the belt tightening process both at work and at home and we appreciate your many contributions. Your help and support allow us to provide those "extras" to the students that substantially enrich their education.

## WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

News you'd like to share \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You may also reach us via e-mail: [philosophy@ilstu.edu](mailto:philosophy@ilstu.edu) or fax (309) 438-8028

### DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY CONTRIBUTION

YES! I/WE WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTMENT IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Philosophy Fund      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mind Project Lab Fund      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

General Department Fund      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!!**

Please make checks payable to: The Department of Philosophy  
 Mail to: The Department of Philosophy  
 Campus Box 4540  
 Illinois State University  
 Normal, IL 61790-4540

# Student News

The Illinois State University Philosophical Society, otherwise known as the philosophy club, is back. The club is now an official Registered Student Organization or RSO and has been very active this year. The majority of the fall semester was spent building the club's membership and going through the process of becoming an RSO. The spring semester, on the other hand, has seen an explosion of activity. The annual wine and cheese event was held in late January along with a book/bake sale shortly after. The club has had regular meetings, recently increasing them to weekly gatherings on and off campus. Several special lectures have been given by ISU faculty members to include: Dr. Waggle, Dr. Stewart, and Dr. Swindler.

The club is currently looking to a much expanded involvement with the ISU community. RSO funding is currently under review and the club is attempting to gain funding for student trips to philosophical conferences. The club is also attempting to spearhead the creation of a special guest lecture series. If the funding is approved the club will attempt to bring a philosopher of prominence to ISU to speak on philosophical issues of relevance to the community. For more information about the club, philosophical humor and other interesting links go to the club's website: [www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/club/](http://www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/club/)

Steve LeFebvre, President  
Steve Bernardin, Vice President  
Tyson Mohr, Treasurer



L-R: Steve LeFebvre, Steve Bernardin, Tyson Mohr



Some of the club members and Todd Steward, (R) Faculty Advisor

## Student Awards

Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Scholarship  
For the Outstanding Rising Junior

2003  
Mark Ritchie

2004  
Doug Wick

Outstanding Senior  
Departmental Award

2003  
Zachary Grey  
John Sahs

2004  
Cindy Caldwell

## Paper Presentations

Mitch Kaufman  
Steve LeFebvre

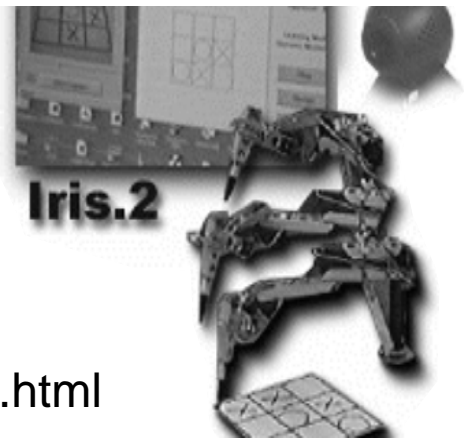
Illinois Wesleyan Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

Mitch Kaufman presented his paper, "On Denoting Sense and Reference" and "Creativity is Art" was presented by Steve LeFebvre at the First Annual Illinois Wesleyan Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in the Fall.

# An Update The Mind Project

David Anderson, Director

[www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/mind\\_project.html](http://www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/mind_project.html)



The Mind Project continues to thrive. We have many projects in the works but there are three of particular note.

### ***National Science Foundation Grant***

We are nearing completion of the second year of a three year grant and we will soon have a number of new and exciting online curriculum modules available for use in college classrooms. One of the most ambitious projects is to create virtual science laboratories. Students will become neuroscientists and will conduct an experiment to study the effects of cocaine on the brain chemistry of a rat. They will become cognitive anthropologists and do studies on the physics of color and on the color concepts used by three different cultures. Finally, students will build robots in a virtual robotics laboratory, working with AI programs and mechanical devices that will create a walking, talking, "thinking"(?) robot on the computer screen. In addition to the laboratories, there are many other curriculum modules where students will work with artificial life creatures, online visual search experiments, Turing machines, online human memory experiments, dynamical systems, a virtual EEG lab, and much more. (*Keep checking the "Curriculum" section of our website for newly added modules.*)

### ***Iris.4 Robot Project***

We continue to make progress on our Iris robot project. Bob Arrigo, the student leader of the Iris robot project, has written a new Central Control Program (CCP) that will be the central nervous system of our new mobile robot, Iris.4. The CCP will connect all of the software, the sensors, and the mechanical devices together so that they can all communicate with one another. We now have partners in Lisbon, Portugal working on this project. Dr. Mario Ramalho, an expert in computer vision, and his students will help us develop a new vision system for Iris. We hope to have a functioning mobile robot in less than a year.

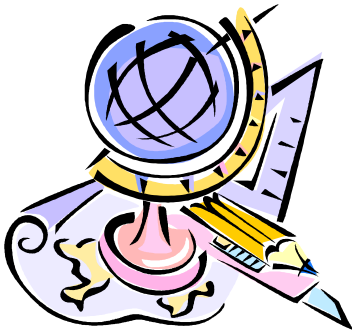
### ***Our New K-12 Initiative***

As we are nearing the end of our college curriculum project for the NSF, we are looking towards our next challenge: Middle Schools and High Schools. We have just submitted a grant to the National Institute of Health to develop Cutting Edge Science, Math, and Technology modules for grades 6-12. We will also be applying for an NSF grant to develop a professional development plan and materials for middle school and high school teachers.

### ***Join the Mind Project***

First and foremost, The Mind Project is an international learning community of students, teachers, professors, researchers and publishers committed to teaching and learning about the science and the philosophy of minds, brains, and human cognition. If you have expertise and/or interests in these areas, or other areas of cutting edge science, math, engineering, and technology please let us know. Join us. If you have resources of any kind that we might use in these endeavors, consider sharing them with the community.

Contact: Dr. David L. Anderson, Director, The Mind Project ([dlanders@ilstu.edu](mailto:dlanders@ilstu.edu) or 309 438 7175)



# Faculty Travels

## Mark Siderits

Mark Siderits has been doing quite a lot of train travel lately. Last summer he left for two years in Europe, a combination of a sabbatical and an external grant. No, he didn't take a train from Bloomington to Paris. But in September he moved into a flat in Liverpool and began lecturing in the Philosophy Department of the University of Liverpool. His stay there was financed by a grant from the Leverhulme Foundation to support the university's new graduate program in Indian and Buddhist philosophy. Besides lecturing in the university, his duties included helping spread the word about the new program, so he also gave talks at other universities in the UK: in Lancaster, Bristol and London. Getting to those places was an introduction to the British rail system. Then he started giving weekly lectures in Indian philosophy at King's College London. So every Friday all fall he took the train down from Liverpool to London, and then back up at night. (There was also the occasional weekend trip back to Paris, but that was via the budget airline Easyjet, which has cheap flights from Liverpool to London, so that doesn't count either.)



Siderits on his way home, baguette in hand..

His term at Liverpool ended in December, so he moved back to Paris. But his lecturing in London continued till the end of March. So every Friday he took the Eurostar from Paris to London, through the tunnel under the Channel. The difference between that train (French engineering and construction) and the trains in Britain is pretty impressive. The engineer on the Eurostar comes over the p.a. at some point on practically every trip to announce that the train is exceeding 300 km/h (= 186 mph). By contrast, they moved the time of his London lectures back from the original 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. because every year British train performance grows worse.

But then in early March he also started co-teaching a graduate seminar on truth in Buddhist philosophy with a colleague at the University of Lausanne, in Switzerland. (The university has one of the best programs in Indian and Buddhist philosophy in the world.) That lasts until early June. So once again he's doing a weekly high-speed rail trip across national borders. At least on this trip he gets to spend the night in Lausanne before returning to Paris. (King's College couldn't afford to put him up overnight, given London hotel prices, so he'd give his lecture and then get back on the Eurostar and head back to Paris.)

In June there will be one more trip under the Channel, this time to go to London for a conference on the self. One session of the conference will be devoted to his new book, *Personal Identity and Buddhist Philosophy: Empty Persons*. Those who had Siderits for PHI 362 might recognize some of the material in the book.

This summer, after brief stops in New York and Hawaii to see friends and family, he'll spend the month of August in Japan, where he'll attend a conference, work with a colleague on the translation of a Buddhist text, and do some traveling. Then he'll spend two weeks in India, delivering lectures in Calcutta and attending a conference in Pune. But none of that will be by rail (except for the travel around Japan).

Starting next January he'll be in Liverpool for another term. And since he's doing the lectures at King's College London again, he'll once again be training down and back up every Friday. Too bad there isn't one Frequent Rider program for all the different rail systems he's using: he'd probably earn a trip to Vladivostok on the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

## Thomas Simon

Thomas W. Simon returned to Kosovo this past summer to teach about war crime tribunals. He discovered that his previous course had achieved notoriety and success. His previous course on minority rights included some painful on-the-job learning. For the first time since the war, the University of Pristina admitted students from Serbia. One of the five Serb students enrolled in Simon's course. The Serb student and a former Kosovo Liberator Army student got into an ugly shouting match during one class. Simon and his Kosovar co-teacher managed to dissolve the tensions to a point where the Serbian and Kosovar student not only socialized together they also performed a public mock wedding. Unbeknownst to Simon, newspapers throughout the Balkans, especially those in Serbia and Kosovo, carried front page news stories of the hopeful alliance between former enemies. Unfortunately, the situation in the rest of the University of Pristina followed the opposite course when one of the Serb students was found dead in his dormitory room.

This past year's experience teaching in Kosovo proved almost as memorable for Simon. He accompanied his students on the same path that one of his students had followed as a refugee in Macedonia. For the first time, the student returned to the small villages that gave him shelter during the Kosovo war. Simon's class was featured at the closing ceremony, during which Simon claims to have told the first public anti-American joke.

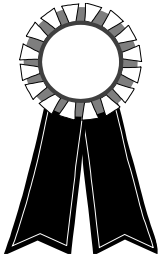


## WELCOME TO TODD STEWART OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER



Todd received his Ph.D. in philosophy in 2002 from the University of Arizona upon completing his dissertation, "Should There Be a Moral Epistemology?" Before moving to the University of Arizona, he attended the graduate program at Syracuse in philosophy for a year, and completed his B.A. in philosophy at Reed College. He taught for one year at UT Austin in a visiting professor position before accepting his current post at ISU. He's currently one of the faculty advisers to the Philosophy Club at ISU and recently was awarded an ISU New Faculty Initiative Grant (NFIG) to further his research.

His research in philosophy centers around core issues in epistemology and metaethics, although he has strong interests in ethics and the history of philosophy as well. His current research focus is largely on the epistemic significance of various forms of disagreement, epistemic circularity, and metaethical naturalism. He is also working on papers on all of these topics.



## Faculty Awards and Honors

### Christopher Horvath Strand Diversity Achievement Award



Chris Horvath was presented with the Strand Diversity Achievement Award at the Founder's Day ceremony on February 19th. This award was established by President Emeritus David A. Strand. The award recognized individual faculty and staff members who make extraordinary contributions to curriculum or program activities that assist the University in responding to its commitment to diversity. As it was most eloquently written by Dr. Kim Stone (English) in her nomination letter, "Chris is one of the bravest, most committed, and hardest working advocates for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) rights I have ever had the pleasure of working with. His dedicated teaching, scholarship and service on LGBT issues have fostered—in the ISU community and in the world at large—understanding, respect and acceptance of the diverse ways we humans live, love and form familial connections." Congratulations to Chris!

### Christopher Horvath College of Arts and Sciences Service Award

Chris Horvath was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Service Award last spring. In his nine years at Illinois State Chris has compiled a remarkable record of service to the department, the university, professional philosophy and the local community. His service ranges from development of instructional technology to instructing students about gay and lesbian rights and life styles. His expertise ranges from technicalities of evolutionary biology to the intricacies of university governance. He has been elected or appointed to a wide variety of departmental, college, university and professional committees, from administering federal regulations governing animal research to setting basic policy on university governance and social life, to fostering a tolerant community among professional philosophers. Congratulations again to Chris!

### Alison Bailey Interim Director of Women's Studies

Alison Bailey is serving as acting Assistant Director and Academic Advisor for Women's Studies for the spring semester. She replaces Jyl Jospheson who accepted a position as Director of Women's Studies at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. For the fall she has been chosen to be the Interim Director.

Since Alison joined ISU in 1993 she has been teaching both philosophy and women's studies courses. She teaches Feminist Political Philosophy and Sex, Values, and Human Nature for the Department of Philosophy as well as Women, Gender, and Society for Women's Studies. This semester she is also teaching the Women's Studies Seminar on the topic Feminism and Racial Politics: Recent Feminist Writings on Race and Identity.

She has served six years as advisor to Women's Coalition, the feminist student organization (now FMLA) and originated the Illinois State University Clothesline Project which continues with FMLA. Active in the planning process for the new general education program, she also served on the Women's Studies Curriculum Committee that successfully proposed WS 120: Women, Gender, and Society for the general education curriculum in 1998. In 2002-03 she served as co-chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Underrepresented Task Force. She is active in the Society for Women in Philosophy and serves on the program committee.

As acting director and academic advisor, she has assisted in curriculum matters and co-curricular programming as well as advise students in the undergraduate minor and graduate certificate. The future of Women's Studies will be in good hands with Alison serving now as Interim Director.

Congratulations Alison!



Alumni Newsletter  
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Normal, IL 61790-4540

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