

Faculty awards, presentations, and service

David Anderson presented “Why Intentional Machines Must be Moral Agents” at the annual meeting of the APA Committee on Philosophy and Computers. He also serves as a member of the committee. See the Grant updates section for the year’s progress on David’s Mind Project.

Alison Bailey presented “Re-Conceiving Surrogacy: How Should Western Feminists Think about Indian Surrogacy” at the Gender, Bodies, and Technology Conference, Virginia Tech; “What Can Intersectionality Teach Us about the Whiteness of Feminist Philosophy?” as the keynote address, Graduate Student Conference, Michigan State University; and “Intersectionality and the Whiteness of Feminist Philosophy” at Intersectionality: Challenging Theory, Reframing Politics, Transforming Movements, the UCLA Law School.

Daniel Breyer continues as director of the religious studies minor and serves on the College of Arts and Sciences Council.

Harry Deutsch presented an invited talk, “The Definition of Fiction,” at the University of Geneva.

Chris Horvath presented, “Testing Biological Hypotheses about Sexual Orientation: The Maternal Immune Hypothesis and Fetal T,” at the Biennial Meeting of the History of Science Society/Philosophy of Science Association. He continues to serve on the APA Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People in the Profession and related groups.

Kenton Machina continued his work under an NSF grant to encourage women and minority students to enter the fields of mathematics, science, and technology.

Todd Stewart continues as editor of *Southwest Philosophy Review*, the journal of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, which is published at Illinois State University. He is also the continuing advisor of the Philosophy Club.

James Swindler presented “Autonomy and Accountability” at the International Conference on Persons, University of Nottingham; and “The Gap as Status Function” at the Collective Intentionality VII meeting at the University of Basel; and for the Berkeley Social Ontology Group, University of California–Berkeley.

We’d like to hear from you!

Name _____ Year graduated _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(_____)
Phone _____

Drop us a note, e-mail, or fax about your activities, career news, family news, and significant events (weddings, births, honors and awards, promotions, changes in employment, personal accomplishments, etc.) Share your news in the “News from Alums” section.

Department of Philosophy

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Department of
PHILOSOPHY Alumni
Newsletter

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News from Normal

Welcome to the Illinois State University Philosophy Department annual newsletter. It was another exciting year for the department. The dust has finally settled on the renovation of Stevenson Hall, with new restrooms, windows, and doors—all of which were added after we returned to Stevenson following nearly a year and half in Turner Hall. We are grateful for the new facilities, but it was a long slog.

We had a series of excellent colloquia in 2010, by both visiting and Illinois State faculty members. In the spring Larry Hickman, Southern Illinois University–Carbondale, spoke on John Dewey on education; Alvin Plantinga, Notre Dame, spoke on evolution and naturalism; and Peter Vranas, University of Wisconsin, spoke on free will. In the fall Scott Jordan, Illinois State University Psychology Department, spoke on the metaphysics of meaning; Richard Fumerton, University of Iowa, spoke on ontology and skepticism; and our own Daniel Breyer spoke on the Buddhist concept of freedom. Upcoming speakers include Illinois State’s Todd Stewart and Victoria Costa, as well as University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign’s Robert Cummins and Jonathan Waskan.

Philosophy faculty had a very productive year. Here are some of their recent publications:

Alison Bailey’s essay, “On Intersectionality and White Feminist Philosophy” was anthologized in *The Center Must Not Hold: White Women Philosophers on the Whiteness of Philosophy*; and her article, “On Intersectionality, Empathy, and Feminist Solidarity: A Reply to Naomi Zack” appeared in *The Journal of Peace and Justice Studies*.

Daniel Breyer’s paper, “Reflective Luck and Belief Ownership” appeared in *Acta Analytica*, an important philosophy journal published in Slovenia.

Victoria Costa’s book, *Rawls, Citizenship and Education* came out from the British publisher Routledge.

Harry Deutsch published “Diagonalization and Truth Functional Operators” in the British journal *Analysis*, one of the most selective in the world of analytic philosophy.

Professor Emeritus Kent Machina published “Maintaining Positive Attitudes toward Science and Technology in First-Year Female Undergraduates” in *The International Journal of Science Education*.

James Swindler published “Autonomy and Accountability” in the British journal *Appraisal*; “Semantics of Knowledge *A Positio*” in the Italian journal *Ethics and Politics*; and “Bringing Oneself Under the Concept of Law,” in the German anthology *Autonomy of Reason*.

The number of majors and graduates continue to hold up. And again this year we anticipate several will go on to graduate school, some in philosophy. The Philosophy Club was active and sponsored a variety of events and speakers, including the talk by Larry Hickman.

Despite the state’s severe budget problems, with the hard work of faculty, staff, students, and the generous support of alumni and friends, the department continues to advance its mission in the context of an intellectually rich and vibrant university.

We are always excited to learn of the activities and accomplishments of our alumni. Please send your news to Crystal Scheiman at cjschei@IllinoisState.edu. Follow the department’s developments at Philosophy.IllinoisState.edu. And by all means stop by and see us when you are in the neighborhood.

All the best for the new year!

Jim Swindler
Department Chair



Jim Swindler

New faculty and staff

Victoria Costa

Victoria Costa joined the faculty as an assistant professor in August to teach social and political philosophy. She hails from Argentina, where she was educated. She taught at Dartmouth and Cal State-Long Beach and comes to Illinois State University from Florida State, where she taught for five years. She is the author of two books and more than a dozen articles in philosophy journals, and has made numerous presentations at professional conferences. She is also the recipient of three post-doctoral research awards and several prizes and grants. Victoria was a welcome addition to the department faculty. Unfortunately for us, this will be her last semester at Illinois State. In August, she will be taking a philosophy teaching position at William & Mary College in Virginia, where her husband is also teaching.



Crystal Scheiman

We welcomed Crystal Scheiman in August as the new department secretary. After Donna Larsen retired in December 2009, we hired Tonya Weber. Tonya worked in the spring 2010 semester, and then found a full-year position on campus; ours is only nine months. Crystal has a B.A. in elementary education with a minor in music from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. She most recently worked as an eye care associate in the eye care industry in Bloomington. With her experience in computers and in working with the public, she is a good fit for our department office. Photography takes up a lot of her time. She recorded the presentation by our Alumni Day guest, Val Taylor, and other colloquia speakers and has taken numerous pictures of our events. She would like to start her own photography business, taking pictures at weddings, birthdays, and special events. Crystal has already shown herself to be a valuable asset for the department and we are fortunate to have her with us.



Promotions

Alison Bailey was promoted to full professor this year, and she continues as the director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Retirements

Thomas Simon retired September 1, 2010. For the past two years he had been at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. He is now a visiting professor of international law at Nanjing University in China. Thomas came to Illinois State in August 1992 as chairperson of the department. While a professor at Illinois State, he was awarded two Fulbright Scholar Fellowships, one in 1998–1999 at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and one in 2005–2006 in the University of Malaya. In 1998 he served as consultant to the Constitutional Drafting Committee for Albania. He held the Distinguished Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Northern Colorado in 2002–2003. He published several books and articles while at Illinois State on justice, genocide, and law. We wish Thomas all the best in his retirement.

Donna C. Larsen served as department secretary beginning in September 1995 and retired in December 2009. As the first person many students met in the department office, she helped establish and maintain the high level of rapport and student support we continue to this day. She made arrangements for colloquia, Alumni Day, and awards events, and also provided faculty with handouts, quizzes, exams, etc., for classes and other projects. She served as our liaison to the Illinois State University Foundation, tracking alumni interests and involvement, and she was responsible for editing this newsletter each year. She got to know many of you and enjoyed talking to each of you while you were students and after you graduated. We know she is enjoying retirement with more time to devote to family, hobbies, and other interests. Donna made a real difference in accomplishing the department's mission and has our gratitude for her long and faithful service.

In memoriam

We are sad to report the death of Marilyn Kennard on March 3, 2010. Marilyn, the wife of the department's first chairperson, Kenneth Kennard, passed away at the Bohemian Home in Naperville. Marilyn and Ken gave a generous endowment to the Department of Philosophy in 1998. The fund initially supported student activities, such as travel to undergraduate conferences, the Outstanding Senior Award, and the McLean County High School Philosophy Essay Contest. Since 2003 this fund has supported the Rising Senior Philosophy Student award. Marilyn was a Civil Service employee at Illinois State in clinical experiences in teacher education from 1988 to 1993. Besides her husband, Marilyn is survived by her son, daughter, three grandchildren, one great granddaughter, a brother, and a sister.

Grant updates

David Anderson's Mind Project, now beginning its final year of a six-year, \$1.3 million NIH grant (as part of the NCRR/SEPA program), is finishing up its most elaborate virtual science laboratory.

The Neuroscience Lab #2: Parkinson's Study is a neurobiology lab where the user performs surgery on a (virtual) rat, replicating the death of dopamine neurons that occurs in Parkinson's patients. This interactive experience not only teaches about the details of cutting-edge research in neuroscience, but also brings the user into the heart of an exciting debate about what the mechanisms are that produce Parkinson's symptoms.

This year has also been the first year David and crew have taken robots into high school classrooms in a systematic way. They are working with three robot types—the Iris1 robotic arm, mini-tugs (which are little rugrat robots), and bugbots (which are \$15 mechanical insects). Their project funding is ending, so they are looking for new sources of support.

Kenton Machina and Anu Gokhale (Department of Technology) continue to codirect a multiyear project funded by a \$486,000 NSF grant. They are working with the Mathematics Department, the College of Business, the Technology Department, and the School of Information Technology to enhance Mathematics 120: Finite Mathematics with the goal of encouraging more freshmen and sophomores—especially women and minorities—to enroll in information technology (IT) course work. NSF funds efforts like these due to a growing shortage of qualified U.S. IT college graduates. The pool of such graduates is also not very diverse, while the field becomes more important to our economy. IT course work can often be combined with another major, like philosophy, to enhance students' chances of meaningful and interesting employment at a good salary. Many philosophy alums now work in IT positions, while most freshmen and sophomores enrolled in Finite Mathematics appear to be unaware of these facts.

The project hires four senior students per semester to write a blog about IT developments in a variety of fields. Although the blog is aimed at math students, you can read the blog for yourself at isutech.wordpress.com. The math students take quizzes on the blogs to prove they read the posts. And professionals who work with IT are brought in for after-class informal sessions about nine times per term. Topics range from how an IT background can be used by an FBI agent, to how Illinois State alums have formed a small business IT support company in Bloomington-Normal, to IT developments in health care. The project reached 380 students in the fall. We track the IT courses, majors, and minors the math students sign up for and compare those enrollments to those for a comparable group of math students who are not enrolled in the sections the project works with. So far there has been an increased interest in IT.

The University has benefitted from the project in other ways. The math course has become more interesting to students and teachers. Google has begun recruiting Illinois State computer science majors thanks to contacts made by their representative to the after-class sessions. And the faculty who teach all of the relevant courses have developed a mutual support network.

If you wish to make a contribution in support of the Philosophy Department, you can do so at IllinoisState.edu/giving or by mailing in your contribution to Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

News from alums

Dr. Steven Brown '89 accepted a position as a faculty associate in the Kinesiology Department at Arizona State University (ASU). Steven is a practicing chiropractic doctor and is teaching Functional Anatomy and Kinesiology at ASU's main campus in Tempe, Arizona.

John A. Jansa '91 became the program director at the Progress Center for Independent Living.

Brian Montgomery '02 received an M.A. in philosophy from Northern Illinois University and is now completing his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri.

Zachary Wagner '09 is a student at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

Alumni Day 2009–2010

2009

We were very pleased to have Tyson Mohr '07 return as our guest for Alumni Day 2009. Tyson, who now works as an actuary for State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, presented his thoughts on the constant value of his philosophy degree in his work, from careful analysis of complex issues to writing and presenting results and proposals. There was a good turnout of students who appreciated Tyson's insights. Tyson and his wife, Susan, have lived in Normal since she has completed her graduate degree in library and information science at UIUC. They had their first child, Elijah, in April 2010.



2010

Our guest this year was Valeria Taylor '84, who has worked as a public defender for the state of Wisconsin in Milwaukee since earning her law degree at Wisconsin in 1986. She gave a presentation to the students and faculty about how her philosophy major has helped with her career. Valeria spoke from the heart, not only about work experiences, but personal ones that made her become the person she is today. From humorous stories about clients, to sleeping through her GRE, to discussing how to make fried chicken, her presentation was fascinating. Valeria, who had not returned to campus since graduating, was impressed with changes to the campus and Uptown Normal. She aims to return to Normal soon, even if only to have another taste of Medici's fantastic tilapia. Catch highlights of her presentation at Philosophy.IllinoisState.edu.



Student news

Illinois State philosophy students have delivered research papers at several conferences, including the Midsouth Philosophy Conference, the Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, and the Illinois Wesleyan University Philosophy Conference, as well as the University's Undergraduate Research Symposium. The department uses foundation resources to support student travel to conferences.

Ross Sadler was awarded the 2010 Scott M. Elliott Philosophy Scholarship for the Outstanding Rising Junior.

Samuel Sparrow was awarded the 2010 Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Scholarship for the Outstanding Rising Senior.

Jonathan Moore '10 was awarded the 2010 Outstanding Senior Award.

Weston Love worked with Scott Jordan (Department of Psychology) during summer 2010 under an Honors Research Grant. He participated in producing a paper related to Scott's work on "Wild Systems Theory" and contextual emergence of consciousness.

Our website has had an extreme makeover. Check it out at **Philosophy.IllinoisState.edu**. There is even a place to blog!