

## Julie Gowen, Department Chairperson, Announces Retirement

Friday, September 10 was a sad day indeed for the department as that was the day Julie called a faculty meeting and announced her retirement. The past six years have been wonderful years for the department so it was no surprise that the faculty was shocked at this announcement. February 29<sup>th</sup> will be Julie's last day.

Julie came to Illinois State University in 1972 after receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Since that time she has had a long and successful academic and administrative career on our campus as professor, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and department chair. During her tenure as chairperson she has enhanced an already high quality program and increased the resource base for the department, which had been eroding for several years. She has made advances in the types of opportunities for undergraduate research and hands-on learning, expanded learning through the use of computer-based instruction, and fundamental revisions in the curriculum for the major and minor. Even as she packed boxes Julie was hard at work. She negotiated the acquisition of a permanent home for the Mind Project research and development laboratory in Stevenson and initiated a fund raising campaign for furniture and equipment. To expand the Project, she has worked with psychology and a joint request has been made for a new tenure



track position to support the expansion of undergraduate learning and research opportunities in cognitive science. This person would have a background in philosophy, neuroscience, and psychology. In addition, Julie has been working with faculty from biological sciences, geography/geology, and health sciences to design a means for expanding and developing campus-wide opportunities for undergraduate study and research in environmental studies. She has not had her feet propped up during these last few months to say the least....

Friend, confidante, innovative problem solver, fair administrator are a few of the adjectives used to describe Julie. Elizabeth Chapman, Associate Provost, first met Julie when she was associate dean. "She was that College's chief facility advocate and met with the other associate deans to discuss common problems. This model of collaborative work between the associate deans continues today (no small tribute to her legacy)." Julie and Dr. Chapman's former associate dean, Larry Miller, "worked together on a number of projects including obtaining the "Butler Building" and "Dentist's Offices" (aka Research Services Building) so that faculty would have some space for their grant activities." Dr. Chapman also notes that the University has Julie to thank, in part, for the new science laboratory building. "She brought to the campus' attention the condition of the ventilation system in the former chemistry/biology science building, Felmley Hall. This helped position the University to pursue the funding for the wonderful facility those departments enjoy today."

Virginia Owen, former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, got to know Julie when she was recommended as a possible chair for the biology chair search committee. At the conclusion of that search Dr. Owen was seeking applicants for the position of Assistant Dean in the College. "Julie applied and I appointed her. I never regretted the choice!" Dr. Owen said that "Julie proved to be a creative and thought-provoking colleague. Over and over she responded to issues from a completely different perspective than I would have taken and therefore broadened my understanding of the decisions under consideration. She led the College through major curriculum revisions with the creation of such initiatives as mathematics across the curriculum, science and technology education, and the informal groupings of electives for greater job marketability

of Arts and Sciences majors that became the Career Competency Combinations. Her report of the Task Force on Science and Technology was cited by the National Endowment for the Humanities as a significant contribution to liberal arts curriculum." Julie served on many multidisciplinary committees and task forces, worked on teacher education both on campus and a Board of Regents task force, and encouraged joint projects with the College of Applied Science and Technology. Dr. Owen notes that "during the years in the College office she was promoted to Associate Dean, the first ever. Her ability to get people to work together even when they strongly disagree and her innovative approaches to problem-solving served her well throughout her years in the College administration."

Julie has also earned respect and admiration from faculty as well. David Anderson said "one of the things that amazes me most about Julie is her willingness to commit herself to other faculty members' projects. She has the ability to support the vision of another person as if it were her own." Liane Stillwell added that "Julie had just the right set of personal and professional qualities to benefit our department in numerous ways, and in only a few years. Also, this was no small feat in a time of great change and debate on our campus as a whole."

Julie is committed to fostering growth and research among the faculty. As David points out "she frequently teaches an extra course each year that she is not obligated to teach so that she will generate credit hours and thus be able to give a course release to another faculty. She has done this on numerous occasions to support faculty who are doing research on a book, developing curriculum materials or launching an interdisciplinary project." David goes on to add that "rather than seeking the limelight herself, she stays in the background, providing the resources and the opportunity to enable other people to achieve their potential. This is a most effective style."

And finally the many students whose lives she touched are summarized eloquently by alum, Haik Muradian.

"A Teacher of Teachers is what Julie Gowen represented and still represents to me. Hard pressed indeed I would be to think of any other person that better exemplifies the ideal of the 'teacher'. Crystalline clarity of intellect, complimented with gentleness of heart - empathic to the educational needs of her students, gave Julie a radiant nobility of spirit that commands respect.

The vote, then, as it still stands today, is that Julie Gowen was not only my favorite teacher but her character and relation to her profession helped to place the study of the philosophy of religion, and the application of religious thought and practice, at the forefront of my life. It is her influence and inspiration for clarity in thought and deed that contributed in helping me choose ideals of conduct born out of a commitment to live the highest truth I could find while developing the skillful means to sustain that commitment.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Gowen. It is regretful indeed that the incoming students will not get the chance to experience the treasures of her company."

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A national search for chair is in progress with hopes of an appointment this spring. Kenton Machina will serve as interim chair.

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### **From Thomas Simon**

"You have mail from Slobodan Milosovic." A year ago, Thomas W. Simon would have hardly noticed the name of the mail he forwarded from the previous tenant of his apartment in Ljubljana, Slovenia (not Slavonia or Slovakia). Thomas quickly became immersed in the politics of Slovenia, where he spent a Fulbright fellowship last spring. As Thomas quips, "They said nothing about the possible bombing of Kosovo at the Fulbright orientation sessions." Fortunately for Thomas and his family, they could only hear the planes flying overhead on the way to their nightly bombing targets.

The Kosovo Crisis became a prominent part of his Fulbright experience. Before the bombing began, Thomas and another Fulbright fellow in journalism began preparations for a trip to attend a peace conference in Belgrade. His journalism friend had the surreal experience of having his visa application politely refused at the Yugoslav consulate in Trieste (Italy) hours before the

bombs began to fall. He felt the greatest danger when he took his family to Athens for an invited talk sponsored by the Council of Europe. His family watched the anti American demonstration attended by thousands. They turned the TV sound off since the chants roared loud enough outside their hotel window. In the meantime, Thomas was speeding around the barricades with a UN official on his way to dine with members of the Greek government. In touring the sites of Athens, they tried to speak only Dutch. Later they learned that a bomb exploded in the Intercontinental Hotel killing one.

Thomas also recounts being an honored guest at a spring celebration of Diaspora Roma (Gypsies) just before the bombing began. These Roma, who had settled in Maribor, Slovenia, came from two groups, Albanian Kosovars and Serbian Kosovars. Thomas gave an interview about the celebration to a Slovene TV station. He has copies of the celebration but cannot bring himself to watch them. One would think that the highlight for Thomas would have been serving as a White House press corps guide during President Clinton's visit to Ljubljana. Instead, he found his visits to Bosnia the most moving, including an interview with a woman who had gone through the bombing in Belgrade. Mostar remains a city divided between Croats and Muslims. Most services exist in duplicate. Croat taxi drivers, for example, refused to take Thomas across the bridge to the other Muslim bus station.

Unlike Bosnia and Croatia, where the remnants of ethnic cleansing remain stark, Slovenia has a Western European atmosphere. Thomas taught in the Law Faculty of the University of Ljubljana where students treat professors with a respectful European distance. "The dean or a colleague would close my office door assuming that I had accidentally left it open. They could not imagine that the open door signaled an invitation for students to visit." He coached a moot court team and took them to Geneva. While in Geneva, Thomas experienced the travails of politics as he led the way for the UN Working Group on Minorities to make Slovenia the first country it would visit.

Thomas also taught a philosophy of mind tutorial and a philosophy of science seminar in the Philosophy Faculty. He would like to initiate faculty and student exchanges at ISU with their counterparts in Slovenia. Along with the fantastic mountains and Adriatic sea resorts, Slovenia has an impressive analytic philosophy faculty. Thomas would welcome opportunities to talk about his experiences, informally or formally.

### From Mark Siderits

Mark Siderits is on unpaid leave this year. He is working on a book on personal identity and Buddhist metaphysics. During Fall semester he completed a round-the-world journey that took him to several different countries in pursuit of his current research agenda. His travels began in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he attended the Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies on 22-29 August. In connection with this conference he organized a day-long panel on the subject of Parfit and Buddhist Reductionism; the panel featured both prominent Buddhologists and analytic philosophers not conversant with Buddhist philosophy.

In late September he moved on to India, where he spent two months. The first five weeks of his visit were spent at Avinashilingam Deemed University, in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (the southernmost state in India). His stay there was part of a faculty exchange program between ISU and Avinashilingam. During his stay he lectured on feminist philosophy and other Women's Studies topics. South India is also home to some of the most important sites of Shaiva Hinduism, and he took advantage of his stay in Tamil Nadu by visiting a number of interesting temples around the state.

In late October he traveled to Varanasi (Benares), where he was one of four international participants in a conference on Buddhist Studies organized by the Indian government. During his week in Varanasi he also visited Sarnath, where the Buddha is said to have begun his teaching career. At Sarnath he discussed topics in Buddhist philosophy with scholars from the Tibetan exile community, which has established advanced research institutions there. He then moved on to Calcutta, where he spent two weeks as a visitor at Jadavpur University. He presented some of his current research to the philosophy departments of Jadavpur and two other Calcutta universities, and worked with graduate students interested in Buddhist philosophy.

From India he traveled on to Cambodia, where he spent a week visiting the many Buddhist and Hindu temple complexes in the area of Angkor Wat. Those who have taken Indian Philosophy will remember the scene in the *Bhagavad Gita* in which Arjuna and Ka ride out onto the battlefield on Arjuna's chariot. At Angkor Wat there is a beautiful frieze of this scene, and Prof. Siderits took slides of the frieze, so that future students of PHI 207 will finally have something interesting to look at.

The last leg of the journey was to Japan, where Siderits spent two weeks in Hiroshima as the guest of Prof. Katsura, head of the Department of Indian Philosophy at Hiroshima University. Siderits and Katsura are collaborating on a new translation of a Madhyamaka Buddhist text, and much of the two weeks was devoted to this work. But he also did a day-long workshop with the entire department, and ran several graduate seminars on the Buddhist philosopher Nāgārjuna with students in the department.

Siderits returned to Normal on 14 December, but his travels were not quite over. On 29 December he presented two papers at the American Philosophical Association meetings in Boston. And on January 12 he flew to Honolulu, where he spent a week participating in the Eighth East-West Philosophers' Conference, held at University of Hawai'i at Manoa (Siderits' *alma mater*). His chief contribution to the conference was to organize and participate in a panel on the topic of spirituality and physicalism. He was joined on the panel by Prof. Machina.

**Mark Siderits**  
**Numata Distinguished Professorship in Buddhist Studies**

Mark Siderits has been named the Numata Distinguished Professor in Buddhist Studies for the Fall semester 2000. The Numata Distinguished Professorship in Buddhist Studies is a position established at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa by the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (a Japanese foundation established by the Japanese industrialist Yehan Numata) to promote research in Buddhist Studies and its propagation. There are similar arrangements at Harvard, University of Chicago, and University of California at Berkeley. The recipient spends a semester at the University of Hawai'i, doing research on their area of expertise in Buddhist Studies, teaching one graduate seminar, and giving several public talks on Buddhism. In Siderits' case, he shall be working on the translation and interpretation of a work by the important Buddhist philosopher Nagarjuna, and the graduate seminar he offers in the Philosophy Department will be on that text.

**Christopher Horvath**  
**Visiting Scholar**

Chris Horvath will be on sabbatical for the academic year 2000-2001. He has been invited to serve as a Visiting Scholar on the Science Faculty in the Program for the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney in Sydney, Australia. He will also serve as a Visiting Scholar in Residence in the

# A Look At What Our Grads Have Been Doing.....

## Elaine Peterson ( 1992)

I received my Master of Divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in June of 1997, and was ordained a priest in the Friends Catholic Communion in April of 1998. Currently, I serve as chaplain to a small faith community in Chicago, and also serve as director of Silver Chalice Ministries: a ministry to Christian mystics and esotericists ([www.silverchalice.org](http://www.silverchalice.org)). I am currently also working as a webmaster and marketing analyst for a publishing company. My current plan is to return to graduate school sometime in the next year to get my PhD in psychology, with the goal of an academic career and becoming a Jungian Analyst. I live in the Pilsen area of Chicago with my newly acquired husband, fellow ISU alum, Steve Episcopo, and our two cats.

## Kevin Theos (1993)

I graduated from Illinois State in 1993 with a degree in Philosophy and Political Science. After graduation, I decided that while I looked for a "real" job I would teach tennis to make ends meet. Tennis had been a passion of mine from the time that I was twelve years old and I already had considerable teaching experience. As it turned out, I enjoyed teaching tennis so much that I never got around to looking for any "real" job. Although the pay was somewhat better at private tennis clubs, I chose to teach for Chicago and suburban park districts. I found the park district players to be generally more down to earth and likable and I was especially passionate about teaching underprivileged kids from the parks because they reminded me of myself when I was their age.

A couple years into teaching I considered attending law school. While I wouldn't trade my teaching experience for anything, I felt like it was time for a change. During my undergraduate years I thought about attending law school but everything I read or heard about practicing law was so negative. Fortunately, some of my tennis students were attorneys and from speaking

to them I learned about the wide variety of careers that individuals pursue upon graduating from law school. So I finally decided to attend law school. Although the experience was not entirely enjoyable, I know that if I had never gone to law school I would regret it. I attended Northwestern University and received my J.D. in May, 1999, and passed the July Bar exam.

Currently, I work for a professional services firm in downtown Chicago in the state and local tax department. Most people cringe when I tell them that I do tax work probably because they think that tax involves little more than filling out returns. The reality, at least for our department is rather different. We do a lot of tax consulting which involves advising companies about how to save money on their taxes based on their situation. The most interesting and motivating part in tax planning is coming up with ideas that others missed. This great opportunity is always available because each company's situation is a little different

Outside of work, I still play and teach tennis, and am on the board of directors of a local non-for-profit organization called Tennis Opportunity Program, which funds tennis lessons and educational scholarships for Chicago area underprivileged kids. In addition, I also spend time dabbling in photography and I still enjoy reading philosophy books and other literature.

## Ryan Hitchings (1997)

Graduating in May of '97, I had thoughts of going on to graduate school, but certainly had not taken any action on them. For the most part I was content to be away from school for a while, relax, and see if any opportunities might come up. I'm not sure what type of opportunities I was thinking of though, given that I was not looking for better employment, nor inquiring about continuing my education. Fortunately, early that fall I received word from a cousin that her department at America Online was hiring a group of seven people, and the only requirement was a technical aptitude, as training would take place on the job. I managed to talk my way through a phone interview, and was invited to the District of Columbia suburbs for a face to face interview. I was more than a little nervous, and feeling pretty out of my league for the interview, and it showed. But with a little vouching from my cousin (she really wanted me to get the job, AOL has a nice employee referral bonus), I was given a position as a Technical Producer at AOL International.

My team's duties were to modify the US based AOL software to create, or maintain, services for the U.K., France, Germany, Japan, Australia, and more. Most of this was tracking down and fixing bugs within the software, a task I found myself well suited for. After two years of work within International, I moved to a position as an Associate Software Engineer with US Client Engineering where I am now working on the domestic 6.0 version of our product.

While I never pictured myself as the corporate type (and neither did any of my new coworkers when I arrived) I quickly found that AOL was a great place to work, even for me. The atmosphere is casual, the people are great, and while the work is not always rewarding in the greater sense, you can definitely see the impact of your efforts, as can 20 million other people.

## Sarah Hooks (1998)

I am a first year medical student at the University of California at Irvine. It was a grueling process to get in, but I made it! School itself is not difficult per se, just very time consuming. Grading is Pass-Fail, which relieves some of the pressure of studying. But given that one must be an over-achiever to get into medical school, we all study quite a bit just to pass!

I am still a Registered Nurse (RN) and hired in an Intensive Care Unit at UCLA Medical Center. Unfortunately, there isn't much time to work. I live by the ocean in Los Angeles with my husband and our cat. As much as I can, I play soccer, tennis, and lift weights.

I am very proud of my ISU degree (BS 1998). I love philosophy (my major) and I try to put it to good use whenever I can; particularly regarding medical ethics.

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# ISU Philosophical Society News

The ISU Philosophical Society enjoyed its second semester this Fall. New officers were elected, and they (with much help from last semester's officers) worked hard to spread the word, resulting in an increase in full-time membership. Treasurers Libby Hatchel and Dennis Draper arranged coffee and baked goods sales to raise money, while Vice-President Neil Johnson began work on a Society webpage. Secretary Tahlya Curt kept a record of Society proceedings and also assisted President John Sahs in preparing for each week's meeting. As always, the faculty and staff were invaluable, for both technical and moral support. Advisers Dr. Rob Stufflebeam and Dr. Jeffrey Carr provided advice and insight, while Iris Baird and Donna Larsen bent over backwards to assist the officers in their duties. Dr. Julie Gowen arranged a tailgate party, which was successful despite the inclement weather, and deserves thanks once again for buying her cold, wet students a hot lunch!

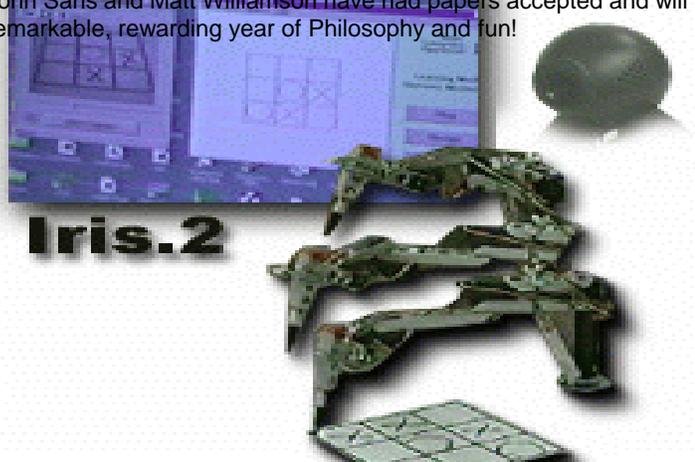
Dr. Thomas Simon talked to the Society about his work, as well as current troubles in Kosovo and Bosnia. Dr. David Anderson and IRIS also visited, in order to discuss the Mind Project. It wasn't only Philosophy faculty presenting, however, as History Chair Dr. John Freed gave a fascinating presentation on Augustine and his place in history. Actually, presentations were not even limited to faculty, as several students

were given the chance to brush up on their academic skills on "Student Paper Nights." These proved both popular and helpful, and resulted in papers being submitted to undergraduate conferences in Arizona and Colorado! No luck in Arizona, but Colorado is still a possibility.

Also on the agenda this Fall were two new projects - the Injustice Studies Electronic Journal and Scientific Methods And Rational Thought (SMART). The former, started by Dr. Simon and his colleagues, is an online journal for which the Society has assumed maintenance

responsibilities. Although the Fall semester was plagued with problems, it should be online before summer. SMART is dedicated to exposing and debunking paranormal and pseudo-scientific claims, and begins the Spring semester as its own club.

Plans for the spring and near future include encouraging more students to submit papers to conferences and publications, as well as planning an ISU undergraduate philosophy conference for Fall 2000. As last year, the Society will be making a trip to the Mid-South Conference in Memphis, both to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow students, but also to take notes on how a successful conference proceeds. John Sahs and Matt Williamson have had papers accepted and will be presenting them at the conference. The Society looks forward to a remarkable, rewarding year of Philosophy and fun!



# An Update The Mind Project

David Anderson, Director

**Website Development:** We have been working on a new website designed to articulate the greater ambitions of the project and to encourage students and faculty from around the country to join the project. We are seeking participation in two main areas: participants in the research projects and collaboration on the online curriculum. Much progress has already been made on the new website. There is, nonetheless, much more to be done. The goal is to have the new website online before the end of the Spring term (the site is presently password protected) and, for the first time, to begin advertising the site across the Internet. Our objective is to design a website that can effectively recruit both students and faculty to the project. Some progress has been made here, but finishing that project will be a major commitment in the coming year. You are welcome to visit the new website, but you need to use a password. It is still rough and not officially open to the public.

<http://lilt.ilstu.edu/~wolf/root/> username: mindproj password: robots

Please send any comments to David Anderson (dlanders@ilstu.edu).

**MIT Press:** One of the central goals of the project is to produce an interactive, online curriculum in cognitive science placing hands-on student research projects at the heart of the curriculum. Last year we fashioned a tentative agreement with MIT Press concerning the electronic publication and promotion of the curriculum. In the event that we receive a major grant to fund the development of the curriculum, MIT will sell it as a subscription service (e.g. students will pay a fee for one-semester access to the website). This year we went back to MIT Press and asked permission to use some copyrighted MIT Press material on our existing "free" Mind Project website. After much discussion with their attorneys and such, they agreed to give us modest portions of several key works, including their exciting new Encyclopedia of the Cognitive Sciences. We will begin using these new materials soon in the development of curriculum.

**External Funding:** This year, David Anderson, the director of the Mind Project, was the Principal Investigator (PI) on a \$493,929 National Science Foundation, Department of Undergraduate Education, Curriculum Development grant proposal titled, "The Mind Curriculum Project in the Cognitive and Learning Sciences". While the proposal was not fully funded, the NSF had a largely favorable response and they have initiated what they call a "negotiation" phase. They have suggested that they might be willing to support the project at the level of \$75,000. This grant would support the creation of "sample modules" for an online undergraduate curriculum in cognitive science. If these modules prove effective in the classroom, this would then strengthen a proposal for full funding of the project. While nothing is official we are optimistic about our chances for this seed money.

**Student Research Groups:** Below is a brief report on several of the student research projects.

*The Virtual Reality Project.* New animations for Virtual Cyd have been created. In the long run, we hope to confront Cyd with

moral dilemmas that he will solve using new “moral reasoning” programs.



*The “Iris” Robot Project.* There is an animation of Iris.2 on our new website. Iris.2 can “see” a tic tac toe board with a video camera, can draw “X’s” and “O’s” with a robotic arm and can learn to win the game with a student-written AI program. Iris.3 is in development. Iris.3 will have greatly expanded capabilities, including motorized wheels for mobility.



*The Gender Project.* Good progress is being made on questions like: What is gender? Is it possible to build a robot with a gender? New materials will be up on the website sometime this semester.



*Programming Morality.* Last year a student wrote a “utilitarian” moral reasoning program. This year a philosophy student began work on a design for a “deontological” program. When it is finished, a computer science student will write the program. These programs will not only make our robots and virtual persons more sophisticated, but they will help students learn about moral theory.



*The Logic & Prolog Project.* Soon there will be new curriculum materials on the website to introduce students to the study of symbolic logic (a sub-discipline in philosophy) and to understand the central role that logic plays in the artificial intelligence programming languages like LISP and Prolog.

*Assessing the Futurists: Immortality & the Downloading the Mind.* Winfred Phillips, an ACS graduate student (and Ph.D in philosophy), wrote an impressive 330 page master’s thesis critically assessing these theories. Several significant “chunks” of that thesis will soon be available on our website.

**Note:** This is only a brief look at some of what the Mind Project is doing. We are always looking for people from outside the university who want to get involved in these projects or start new ones. If YOU are interested in the Mind Project, please contact Dr. Anderson at the email address above. If you would like to make a donation to the Mind Project Lab, you may do so by mailing your check to the department office, Campus Box 4540, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-4540.

## ISU Philosophical Society Gala

Saturday, May 1, 1999 is probably not a night that the Philosophy Department will forget anytime soon. That night will go down in departmental history as the “Night of the Gala!” It was held at the Jumer Hotel here in Normal and there were about fifty attending, a mix of students, faculty and alumni. The evening began with a cocktail hour and the selling of raffle tickets. As everyone was finishing dinner, the evening’s main festivities began with Society members, Dylan Burch and Alexis Krapf, as the masters of ceremony. It was a laugh a minute as they presented a combination of faculty roast and presentation of “special” awards. Among some of the funniest “awards”: Harry Deutsch received a black shirt with chalk hand prints and dust all over it since as you may remember he wears a lot of black and tends to attract lots of chalk dust; David Anderson was presented with a compass to help him find his way out of his office; Mark Siderits was given a “Miss Manners Etiquette Book”; and Kent Machina, being the senior faculty member, was given an Obi-Wan Kenobi saber. These presentations were followed by the raffle drawings. There were CDs, several certificates for dinners at Jumer’s and Biaggi’s (a new, wonderful Italian restaurant), video store certificates, pizza certificates, a department t-shirt and much more. There were numerous favorable comments at the evening’s end and a good time was had by all.

### Keep In Touch

We’d like to hear from you with any news you’d like to share. You may reach us via:  
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