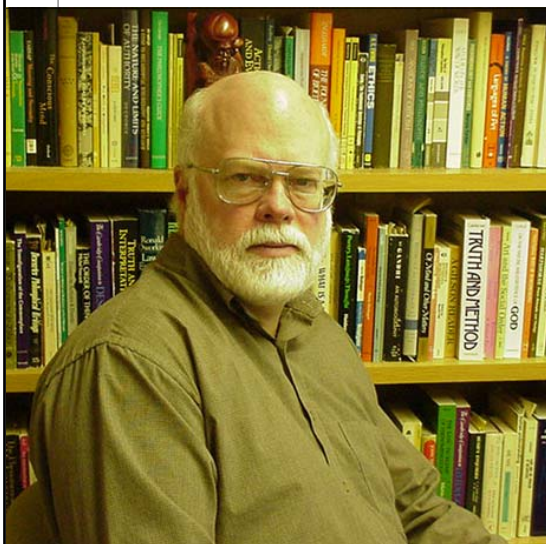


The Department of Philosophy Welcomes Jim Swindler, Chair

The Department of Philosophy welcomes new chair, Jim Swindler. Jim comes to us from Wittenberg University where he was chair and professor for five years. Prior to that he taught at Westminster College and University of Miami. He received all his degrees from the University of Kansas where he was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa.



Jim Swindler
Chair, Department of Philosophy

Jim is the author of *Weaving: An Analysis of the Constitution of Objects*, some two dozen articles in such journals as *The Review of Metaphysics*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, and *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, as well as numerous conference papers and reviews. He serves as the editor of *Southwest Philosophy Review* and is currently writing a book on social ethics. He is past president of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, the Central States Philosophical Association, and the Society for Social and Political Philosophy. He has held fellowships with the Eccles Humanities Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation. He also won the Review of Metaphysics Dissertation Essay Prize.

Jim teaches courses in the history of philosophy, metaphysics, and ethics. He is currently teaching an honors section of PHI 238, Rights and Wrongs which is part of the new university general education curriculum.

He and his wife, Laurie, moved here this summer. They have two sons who are located in the Chicago area.

If you are visiting campus be sure to drop by and visit. Of course feel free to call or email: jkswind@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-7665.

Please join us in wishing him all the best.

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Letter from the Chair:

First, let me say how pleased and excited my wife Laurie and I are to have joined the ISU family. This is a fine university, engaged on many fronts in the arduous process of setting and reaching ever higher standards of excellence. And it is especially gratifying to be privileged to serve as chair of such a fine group of philosophers and educators. The department has many great strengths rooted in an experienced and highly accomplished faculty and staff. Excellent teaching remains the faculty's highest priority but with full recognition that high quality teaching depends on maintaining successful research programs. It is not only our major programs but even the department's very heavy commitment to the university's new General Education Program that depends on maintaining first-class expertise in such areas as ethics, logic, political philosophy, cognitive science, philosophy of religion, etc.

Significant faculty activities and accomplishments during the past year have included a distinguished professorship, an outstanding researcher award, a major research grant, two sabbaticals, several publications, and important service to the university. In the fall Mark Siderits served as Numata Distinguished Professor of Buddhist Studies at his alma mater, the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Thomas Simon was named the ISU College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Researcher in the Humanities for 2000. David Anderson won a National Science Foundation grant to support the ongoing development of web-based cognitive science teaching and research materials. Alison Bailey and Chris Horvath enjoyed sabbatical leaves in the Fall, Bailey to pursue her research into social privilege and Horvath to work on evolutionary psychology. Kent Machina served as Coordinator of the Foundations of Inquiry course that is required of all freshmen and as Chair of the General Education Council which helps oversee the university's elaborate General Education Program. Bailey, Siderits, Simon, and Michael Gorr all published significant articles during the past year. And this only scratches the surface of the many activities—scholarly and otherwise—in which our faculty engage. It is indeed a very productive group.

We are equally proud of the lives our alumni have led after their ISU experience. The range of successful careers is very wide: business, law, the ministry, yes, even teaching philosophy. And many remain in touch with the department. There are several opportunities each year to reconnect and I want to encourage all our alumni to do so. Lainie Peterson ('92) returned to campus to talk to students during Alumni Day activities associated with Homecoming. John Carroll ('76) joined with faculty and former Chair Ken Kennard to help with the annual High School Essay Contest, formulating topics, reading and judging the essays. Still other alumni attended Attorney Advisory Council dinners where they reconnected with former classmates as well as philosophy faculty representatives. With cooperation from Illinois Wesleyan University, we organize several philosophy colloquia throughout the academic year, featuring invited speakers from other schools as well as our own faculty, to which area alumni are always welcome and which they are encouraged to attend. Each spring the Illinois State University Philosophical Society sponsors an end of the year gala to which, beginning this year, a philosophy alumnus who has agreed to join the newly formed College of Arts and Sciences Collegiate Advisory Council will be invited. Finally, of course, we welcome contributions to the department Foundation fund which supports these and other activities and opportunities for students, most notably in the last few years, the Mind Project, the department's unique, cutting-edge program in cognitive science.

Finally, several philosophy students have garnered recognition for the high quality of their philosophical writing this year. Brian Labycz, a graduating senior, and Brian Montgomery, a junior working in history and philosophy, presented papers at the Midsouth Philosophy Conference at the University of Memphis in February. Labycz's paper is entitled "Take Down your Art!" and Montgomery's is "History and the Ethics of Belief." Matt Williamson, a graduating senior, will present his paper, "Nietzsche's Intention: A Historical Vision," at the PGSA Graduate Student Conference, "Explaining Nature, Understanding Spirit," sponsored by the University of Kentucky Philosophy Department in March. In addition, the ISU Philosophical Society has been very active this year. They have held weekly meetings providing a forum for guest speakers as well as presentations from group members. They sponsored a beginning of the year "Gathering at the Gallery" in September as well as the gala in April. The gala is supported with proceeds of book and bake sales the club runs throughout the school year. This is a very healthy and active group and contributes significantly to the accomplishment of the department's mission.

All things considered, the department has rich potential in its faculty and staff, its students and its alumni that we will all be working hard to realize in the coming years. I hope and trust that the passion for philosophy that you experienced at ISU remains vital in your life and that you will stay connected to the department and the university.

Very best regards,

An Update The Mind Project

David Anderson, Director



The Mind Project is first and foremost a community of inquirers. It is a community of teachers, students, researchers, alumni and people of all ages and all walks of life who stumble onto our website. What they all have in common is a commitment to explore together the mysteries of the human mind and brain and other "intelligent systems" both natural (e.g. animals) and artificial (e.g. computer programs and robots). Some are interested in pursuing a serious study of the "cognitive sciences" – those scientific disciplines that do research into the fundamental nature of perception, memory, reasoning and other cognitive functions. Some are interested in creating intelligent robots; others are interested in learning about cutting-edge brain research. It isn't only the budding *scientist* who joins the Mind Project, however. Students majoring in the humanities are also actively involved. Their interests typically focus on the implications that recent insights into the nature of the mind might have for understanding ourselves as persons, as moral agents, as creative artists, and as male and female. What we are learning about the nature of human thought, sensation and emotion is having a profound impact on debates in ethics, religion, aesthetics, personal identity, and the philosophy of mind – to name just a few. Students are encouraged to do research projects in all of these areas.

"What we are learning about the nature of human thought, sensation and emotion is having a profound impact on debates in ethics, religion, aesthetics, personal identity, and the philosophy of mind"

The National Science Foundation Funding

Until recently, student research projects have been the primary focus of the Mind Project. During the past twelve months, however, the ambitions of the project have grown considerably. Professor David Anderson, director of the Mind Project, received a \$75,000 National Science Foundation grant to begin development of "The Mind Project Online Curriculum in the Cognitive and Learning Sciences". A team of faculty and students from Illinois State, Illinois Wesleyan, University of Illinois and Yale have been working for the past eight months to develop "sample modules" of an Internet-based curriculum that offers students many interactive, hands-on research activities right on our website. It is designed to introduce some of the most important (and exciting) aspects of cognitive science to people with no previous background.

The philosophy behind the Mind Project curriculum challenges what many consider to be the "received wisdom" about teaching this subject. Many people believe that cognitive science is too difficult, too esoteric a field to teach to undergraduates and is wholly beyond the reach of freshman and sophomores. At most schools, therefore, if cognitive science is taught to undergraduates at all, it is taught at the junior or senior level to students who already have a strong background in the relevant sciences (esp. psychology, biology, computer science and philosophy). There are several unfortunate consequences of this practice. First, the vast majority of students are never exposed to the field at all. By the time that most students discover cognitive science, and learn that it is an exciting field that they might want to pursue, they are already so far along in their degree programs that it is too late to consider it. It is the Mind Project philosophy that cognitive science *can* be taught to undergraduates – even freshman and sophomores. (In fact, we are committed to taking parts of our curriculum to primary and secondary schools.) We are developing a curriculum that will not only enhance junior and senior level courses in the field, but we are creating "custom modules" that can be seamlessly integrated into freshman courses in a wide range of disciplines (psychology, philosophy, math, computer science, biology, anthropology, etc.). This has two major benefits. First, it introduces a large number of students to cognitive science early in their undergraduate careers so that they have time to put together a program of study that emphasizes this field and that prepares them for further graduate work or for a job in a related industry. Second, even for the general students who have no career aspirations in the field, they receive a serious introduction to a field that is, even now, beginning to revolutionize many aspects of our society. Artificial intelligence programs and robotics are beginning to dramatically improve many household appliances and electronic devices; breakthroughs in neuroscience research are bringing new therapies to thousands of people with neurological (brain) injuries and diseases; insights into human learning are improving the way that students are taught (including how they are taught on our website). So, by bringing cognitive science into introductory courses and into the general education program at ISU, we are preparing all students to be better equipped for life in the 21st century and to make them more informed citizens as we all face tough decisions about how society is going to manage the amazing technologies that are even now coming out of cognitive science research.

The Mind Project



Curriculum

Well, enough about theories and strategies. How about the curriculum itself? We are going to let you peek in on the curriculum, while it is still in development. That means that you will find broken links, notes from one developer to another, interactive Java and Flash programs that don't work properly, etc. This is a site very much "under construction." But we thought you might be interested in seeing how things are coming.

NOTE: Since we are using some of the latest in interactive software, you will not be able to view some of our offerings unless you have the latest in plug-ins for your internet browser. You need Flash 4 or above for some of the animations to work properly, which you can download at <http://www.macromedia.com/downloads/>

The **Mind Project homepage** is:

<http://www.mind.ilstu.edu/>

But you need a username and password to access it.

Username: mindproj
Password: robots

The main **table of contents page** for the new curriculum on "Perception" (and much more) is:

<http://www.mind.ilstu.edu/rescur/percep/prcphome.html>

While you will find everything we have on the table of contents page, I will mention a few specific addresses that have some interactive elements that you might find interesting. (Remember, you need the username and password for all of these pages.)

Online vision experiment:

<http://www.mind.ilstu.edu/rescur/percep/introexperiment.html>

Animations of digital vs. analog computers:

<http://www.mind.ilstu.edu/rescur/basics/computer1.html>

Functionalism: A theory of the mind

<http://www.mind.ilstu.edu/rescur/basics/functionalism1.html>

Programs that "recognize objects"

<http://www.mind.ilstu.edu/rescur/percep/chaincode1.html>

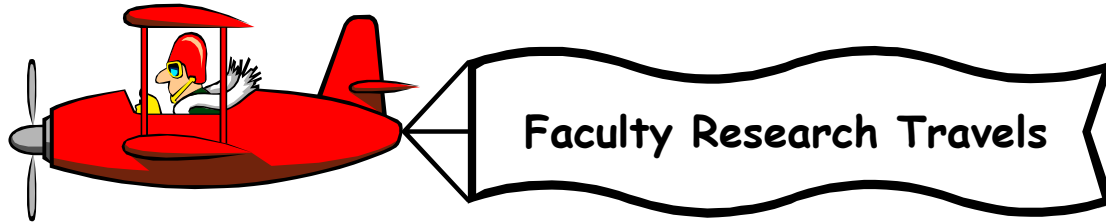
By the time this newsletter goes to print, there should be some new exciting animations of virtual robots and several simulations of the way the neurons in your brain work. But we aren't sure if they'll be finished in time so we won't be giving a URL for those. Do look for them, though, when you visit the site.

Join the Mind Project

Finally, let me say that we would value your input on our curriculum and on other parts of the website. Unlike print books, electronic books can be updated and improved on a daily basis. We intend to do precisely that. So any comments, criticisms, etc. that you give could result in improvements to the curriculum.

*The Mind Project
Homepage*

www.mind.ilstu.edu



*** * * * From Alison Bailey* * * ***

During my sabbatical this fall I continued my work on a series of articles addressing issues of race, privilege, moral responsibility and agency. I also began reading around in search of new research projects on related themes. In October, my sabbatical travels took me to Zurich, Switzerland where I presented my paper, "Taking Responsibility for Community Violence," to a mostly European audience at the 9th International Symposium of the International Association of Women in Philosophy. The ideas presented in this paper will be published as a chapter in Peggy DesAutels and JoAnn Waugh's forthcoming anthology *Feminist Ethics Revisited*.

Prior to my sabbatical leave I spent five weeks as part of a faculty exchange program with the Avinashilingam Deemed University in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. I was part of a delegation of five women--three of whom were nurses helping to start a nursing program at the University—sponsored by Maria Canabal's Fulbright Faculty Exchange Grant. During my visit I met with faculty in the new Women's Studies Program to discuss a curriculum structure for their program. I also had the opportunity to interact with students by sitting in on a number of classes and conducting short cross-cultural discussions. Students choose the topics about which they were most curious: American love-marriages/divorce vs. Indian arranged marriage practices, and elective abortion in the U.S. vs. sex-selective abortion in India. I introduced the concepts Mari'a Lugones's uses in her famous essay "World-travelling and Loving Perception" as a framework for addressing these issues cross-culturally. Student's comments made their cultural biases visible in ways I had not imagined.

In addition to activities related to the University, our group had the opportunity to travel to Ooty, a popular resort established during British occupation of India, and to Cochin, a shipping port in the forested state of Kerala. I stayed a week after the group left in order to spend the weekend at Sai Baba's ashram outside of Bangalore. Sai Baba is a contemporary saint and miracle worker. Devotees from all over the world come to the ashram to work, study, meditate and to watch him perform miracles. It was an experience I won't soon forget.

*** * * * From Chris Horvath * * * ***

I've spent the last year on sabbatical exploring Australia and New Zealand. It's been an amazing and productive year filled with beautiful scenery, strange wildlife, and friendly, innovative people.

I arrived in Australia on July 5th and took up my position as Visiting Scholar in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Sydney. I spent the first two months or so writing, giving public lectures and getting acquainted with my new temporary home. Once the Summer Olympics started the city became one big party. The university ("Uni" in Australian) closed for a two week holiday to give everybody a chance to join the fun.

I was invited to give papers at universities all over Australia. This gave me the opportunity to travel and see a great deal of this ancient continent. I traveled to the far northern end of Australia to the Great Barrier Reef. I spent about two weeks diving on the reef and exploring the world's oldest rainforest - The Daintree. This was an amazing trip filled with all sorts of weird and wonderful wildlife (and lots of good examples for my Philosophy of Biology class). This trip was followed by an excursion along the southern coastline between Sydney and Melbourne on the "Great Ocean Road". Again, I saw too many wonderful examples of evolutionary innovation to list here. The geology in this region of the world has to be seen to be believed.

In January I moved from Sydney to Wellington, New Zealand to take up a post as Visiting Scholar in the Philosophy Department at Victoria University. Wellington is very different from Sydney. Both Wellington and Sydney have beautiful harbors (Sydney's is much more beautiful), but the capital city of New Zealand is much quieter and more sedate than the party capital of Australia. Again, I have been invited to give talks at universities on both the North and South Islands and so will have the chance to see a great deal of this country.

It's been a exciting and productive eight months and I'm looking forward to returning to ISU in the fall.

*** * * * From Mark Siderits * * * ***

When I met my classes on the 16th of January, it was the first time I'd been in an ISU classroom since the end of Spring semester 1999. In the intervening 20 months I'd been around the world one and a half times, written a lot, and gotten a tan.

As you remember from the last newsletter I'd been working on a book on personal identity for some time, and finally decided that in order to finish it I needed to take an unpaid leave during the 1999-2000 academic year.

During that year I traveled to Switzerland, India, Cambodia and Japan. I got back to Bloomington in mid-December 1999, but was soon off to New York for the holidays. January saw me flying to Hawaii for a conference, and in March I was back in Paris for ten days, but most of the winter and spring I spent in my office working on the book. It was during this period that I discovered my leave would be extended another semester: I had been appointed to the Numata Professorship of Buddhist Studies, a one-semester visiting appointment at the University of Hawaii, for Fall 2000. I spent most of the summer in Paris, finishing up the first draft of the book, and then flew to Hawaii in early August. (Since it's almost exactly half-way around the world from Paris, I stopped in New York for two days en route!) There is a small furnished apartment near the university set aside for the Numata Professor, and even a bicycle! My official duties at University of Hawaii (where I got my B.A. many years ago) included teaching an undergraduate course in Buddhist philosophy and a graduate seminar on the Buddhist philosopher Nagarjuna, and giving two public lectures on Buddhist philosophy. But then there were also my unofficial duties: snorkeling, body-surfing, and spending a week on the neighbor island of Kauai. Somehow I also managed to do the final revisions on the book manuscript before leaving the islands.

The holidays were spent in New York and Paris. But now I'm back home in Central Illinois and teaching a full load of philosophy classes. The tan is fading, but Central Illinois has its virtues too-like not having to worry about skin cancer.

*** * * From Thomas Simon * * * ***

In the fall semester, Simon traveled to La Crosse, Wisconsin with students to present a paper on "Corporate Versus Individual Responsibility," for the University of Wisconsin's opening of a Shoah and Genocide Studies Center.

He also traveled to University of Cape Town, South Africa to present a paper on "Organized Violence and Restorative Justice." Simon reports that he had a brief spat, near Simon's Town, with a baboon who insisted on taking over his rental car while he attempted to shoot an ostrich with a camera.

In December 2000, he returned to Ljubljana, Slovenia where he had taught in the Faculty of Law as a Fulbright Fellow in 1999. He set up an interactive project between philosophy high school students from University High School and high school students in Slovenia. The project began in January 2001 under the direction of Mr. James Kinsella, an instructor at University High School who has introduced a philosophy course into the high school. The first phase consists of computer interactions among students and faculty with goals of constructing a philosophical dialogue.

In addition, while in Slovenia he presented a paper "Early Sanity Wanted: States, Minorities, and Genocides," Third International Conference on Constitutional, Legal and Political Regulation and Management of Ethnic Relations.

Simon decided to be the first philosopher from Normal to pay a recent visit to Yugoslavia. The highlight of the trip came when border guards from Yugoslavia took Simon off a train and interrogated him for a few hours. He tried to convince the Chief of how important his mission to Belgrade was for the world philosophy. After realizing the confusion over the words "invitor" and "invader," they allowed Simon to return to Croatia to obtain a proper visa. The nearest Yugoslav (Slav) consulate in Croatia was in Vukovar, where the devastation from the wars looms large. Simon managed to visit Novi Sad and Belgrade. He was struck by how normal and relatively prosperous the capital city of Belgrade seemed to be. He heard "Who let the dog out?" from many young teenagers.

On his return to Normal, Simon visited his daughter, who is studying in Germany this year. He gave a presentation to high school students from the former East Germany on the state of US electoral democracy.

As a side note, Simon would be happy to share the results of his study comparing the humor levels in different countries. For experimental purposes only, Simon wore a large yellow bow tie made to look like cheese from Wisconsin.

News From Alums



Daniel Sprouse (1975)

I am a private practitioner engaged in general civil practice in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma for 18 years. I 1979 I received my Juris Doctor from Oklahoma City University. I have been on the House of Delegates since 1983; President of the Garvin County Bar Association; Coordinator for Annual Garvin County Bench and Bar CLE; on the Board of Directors, Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma; Municipal Judge for Pauls Valley, Lindsay and Stratford, OK; Attorney for the City of Wynnewood and Attorney/Coach for the Pauls Valley High School Mock Trial Team. I am married to District Judge Candace Blalock. We have two children, Justin and Brittany.

John Carroll (1976)

I have been employed by State Farm for 24 years. I am currently Director - Life/Health Operations in the General Executive Department at Corporate Headquarters. As a management person at State Farm, I have lived and worked in several locations throughout the country: Salem, Oregon; Charlottesville, Virginia and Birmingham, Alabama. Also, I'm currently on my third tour of duty here in Mecca (Bloomington/Normal).

I'm married to ISU graduate Valerie and we have two children, a dog and three cats (at last count). Our 19 year old daughter Lauren is a sophomore at Illinois Wesleyan University probably majoring in art. She wanted a small private university and ruled out ISU for that reason. (At least I convinced her to stay away from Bradley!!) Our son Rob is a sophomore at University High School and is active in competitive swimming, theater and teenage girls.

In my spare time I like to bike, swim, read and cook. I recently have been reading books on the historical Jesus particularly those by John Crossan and Robert Funk and others from the Jesus Seminar. I am an avid fan of WWHP (The Whip) radio station out of Farmer City, IL. It doesn't come in clearly at all times, but the eclectic mix of country, rock and bluegrass is great.

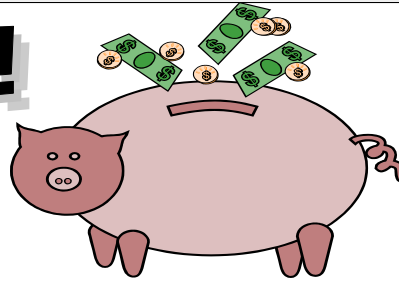
My degree in Philosophy is sometimes questioned by others at State Farm. Outside of actuaries, most of my peers have business degrees. However, I feel my studies in philosophy have been very helpful from both a process and decision making perspective. I'm amazed at how frequently people do not understand the logical consequences of their actions and decisions. I'm also often faced with situations involving tough ethical issues. Something as simple as telling the truth can be difficult in highly charged situations. I'm thankful every day that I have a foundation in philosophy from ISU upon which to fall when faced with these decisions.

Barry Brown (1980)

Barry Brown (BS '80; MS '82) lives in Nashua, NH with his wife Camille (MA '82) and their two children, Emily, 12, and Olivia, 3. Barry and Camille sell books for a living: Camille with Barnes & Noble Booksellers; Barry with Follett Higher Education Group. Recently, Barry became an adjunct faculty member at Middlesex Community College in Bedford, MA where he teaches English composition. Barry writes, "I value my educational experiences at ISU greatly, and I recall with gratitude the patience, friendship, and gentle guidance of the many teachers who mentored me, especially Julie Gowen and William Woodson [English], both recently retired.

Lately, I've been rereading Robertson Davies' Deptford trilogy, which Anthony Burgess wrote deserved a Nobel prize and which I heartily recommend. A sample: 'But where, I ask myself, will mercy and divine compassion come from then? Or are such things necessary to people who are well fed and know the wonders that lie concealed in an atom? I don't regret economic

Thanks!!!



A **BIG** THANK YOU to all our very generous alums and friends for your support!!

John Greuling

Dr. David Anderson

Marcus Anderson

Erik and Lisa Brihagen

Alliant Techsystems—matching Brihagen gift

Martha Burk

Robert & Catherine Carmody

John & Valerie Carroll

State Farm Companies Foundation—matching
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Philip Stebbings

David Suryk

Dr. Jim and Laurie Swindler

Valeria Taylor

Gregory Taylor

There are many areas in the department to which you may contribute. Your contributions to the Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Philosophy Fund which supports the High School Essay Contest for McLean County have allowed us to considerably increase the awards given to the winning papers this year. Our request for help in furnishing the Mind-Project Lab received many generous contributions and we now have a freshly painted lab, new carpet, new chairs and work stations. 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. Unfortunately state funding to higher education has decreased substantially from 75% of the operating budget in the 1960's to just over 33% of the operating budget today. Your help and support allow us to provide those "extras" to the students that substantially enriches 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 or fax (309) 438-8028

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY CONTRIBUTION

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

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Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Philosophy Fund \$ _____

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Please make checks payable to: The Department of Philosophy

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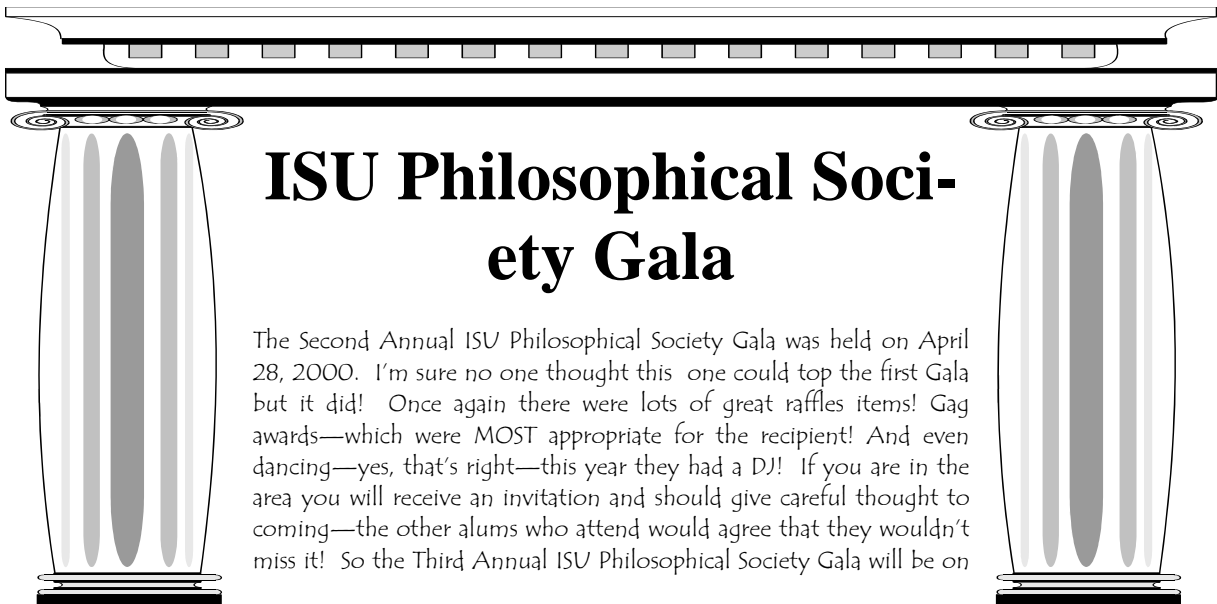
STUDENT NEWS

Mid South Undergraduate Philosophy Conference—University of Memphis February 23 and 24

Three philosophy students had their papers accepted at the Mid South Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at the University of Memphis: Brian Łabycz, Brian Montgomery and Matt Williamson. Seven students and Dr. Robert Stufflebeam traveled to Memphis for the weekend to present their papers and attend the conference. The report is that they found the conference very stimulating and of course a very very good time was had by all down on Beale Street!

The Sixth Annual Philosophical Essay Contest for McLean County High School Students

Once again the Department sponsored the Sixth Annual Philosophical High School Essay Contest which is now generously funded by the Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Philosophy Fund. The topic was "Could a Machine be a Person?". We had thirty-nine entries this year. The selection of the top three papers was extremely difficult and as a result there were two first place papers. The recipients were Rehan Ahmed and Emily Baldoni. They presented their papers and received their awards at an Awards Ceremony on May 5th.



ISU Philosophical Society Gala

The Second Annual ISU Philosophical Society Gala was held on April 28, 2000. I'm sure no one thought this one could top the first Gala but it did! Once again there were lots of great raffles items! Gag awards—which were MOST appropriate for the recipient! And even dancing—yes, that's right—this year they had a DJ! If you are in the area you will receive an invitation and should give careful thought to coming—the other alums who attend would agree that they wouldn't miss it! So the Third Annual ISU Philosophical Society Gala will be on

ISU Philosophical Society News

The ISU Philosophical Society has been thriving in the past few semesters, and as old students make their way toward graduation new philosophically minded scholars make their way into the fold. This year's officers have been drumming up new support through various activities such as the annual wine and cheese party, and a lunch time meet and greet in the philosophy department. The combined efforts of Treasurers Brian Montgomery and Ryan Peters have led to many successful bake and book sales. Yet, these events could not have succeeded without the help of members and department faculty. Due to generous donations of time, books, and food, we have raised a charitable amount of funds with which we can finance our various projects. Secretary Adam Corelli has kept record of society proceedings as well as organized publicity for the society through e-mails. President Victoria Labovsky has kept the wheels greased and the meetings running like a finely tuned race car. Vice President Matt Williamson has contributed some of his more scholarly work, and different members of the society have also presented some of their writings. All of this could never happen without the tremendous help of department secretaries Iris Baird and Donna Larsen, and we extend our appreciation to them both. Advisors Dr. Jeffrey Carr and Dr. Rob Stufflebeam continue to illuminate us with their insight and guidance.

We have had many faculty presenters this year, including department chair Dr. James Swindler, who presented us with a Kantian approach to free will. Also presenting was Dr. Kenton Machina, who gave us a vivid picture of how the argument aids philosophers. We have had numerous debates within the society this year, including discussion on the ethical ramifications of scientific progress, debate over the mind/body distinction, and whether morality is relative or universal. Combined with all of this, we have had many student presenters, two of whom have been accepted to the Memphis Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (Vice President Matt Williamson and Treasurer Brian Montgomery). We look forward to some new and interesting topics in the future. Dr. Alison Bailey will be heading a session of yoga this semester, and Dr. Patrick Francken will be presenting soon as well.

While we may have our scholarly pursuits, the Philosophical Society is about being social and interacting with other philosophically minded students. To that end, our meetings are often followed by even more rigorous discussion of philosophy in a more relaxed setting. We also have events coming up such as the Philosophy Gala, which will be held again at Jumer's this year on April 20th. The Gala is funded by the ISU Philosophical Society and is basically a means of thanking all of those professors, secretaries and alums who have guided us along the way. We also present the new Society officers and recognize outstanding philosophy students for the year. The Gala will be the last hurrah for some of us and the signal of a new beginning for others.

The ISU Philosophical Society would finally like to recognize all of the faculty and staff who have generously helped us out in the past, and we look forward to stronger connections with all of you in the future. Your input and guidance is fondly appreciated, and your generous donations of time and books (and cookies!) are not overlooked. We have had a great year and we look forward to even better years to come.

Alumni Newsletter
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