



Todd Stewart... continued from inside right panel

philosophy, normative ethics, and the philosophy of language. In the last five years, he has published full-length papers in the journals *Metaphilosophy*, *Episteme: A Journal of Social Epistemology*, and *Grazer Philosophische Studien*. His research continues to focus primarily on epistemology, in particular issues concerning the epistemology of disagreement and the scope of and proper response to epistemic circularity.



Stewart started at Illinois State in 2003 after holding a one-year visiting position at the University of Texas at Austin. While at Illinois State, Stewart has become an academic advisor, the advisor to the undergraduate Philosophy Club, the secretary-treasurer, and now vice president of the Illinois Philosophical Association. He is also the editor of: *Southwest Philosophy Review*. In 2007, he won an award for outstanding teaching by the Student Education Association. He also serves on the BroMenn Institutional Review board.

New faculty Daniel Breyer

In 2008–2009, Daniel Breyer joined the Illinois State as an assistant professor of philosophy. Breyer earned his Ph.D. from Fordham University in New York City and a master's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He received his B.A. in classics from the University of Montana.



Breyer's research focuses on epistemology. He has published in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, and delivered an invited paper at the Bled Philosophy Conference in Bled, Slovenia, in June 2009. He is working on several papers on cognitive agency and a paper on moral anger. He is also coediting an introductory anthology for Kendall Hunt Publishing.

At Illinois State, Breyer will regularly teach Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy, and Indian Philosophy. In spring 2010, he will start teaching in the University's new interdisciplinary humanities project. Breyer is also hoping to teach courses on free will, epistemology, and philosophy of religion.

Breyer is the director of the religious studies minor and will be a member of the College Council for the next three years.

Breyer has an active family life. He and his wife, Lauren, met nine years ago in a seminar on Plutarch's Lives, and they have been married for eight years. In December 2007, they had their first child, Aidan River Breyer. Recently, the nineteen month old Aidan woke up in the middle of the night and said his first grammatically correct sentence: "I want some cheese." Like father like son.

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

Illinois State University, Campus Box 4540, Normal, IL 61790-4540
philosophy@ilstu.edu or fax (309) 438-8028



Department of Philosophy
Campus Box 4540
Normal, IL 61790-4540

News from Normal

The past year has been exciting for the department. We have settled into Stevenson Hall as much as possible, given that renovations have gone on all year and new projects, like replacing all of the plumbing, windows, and exterior doors will continue into the foreseeable future. We were able to replace several desks for faculty whose old ones date from the origins of the building, as well as several computers that had seen better days.



Jim Swindler

The department of Philosophy was very productive this past year. Here are just a few highlights:

In the third year of his current federal grant, David Anderson's The Mind Project Web site has become one of the world's leading destinations for cognitive science, with over one million hits in 2008, and over 10,000 unique visitors each month. Google confirms that on 10 different search topics, including "virtual cocaine lab," "introduction to neurons," "introduction to perception," and "the nature of computers," The Mind Project curriculum pages are the number one resource of the 71 million on the Web. In May, Anderson's success was recognized when Illinois State inducted him into the "Million Dollar Club" for faculty whose external grants total over \$1 million.

Alison Bailey gave an excellent series of invited lectures on reproductive justice and teaching philosophy and feminism at the University of Oregon. Bailey was also elected to serve on the board of the Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory.

In June, new faculty member for 2008–2009, Daniel Breyer, gave an invited talk on "Reflective Luck and Belief Ownership" at the prestigious international 17th Bled Philosophical Conference hosted by the Slovenian Society for Analytic Philosophy and Philosophy of Science in Bled, Slovenia. Breyer has also been elected to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Council.

Harry Deutsch made a significant discovery in logical theory that, among other things, may open a route to more direct proofs of some important results in meta-theory. Deutsch will be on sabbatical this fall.

Chris Horvath has been elected to serve on the CAS Strategic Planning Committee and has just been confirmed as a "core faculty member" of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Professor Emeritus Kent Machina continued work as coprincipal investigator under a second National Science Foundation (NSF) grant aimed at encouraging women and minority students to enter the fields of math, science, and technology. His grants on this project now total \$750,000. NSF now uses results from his first grant as an exemplar to make their budget requests to congress.

Thomas Simon completed a year of study and teaching Islamic philosophy and law at the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, and will continue there on leave through the coming year.

Todd Stewart has successfully negotiated the long, elaborate application process and has been awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. Stewart now serves as vice president of Illinois Philosophical Association, for which he was a principal organizer of the association's 2008 meeting.

continued on inside center panel

The broad impact of The Mind Project

Thus far, we have not made any attempts to publicize The Mind Project Web site. While we are developing a strategy this coming year to do just that, it is important to note that many people have already discovered the high quality of our curriculum materials. In 2008, we had over one million pages accessed through Google, with an average of over 10,000 unique visitors each month. Equally important, other people are recognizing that we are producing some of the best work in the field. Google's search algorithms are, of course, a closely guarded secret. But we know that they take into account not only the number of visits to a site, but the number of other sites that link to that site. Given that we have not promoted the site, we were surprised and quite encouraged that The Mind Project curriculum pages have the number one Google ranking for many of the key topics that we cover. (This is number one out of hundreds of thousands, often out of millions of Web pages that Google ranks on each topic.)

Here is a representative list of 17 educational topics that we feature on our Web site, the number of Web sites that Google has catalogued for that topic, and our ranking as of January 9, 2009.

Ranked pages	Google search terms	Ranking
327,000	Virtual robot lab	#1
820,000	Virtual cocaine lab	#1
2,330,000	Introduction to neurons	#1
190,000	Introduction to neurotransmission	#1
596,000	Electrical neurotransmission	#1
25,400,000	Chain codes	#1
5,380,000	Robot reply	#1
277,000	Neural synchrony	#1
12,300,000	Introduction to perception	#1
71,800,000	Nature of computers	#1
83,200	Virtual neuroscience lab	#3
774,000	Neurotransmission	#3
132,000	Virtual neurobiology lab	#3
317,000	Introduction to connectionism	#4
131,000,000	Can a machine think?	#4
2,560,000	Synapses	#5
259,000	Chemical neurotransmission	#5

Having 10 search terms that rank number one in the world is not something that we expected to achieve at this stage in our development. We are especially pleased that our "Virtual Neuroscience Lab #1: Cocaine Study" was one of the first labs that we have completed for the SEPA grant—is becoming the top destination for anyone searching for a "virtual cocaine lab." Even more important is that any search for the more general topics of "virtual neuroscience lab" or "virtual neurobiology lab" will find our lab as the number three ranked site, with the only other virtual lab ranking ahead of ours being a Pirelli International Award winner that has been online since 2002 (and which possesses nothing like the sophistication of our lab).

While the Google rankings show that we have reached a broad audience, it is also important that we reach the medical community itself and that they judge our content to be of the highest quality. An example of this is an unsolicited e-mail that was received in November 2008 from the head of The Stroke Group:

Dear Dr. Anderson,

I have been reviewing The Mind Project online videos covering neuronal communication. These are the best video characterizations of these processes I have seen and probably the best that have ever been produced. The animation illustrates so very lucidly the complex signaling, regulating, communicating, and other interactions that determine chemical and electrical functioning in the brain. My congratulations on making it so elegant, comprehensive, and comprehensible.

Sincerely,
Gary Houser
The Stroke Group

This kind of response is most gratifying. In fact, it is just one example of a new constituency for our Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) products that we did not originally consider. We now realize that physicians and their patients have a need for our materials and that this new audience will ultimately expand The Mind Project's learning community, making it an even more important resource for middle and high school students and teachers. These modules can quickly and effectively introduce physicians to new medical procedures, and patients and their families can learn about procedures that they might choose to undergo. (For example, a family can go through our Virtual Stroke Lab to become comfortable with the coiling procedure as a relatively non-invasive method of resolving brain aneurysms). As more physician groups join The Mind Project Community, students are able to receive more direct input about careers in these medical fields; as patients and their families go through our virtual experiences, students and their parents learn about our SEPA curriculum and can introduce it to their own schools, with testimony of its effectiveness. Dr. Ajeet Gordhan, our consultant on the Stroke Lab, has asked permission to present the virtual lab to a conference of endovascular neurosurgeons. Researchers at the Mayo Clinic anticipate that our Virtual Deep Brain Stimulation Lab (now in the design phase) will be used to publicize their world class surgery facility and to introduce patients to the procedure.

News... continued from cover panel

He is also the new editor of *Southwest Philosophy Review*, the journal of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, which will be published at Illinois State University.

Liane Stillwell gave an invited lecture at a conference on early analytic philosophy at Purdue University on "Points of Contact Between Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* and *On Certainty*." This paper is part of her ongoing research for a book on Wittgenstein's work on skepticism.

James Swindler is coeditor of *International Perspectives on Pragmatism*, (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009). An essay that he published in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* in 1996, "Social Intentions: Aggregate, Collective, and General," has been translated into German and included in *Kollektive Intentionalität—Eine Debatte über die Grundlagen des Sozialen*.

We graduated an extraordinary number of majors this year, at least two of whom, Michelle Hunt and Hope Sample, are headed for graduate studies in philosophy in the fall and have won teaching assistantships. The Philosophy Club sponsored a variety of events, including a talk by a guest philosopher from the University of Texas. Indeed, our colloquium series has once again served as an important enrichment of class work for our students.

With the hard and successful work of faculty, staff, students, and the generous support of alumni and friends, the department continues to advance its mission in the context of a rich and vibrant university. We are always interested in the activities and accomplishments of our alumni. Please send your news to philosophy@ilstu.edu and follow departmental developments at www.Philosophy.ilstu.edu.

All the best!
Jim Swindler

Faculty awards, publications, and presentations

Alison Bailey

Presented "Strategic Ignorance." Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, Eugene, November 6, 2008.

Presented "Strategies for Student Responsibility in the Classroom." Teaching Effectiveness Program, University of Oregon, Eugene, November 5, 2008.

Presented "Using Microessays to Teach Students How to Read Theory Carefully." Research Interest Group, Center for Women in Society, University of Oregon, Eugene. November 6, 2008.

Nominated to a three year "member at large" position on the steering committee of FEAST [feminist ethics and social theory].

Daniel Breyer

Presented his invited paper, "Reflective Luck and Belief Ownership" at the 17th Bled Philosophical Conference, hosted by the Slovenian Society for Analytic Philosophy and Philosophy of Science, June 2009.

Kenton Machina, professor emeritus

Coauthored along with Anu Gokhale and Paul Brauchle, a paper titled "Research and Teaching: Development and Validation of a Scale to Measure Attitudes toward Science and Technology," which has appeared in *Journal of College Science Teaching*, May 2009, Vol 38, No 5.

Todd Stewart

Appointed as editor of the Southwestern Philosophical Society's journal, *The Southwest Philosophy Review*, at their annual meeting in Kansas City, November 2008.

Liane Stillwell

Presented an invited lecture, "Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* and *On Certainty*," at the 6th International Midwest Conference on Early Analytic Philosophy at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne April 18, 2009.

James Swindler

Coeditor of *International Perspectives on Pragmatism*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009.

Philosophy of the Social Sciences an essay that he published in 1996, "Social Intentions: Aggregate, Collective, and General," has been translated into German and included in *Kollektive Intentionalität—Eine Debatte über die Grundlagen des Sozialen*.

Student news and awards

Daniel Thetford

was invited to present "The Accident of Saint Paul" at Truman State University Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference, Kirksville, Missouri, on November 8, 2008.

Michelle Hunt

2009 Outstanding Senior—Departmental Awards

Sara Kahn

2009 Scott M. Elliot Philosophy Scholarship for the Outstanding Rising Junior

Weston Love

2009 Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Scholarship for the Outstanding Rising Senior

Alumni Day 2008

We were pleased to have Steven (Bernardin) Hannah as our guest for Alumni Day this past fall. Steven Hannah is working in the IT operations group of Seyfarth & Shaw LLP law firm in downtown Chicago. They provide legal services in the areas of real estate, employment, and litigation for larger-sized businesses. He works as a systems administrator to ensure that data is protected from disaster or hardware failure.

In December, he married Megan Hannah, an Illinois State alumna.

Todd Stewart receives tenure and promotion

Todd Stewart was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of philosophy by Illinois State University. Stewart received a B.A. in philosophy from Reed College in 1996 and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Arizona in 2002. He specializes in epistemology and metaethics, although he also has strong interests in the history of



Steven Hannah