

Alumni Newsletter



Alumni Day Here Comes the Judge.....

On October 22, Alumni Day 2004, we were honored to have as our guest Col. Denise Vowell. Denise, a 1974 graduate and Bone Scholar, is currently the U.S. Army's Chief Trial Judge and a Colonel in the Army's JAG (Judge Advocate General's) Corps.

Denise spoke on "Trying Terrorists – Military Commissions, Past and Present." She began her lecture by discussing whether there is any



inherent authority, absent a statute making a particular act a crime, to subject individuals to criminal trials and punishments. She then addressed the question "Do trials by military tribunals fit within the American system of jurisprudence?" After tracing the history of military tribunals, including courts-martial, provost courts and military commissions, from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror, she discussed the military commissions created by President Bush's 2001 Military Order. Following her lecture she answered a number of very interesting questions from the audience.



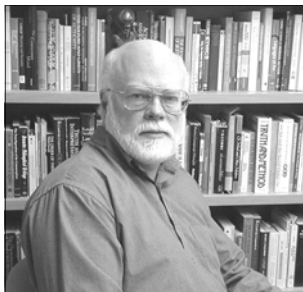
As the Army's Chief Trial Judge, Denise supervises all Army military judges and military magistrates worldwide, as well as trying cases herself. She also teaches on the subjects of trial advocacy, judicial methodology and military criminal law. Denise was the first woman to be the Staff Judge Advocate (senior legal advisor) for the Army's 1st Infantry Division, and in that capacity, spent about nine months deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As an undergraduate she joined the Army and graduated, while on active duty, with majors in Philosophy and in Political Science. She was commissioned in the Women's Army Corps and detailed as a Military Police officer. The Army sent her to law school and in 1981 she graduated with honors from the University of Texas School of Law. She has been an Army lawyer ever since.

After her public presentation to a very large crowd including local judges, she joined us for a reception and dinner. Students enjoyed very much talking with her one on one or a group huddled around in deep discussion.

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News From Normal

2004-2005 was a memorable year for the department. Kent Machina completed his three-year tenure as the university's first ever endowed chair, the Andes Chair in General Education. David Anderson and Kent Machina completed another successful year of research funded by ongoing National Science Foundation grants to support development of science education. Alison Bailey completed her assignment as Interim Director of the Women's Studies Program. Thomas Simon and Liane Stillwell won sabbatical leaves for the coming year on Islamic law and on Wittgenstein on skepticism, respectively. Mark Siderits completed his two-year tenure as Leverhulme Visiting Professor at the University of Liverpool and his sabbatical on comparative moral epistemology, as well as delivering several invited talks on Buddhism in all corners of the globe. Michael Gorr completed his sabbatical research on provocation defenses in the law. Harry Deutsch presented several invited talks on philosophical logic in exotic places like Kowloon, China and Hamilton, Ontario. Chris Horvath won the Outstanding University Service Award. Todd Stewart presented papers for the Illinois Philosophical Association and the Southwestern Philosophical Society. Foundation funds are used to support faculty travel.

This was the first full year as a Recognized Student Organization for the Philosophy Club in a long while. SGA funding helped sponsor a visit by Prof. Ted Cohen of the University of Chicago who gave a delightful talk on the aesthetics of humor.

Besides its frequent pub meetings, the Club sponsored several faculty colloquia this year and continues to enrich students' exploration of philosophy outside the classroom. This year's officers were Tyson Mohr, Andy D'Amico and Andy Higgins. Todd Stewart serves as Club advisor.

Two of our majors, Tyson Mohr and James Holland, presented refereed papers at regional meetings and Tyson was elected to serve on next year's College Council. Several other students attended philosophy meetings at other schools. Foundation funds are used to help support student travel to meetings.

In 2003, the department awarded its first scholarship, named for former department chair Ken Kennard and his wife Marilyn. The 2005 winner of the scholarship, designated for a rising junior, is Craig Kitching of Metamora. The award for Outstanding Senior, who is chosen by vote of the faculty, went to Dan Dalaly of Orland Park.

Our guest for Alumni Day, 2004, was Denise Vowell ('74), who is now the Chief Trial Judge for the U.S. Army. She gave an extremely well received and provocative talk to a very full house on the U.S. treatment of war prisoners. Foundation funding is used to support travel of Alumni Day guests.

Foundation donations rose again in 2004, as did the number of philosophy majors and minors. Philosophy majors and Religious Studies minors are at or near all-time highs.

I hope you have a great year and encourage you to stay in touch with your former teachers and come visit the department anytime you are in the neighborhood. Our doors are always open. And, please, check out our web site <http://www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/> which will soon be getting a facelift.

Best wishes,

Jim Swindler, Chairman

News From Alums

Andrew Reisman (1990)

Since graduating from ISU in 1990 and from law school in 1993, most of my practice has involved commercial litigation. One departure from that was my service as General Counsel of the International Save the Children Alliance in Geneva, Switzerland, where I developed an intellectual property protection program and assisted the Alliance in developing cohesive bylaws, membership requirements, and marketing guidelines. On returning from Switzerland I joined Foley & Lardner, a national law firm at which I eventually became a partner. Whether because of the wanderlust that afflicts many philosophy majors or my inability to hold down a job (perhaps the two are connected), I decided two years ago to form a legal technology company and start my own law practice.

The legal technology company, Elijah Technologies, Ltd. is a practical extension of epistemology – we pick up after the question of “what is knowledge” and address the question of how to discover, utilize and present knowledge. One of our service areas, computer forensics, involves the investigation of computer hard drives and other electronic media to discover hidden and supposedly deleted files, and to determine the nature and timing of suspect computer activity. We then report on and testify regarding our findings. Elijah Technologies also provides electronic discovery and document imaging services, converting millions of pages of computerized and paper documents into fully searchable databases. Our web site is www.elijahtechnologies.com.

The law firm, Enterprise Law Group, LLP, has grown from one attorney in 2003 to four attorneys today. If we are able to maintain that growth rate, the number of attorneys working for our firm will exceed the global population in less than twenty years. For a variety of reasons we anticipate more modest growth over that period, but nevertheless are optimistic about our future. Currently we provide clients with advice regarding litigation, corporate law, intellectual property, and real estate. Our web site is www.enterpriselg.com.

Although the thinking skills I developed earning a philosophy degree have been invaluable in my profession, the substantive lessons come in most handy during my three to four hours of daily commuting (I work in downtown Chicago and we recently moved to Lake Villa). I am able to reflect on philosophical issues that have mystified generations of scholars, such as: “Why are we here?” “What is real?” “What is time?” and “Why on earth did I move this far away from where I work?”

If anyone has any insight into those questions, or would like additional information about Elijah Technologies or Enterprise Law Group, I can be contacted by email at andy@elijahtechnologies.com or andy@enterpriselg.com.

Joy (Hunter) Merino (1994)

After receiving a B.S. in anthropology and Philosophy at ISU, I pursued a M.S. in Biology in Cajun country. I have been working with the federal government advising the US Army Corps of Engineers and state agencies on coastal restoration activities. I am often accused of being logical. Thanks for the training....

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION FORM

Name _____ Current Position _____

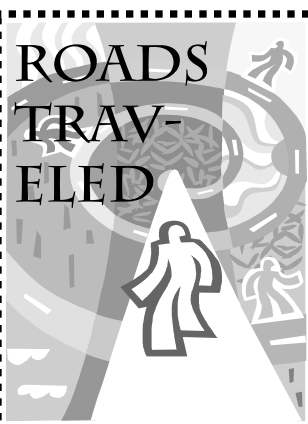
Address _____ Employer _____

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

ROADS TRAV- ELED



JEFF EMBERTON '99

The road less traveled was an idea I valued while in college, and now it has become nothing less than a way of life for me since walking down graduation lane. On looking back over the past six years since I graduated from Illinois State University, so much has happened it is hard to succinctly follow a thread through all of the adventures. I guess the easiest thing to do is to start by saying where I am at now; from there, I will go backwards in chronological order until I make it back to graduation all over again.

Currently, I am living in Taos, New Mexico, a small mountain town nestled in the Sangre De Christo mountain range in northern New Mexico. I am currently employed as a natural builder creating organic adobe and wood structures. This year I will be completing my licensure so that I can be a registered, licensed contractor. Building natural houses has been an excellent fusion of my philosophical training in a real life application. In our modern culture, we don't necessarily take the time to look at the spaces we live in, but on closer look we may very well find that our "modern" houses are taking us further away from our humanness. Nowadays, most American houses are built with all kinds of toxic chemicals, whereas I am working to create houses

from natural elements: wood, mud, recycled paper etc. I would be willing to bet that less than 30 percent of the world's population live in our style of modern house. Other cultures live in natural houses out of necessity, namely because materials like mud, and cow dung are free or quite cheap. Is it a coincidence that we are the richest and most powerful nation on the planet and yet also one of the unhealthiest modern peoples the world has seen? Clearly we need to readjust our wants and needs, and for me that expresses itself by creating healthy, natural, nourishing places for people to call home. I believe that healthy natural homes will help to create healthy families which may very well lead to healthy communities, ideally leading to healthier countries and a healthier world.

In the fall of 2004, I spent a month in south Florida working for F.E.M.A. on a hurricane relief crew. We went to hurricane ravaged areas and patched up roofs in order to prevent further water damage from the incessant rains.

In the spring of 2004, I spent 3 months on jury duty here in Taos County. My philosophical background was crucial in performing this community service; however, this civic obligation is not something to be undertaken by the light of heart. I served on the grand jury, which is different from a trial jury in the sense that a grand jury acts essentially as the preliminary hearing. In order for the case to move forward, only 8 of the 12 jurors must agree that there is a reasonable suspicion that the accused committed the crime. Grand jurors may hear as many as 5 to 10 cases a day, whereas a trial juror will hear only 1 case. Grand jury was difficult for me because we had a string of murders, rapes, and child abuse cases which my grand jury listened to and deliberated upon. You truly get the darker perspective on jury duty, and it took a toll on my daily outlook for quite some time.

One of the most exciting and formative experiences for me since graduation was a 6-month trip I took to India in the summer of 2002. I spent months walking around the high Himalayas on various pilgrimage routes. The life lessons are too numerous to list, but needless to say I learned that the world is a much smaller place than we may think it to be. I lived with sadhus (mystic holy men) up in the mountains and spent my time cooking, cleaning, and saying prayers and singing sacred songs. Some of my teachers in India requested that I stay in their country to study and pray and work for the benefit of the downtrodden; but at some point along the way I realized that I was not destined to be a single holy man walking the planet penniless until my dying days. It became obvious to me at some point that I am meant to have a wife and children, so I left India and returned to the states. Nonetheless, I am still not married and am still without children. Life has a mysterious way of taking us where we need to be even though that may not be exactly the same place where we want to be.

Previous to going to India, I spent almost a year living and working at a Hindu temple and ashram here in Taos, NM. While working at the temple, 9/11 happened, and I felt like the most useful thing I could offer my planet and my country is and was prayer. This event also solidified my desire to go to India in order to develop bonds of peace with others versus bombs of anger, hatred, and frustration.

Before moving to New Mexico, I spent time in a number of places throughout this country. I spent some time in Colorado, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and a year in Northern California. While living in Arcata, California, I got my first "real" job. I worked for the Humboldt County Welfare Department as an "eligibility worker 1". The job entailed determining applicants' eligibility for government programs such as cash aid, food stamps, and medical benefits. This job was trying and made me realize that social work, at least welfare work, is not my cup of tea as far as employment goes. At this job I was exposed to the harsh realities of life; hard core drug addicts, alcoholics, ex-convicts, torn families by choice and families being torn by the state. People always say wait until you experience the Real World, that real world being some post-college reality that is somehow more "real" than college education. As for me, college was real, and the welfare system is real, the only difference is that the college real is a lot more like recess, and the real life real is more like all of the hard classes with a much heavier metaphysical aspect. Why is the world the way it is? This is a question that few if any of us will ever be able to completely answer.

It now seems as if I have come all the way back to graduation day. I remember walking down the aisle, all of the hopes and dreams still fresh under my cap and gown. Some of the hopes and dreams have floated away like a feather effortlessly falling earthward, while others are still alive and well, waiting only for the proper moment for them to come to fruition.

As a teacher once told me, we are all walking up the sacred mountain. There are many paths, some are easy, some are difficult, some are already there, others must be made passable, but the point is: as many different people taking our many different paths up the mountain we are all headed to the same place. I have studied the teachings of the dharma (Buddhism), the teachings of the Vedas (Hinduism), the teachings of Christ (Catholicism), the teachings of the Torah (Judaism), the teachings of Muhammad (Islam), and while I do not consider myself to be Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, these teachings all contain invaluable lessons that lead to the top of the mountain. Even though our journeys may seem circuitous, all of the moments come together like the pieces of a quilt creating the specific beauty, light and life that is each and every one of us as unique striking manifestations of human possibility.

As for advice to the undergraduates, and my fellow alumni too if they are so inclined to tilt their ear to hear; listen to yourself. Only you know the path that you need to take. Others may condemn you, and discourage you along the way, but know if you are sincere in your desires you will be taken exactly where you need to be, even if that does happen to be off the beaten path. Set out on your own, and the winds of change will blow you inevitably to exactly that place where you belong. I have been discouraged by some who didn't believe in me, and encouraged by others who did, and they taught me as this retrospective is teaching me, that my life is different and unique only because I have chosen to follow the footpath that was already laid before me, I simply had to open my eyes to see it.

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If you would like to share your road less traveled, please send it to: Donna Larsen, 4540 Philosophy, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790 or fax 309.438.8028 or email dclarse@ilstu.edu. We would enjoy hearing from you and being able to share your story with the other alums.



If you would like to receive the weekly electronic College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter please send your email address to: Sarah Diel-Hunt (casnews@ilstu.edu), Asst. to the Dean for External Relations. Each week there are features about various departments, faculty, alumni, and much more. So keep in touch with your *alma mater*, drop Sarah an e-mail and sign up to receive the newsletter.

WANTED!!

YOUR BUSINESS CARD



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

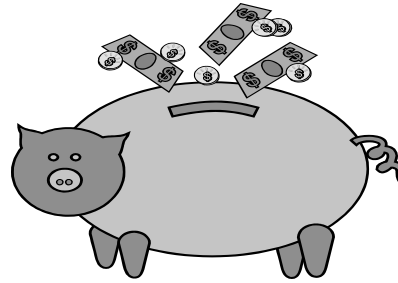
Thank you! We appreciate your time!



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

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

Thanks!!!



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

David MacTaggart
 Gina Maziarz
 Michael Matejka
 George Michalopoulos
 David and Tricia Monier
 Joe and Aubrey Montana
 Ryan Peters
 Darlene and Roger Raudabaugh
 William Roach
 Patricia Robillard
 Ronald Rohlfing
 Deluxe Corporation — matching Rohlfing gift
 Solomon Rutzky
 June Salstrom
 Kelly Sanders
 David Shimanovsky
 Dr. David and Norma Schmidt
 James and Cindy Shively
 John Stanis
 Philip Stebbings
 Dr. S. Liane Stillwell
 David Suryk
 Dr. Jim and Laurie Swindler
 Valeria Taylor
 Gregory Taylor
 Beth Tindall
 Brandon Trueblood
 Denise Vowell
 Dr. Larry Waggle
 John White
 Becky Williams

Once again a big thank you to all who have supported us. As state support for the university declines, private support becomes ever more important. ISU has lost more than \$17 million in annual state funding over the past four fiscal years. There are many areas in the department to which you may contribute. Your contributions to the Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Philosophy Fund have been much appreciated by students. The Mind-Project has benefited from your generous contributions and your donations to the general department fund have helped us to send students to the undergraduate conferences, reward outstanding scholarship among the students, provide other project support, and enhance support for faculty travel to meetings. We certainly understand that everyone is in the belt tightening process both at work and at home and we appreciate your many contributions. Your help and support allow us to provide vital assistance to and recognition of students that substantially enrich their education.

Good-Bye to Good Friends, Loyal Supporters and Colleague
As they relocate to the Chicago area

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard

Former Chair of the Department of Philosophy
Benefactors of the
Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Scholarship Fund



Late last May Ken and Marilyn Kennard watched as a moving van was packed and headed for their new home in Naperville. Everything went very smoothly. Their house sold in about twenty four hours, a garage sale netted them a tidy little sum, and the movers did an excellent job. They are now settled and enjoying their new community very much.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY CONTRIBUTION

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

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Phone _____

Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Philosophy Fund \$ _____

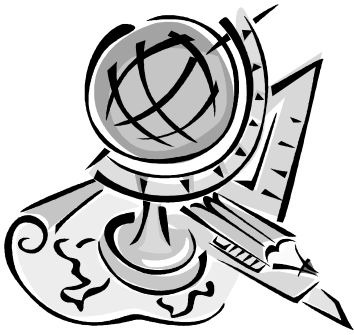
Mind Project Lab Fund \$ _____

General Department Fund \$ _____

Total Contribution \$ _____

THANK YOU!!

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



Faculty Travels

Mark Siderits

Pictures are worth a thousand words.....

After spending August working with a colleague at a Buddhist university in Kyoto, and in early September visiting the Philosophy Department of Jadavpur University in Kolkata (Calcutta), I attended the 7th Convivium on 6-12 September, in the village of Bir, Himachal Pradesh, India. The Convivium is a bi-annual conference/retreat for British and Indian philosophers at which questions about the nature of philosophy, and issues regarding differences between Indian and Western approaches, are addressed. The latest Convivium was held in a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in a Tibetan exile community in the foothills of the Himalayas. Attendees included some of my colleagues from Liverpool, as well as friends from Kolkata. #1 shows all the Convivium participants on the steps of the monastery guest-house where we stayed. #2 shows me with two other participants during a Convivium session that was held in a room of the monastery that is ordinarily used for worship (we're impressed he can sit that way for very long!). After the Convivium was over, about half the participants travelled on to Dharamsala, where the Tibetan government-in-exile is located and the Dalai Lama is based. #3 shows several of us at dinner in a restaurant within the main monastic compound in Dharamsala. After two days in Dharamsala we took an overnight train back to Delhi, from where the UK contingent flew back to Europe. #4 shows me in Delhi station studying up for my next profession, that of the urban Sherpa.

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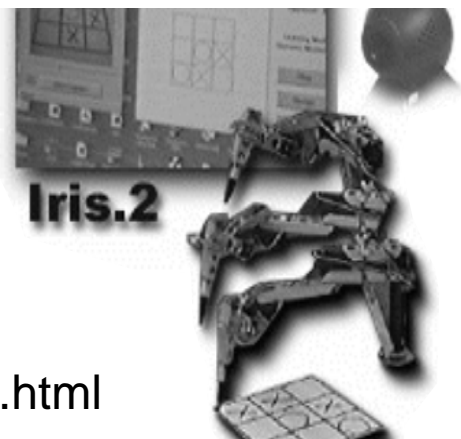
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An Update The Mind Project

David Anderson, Director

www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/mind_project.html



The Mind Project designated a "Program of Excellence"

The Mind Project has been officially designated a *Program of Excellence* by the College of Arts and Sciences. Gary Olsen, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences created the new designation and secured funds to provide support for each of the four programs that have received the designation. The Program of Excellence initiative was established "to promote unique, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary academic programs that will help bring distinction to the College and the University." This designation shows that the College is prepared to support The Mind Project in years to come. Being a Program of Excellence will also help in getting support from external funding agencies.

National Science Foundation Grant

We are nearing completion of the 25 online curriculum modules that NSF has funded. This summer we expect to finish our three most ambitious modules -- three virtual laboratories in neuroscience, robotics, and anthropology. In these labs students enter an immersive virtual environment in which they become a graduate student and learn what it is like to do research in these fields and, in some cases, they will learn cutting edge breakthroughs that are only now being published. We have extended the grant for an additional (unfunded) fourth year so that we can do more extensive piloting and evaluation of the modules.

Iris.4 Robot Project

We continue to make progress on our Iris robot project. Our new partners in Lisbon, Portugal have made progress on a new vision system. Dr. Mario Ramalho, an expert in computer vision, has supervised the work of Luís Miguel Pimentel a student at the Technical University of Lisbon. Other pieces of new software have been added and we are hoping to have a working robot by the end of the summer.

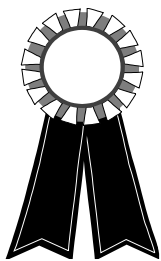
Our New K-12 Initiative – the National Institute of Health

We have partnered with the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (CeMaST) and the School of Education at Illinois State and with the School of Education at Bowie State University in Maryland to put together a new project for taking cutting edge breakthroughs in medical science to middle school and high school teachers and their students. We have recently submitted a grant proposal to the National Institute of Health that would fund a five-year project to create many more virtual science labs and the support materials to train teachers to use it in the classroom. We will learn whether that has been funded by this summer.

Join the Mind Project

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

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

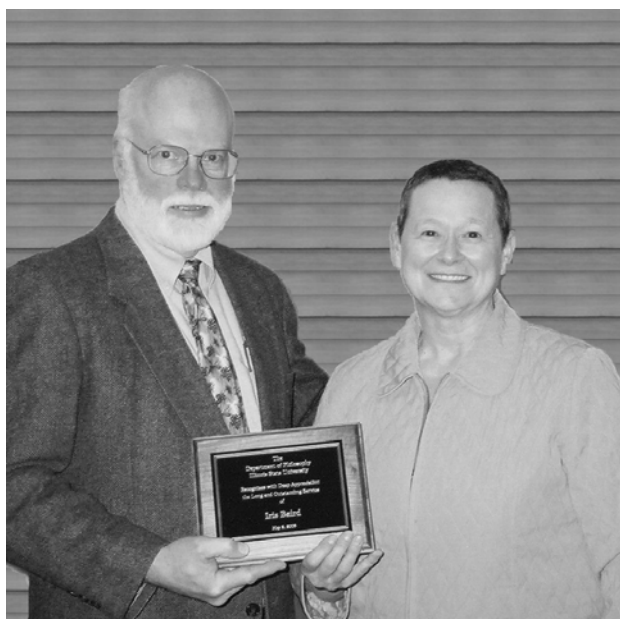


Department
Awards and Honors
Christopher Horvath
Outstanding University Service Award



Chris Horvath's service to the College, University, and professional community has been widely recognized. In 2003, he received the College Outstanding Service Award, and he has served for three years on the College Council. During this time Horvath was elected Council Chair and was responsible for chairing the Combined Leadership Team on the Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Groups. Horvath also chaired the College of Fine Arts Dean Search Committee this past year and was a faculty member on the 2001-02 College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee. Currently, he serves on the Domestic Partner Benefits Committee, the College Faculty Status Committee (CFSC), and is active in the American Philosophical Association. Congratulations, Chris!

Iris Baird
Department Award
For
Outstanding Service



Iris was surprised with a plaque from the department for her many years of outstanding service. She was one of four nominees for the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding AP Award. There are probably very few of you reading this newsletter who do not have many fond memories of Iris. She is certainly an icon in the department. Who else do you know who has a robot for a namesake! So congratulations to Iris for this long overdue recognition!

Memorable Department Events

Shadd Maruna ('93)

Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, England

2005 ISU Outstanding
Young Alumni Award Recipient



Shadd and parents at Awards Ceremony

In early April Shadd Maruna was one of three recipients of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. While he was on campus we enjoyed having him visit with the department and present a paper "Lay Theories of Punishment".

Shadd's research focuses on the reintegration of formerly incarcerated citizens into society, including issues of resettlement, processes of self-change, and (most recently) public attitudes and responses to law-breakers. His book *Making good: How Ex-convicts Reform and Rebuild Their Lives*, (American Psychological Association Books, 2001), was awarded the American Society of Criminology's Michael J Hindelang Award for 2001. He is co-editor of *After Crime and Punishment: Pathways to Offender Reintegration* (Willan Publishing, 2004), and has a long review article forthcoming in vol. 32 of *Crime and Justice: A Review of Research*.

Shadd graduated from ISU with degrees in philosophy and English. He received a Fulbright Scholarship and a Guggenheim Fellowship, both of which he used to live among ex-convicts in Liverpool, United Kingdom. He then went on to use this ethnographic research in a Ph.D. thesis titled "Redeeming One's Self: How Ex-Cons Make Sense of Their Lives" at Northwestern University in their Human Development and Social Policy department. This thesis was awarded Northwestern University's Phi Delta Kappa Award for Outstanding Dissertation in

1998 and later became the basis for the book, *Making Good: How Ex-Convicts Reform and Rebuild Their Lives*. While not necessarily a philosophical book, he hopes that his training in philosophy is at least evident in the reasoning used in the book. After teaching for three years at the State University of New York at Albany, he was named a lecturer at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom and was recently named a reader at Queen's University of Belfast.

Denise Vowell ('74)

Alumni Day

2004



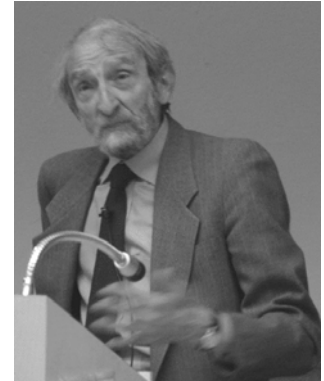
Memorable Department Events



ISU PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

TED COHEN
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

“AND WHAT IF THEY
DON’T LAUGH...”



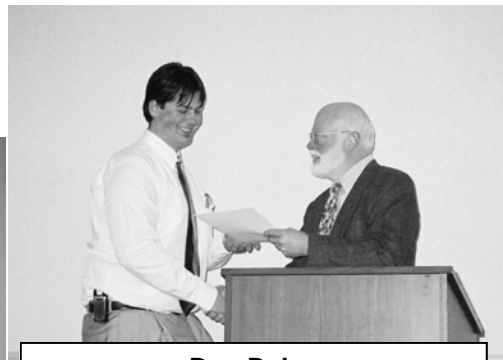
For the first time in its history, the club successfully applied for and received student government monetary support to not only attend a conference but to bring in a speaker. They selected Dr. Ted Cohen, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago. Dr. Cohen is a past president of the American Society for Aesthetics and the author of *Jokes: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters*. On May 2nd to a crowd of more than 100, Ted Cohen spoke about where to start a serious philosophical inquiry into humor. Most people would agree that laughter and humor are necessary and valuable forms of human expression. After all, what would life be like without humor? Perhaps humor is objective. Perhaps there is a right or wrong answer to the question of whether a joke is funny or not. We were given many examples of jokes and punch lines and no one there will think about jokes in the same way. Afterward, Dr. Cohen was our guest at the club's annual Gala and Awards Ceremony.

Galla Viii



Craig Kitching

*Marilyn and Kenneth Kennard
Philosophy Scholarship*



Dan Dalay

Outstanding Senior



Student News



Club Officers

(L-R) Andrew Higgins, Sec/Treasurer;
Andy D'Amico, VP; Tyson Mohr, President

The Philosophical Society had another great year. After being resurrected last year, we are now once again a registered student organization. The executive board and several committee members have worked very hard to revitalize the club. We've been growing in size and taking on new challenges. This year, we had weekly meetings where students from a variety of majors gathered to discuss a variety of topics. These meetings included "official" meetings, which featured structured debates or presentations, and pub meets, which usually took place at Mugsy's. The latter always seemed to be a little more popular, to our surprise!

Other than our meetings, we also held several events. During the fall we hosted the newly-named Unwine Uncheese Ungallery. On-campus events can no longer include wine due to new university/state restrictions and years ago it became too expensive to have it in the university gallery, but the faculty and students still had a good time socializing and guessing the owners of pieces of art. In the spring we organized a bi-weekly faculty speaker series, where a large number of faculty members presented papers to the club on a variety of topics.

We were successful in receiving university funding support for a number of projects. During the fall we sent two club members to the Interdisciplinary Research Conference at Drury University. In the spring we hosted Dr. Ted Cohen, from University of Chicago, who spoke on the philosophy of humor in an event open to the entire student body. Although we had some scheduling conflicts which forced us to hold the event on the Monday before finals, we still managed to draw about a hundred people and considered the event a success.

The last major event hosted by the club was the Gala, which was an end of the year dinner and awards ceremony at the Chateau (formally Jumer's). Students, faculty, and staff were recognized both by the department and the club for their performance throughout the year.

Although quite a few members graduated, the club is still alive for next year. We have once again been approved to use University funding, and have the support of several dedicated students and faculty members. Hopefully we can continue to gain members, keep establishing ourselves, and organize more events. Judging from past stories about the club, its future is uncertain. However, it is safe to say that we can count on one thing: we will always find people to go to the pub meets!

Student Awards and Honors

Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Scholarship
For the Outstanding Rising Junior

2005

Craig Kitching

Outstanding Senior
Departmental Award

2005

Dan Dalay

Paper Presentations

Tyson Mohr

Illinois Wesleyan Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

Tyson Mohr presented his paper "The Aesthetic Skill Theory" at the Second Annual Illinois Wesleyan Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in April.

James Holland

7th Annual Midwest Philosophy Conference—Creighton University

"Freedom of Speech" submitted by James Holland was accepted at the 7th Annual Midwest Philosophy Conference at Creighton University. James presented his paper at the conference in April.

Illinois State University
Department of Philosophy
Campus Box 4540
Normal, IL 61790-4540

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