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The Aesthetic Relevance of “Dancing Along”

Renee Conroy, Graduate Student



Photo by Kozo

Vaslav Nijinsky, the famous Russian dancer and choreographer is legendary for, among other things, his visionary choreography and his extraordinary ability to leap in a way that seemed to defy gravity. It is not difficult to understand why Nijinsky is remembered for his choreography, since much of today’s modern dance and contemporary ballet

find their roots in Nijinsky’s revolutionary choreographic ideas.

But why should we continue to care about his gravity-defying leaps? Perhaps it is because to watch Nijinsky jump was to witness the impossible, the unassisted human body in flight. We imagine that if we were to watch Nijinsky dance, we too would feel like we were flying - the kind of vicarious sensation that may be at the heart of our enthusiasm about theatre dance performance.

The claim that we, as audience members, respond kinesthetically to dance performance is well-supported by phenomenology. Many people, dancers and non-dancers alike, profess to “feel” the movement they see on stage when they watch dance. Phenomenological reports of this kind have led some to hypothesize that the enjoyment we take in watching dance is directly related to our experience of some kind of sympathetic body engagement with the movement of the dancers. Others have suggested, rather more cautiously, that at least some part of the experience of watching dance involves feeling the actual movements of the dancers in our own bodies – in essence “dancing along” with the professionals on stage.

The fact that audience members often report having bodily responses to dance performances should not be surprising. After all, we have sympathetic bodily reactions to the motions and activities of other persons with great frequency in our daily lives. For example, when

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my friend is given a shot at the doctor's office, I flinch along with her as the needle penetrates her arm. Kinesthetic reactions also occur to the movements of inanimate objects. For example, some people find that watching the repeated spinning of a pinwheel in the breeze makes them dizzy, although their feet remain firmly planted in one spot.

Recent studies on neural activity and muscle-firing also seem to support our claims to "feel" the movement of other persons while we are physically at rest. Scientific experimentation has shown that the neural activity that occurs when an individual watches someone else execute a familiar movement is identical to the neural activity that occurs when she performs the movement herself. Studies also indicate that merely imagining oneself doing a movement causes the muscles involved in the actual performance of the movement to fire (although at a lower intensity than is required for physically or visually perceptible movement). While these studies do not provide conclusive evidence for the claim that when we watch dance we are doing more than simply "taking it in through our eyes," they at least suggest that when you sit quietly in the theatre giving audience to a concert dance performance, you may be "dancing along" with the performers even though you are not consciously aware of it.

In short, there are both phenomenological and empirical reasons to think that we respond to dance performance in a bodily way, one that goes beyond the visual, aural, and intellectual stimulation that watching dancing certainly affords. The question for philosophers is this: how are our bodily reactions relevant to our aesthetic experience of, and/or judgments about, dance as an artform?

The literature on dance and the philosophy of dance suggest several possibilities. The grandfather of American dance criticism, John Martin, claimed that kinesthetic response is the very core of aesthetic appreciation of dance, and argued that most audience members fail to understand theatre dance as an artform precisely because they fail to appropriately engage and take notice of their capacity for kinesthetic sympathy.

Contemporary philosophers of dance, like David Best and Graham McFee, have attempted to pull the rug out from under Martin's so-called "theory of metakinesis" by arguing that not only is it impossible to make good philosophical sense of our capacity for kinesthetic sympathy as a genuine mode of perception, but that our

bodily reactions to what we see on stage are entirely irrelevant to the appropriate appreciation of dance.

Recently, philosopher of dance Barbara Montero has given new life to Martin's ideas by arguing that while our felt bodily responses to dance are certainly not the whole of the story of our aesthetic interaction with dance performance, they are at least relevant to the aesthetic appraisal of dance because they enable us to identify aesthetic properties such as grace, power, precision, and beauty (and, one would assume, the opposing properties of awkwardness, timidity/weakness, sloppiness, and ugliness). In addition, Montero argues that since the capacity for kinesthetic engagement with dance movement is augmented by training in dance, those individuals who are themselves dancers may be better observers of dance than non-dancers are insofar as they can identify the aforementioned properties in dance performance in a more immediate and fine-grained way than is possible for persons with no dance training.

All three views are philosophically and aesthetically evocative and, because the philosophy of dance is among the youngest and least developed areas of aesthetic inquiry, none has yet been through the ringer of rigorous philosophical defense, attack, and subsequent revision. Thus, our capacity to "dance along" with the corps de ballet is an area of philosophical investigation that remains wide open; a rare and exciting thing in academic philosophy indeed!

If you are looking for an opportunity to test your intuitions about the aesthetic relevance of our kinesthetic responses to dance, the University of Washington's Chamber Dance Company will be offering seven performances of historically important danceworks in the Meany Theatre on Oct. 6-14, 2007. For more information see: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdance/performances.html>.

The author of this article, Renee Conroy, is a dancer and a sixth year graduate student who is working on her dissertation titled, "The Art of Re-Making Dances: A Philosophical Analysis of Dancework Reconstruction."

Details of Page 1 Photo - The University of Washington Chamber Dance Company; Dancer: John Dixon, M.A. in Dance 2002; Photo Credits: Kozo.

Philosophy Receives Endowment Supporting Medical Ethics

This spring, The Benjamin Rabinowitz Philosophy Chair in Medical Ethics was established in memory of Seattle native, Benjamin Rabinowitz. Daniel Fisher, Benjamin's brother and trustee of Benjamin's estate, created this endowment at his brother's request. According to the University of Washington's Development Office, the official purpose of this gift is "to enhance the University's ability to recruit and retain distinguished faculty in the field of medical ethics." However, Benjamin had a broader vision for this gift, as does his surviving brother, Dan. They would like the endowment to promote compassion in medicine, especially regarding end of life care.

Benjamin was born in Seattle in 1961. He attended Wedgwood Elementary School, Eckstein Middle School, and graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1979. He attended Reed College for a time, and graduated from Brown University with a B.A. in political science in 1987. During his college years Ben, a staunch democrat, was active in the political campaigns of Mike Lowry, Jerry Brown, Gary Hart, and Al Gore. After college, he settled in Los Angeles where he worked as a journalist and musician, and enjoyed exploring politics and modern history. Sadly, in July of 1999, Benjamin was diagnosed with an incurable form of brain cancer. He died at the age of 39 in January, 2001, after a courageous struggle with cancer, and its myriad side effects and consequences.

During his illness Ben turned to his immediate family -- his mother and his brother, Dan -- in numerous ways. Together they faced the maze of information about Ben's illness, the potential treatment options available, end of life choices, and a search for spiritual counseling. Sorting through these issues, all of which have ethical dimensions, while under emotional and physical duress was frustrating for Ben. These challenges and frustrations prompted Ben to request that a significant amount of his estate be used in a way that would promote compassion in medicine or politics.

After much thought and consideration, Ben's family decided that supporting careful and compassionate work on all the issues addressed by the philosophy of medical ethics, including end of life issues and patient rights would be a good way to honor Ben's request. The

family believes that philosophy is the one profession where careful and precise thinking about difficult and abstract subjects is coupled with respect for human emotions and individuals' rights. These traits make a philosopher the best choice to bring clarity and empathy to the table that seats the many different experts engaged in working through the difficult public policy decisions involved in today's health care system.

It is the hope of Ben's family that through this endowment, philosophical work in medical ethics will help to ease the burden of other individuals and families facing difficult medical situations.

Medical Ethics Symposium

Through the generous gift of the Benjamin Rabinowitz endowment, the department of philosophy is pleased to announce plans for a symposium on ethical issues in compassionate end-of-life care, to be held in autumn 2008. The symposium will include national and local speakers on topics such as pain management, hospice care, and patient rights at the end of life.

New Faculty Member!



Ingra Schellenberg specializes in Moral Psychology, Bioethics, Philosophy of Medicine, and Feminist Philosophy. She earned her B.A. and B.S. from the University of Winnipeg, Canada. She then completed M.A.s at Queen's University at Kingston and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she completed her Ph.D. in philosophy in 2006. In her dissertation "Moral Moods," she argued that moods could be morally significant, especially as found in cases of depression and borderline personality disorder. Dr. Schellenberg's research in ethics and moral psychology is supplemented by her work as a clinical medical ethicist where she provides bedside ethics consultations for hospital clinicians, patients and their families. She will be joining the ethics consultation service at the University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC). In addition to her primary appointment in the Philosophy Department's Program on Values in Society, she also holds a partial appointment in the UWMC's Department of Medical History and Ethics.

Conference Honors Keyt's Years at UW

On May 18th and 19th the Department sponsored a two-day conference on Greek philosophy to honor David Keyt for 50 years of teaching, research, and service at the University of Washington. The conference, dubbed "The Keytfest," opened on Friday afternoon with a paper by Gerasimos X. Santas (UC, Irvine), whose association with David runs all the way back to graduate school at Cornell in the 50's. It continued on Saturday with papers by Mark McPherran (Simon Fraser University) and Charles Young (Claremont Graduate University), as well as papers by two of David's former dissertation students, Nils Rauhut (Coastal Carolina University) and Fred D. Miller, Jr. (Bowling Green State University). The Master of Ceremonies at the reception following the conference (who appeared in tux and patent-leather shoes) was another former dissertation student, the jokester Richard Parker (CSU, Chico). Bangs Tapscott (University of Utah) presented David with a book of philosophical (and largely Wittgensteinian) cartoons that he drew and captioned while writing his dissertation with David in the sixties. The conference, which was made possible by the generous support of alumnus Dan Fisher, the Social Philosophy & Policy Center, and Friends of Philosophy, ended with a large formal banquet featuring, of course, Northwest salmon. The papers delivered at the conference will be included along with others in a Festschrift for David.

Ethics Bowl

After a grueling yet comedic drive to Spokane, Washington, the University of Washington's ethics bowl team beat out a strong field to win the regional competition. Winning this regional competition secured the team a place in the national competition, which took place in Cincinnati, Ohio, this February. The UW team performed strongly (winning 2 out of 3 rounds) in the morning competitions, but unfortunately that was not enough to advance them to quarterfinal round. The team's coach, graduate student Brandon Olsen, was proud of the team's performance and was glad to be able to share the year's experience with team members, Sahar Manavi (team manager) Obaid Quadri, Amber Arnold, Jasmine Gallaher, and Kira Fickenscher.

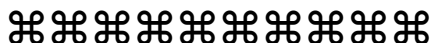
Many thanks go to the Friends of Philosophy, the Program on Values in Society, and the faculty and staff of the Department for their continued support in the Ethics Bowl competitions.

Program on Values Offers New Academic Programs

The Program on Values in Society will be offering two new programs next year, an interdisciplinary undergraduate minor and a graduate certificate. The guiding thought for both programs is that there are ethical and policy questions and problems that come up in every field, and that organized reflection on those questions is necessary if they are to be responded to intelligently. In other words, a little philosophy never hurts. On the other hand, abstract analysis without direct engagement with particular issues is not simply useless, but defective and incomplete as philosophical analysis. Much can be learned, moreover, by stepping outside narrow disciplinary boundaries and engaging in discussion with others who bring different perspectives to the table.

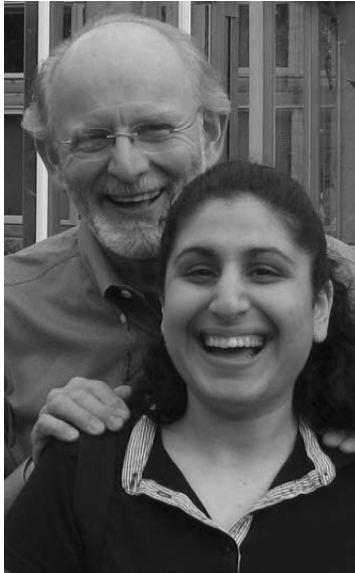
The Values in Society minor, to be offered starting this fall, will require students to take several courses (25 credits) that discuss normative issues, some of which must be from outside their major, and then complete a capstone course that aims to bring what they've been thinking about to bear on practice.

The Values in Society Graduate Certificate, which has been underway since this past winter, is similar in concept. Unlike traditional graduate and professional level courses, the new courses for this certificate are interdisciplinary, and therefore, quite innovative. Professors Jean Roberts and Sara Goering designed the courses, Ethics Matters and Justice Matters, in such a way that any graduate and professional student from across campus can take them. These courses, along with the collaborative writing workshop capstone, constitute the main part of the certificate's required core. After teaching these courses last year, both Professor Roberts and Professor Goering are happy (and relieved given the experimental nature of the endeavor) to report that it is indeed possible for graduate and professional students from widely different fields to communicate with each other fruitfully.



Words from the Chair

Kenneth Clatterbaugh, Professor



Ken at the philosophy graduation party with the undergraduate graduation speaker, Sahar Manavi (B.A., Philosophy/B.S., Biology).

and two who are from other peer institutions. The actual on-site review process runs for two and a half days, after which the committee writes up their findings in a report. That report identifies strengths and weaknesses of the department under review. Of course the committee must have loads of information about our research, teaching, curriculum, graduate program, etc. available to them. That information is included in the departmental self-study which is prepared well in advance of the committee's site visit. This year that self-study seemed to weigh several pounds and had, as I recall, 37 appendices. Preparing this document, coupled with the regular workloads of all involved, left the chair, the staff, and many faculty members in a state of overworked bewilderment.

But, the results were worth it. The review of 2007 was very complimentary. Both the graduate program and the undergraduate program were judged to be sound, as was the research activity and the teaching of the faculty members in the department. The staff is excellent, as all of us on the faculty already know. The committee noted that the Department of Philosophy was well connected to other units throughout campus and that we were engaged in significant interdisciplinary research and teaching. The report contained several recommendations, all of which had already been considered or brought up by particular members of the Department. Chief among these was the creation of a

seminar to get graduate students moving on writing a dissertation, strengthening the honors program for undergraduates, and finding more ways to bring resources into the Department through grants and/or development. The report also noted that the faculty members in the Department were stretched pretty thin and that progress in these areas might require additional faculty members and/or staff. To wrap up the review process, the Department writes a response to the report and the chair is called before various bodies, such as the Graduate School Council and the Faculty Council, to discuss the report.

When I reflect on this whole process, something that ate up much of my year, I am reminded of the good, the amusing, and the bad embedded in it. It is a good thing for an academic unit to stop, look at what it has been doing, and create a report about that. It is a good thing to have other eyes from other places look at what you do and make some recommendations. It was very amusing to me to send out sections of the self-study, or our response to the report, and watch my colleagues, all of whom are writers and to some extent editors, go to work on the draft. Sometimes we ended up with so many versions of a particular document that we literally were not on the same page. Still, it came together nicely, and we produced something that will be of value for the near future and perhaps for the next ten-year review scheduled in 2017.

Finally, this brings me to the catch-22 in all of this. Typically these reviews note, as did ours, that in order to implement their recommendations new resources are needed. Often the members of the committee are acutely aware that other places that are doing more have more to work with. For example, the University of Washington has some 225-250 undergraduate majors. Most peer institutions have about 90 undergraduate majors. The one school that matches our undergraduate numbers is the University of Colorado, which has approximately eight more full time faculty members than we do. The catch of course is that new resources are unlikely to be forthcoming. Indeed, the charge letter to the committee warns against making recommendations for more resources because new resources are not likely to be forthcoming.

Are we better off for having done all this work? I think so. As I said, an assessment of where you have been is very useful. Would we be better off with more resources? Absolutely, and perhaps we will find a way to move forward with some of the excellent recommendations in the report by finding the resources ourselves. Should we feel good about where we are? Again, absolutely.

Upcoming Events 2007-08

2007-2008 Colloquium/Speaker Series

- ☛ Oct. 19th - Jennifer Lackey, Epistemology, Northern Illinois University.
- ☛ Oct. 26th - Liam Murphy, Political Science, New York University.
- ☛ Nov. 9th - Miriam Solomon, Philosophy of Science, Temple University.
- ☛ Feb. 29th - Michael Della Rocca, Early Modern Philosophy, Yale University.
- ☛ March 6th - Walker Ames Lecture - Nancy Cartwright, Philosophy of Science, University of California, San Diego, and the London School of Economics.
- ☛ March 7-9th - Social Science Roundtable.
- ☛ April 25th - Christine Korsgaard, Ethics, Harvard University.
- ☛ May 2nd - John Fischer, Action Theory/Ethics, University of California, Riverside.
- ☛ May 9th - Sherri Roush, Philosophy of Science, University of California, Berkeley.

Science Studies Network and Colloquium

The Simpson Center for the Humanities has funded a two-year research network and colloquium on Science Studies. This initiative builds on the 2003-2005 Science Speaker Series organized by Simon Werrett (History) and Arthur Fine (Philosophy). Beginning this fall, the network will sponsor a bi-weekly lunchtime colloquium that brings together faculty and graduate students with overlapping interests in science studies (history and philosophy of science; cultural studies of science; and science policy, research ethics, equity issues in science). Organizers of this project are Alison Wylie (Philosophy), Malia Fullerton (Medical History and Ethics), Celia Lowe (Anthropology), Philip Thurtle (CHID), and Simon Werrett (History).

For details of Network activities and events, check under "The Social Science Studies Network" on the Simpson Center for the Humanities web site at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/uwch/index>

If you are interested in joining the Network, contact Alison Wylie at aw26@u.washington.edu

Social Science Roundtable

The 10th annual meeting of the Philosophy of Science Roundtable will be hosted by the University of Washington, March 7-9, 2008. This workshop brings together an international group of philosophers and social scientists interested in theoretical, epistemic, methodological, and normative questions that arise in, and about, the social sciences. The program will include a dozen papers and two invited keynote speakers, one of whom is Nancy Cartwright (University of California, San Diego, and the London School of Economics). The local organizer is Alison Wylie (UW Philosophy), and the organizing committee includes James Bohman (St. Louis University) and Paul Roth (University of California, Santa Cruz). Sponsors include The Graduate School, Simpson Center for the Humanities, and UW Philosophy. More information at:

<http://philosophy.ucsc.edu/Roundtable.html>

Graduate Student Conference

The University of Washington's fourth biennial Graduate Student Conference will be held Friday, October 5, and Saturday, October 6, 2007. This year's theme is Ethics and the Environment. Bryon Norton, Professor of Philosophy at the Georgia Institute of Technology, will deliver the keynote address.

Those interested in attending or participating can e-mail philconf@u.washington.edu or visit:

<http://students.washington.edu/philconf>

Lecture Series - Environmental Ethics and Policy

The purpose of this lecture series is to raise awareness of how ethics and philosophy can make a practical contribution to the resolution of on-the-ground environmental problems and policies. Six speakers will be included for this series in 2007-2008. Invited speakers to date include David Schmidtz (Philosophy and Economics, University of Arizona), David Schlosberg (Political Science, Northern Arizona University), and Clare Palmer (Washington University of St. Louis). This lecture series is sponsored by the Program on Values in Society, the Program on the Environment, and the UW Earth Initiative. It was organized by Stephen Gardiner (Philosophy) and Andrew Light (Philosophy/Evans School of Public Affairs).

Undergraduate News

New Alumni

The Department is pleased to announce that 80 undergraduates received philosophy degrees during the 2006-2007 academic year. Another 5 students completed History and Philosophy of Science majors. All the graduates were honored at the Department's annual graduation reception this June. The Department would like to thank this year's undergraduate graduation speaker, Sahar Manavi who was also a long time member of the Department's ethics bowl team (see related story on page 4).

Kenneth R. Parker Award

The Kenneth R. Parker Award for Excellence in Community Service was established last year by one of our new alumni, Julia Parker. The award is given to the philosophy major or minor who blends their studies in philosophy with a volunteer-based community project. Jamie Dostert was this year's recipient. Jamie worked as an overnight volunteer at Rising Out of the Shadows (ROOTS), a young adult homeless shelter in the University District. Jamie received a \$250 scholarship from the award fund and a matching donation was made to ROOTS by the Parker family.

Undergraduate Awards and Service

Each year the Undergraduate Affairs Committee names an Outstanding Graduating Senior. This award goes to a member of the graduating class who has maintained one of the top grade points in philosophy and in the University. The student who receives this award is one who is actively engaged in philosophy and who makes a contribution to the study of philosophy. This year the award went to Lindsey Einhaus, who graduated in December with a double major in history. What do you do with a double major in philosophy and history? Lindsey is currently working as a "senate staffer" in Washington DC.

The committee also named an Outstanding Continuing Scholar. This award goes to a continuing student who has taken a substantial number of philosophy classes and has maintained a sterling grade point. This year the award went to Arianna Beck.

Arianna also served as a tutor for the Department's writing center. She staffed the center solo during autumn quarter while her fellow tutors, Graham Griffiths and

Danielle McKenzie, were studying abroad. The Department wishes to thank them for the excellent service as tutors over the last year. All three have agreed to continue to work in the writing center next year, although this time it will be Danielle's turn to work solo in the spring, as Graham plans to graduate at the end of winter quarter, and Arianna will be studying abroad. Four students deserve a special thank you for organizing and leading our new majors seminar this past year: Amanda Chan, Brian Chu, Michael Greaves, and Ben Onosko.

Philosophers in the Real World

What do you do with a philosophy degree? Philosophy majors grapple with this question almost as much as they ponder Plato. One evening in May, four alumni volunteers got together with approximately twenty current undergraduates to provide some guidance over pizza. Alumni Bob Crimmins, Joseph Cutler, Joel Pierce and Leif Zimmerman shared their own career paths. The bottom line -- philosophy majors may get off to a bit of a rocky start compared to their business major classmates, but their well developed analytic and communication skills show their value over time. Special thanks go to Ben Onosko, who organized the event, and to 2005 graduate Josie Silverman. Josie couldn't actually come to the event but she took the time to write out her experiences.

Congratulations 2006-2007 M.A. & Ph.D. Recipients

M.A.

Brian Lars Enden - winter 2007

Jeremy M. Fischer - autumn 2006

Ph.D.

Larry Ray Gibson - autumn 2006

"One More Apt Feeling: A Defense of a Modified Version of Allen Gibbard's Account of the Meaning of Our Putative Wrongness Judgments"

Aimée Lois-Marie Koeplin - spring 2007

"The Most Important Thing of All: Piety, Virtue, and Politics in Plato's Laws"

Christopher H. Pearson - spring 2007

"On a Cladistic Taxonomy of Organismic Traits"

Benjamin John Stenberg - autumn 2006

"Toward a Linguistic Conception of Thought"

Faculty News

Stephen Gardiner

Steve organized a conference on Ethics and Climate Change in Spring 2007, co-sponsored by the Program on Values in Society and the Evans School of Public Affairs. Those in attendance included internationally-renowned scientists, philosophers, and policy experts. The keynote speakers were Dale Jamieson (Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies, New York University) and Henry Shue (Professor of International Relations, Oxford University). The conference included a meeting between the main speakers and students from Steve's undergraduate course on ethics and climate change where the students discussed their own research on the speakers' work.

In the past year, Steve has also published two papers, 'Protecting Future Generations', in the Edgar Elgar *Handbook of Intergenerational Justice*, Jörg Tremmel, ed., and 'A Perfect Moral Storm: Climate Change, Intergenerational Ethics and the Problem of Moral Corruption' in *Environmental Values*. In addition, he gave talks at Arizona State University, Oxford University (UK), the University of Delaware, the University of Leeds (UK), the University of Reading (UK), and the University of Washington. He is currently working on several papers concerning the intersection between climate change and contemporary political theory. One of these papers concerns the ethics of geoengineering, which emerged out of a paper Steve gave at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as part of a panel which included Ralph Cicerone, the President of the National Academy of Science, and Richard Somerville, a lead author of the recent scientific report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Andrew Light

In addition to publishing a number of essays in various edited volumes this year Andrew Light's newest book, *Environment and Values* (Routledge Press, 2007), was published in July. Co-authored with John O'Neill (University of Manchester, UK) and Alan Holland (Lancaster University, UK), the book offers an overview and critique of the primary theories of why nature has value offered by economists and philosophers and then proposes a new, historically oriented, account of the value of natural entities in relation to human communities. Since last fall he has given thirteen talks at

conferences and various universities including "The Ontology of Restored Environments," at the 15th Altenberg Workshop in Theoretical Biology at the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research outside of Vienna, Austria; "The Policy Turn in Environmental Ethics," the keynote address at a workshop launching a new program in applied ethics at the University of Hokkaido, Japan; and "Citizenship, Design, and the Recovery of Everyday Place," a keynote address for an international colloquium, "Environment, Aesthetic Engagement, and the Public Sphere," in Paris. Finally, Andrew was part of a team from the college of engineering which was awarded a two-year \$300,000 grant from the Ethics Education division of the National Science Foundation aimed at enhancing web-based resources for ethical issues related to nanotechnology.

Adam Moore

This past year, Adam published "Privacy," (with Randal Kemp), *Library Hi Tech: Special Issue on Information Ethics*, *Library Hi Tech* Vol. 25 No. 1 (2007) and had five articles accepted and forthcoming: "Justifying Informational Privacy Rights," *San Diego Law Review* 2007/2008; "Intellectual Property in Information" (with Ken Himma), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Summer 2007; "Justifying Intellectual Property Rights," in an edited anthology by Herman Trivani and Ken Himma, 2007; "Privacy, Intellectual Property, and Hacking," in *Readings in Internet Security: Hacking, Counterhacking, and Society*, Ken Himma ed., Jones & Bartlett Publishers, 2007; and "Ethical Challenges for Technology Managers: Privacy, Consent, and Security" in a special edition of *Knowledge, Technology, and Policy*, Robert Mason, ed.

Adam also presented three papers this year: "Justifying Informational Privacy Rights," Conference on Informational Privacy, April 27-28, 2007, University of San Diego Institute for Law and Public Policy; "Intellectual Property and File Sharing," CSU Longbeach, Odyssey Program, Monday March 19, 2007; "Privacy, Secrecy, and Government Surveillance," 2006 Information Ethics Roundtable, American Philosophical Association Meetings, Portland OR, March 22, 2006; and was a principle participant in a Liberty Fund conference on the "Justification of Progressive Taxation," Milwaukee, WI. June 28 – July 1, 2007.

He also completed his most recent book project – *Privacy Rights: Moral and Legal Foundations*, which is now under review for publication.

Faculty, cont.

Ron Moore

Ron read papers at the American Society for Aesthetics meeting in Milwaukee, WI, the Northwest Philosophy Conference in Portland, OR, and the Clemente Course in Port Hadlock, WA. He and Bill Talbott again met with Monroe prisoners in the “Lifers Book Club” (prisoners serving life terms) to discuss the books that Ron and Bill had written. Ron continues to serve as University Marshal.

Michael Rosenthal

Michael presented two papers at international conferences this past year. In September he received an Overseas Travel Grant from the Graduate School to attend the International Meeting of the Spinoza Gesellschaft in Berlin, where he spoke on “Spinoza’s Critique of Wonder and the Predicament of the Modern Individual.” He was also invited to speak at the 2nd Conference on Political Hebraism in December at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem, where he delivered a paper on, “Spinoza in Weimar: The Disenchantment of the Modern World and the Fate of the Hebrew State.” The first paper was a draft of a chapter in a future volume, *Cambridge Critical Guide to Spinoza’s Theological-Political Treatise*, which Michael will edit with Yitzhak Melamed at the University of Chicago. The second paper is part of a new project on the reception of Spinoza in the early twentieth century.

Here in Seattle Michael organized, along with colleagues in Jewish Studies, a series of talks on Jewish political thought. They have been awarded support by the Simpson Center for the Humanities and the Jewish Studies Program to continue their discussions on this topic with a small conference next year. Another public highlight for Michael was to be asked by *Nextbook* to interview Rebecca Goldstein—the author of *Betraying Spinoza* and *The Mind-Body Problem* among other things—on stage during her appearance at Benaroya Hall last October, as part of their series on Jewish Writers. This coming year Michael will teach a new course on Modern Jewish Philosophy during autumn quarter and hopefully will finish his book on Spinoza.

Angela Smith

In November of 2006, Angela presented a paper entitled “Control, Responsibility, and Moral Assessment” at a conference in San Francisco entitled “New

Perspectives on Free Will and Moral Responsibility.” This spring she was invited to take part in an Author-Meets-Critics session at the Pacific APA on George Sher’s recent book *In Praise of Blame*. This coming September she will be presenting a paper at Indiana University at a conference entitled, “Agency and Responsibility: Perspectives from Ethics, Metaphysics, and the Emerging Sciences of Brain and Behavior.” But, by far the happiest event of the year for Angela was receiving tenure in the philosophy department.

William Talbott

Bill presented “Toward a Revival of Consequentialism in Political (and Moral) Philosophy” at the Nagel-Dworkin-Waldron Colloquium on Legal, Political and Social Philosophy at NYU law school in September 2006. In spring quarter 2007 he taught a seminar on Jürgen Habermas’s discourse ethics. His first book on human rights, *Which Rights Should Be Universal?*, will be the subject of a session at the Eastern Division APA Meetings in December 2007. He continues to work on the second volume, *Human Rights and Human Well-Being*. In epistemology, the latest installment in his long-running debate with Alvin Plantinga on epistemic circularity will be published in late 2007.

Alison Wylie

In her first year in residence at the UW Alison Wylie developed a proposal for a Science Studies Network, which has now been funded by the Simpson Center for the Humanities for 2007-2009. This spring *Science and Values* (OUP) appeared, a collection of essays she co-edited with John Dupre and Harold Kincaid; she also edited “Epistemic Diversity and Dissent,” a special issue of *Episteme: Journal of Social Epistemology*. She gave keynote addresses at the Central States Philosophy Association annual meeting and at the 2nd annual FEMMSS conference, and she presented papers at the Eastern and Pacific Division meetings of the APA, in an Author-Meets-Critics session on Sandra Harding’s *Science and Social Inequality*, and in an invited symposium on “Demystifying Social Construction,” respectively. With support from the Department and the Simpson Center, she will host the 10th Annual Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable next year (March 5-7, 2008), and she has been invited to give several papers next fall as a visiting scholar at the University of Reading, and as the guest of a working group on “The Nature of Evidence” at the London School of Economics.

Alumni News

Ken Bower, B.A., 1981

After receiving his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Akron in 1991, Ken served at Los Alamos National Lab (University of California) for seven years. He then started his own chemistry research laboratory called Trace Photonics Inc., which works on sustainable energy conversion. Ken's company looks forward to polymeric solar cells on flexible lithium batteries.

This year, his youngest of eight adopted children is in high school, and he looks forward to six attending college in the fall.

For those of you who remember Ken and would like to get in touch with him, his current e-mail address is kbower@tracephotonics.com.

Stephen Fogdall, Ph.D., 1997

Stephen Fogdall, who was both an undergraduate and a graduate student in philosophy here at the UW, is now an attorney at the law firm of Schnader Harrison, Segal, and Lewis in Philadelphia. But his love for epistemology won't let him be. He has recently published an article on probability and inductive reasoning entitled, "Does Direct Inference Require Pollack's Principle of Agreement?" in an online journal called, *The Reasoner* (Vol. 1, No. 3, July 2007).

<http://www.thereasoner.org/>

Charles North M.D., M.S., B.A., 1970

After medical school, Charles moved on to a career with the Indian Health Service as a family doctor in the Southwest. He worked on the Hopi reservation for 7 years and has lived in Albuquerque for the past twenty-two years. He is retiring from the Commissioned Officer Corps of the Public Health Service this year. His ninety-year-old mother is still "free-range" in West Seattle where he grew up. He remembers his days in the philosophy department with much fondness.

Matthew Robbins M.A., 1998

Matt is now teaching philosophy at Fort Lewis College, in Durango, Colorado. He is married and has three children.

Keep in Touch

The faculty, staff, and alumni of the philosophy department often wonder what our students do with their lives once leaving the University of Washington. Please drop us an e-mail, or a snail-mail note and let us what you have been up to! We would love to hear from you, as would your fellow alumni.

Make a Note - Philosophy Department is Moving

The Department of Philosophy, along with all the other residents of Savery Hall, will be moving to Condon Hall (the old law school building) early this September. Faculty, staff, and students have been packing and sorting for weeks in order to get ready for this event. The move is part of the University of Washington's campus building restoration project called "Restoring the Core." This project targets fifteen historic and architecturally significant buildings on the main UW campus that are in dire need of total renovation. The renovation will include seismic and firewall upgrades, masonry restorations, and upgrades to the electrical, plumbing, heating, and airflow systems.

The reconstruction of Savery Hall is expected to last 2 years, and will cost an estimated \$61,200,000. When it is complete, the building will house its now current residents (Philosophy, Sociology, Economics, and the Center for Social Science Computation and Research), and 14,600 square feet of general assignment classrooms. At this time, The Department is slotted to move back to Savery Hall in August or September of 2009.

All phone numbers and e-mail addresses for faculty, staff, and graduate students will remain the same while we are in our temporary quarters at Condon Hall. The mailing address of the main departmental office while in Condon will be changed to:

**University of Washington
Department of Philosophy
511C Condon Hall
Box 353350
Seattle, WA 98195**

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The Philosophy Department at the University of Washington thanks the following individuals, whose contributions help support our programs and the activities of the Department. Their generous gifts are instrumental to our success in recruiting new faculty and graduate students. They also make our annual undergraduate awards possible and provide resources for future undergraduate and graduate scholarships. Donations from the Friends of Philosophy are also used to develop and promote new programs such as philosophy of science, professional ethics, human rights, and teaching philosophy to children. The Department also thanks all those donors who wish to remain anonymous.

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