

“Doing” Philosophy with Children

The Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children is a non-profit organization affiliated with the University of Washington’s Department of Philosophy. For 14 years, the Center has been introducing philosophy into the lives of young people by “doing” philosophy in K-12 classrooms. The Center’s “Philosophers in the Schools” program brings philosophical discussion to classrooms by teaching adults, via their workshops, ways to facilitate philosophical dialogs with young people.



This year, the Center held a summer workshop for teachers and graduate students that explored how introducing philosophy into K-12 classrooms can enrich student learning. Participants engaged in discussions about epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics, philosophy of language, and social/political philosophy. They examined questions such as: What can we know? What is happiness? Are we free? What is a mind? The workshop was very well-attended, and all involved were enthusiastic about the experience. One participant wrote:

The course was wonderful! I appreciated how organized you guys were. I liked the team leader approach. It was great to have you model lessons and then have us practice leading a philosophical discussion. This was one of the most "together" workshops I have ever attended! And it was so much fun.

Another exciting event in the works is the taping of a radio show about philosophy for children for the program, *Philosophy Talk*, a weekly, one-hour radio series. (See <http://www.philosophytalk.org/>). The show will be taped at the University on November 5, 2010, and will include Philosophy for Children’s director, Jana Mohr Lone leading a philosophy session with local elementary school children, as well as a conversation with *Philosophy Talk* hosts Ken Taylor and John Perry, both philosophers at Stanford University.

For more information about the Northwest Center for Philosophy for Children, check out their website at: <http://depts.washington.edu/nwcenter/index.html>

Key Task Facing Bioethics

Recent public debates on issues such as physician assisted suicide and control over genetic samples highlight the importance of autonomy in American life and in American medicine. We want control over how things go in our lives, and we don’t want others to force us to act against our will. Yet respect for autonomy has its limits, and in the realm of medicine, these limits are in need of some careful examination.

Bioethics cont.

Respect for autonomy is a fundamental ethical principle in Western medical ethics. It requires a commitment to ensure that a patient's choices are fully her own, and that she is not barred from exercising these authentic choices. Such commitments within medical decision-making are often seen as a corrective for preventing some of the morally unacceptable excesses of paternalistic behavior within the medical system in the past, when patients were not always even consulted about the appropriate course of action.

The current operationalization of respect for autonomy within medicine requires getting informed consent from patients for medical procedures. Informed consent requires: (1) that the patient be competent to make decisions; (2) that she be informed about the relevant facts and likely consequences of potential treatments, including no treatment; (3) that she understand that information; and (4) that her consent is voluntary (not coerced). A patient who meets these four conditions is considered autonomous and the presumption is that her choices should be adhered to. In many cases, it is not difficult to meet this moral obligation. Often, it is clear that a patient is fully autonomous. Conversely, some barriers to acting autonomously are easily identified and can be largely addressed. Perhaps someone is pressuring a patient to make a certain decision, in which case clinicians can attempt to ensure that the patient has opportunities to independently reflect on and express her own wishes. Or perhaps a lack of full understanding may come out in a thorough conversation with members of the medical team, who can then ensure that the patient gets additional opportunities to become informed. But we are concerned that even though thinking in terms of respecting autonomy can often produce morally desirable outcomes and insights, in other cases there may be problems.

Consider the informed consent requirement for decisional competency. The majority of adults have such competency in their normal lives. But many adults have cognitive impairments, perhaps only very mild ones, which may mean they cannot meet typical standards for competency. Moreover, many additional adults will fail to meet competency standards when they are faced with serious medical decisions, due to the cognitive burdens imposed by the symptoms of their illnesses, the side effects of treatments, and the very natural emotional and psychological stress they may experience. If a patient

cannot meet the standards for informed consent, then she is considered to be non-autonomous (at least with respect to some specific medical decisions). Often her wishes will be disregarded, and instead her caregivers will attempt to do what they think is best for her, based typically on some sense of a 'reasonable person standard.'

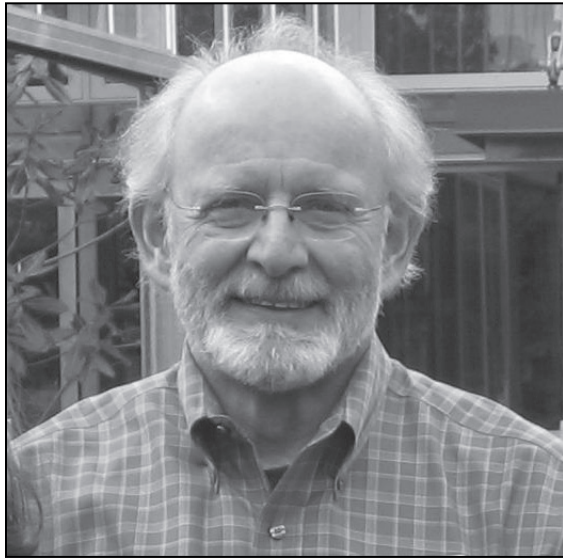
Our concern is that such a patient may be seriously disrespected in these circumstances. Even someone who is not, strictly speaking, autonomous may *care* about what happens to her, and feel shattered when her preferences are ignored. Overriding her wishes in the name of providing her with a different benefit may come at a significant cost. Bioethicists tend to think of such paternalism as warranted in cases where individuals lack the decisional competency seen as necessary for autonomy. But paternalism that ignores a non-competent individual's preferences – particularly consistently and deeply held preferences – fails to offer a kind of respect that is perhaps more fundamental than a respect for autonomy.

Perhaps medical professionals should look beyond the duty of respect for autonomy, to a more general duty to respect persons, which requires treating subjects of a life as beings that matter, and may further require taking their preferences seriously. This does not mean that these patients' every wish should be endorsed and acted upon. But we believe the obligation to respect others goes far beyond simply respecting the fruits of their cognitive competency. Many clinicians are already struggling with the limits that a focus on respect for autonomy imposes. We think pushing beyond this moral principle and specifying the character of respect more broadly is one of the key tasks facing bioethics.

This article was written for the newsletter by Professor Sara Goering and Professor Ingra Schellenberg, both of whom are philosophy faculty with the Program on Values in Society at the University of Washington.

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Words from the Chair



Professor Ken Clatterbaugh

Every year I sit down to a blank screen and begin to try to recall key events of this past year, and try to look briefly into my crystal ball to see if there are any glimmers of the future. As I try to compose my “Words” for this newsletter, I notice that there is a tray of donuts on the counter. The question that occurs to me is: “Can an academic department subsist on Top Pot Donuts?” Some days it seems like we do.

Lately, I am beginning to think about a life without being Chair of the Department of Philosophy. It has been a part of my existence for 14 years now. It has been a good time, and I have had many moments when I really appreciate my situation. But I have not written about the more subtle and perhaps subjective aspects of the job.

First for me there is the staff. Gina Gould, Undergraduate Adviser; Beverly Wessel, Administrator; and Barbara Mack, Graduate Program Assistant have been with me throughout most of these years. For much of the time our offices have been in the same suite so that we can hear each other and interact quickly if we need to do so. The joy and daily interactions with these individuals has been the best part of being chair. They are so able, so dedicated, and at the same time, so willing to laugh and make the best of situations, that I have come to look forward to the hum of activity that is part of our daily routine. Whenever they can, they give me “a bad time” but it is never harsh and quite frankly, it is usually deserved. Kate Goldyn joined the staff as our outreach coordinator a couple of years ago, and she has fit right in, as has Annette Bernier who joined us

last year. Each of these individuals has a specific set of tasks, which if left undone would bring the whole program to a halt.

Right there with my staff are my colleagues in the department. I am struck by how many colleagues have joined the faculty since I became chair, and many of those have been promoted or are soon going to be promoted. Again I could not ask for a more collegial group. As Chair, there have been moments that one could wish never happened, but overwhelmingly each and every member of this collective is valuable and has in different ways and at different times accomplished tasks that are vital to the department’s interests. My job is to help faculty members get what they need to do their research and complete their teaching. When the group is as deserving as this one, this is a pleasure... even if I sometimes go home at night and feel like if I am asked to do one more thing, I will scream. When I first began, I was told that being Chair would be a lot like trying to herd cats. In fact that is true, but they are likeable cats and very impressive in their intelligence and scholarship.

Students are, of course, our bread and butter. Without skilled graduate students we could simply not teach the number of undergraduates that want and need our courses. Watching a graduate student move from a green novice to a professional individual is one of the great rewards of this job. Undergraduates are simply dazzling in their array of talents, ambitions, and situations. Talking to students is one of my great pleasures. They always come by in waves, nothing at the beginning of the quarter, and building into a deluge by the end of the quarter. Many students now participate in study abroad programs and their accounts of how they spent their time is always delightful, although I often wonder how they can go so long without sleep.

Finally, there are our alumni. They serve on our Advisory Board, and do many things that benefit everyone! For example, when the travel ban was imposed by the State of Washington, they provided funds to send faculty members and students to conferences to present their research. Recently I have heard from several of my old students, some going back to the 1970s. It is wonderful to hear from them and to be able to appreciate their accomplishments. They often note that their major in philosophy was important to those accomplishments. However, I don’t like the fact that many of them are already retired. I don’t think they should be able to retire before their teacher... I guess I like my job.

New Endowment

The Melvin Rader Endowed Fund was established in October of 2009 by Philip and Estelle DeLacy. It will provide funds for student fellowships in philosophy. The generous endowment honors former philosophy faculty, Professor Melvin Rader.

Rader was born in Walla Walla, Washington in 1903, and received three degrees from the UW (B.A., 1925; M.A., 1927; Ph.D., 1929). He joined the UW Philosophy Department as an Assistant Professor in 1930 where he went on to teach ethics, aesthetics, and political philosophy for 51 years (10 as active emeritus). He earned national distinction for his work as a humanist and scholar in the field of aesthetics. He served as President of the State ACLU in 1973. His book *False Witness*, published in 1969, is a dramatic and moving story of his persecution by the Canwell Committee (Joint Legislative Fact Finding Committee on un-American Activities) during 1948 and 1949. Rader spent 15 agonizing months trying to clear his name, and with the help of Ed Guthman, a Seattle Times investigative reporter, and many others, he was finally exonerated in 1950 by State Attorney General, Smith Troy. Later in his life, Rader had this to say regarding his exoneration:

I was deeply stirred by these events, not only because I was personally vindicated but because justice prevailed. As I stated to Guthman: 'Thanks to the fact that I live in a democracy and that many people have helped me, I have been able to clear my name.' In this one instance at least, misrepresentation and blind prejudice had been defeated by fair play and a free press.

Hypatia 25th Anniversary

Hypatia, A Journal of Feminist Philosophy, turns 25 this year! The journal was first published as an autonomous journal in 1986, so volume 25 is appearing in 2010, mid-way through the five-year term in which the *Hypatia* editorial office is based at the University of Washington. The journal is hosted by the University of Washington's Simpson Center for the Humanities. Alison Wylie is the editor in residence, assisted by a stalwart editorial staff of philosophy graduate students, and a wonderful team of local editorial advisors, all but two of whom are also in philosophy.

To kick off this landmark year, a 25th Anniversary conference was held last fall: "Feminist Legacies/Feminist Futures," (October 22-24, 2009). This conference drew close to 150 participants, with over 100 presenters representing all areas of feminist work in philosophy. The program included six keynote panels – on the founding of *Hypatia*, on focal areas of feminist interest in philosophy, and on the future of feminist philosophy – all of which are now available online as podcasts and streaming videos (see the *Hypatia* website for details). For one especially notable keynote panel, "Feminist Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Perspective" feminist scholars at the University of Washington were invited to consider the legacies of feminist philosophy in relation to their own fields. Panelists included Carolyn Allen, English; Eva Cherniavsky, English; Judith A. Howard, Sociology and Women Studies (Divisional Dean, Social Sciences); Barbara Reskin, Sociology; Janelle Taylor, Anthropology; and Kathleen Woodward, English. "Feminist Legacies / Feminist Futures" was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the formation and influence of feminist philosophies across the disciplines, to take stock of emerging trends, and to consider where feminist philosophy is headed in the next 25 years.

A 25th Anniversary special issue will be published in December 2010 (*Hypatia* 25.4, co-edited by Lori Gruen and Alison Wylie), alongside an electronic Virtual Issue made up of *Hypatia* articles that readers have nominated as transformative, groundbreaking, and pivotal in the development of their own work and of feminist philosophy as a field. Be sure to check the journal's website for details. <http://depts.washington.edu/hypatia/index.html>.



Supernietzsche by Jim Riswold

Upcoming Events 2010-11

Colloquia

- * Oct. 22, 2010 - Robin May Schott, Senior Researcher/Research Professor, Danish Institute for International Studies & Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus
- * Oct. 29, 2010 - Naomi Scheman, Professor, University of Minnesota
- * Nov. 12, 2010 - Ryan Preston-Roedder, Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- * Nov. 19, 2010 - Nicholas Smith, Professor, Lewis & Clark College
- * Jan. 14, 2011 - Ann Cudd, Professor, University of Kansas
- * Feb. 25, 2011 - Marc Lange, Professor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Note - additional colloquia will be scheduled as the academic year progresses. Check our website for updates.

<http://www.phil.washington.edu/>

Seminars/Symposiums/Conferences

- * April 8, 2011 - Rabinowitz Symposium with Dr. Vincent Lam
- * Winter 2011 - Geoengineering Seminar Series - see philosophy website for details
- * May 13, 2011 - Conference on Fair Trade - see philosophy website for details

Rabinowitz Symposium Well Received

This year's Rabinowitz symposium, *Approaching Dementia: Creativity and Ethics in Caring* was filled to capacity. The event brought together medical clinicians and academics from the University and the community, and served as a forum for widespread conversations. The symposium took place on April 23rd, and was organized by Sara Goering (Professor, UW Philosophy and Program on Values), Janelle Taylor (Professor, UW Anthropology), and Rachel Fredericks (UW Graduate

Student, Philosophy). This free public conference was made possible by a donation from the Rabinowitz family to support philosophical work in medical ethics.

Speakers included Agnieszka Jaworski, (Professor, UC, Riverside) who spoke on "Vanishing Persons and the Authority of the Former Self: Dilemmas in Alzheimer's Disease;" Neurologist Peter Whitehouse, MD (Case Western Reserve University), who presented "Caring for Our Demented Selves and Our Distressed Planet: Exploring the Values of Positive Aging and Misguided Neuroethics;" and Theatre Arts Specialist, Anne Basting (Professor, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee) who discussed "The Cultural Cure: Creative Engagement and Dementia."

The participants of the symposium were pleased to take time off from their day-to-day work caring for patients with dementia and have philosophical discussions exploring the needs for patients, families, and caregivers.

Advisory Board Activities

The department's Advisory Board serves as an advisory council to the department Chair, assists the department in community and public relations, and supports the department's fund development and alumni outreach efforts.

The board had an active year in 2009-10. For the second year, the board funded the department's Outreach Coordinator position, which has helped the department immensely by providing support for the department's development efforts, coordination of conferences and other events, alumni outreach and record-keeping, and work with the university's development staff. Members of the board also helped the department organize and carry out its spring fund-raising efforts.

As a result of conversations with faculty, the board is working on the creation of an online brochure that will describe what studying philosophy involves and why a philosophy degree is valuable, which we expect to be useful for students both in explaining to parents their choices to study philosophy and in discussing with potential employers the skills gained from studying philosophy. The board has created a survey that asks department alumni whether their philosophy degree has been useful and, if so, in what ways. To date approximately 150 responses have been received. You can help in the creation of this brochure by completing our short survey. (see page 10 of this newsletter).

Awards and Achievements

Faculty

Larry BonJour's second edition of his book, *Epistemology: Classic Problems and Contemporary Responses* was published by Rowman and Littlefield.

Ken Clatterbaugh was awarded the Joff Hanauer Honors Professorship in Western Civilization for 2010-12.

Stephen Gardiner coedited *Climate Ethics: Essential Readings* (Oxford), with Simon Caney, Dale Jamieson, and Henry Shue which was published in summer 2010.

Sara Goering is coediting (with Wylie Burke, Kelly Edwards, and Suzanne Holland) a book on justice issues related to the translation (or lack thereof) between genetic discoveries and treatment of disease. The book is tentatively titled, *Making Good on the Promise of Genetics: The Challenge of Justice in Translation*.

Lauren Hartzell has been enjoying the first year of her post doc at the University of Washington. She has submitted three articles for publication, is collaborating with Steve Gardiner on a chapter on intergenerational risk for an upcoming collection on risk theory, and is working on her first book titled, *Precautionary Principles: Catastrophes and Climate Change*. This fall she will be participating in a workshop on ethics of geoengineering in Montana.

Carole Lee will be speaking on "Empirical Research on the Normative Functioning of Peer Review" for a symposium that she helped organize on "Improving Peer Review in the Sciences" at the Philosophy of Science Association meeting in Montreal, Canada (November 4-6, 2010).

Adam Moore put the final touches on his latest book, *Privacy Rights: Moral and Legal Foundations* (Penn State University Press) which was published in August of 2010. In this manuscript, Moore offers a definition and defense of individual privacy rights, an account of how these rights should be codified in the law, and an application of the proposed theory to drug testing, computer security, and public accountability.

Michael Rosenthal published an article on "Spinoza's Philosophy of Religion" in *The History of Western Philosophy of Religion* (Oxford, 2009). He coedited a volume, *Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise: A Critical Guide*, which will be published by Cambridge

later this year. He presented papers in Germany, at Stanford, and at Princeton on themes in twentieth century Jewish philosophy. He will be on sabbatical this coming year and hopes to complete his book on Spinoza.

Bill Talbott has been invited to participate in the Cluster of Excellence on "Normative Orders" at the University of Frankfurt in the spring of 2011. He will give public lectures and will participate in various workshops during his stay. He will be working on his new book-length project "What is Moral Progress? How is it Possible?" Bill's newest book, *Human Rights and Human Well-Being* will be published by Oxford University Press in October 2010.

Alison Wylie has just been made Vice President of the Pacific division of the APA. For six months of 2010, Alison served as Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor (Anthropology) where she was busy working on a project on "Material Culture as Evidence" with colleague Bob Chapman. These two also ran a series of joint seminars and a workshop that took detailed case studies as the basis for addressing key questions about what counts as evidence; what counts as robust, cogent evidential reasoning and how standards of evidence change; and how new methods of data recovery and analysis enter archaeology and (sometimes) transform research practice. In addition, Alison delivered several different public lectures (at Durham, Sheffield, Southampton, Cambridge, The Institute of Archaeology in London, and Reading) on the subject of archaeological evidence.

Graduate Students

Monica Aufrecht is teaching at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, for a one-year (2010-2011) visiting lecturer position.

Brandon Morgan-Olsen was awarded the Queen's Postdoctoral Fellowship in Democracy and Diversity at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. His paper "Conceptual Exclusion and Public Reason" was just published in the journal, *Philosophy of Social Science*.

Jason Benchimol was awarded a Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship for 2010-2011; the College of Arts and Sciences Elizabeth Kerr Macfarlane Scholarship for 2010-2011, and the Philosophy's Annual departmental Graduate Student Teaching Award for 2009-2010!

Jeremy Fischer was awarded the Philosophy Department's Dissertation Fellowship for 2010-2011.

- ✳ **Monica Aufrecht**
(Dissertation Chair - Arthur Fine)
“Values in Science: The Distinction between the Context of Discovery and the Context of Justification”
- ✳ **Andrew Jordan**
(Dissertation Chair - Cass Weller)
“Putting Judgment in Context: Moral Particularism and the Structure of Practical Reason”
- ✳ **Brandon Morgan-Olsen**
(Dissertation Chair - Michael Blake)
“Listening in Public: Duties of Civility in a Pluralistic Democracy”

Passings

John F. Boler

John Boler died September 4, 2009, at the age of 80. He joined the department in 1960 after four years in the Air Force and four more at Harvard. His long service to the department was broken by visiting appointments at Berkeley, Irvine, Rutgers, Michigan, and Washington University. His steady contribution to medieval philosophy won him an international reputation and a one-year membership at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies. He retired in 1992 at the end of his second stint as chairman of the department. His first stint was in 1969-70 during the height of the student unrest. John was perfectly matched to the crisis, and steered the department, which was at the center of the storm, through turbulent times with a cool, even-tempered hand. Once retired, he was delighted to return to his philosophical work, both the solitary work of writing and the public work of giving talks.

John had a wide circle of friends in the Northwest (and elsewhere); his skill as a raconteur made him an unmatched treasure at any social gathering. He was well-loved for many qualities, but his friends especially appreciated his quiet, thoughtful, and gentle presence. He was the epitome of a Gentleman, and the world became slightly less civilized with his passing.

Paul Deitrichson



A Celebration of Life, in memory of University of Washington Professor Emeritus, Paul Dietrichson, took place on Saturday, February 13, 2010, in the Walker Ames room of Kane Hall. Paul passed away on January 6, 2010.

Paul was born in Bergen, Norway in 1921. During World War II, Paul was active in the Norwegian resistance and performed numerous acts of bravery in helping Jews escape persecution. Years later this heroism was recognized by the Seattle Scandinavian community, and he was made Grand Marshal of the Norwegian Day parade. Before attending Yale and earning a Ph.D. in philosophy, he attended the University of Georgia. From Yale, he came to the University of Washington where he was an active member of the philosophy faculty for the next 36 years. He taught courses in Kierkegaard, Kant, and Existentialism. His courses reflected a passionate, sincere, deeply thoughtful approach to his topics, and were extremely well received by his students. Much of his teaching centered on the theme of moral commitment, and no one in our time has been more morally committed than Paul. His presence will be deeply missed.

Tyrel R. Mears



A memorial service for graduate student and teaching assistant, Tyrel R. Mears, was held Tuesday, October 12, 2010, in Savery Hall, room 260 at 4:00 PM. Ty died on July 4, 2010. Ty started our graduate program in the autumn of 2007. He earned his M.A. in spring 2009, and was continuing on in our Ph.D. program. Ty was an excellent teacher of philosophy. In January, 2010, some of his students nominated him for the University of Washington's Excellence in Teaching Award, one of the University's most prestigious teaching awards. Besides philosophy, Ty loved to run, bike, rock climb, water ski, snow ski, and was very fond of ice cream. Our department, and graduate program will not be the same without him. We miss him.

The Tyrel R. Mears Memorial Fund has been set up by the Mears family to honor Ty's life. The fund will support a graduate student library which will be housed in Savery Hall's Philosophy Department. Many of Ty's books have been donated to this library, and more will be purchased with the money that is donated to this fund. If you would like to donate to the fund, you can do so online at www.phil.washington.edu/dept_giving.htm or you can send a check directly to the University of Washington, Dept of Philosophy, Box 353350, Seattle, WA 98195.

Passings cont.

Lisa (Henry) Wong



A funeral mass for our former graduate student, Lisa Wong took place on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Lisa is survived by her husband, Victor Wong, her five children, and her 5 grandchildren. Lisa was 61 years old.

Lisa first came to the University of Washington as an undergraduate in 1967. After taking time off for marriage and children, Lisa returned to the University and earned her B.A. in Philosophy in 1991. She continued at the UW as a graduate student earning her M.A. in Philosophy in 1995, and her Ph.D. in 1996. She had a special interest in Asian and Medieval European philosophy and for several years taught philosophy, ethics, and logic courses at the University of Washington and Seattle Central Community College. Lisa had a kind and gentle presence, and she will be missed in our philosophical community.

“New” Savery has New Art

Thanks to alumnus, Jim Riswold, (B.A., 1983, Philosophy, Communications, and History) our “new” home in Savery Hall just got better. Jim generously donated several of his latest collection of art work (titled Philosophy is Not Funny) to the Philosophy Department, and it is now displayed throughout the main office area.

For many years, Jim was a partner for the Portland based advertising agency Wieden + Kennedy. While there, as Creative Director of the Nike account, Newsweek magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in American culture. In 2000, Jim was diagnosed with leukemia and subsequently decided to retire from advertising. He then began a career as a full-time contemporary artist, going, in his words, “from a career of selling people things they don’t need to making things that people don’t want.”

Jim’s art work has been shown in galleries throughout the Northwest and some of his work is included in the permanent collections of several museums, including the Seattle Art Museum and the Portland Art Museum. Sardonic, funny, irreverent, satirical, and always poking fun, Jim’s work takes on religion, art, historical figures, and... you guessed it... philosophy. Some of the pieces that now hang in the philosophy main office include, *It’s Kant Time*; *Supernietzsche*; *Hegel gives Schopenhauer a Headache*; *KGL Kierkegaard*; and *Red Rover, Red Rover Send an Empiricist Right Over*.

In honor of Jim, his friendship, and his contributions to the department, the departmental seminar room (Savery 359) has been dedicated to Jim, and is now known as “the Jim Riswold Seminar Room.” There students can gather to study some of the philosophers captured in Jim’s collection (among others).



Jim Riswold in the main philosophy office with Professor Sara Goering, her daughter, and some of his art.

Alumni News

Jack Bayne, M.A., 1974

After earning his M.A., Jack spent the next 14 years teaching mainly US Military personnel in Europe for the University of Maryland, European Division. He then moved to Boston and began teaching for the University of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He has taught at both institutions ever since and attained Senior Lecturer status a few years ago. He and his wife are looking forward to retirement in a few years, and are looking at settling back in the Seattle area.

John Davis, Ph.D., 2001

John Davis has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at California State University, Fullerton. He is organizing a conference for spring 2011 titled "Disagreement in Ethics and Epistemology."

Samuel M. Shima, B.A., 1979

After graduating, Samuel settled in Fresno, CA, where he and his wife created (and own) a gymnastic school that has over 400 students. They have won numerous awards throughout the years including Union Bank's "2007 Entrepreneur of the Year" and "Best Children's Gym in Fresno" two years in a row. Last year, their nine-year-old daughter won the acro-level five pair national championship in Minnesota. Both he and his wife are grateful for what their lives have produced so far, and Samuel often jokingly tells his wife, "It is because of my education at the University of Washington!"

Samuel has this to say about his degree in philosophy:

Throughout the years, I have always attributed my success in life, work, family, and business to my learning experiences in philosophy, and I continue to use my education and experience to serve mankind in the best way possible.

I read your recent economic donation request letter and was saddened that all of us are going through the same thing, day in and day out. However, I am a strong supporter of what you folks do for philosophy at the UW, and am happy to make a small contribution to help out.

Thank you for all that you continually do up there in Seattle! My mother still lives up there, and I try to stop by the UW with my daughter to show her how beautiful my school is and how much I appreciated the best education one could ever receive!

Joan-Antoine Mallet, International Graduate Exchange Student, 2009-2010

The University of Montpellier, France, has accepted Joan-Antoine's application for a pre-doctoral associate position. There he will receive three years of financial support while he teaches, and completes his dissertation on Plato. Joan-Antoine credits at least part of his success in landing this position with his time spent here last year as an international exchange student. Congratulations J.A!

Value of Your Philosophy Degree?

The University of Washington Philosophy Department is in the process of creating a brochure and website about the value of a philosophy degree. We believe this will be a useful resource for both incoming students, who are determining if they would like to major in philosophy, and alumni, who need to explain to a potential employer the value of a philosophy degree.

Please help us in creating these informational items by taking a few minutes to fill out our short survey.

Please go to:

<http://www.phil.washington.edu/> and click on "Philosophy Degree Survey."

We would appreciate it very much.

For those of you who have already completed our survey, thank you!

Friends of Philosophy

Gifts to the department are crucial to our success in enhancing educational opportunities for our students.

The Philosophy Department at the University of Washington thanks the following individuals, as well as those donors who wish to remain anonymous, whose contributions help support our programs.

Undergraduate student awards, scholarships, and resources for future graduate scholarships would be impossible without the support of our donors. We also depend upon donated funds to help develop and promote new programs, such as philosophy of science, philosophy of the environment, professional ethics, the Ethics Bowl team, and introducing philosophy to children.

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