



THE GEORGE
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Department of PHILOSOPHY Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the third issue of the Department of Philosophy Newsletter!

As the new chair of the department, I would like to extend a warm thank you to our outgoing chair, Professor **David DeGrazia**, for his excellent leadership over the past three years. One of his most significant innovations, as I'm sure many of you will agree, was the initiation of this department newsletter. We have received wonderful accolades from our alumni and from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences for our newsletter and I am very pleased we now have such a terrific forum to keep you abreast of our many activities.

This fall issue offers you a glimpse of some of the exciting research being undertaken by our students as well as our faculty. Our undergraduate majors continue to distinguish themselves while they are at the University. We offer you a sampling of their recent activities including: **Raj Patel's** publication of an essay on Nietzsche and Kierkegaard in *Prometheus*, Johns Hopkins University's undergraduate philosophy journal; our Thacher-Reynolds fellow **Rebecca Groom's** current thesis research on racism, sexism, and speciesism, and **Joseph Mabioor Deng's** outstanding Dinka project. And, as our alumni news section amply reveals, our former students also continue to do us proud. Please keep your updates coming- we love to hear how you are doing!

As was mentioned in the previous newsletter, two of our full-time faculty are on sabbatical this year: **David DeGrazia** has received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship to support research on his new book project, *Creation Ethics: Reproduction, Genetics, and Quality of Life*, and Professor **Michèle Friend** is spending her sabbatical in Scotland, France, and some other very exciting locations in Europe as she continues to work out the details of "pluralism," an original position she is developing for a monograph-in-progress on the philosophy of mathematics. Our part-time instructors have been terrific in helping to cover some of our most pressing instructional needs and I am pleased to report that they are also extremely research-active, presenting papers at both national and international conferences. We are proud to announce that **Jeff Brand-Ballard's** new monograph, *Limits of Legality: The Ethics of Lawless Judging* (Oxford U. Press, 2010) is now available; it should

definitely be of special interest to our many alumni in the legal profession! **Tad Zawidzki** has just submitted his completed

monograph *Mindshaping: Linchpin of the Human Socio-*

Cognitive Syndrome to MIT Press. We look forward to seeing it in print next year. **Paul**

Churchill is continuing his research on Global Justice and Human Rights and has several new projects underway. **Bill Griffith** has been taking advantage of his partial retirement

to launch new research on the coercive interrogations of detainees and workers' rights.

Eric Sidel has been hard at work on his manuscript, *Learning from our Mistakes*, for Cambridge University Press. **Peter Caws**, as you will learn from his faculty profile below,

is currently engaged in exciting new research on "humanity" and the "human". And, last but not least, yours truly is currently working on two book projects: *Normalizing Bodies*

and *Beauvoir and Merleau-Ponty: Philosophers of Ambiguity*.



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Contact

mail

801 22nd Street NW
Phillips Hall 525
Washington, DC 20052

email

philosop@gwu.edu

phone

202-994-6265

fax

202-994-8683

Letter from the Chair (cont'd)

The current academic year has ushered in some curricular changes for GW, including the renumbering of undergraduate courses to distinguish more clearly between introductory and advanced courses in each discipline, which will take effect this spring semester, and the implementation of GW's new general education (G-PAC) requirements which will replace our current general curriculum requirements (GCR) next year. Our department faculty has been hard at work designating which of our regular course offerings should count towards the new G-PAC curriculum and re-tooling our syllabi accordingly. We will also be holding a curriculum retreat for our full-time faculty in early December to evaluate our existing course requirements for the two tracks of our Philosophy major and to consider ways to improve our curriculum. One future initiative we are contemplating is the creation of a new M.A. in Philosophy that draws upon the strength and diversity of our department faculty and that would complement our existing M.A. in Philosophy and Social Policy, expanding our current graduate offerings. We are also hoping to host our first GW Philosophy Alumni conference in the spring of 2012. Please stay tuned for future updates on both of these projects!

Thank you for your interest in our department activities. We value your input and support and hope to increase opportunities for you to become involved in the life of the department in the months and years to come!

All the best,
Gail Weiss

Department News

Visiting Scholars

The Department extends a warm welcome to two Visiting Scholars who have joined its ranks this year. **Gerald Dworkin** is a distinguished moral and legal philosopher and one of the world's leading authorities on autonomy and paternalism. He has published articles in leading philosophy journals and many books, including *The Theory and Practice of Autonomy* (Cambridge University Press, 1988) and the co-authored *Physician-Assisted Suicide: Pro and Con* (Cambridge University Press, 1998). Professor Dworkin is a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health during 2010-11, on leave from his post as Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Davis.

He taught previously at Yale, the London School of Economics, and the University of Illinois - Chicago. We look forward to getting to know him in the months ahead. **Jorn Sonderholm's** main research interests are in metaethics, applied ethics and political philosophy. He has published papers in journals such as the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Philosophia* and *Bioethics*. His current research involves issues in metaethics and political philosophy. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of St. Andrews (UK) and has since his graduation in 2005 worked both in academia and the think-tank sector.



Faculty Spotlight

The Philosophy department was proud to have faculty member Jeffrey Brand-Ballard (Associate Professor) honored earlier this month with the prestigious Bender Award which honors excellence in teaching. The Award, which is endowed by Morton Bender and the University, provides winners with a \$500 prize for faculty development activities. Professor Brand-Ballard, who joined the department in 2002, says "There's no award I'd rather win at GW." Congratulations Professor Brand-Ballard!

Graduate Program

This past summer, ten M.A. candidates took comprehensive exams successfully and graduated at the end of August. This was an unusually big class for the graduate program. Several students have already reported finding positions in their field.

Over the spring and summer, six new students entered the Program, joining six continuing students. Two of the latter, **Robert Goodman** and **Robert Luke**, are preparing to submit theses.

Department News

New Online Course

The first entirely online philosophy course at the University was inaugurated July 7 when thirty students enrolled in two sections of Phil 132W, an intensive 'Writing in the Disciplines' course offered by **Professor Paul Churchill**. Students who took the course were in all parts of the globe including, Morocco, Spain, Italy, Norway, Vietnam, Thailand, and Saudi Arabia, as well as California, Florida, New York, and Washington, D.C. The course was designed by Professor Churchill with the assistance of the On-Line Summer Institute and the Institute for Instructional Design and Teaching, both at the University. All lectures were converted to Word files in Blackboard, an online course management system. The course included podcasts and narrated PowerPoint presentations, both by Professor Churchill, as well as links to several films and YouTube shorts on issues relating to political problems. Each student completed writing assignments through individual blogs set up in Blackboard, which allowed Professor Churchill to edit student drafts in their blogs. Of the initial thirty students, twenty-eight hard workers completed the course.



"It was a remarkable learning experience for all of us," said Professor Churchill. "This was my first course completely on line, and I could not have predicted in advance how hard my students and I would work."

In addition to reading in six weeks almost 600 pages of assigned texts on classical political philosophers such as Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and Rawls plus more than twenty-five online "Guides to the Reading" by Professor Churchill, students completed six writing assignments, wrote a semester paper and completed the final exam—all online. "As far as I can tell," Professor Churchill added, "student achievement was in every way comparable to a standard on-campus course. I did miss meeting with my students, but judging from the level of engagement in their writing, not to mention the enormous email 'traffic' and phone calls during my virtual office hours, I know that most of the students were deeply interested in their studies."

Online courses at the University are developed for the benefit of students whose jobs, location, or family situations make it impractical for them to be physically on campus at the same time. Professor Churchill feels the freedom of movement was a tremendous asset for him as well: "My course went wherever I could take my laptop. The first week I was at Deep Creek Lake in western

Maryland, and the second week I was visiting with relatives in Berkeley, California. At least two of my students also travelled: one was able to go on vacation with her family in Italy and another went on business to England and Norway." Professor Churchill recommends that colleagues develop online courses, but he cautions that developing the course—which he expects to continue to teach in summers—is a lot of work. Teaching twenty-eight students in a summer session also can be draining. "Once I needed to evaluate student work and to respond to frequent emails—by the end of the second week—it didn't matter where I was: I was chained to my laptop for about eight to ten hours every day."

Student Spotlight

Rebecca Groom is this year's Thacher-Reynolds Memorial Fellow. Her proposal is tentatively entitled "Racism, Sexism, Speciesism: the Moral Status of Nonhuman Animals, Animal Ethics, and the Ethics of Eating." In this project, she will conduct an analysis of issues in animal ethics with an emphasis on responding to the difficult challenges presented by the emergence of factory farms and, also, the use of nonhuman animals in scientific experiments. She will explore the precise scope and strength of our moral obligations to nonhuman animals. Most anyone would agree that human beings owe animals kind treatment, respect, and humane care. However, is it enough to say our duties stop here, or do we owe them more? Do animals have rights? Is our treatment of animals a matter of justice? Working through these questions with an eye toward practical policy change is an urgent social and moral matter, and the focus of her project.

Rebecca is a former Air Force paralegal and veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom. She is the Vice President of GW Veterans and serves as the Assistant Managing Director of Veterans Campaign, a non-partisan, non-ideological training program aimed exclusively at preparing veterans to run for public office. Her other research interests are philosophy and

gender, social and political philosophy, and public policy. Her concern for animal ethics grew out of a lifetime of training horses in the hunter/jumper disciplines. This project was inspired by her 12-year old yellow lab, Hanna.



Events

Fall Party

This year the annual fall party was hosted by Professor **Gail Weiss** and her husband **Sam Brooke** at their home in Arlington. The fall party is an opportunity for department faculty and grad students to meet one another and, as the photos below attest, it was a well attended and lively event!

Elton Lecture

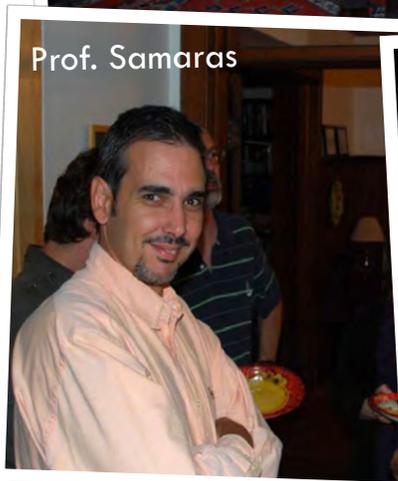
On Friday October 1st, **Dr. Edward S. Casey**, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at SUNY at Stony Brook, and the past President of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division gave a talk entitled "On Not Putting Too Fine an Edge on Things." His lecture "consider[ed] the merits of the vague in philosophy by a concerted exploration of the edges of things and topics: those extremities where the exact yields place to the less than precisely designatable and discussable."



Prof. Churchill



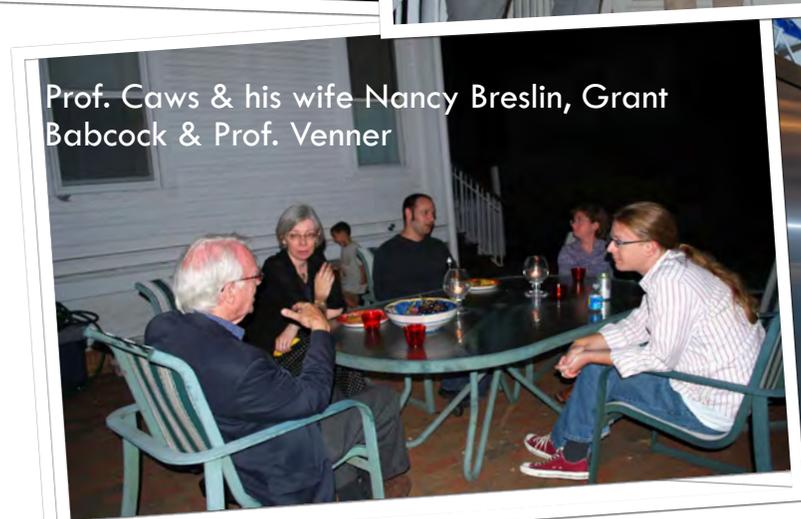
Profs. DeGrazia & Sigrist



Prof. Samaras



Stephen Abresch, Prof. Griffith & Philip Pauli



Prof. Caws & his wife Nancy Breslin, Grant Babcock & Prof. Venner



Profs. Zawidzki & Fisette

Faculty News

In August, **Jeff Brand-Ballard (Associate Professor)** delivered a lecture at the Institute for Law & Philosophy, based at the Rutgers School of Law (Camden, New Jersey). Professor Brand-Ballard was one of six invited speakers at a symposium held there on Michael S. Moore's book, *Causation and Responsibility* (Oxford, 2009). His paper, on responsibility for resultant harm, will appear in the *Rutgers Law Journal*. He has also accepted an invitation to deliver a "Philosopher's Holiday" lecture at his alma mater, Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, New York) in February 2011.

Peter Caws (University Professor) presented a paper, "How Many Languages, How Many Translations?" in May at a conference on "transmissibility" at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. His paper is to be published in English and also translated into French for parallel collections of papers edited by the conference organizers. In June, the Penn State Press published *Religious Upbringing and the Costs of Freedom: Personal and Philosophical Essays*, which he co-edited with **GW alumna Stefani Jones** (Ph.D., Human Sciences). Other publications include a Dutch translation of his paper "The Irrelevance of Chronological Age," with Julia Glahn, in Dohmen and Baars, eds., *De kunst van het ouder worden: De grote filosofen over ouderdom* (Amsterdam: Ambo, 2010), and "Structuralism" in the *Encyclopedia of Political Theory* (London: Sage, 2010). In July, he gave a paper entitled "Entrapment and Rejection" at the Cultic Studies Association annual conference in Fort Lee, NJ.

Robert Paul Churchill (Professor) presented a lecture October 13, 2009 at The State University of New York, Cortland, on "Why the Unjust Cannot Be Happy." The lecture was based on research for a book he is writing that is titled "Consuming Desires" and that examines the relationships between the virtues, vices, and happiness. While at SUNY, Cortland, Prof. Churchill met with a graduate class using his book *Human Rights and Global Diversity* and gave a talk on "War and Terrorism" for a course on philosophy and peace studies. A paper, "Global Human Rights" will appear as a chapter in *The Morality and Global Justice Reader*, edited by Michael Boylan and to be published in February, 2011. In addition, Prof. Churchill is at work on a series of entries for the *Encyclopedia of Global Justice* to be published in 2012.

David DeGrazia (Professor) currently on sabbatical, gave a lecture at the Institute of Philosophy in London in June. The lecture, "Genetic Enhancement, Post-persons, and Moral Status," has since been revised and accepted for publication by the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. His article "Is it Wrong to Impose the Harms of Human Life? A Reply to Benatar" was recently published in *Theoretical Medicine & Bioethics*; another article, "The Ethics of Confining Animals: From Farms to Zoos to Human Homes," is forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook for Animals and Ethics. Biomedical Ethics*, an anthology edited with Jeff Brand-Ballard and Tom Mappes, was recently published in its 7th edition by McGraw-Hill; work for the 8th edition of *Social Ethics*, another anthology, is nearly complete; and work is underway on his sabbatical project, *Creation Ethics: Reproduction, Genetics, and Quality of Life*, which is under contract with Oxford University Press.



On August 18, **Lloyd Eby (Professorial Lecturer)** gave a presentation entitled "Business Ethics: What Is It and How Can It Be Enhanced," to the National Concierge Association's national conference, held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. He says, "This presentation went very well. Afterwards numerous people came up to me saying how much they liked and appreciated what I had presented to them on this topic."

Michèle Friend (Assistant Professor) spent the summer in Europe, presenting a paper at conferences in: Amsterdam, Ponta Delgada, and Paris. The papers touched on the nature of proof, Boole's contribution to our conception of logic as calculation and the notion of rigor in proof, respectively. Her paper, co-written with Norma B. Goethe on the nature of mathematical proof has been accepted for publication with *Studia Logica*. Professor Friend has taken a sabbatical year: September 2010 - June 2011. During this time, she is writing a book manuscript on pluralism in mathematics. Professor Friend will be at the University of St. Andrews during November and December.

On Oct. 6, **Bill Griffith (Professor)** participated in a panel discussion on the topic, "Civility and Democracy," along with faculty colleagues from Johns Hopkins and Georgia Tech and a high school student. The panel was sponsored by the Howard County (Md.) Library as part of a county-wide initiative promoting civility in politics.

Faculty Spotlight

Alumnus **Jason Fissette** (B.A. '04) is teaching Introduction to Philosophy in the Department this year. He recently concluded a funded year-long research inquiry into the historical antecedents to Hume's famous invocation of the analogy of moral values to secondary qualities. He is currently conducting research for his dissertation on Hume's moral psychology, parts of which project he presented at last year's South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy. His book review of Jonathan Cohen's *The Red and the Real: An Essay on Color Ontology* (Oxford University Press, 2009) appeared in this spring's issue of the *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*.



Tom Morris (Professorial Lecturer) published "The Socratic Method Versus the Method of Long Speeches in Book One of the *Republic*" in *The Ancient World*.

Thanassis Samaras (Professorial Lecturer) recently presented "Did Plato Die a Political Moderate?" at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (SAGP) with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy at Fordham University. He also recently published the following pieces: "Family and the Question of Women in the Laws," in *Plato's Laws: A Critical Guide*, edited by Christopher Bobonich. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010; "Understanding Demetrius: Review of Lara O' Sullivan, *The Regime of Demetrius of Phalerum in Athens, 317-307 BCE: A Philosopher in Politics*." Leiden: Brill, 2009.

Gail Weiss (Professor) is currently serving as a Guest Co-Editor (with Debra Bergoffen) of a Special Issue "Ethics of Embodiment," for *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* Volume 26.3 which will appear in Summer 2011. Gail has several forthcoming book chapters including: "Beauvoir and Merleau-Ponty: Philosophers of Ambiguity" in *Beauvoir and the History of Philosophy*. Eds. Shannon Mussett and William A. Wilkerson. (SUNY Press); "Birthing Responsibility" in *Philosophical Inquiry into Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Mothering*. Eds. Sarah LaChance Adams and Caroline Lundquist. (Fordham U. Press); "The Myth of Woman Meets the Myth of Old Age: An Alienating Encounter with the Aging Female Body" in *Age/Aging*. On Simone

de Beauvoir's *The Coming of Age*. Edited by Silvia Stoller. (Indiana University Press); "Sharing Time across Unshared Horizons" in *Time in Feminist Phenomenology*. Eds. Helen Fielding, Dorothea Olkowski, and Christina Schües. (Indiana University Press); "Beauvoir" in *Routledge Companion to Phenomenology*. Eds. Sebastian Luft and Sören Overgaard. (Routledge Press) She has made several presentations since the last newsletter including: "The 'Normal Abnormalities' of Disability and Aging: Merleau-Ponty and Beauvoir," the invited Shula Lecture in Philosophy at John Carroll University, Cleveland, April 2010; "Pride and Prejudice: Ambiguous Racial, Religious, and Ethnic Identities of Jewish Bodies," the keynote presentation for the *Phenomenology, Embodiment and Race* Symposium at California State University, Fullerton, April 2010 (versions of this paper were also presented at the International Association of Philosophy and Literature (IAPL) conference held at Regina University, Saskatchewan, Canada, in May 2010 and at the International Merleau-Ponty Circle conference held at UNC Asheville in September 2010).

Tad Zawidzki (Associate Professor) has finished the first draft of his book, *Mindshaping: Linchpin of the Human Socio-Cognitive Syndrome*, and submitted it to MIT Press for review under contract. He also contributed an entry on the evolution of language to the forthcoming *Blackwell Encyclopedia and Dictionary of Human Evolution*, edited by Bernard Wood, University Professor and head of the Center for the Advanced Study of Hominid Paleobiology. He will help edit an upcoming issue of the journal *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* devoted to embodied social cognition as an alternative to "theory of mind" approaches to explaining human social cognition. He will also contribute a paper to this issue. Finally, he has several papers dealing with issues related to *Mindshaping* in various stages of production.

Student Spotlight

Raj N. Patel, who is in his last semester at the University, published a paper in the John Hopkins undergraduate philosophy journal, *Prometheus*. His paper, written for Professor Weiss's "Phenomenology and Existentialism" class, is titled, "Nietzsche and Kierkegaard on the Ethical." Raj is currently taking Environmental Philosophy with Professor Brand-Ballard, applying to law school, and philosophizing about what to do with his future.



Faculty Profile

University Professor of Philosophy

Peter Caws

The GW Philosophy Club students have chosen Professor Peter Caws as the subject for the inaugural Faculty Profile section of this newsletter. Each newsletter, we will profile a different member of the faculty who will respond to questions posed by the Philosophy Club. We hope this gives you an opportunity to learn some things you may not have known about your former professors!

Where did you grow up? Where do you live now? I grew up outside London (my father worked in the City) and I now live in Newark, Delaware.

Do you have children? What are they like? I have three children: Hilary is a librarian in Pennsylvania, Matthew is a rock musician in Brooklyn (his band is Nada Surf), and Elisabeth is a freshman at GW. They are all beautiful people.

Tell us something you remember about a favorite professor. Paul Weiss, at Yale, was my first professor in graduate school (and hence in philosophy - see next question). He was brilliant, unconventional, animated, and kind. I was nervous about my first paper; my fellow-students (Dick Rorty was one of them) were talking about their 50-page papers and I apologized for bringing him a paltry 14 pages. He said "they don't know as much as they think they do. Leibniz wrote the *Monadology* in 14 pages - if your paper is that good I shall like it." For some reason I found this very reassuring.

You received your undergraduate degree in physics. What made you change fields from science to philosophy? Religious differences with my family made me want to leave England, so I wrote to a lot of American universities. Yale gave me a fellowship and they asked me what I wanted to do with it. Three things made me decide to read philosophy: a native analytic bent, problems in the foundations of physics, and a deep and very personal interest in the toxic problems of belief.

If you had your life to do over again, would you undertake philosophy? Yes, it has been my constant passion and companion ever since.

Do you think philosophy makes progress? What about the natural sciences? Do you feel that the two have something to offer one another? One way philosophy makes progress

is by closing off futile lines of inquiry. Unfortunately many philosophers do not realize it when this has happened. The natural sciences make progress because many bright people keep working at them. The sciences need philosophy in order to understand what they are doing, and philosophy needs the sciences because you can't discuss how the world is intelligently if you haven't learned what scientists have discovered about it.

Who are your biggest philosophical influences? Hobbes, Hume, Husserl, and Sartre.

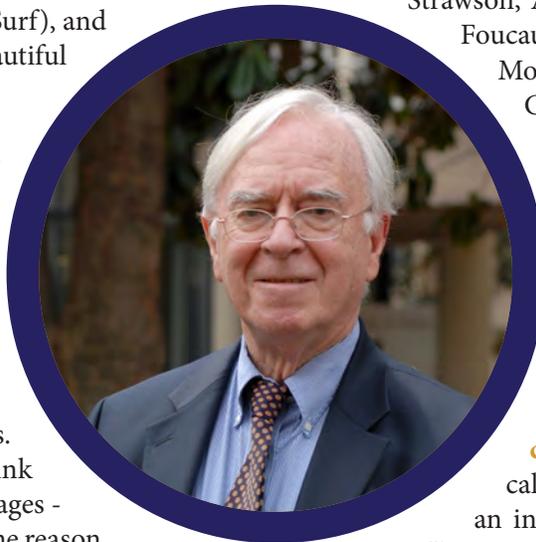
As a philosopher with an international reputation, you've made the acquaintance of many other notable philosophers over the course of your career. Would you name some and perhaps share an anecdote or two? In no particular order:

Strawson, Ayer, Gadamer, Quine, Sellars, Foucault, Derrida, Rorty, Hampshire, Morgenbesser, Butler, Hintikka, Carnap, Braithwaite, Popper, Hempel ... I could go on and on. One anecdote among many - Morgenbesser excitedly sharing his latest one-liner: "Have you heard about pragmatism? It's true, but it doesn't work!"

Please tell us about your current research. You might call it philosophical anthropology: an inquiry into what "human" and "humanity" can usefully and intelligibly mean, and how to convince people of the crucial importance of the human sciences. Perhaps because of my relative seniority the work takes on a somewhat autobiographical coloring.

Which would you choose if the following were your only options: (a) killing an innocent person; (b) killing both Mother Theresa and Hitler (c) killing a baby of every mammalian species, including the human. Easy - choose (b). Both of them are already dead. If that seems too flippant: Mother Theresa, as a saint, will welcome death; Hitler, as a monster, already deserves it. (I have called conundrums of this type "moral surds," admitting of no satisfactory theoretical solution, so don't find their dramatization very useful.)

If you had to summarize the meaning of life in one "tweet", what would it be? Don't ask for the meaning of life, aim for a life of meaning - acts, experiences, and relationships that are meaningful for you and others.



Student Spotlight: Philosophy major Joseph Maboor Deng and the Dinka Book Project

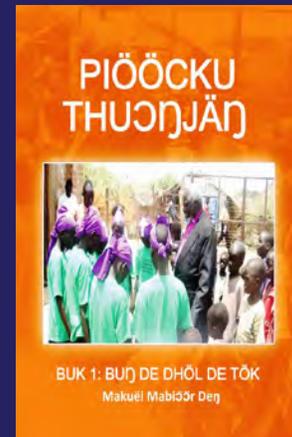
Joseph Deng is certainly not your typical philosophy major. While most students at the University were finishing up in high school, Joseph was already working at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, having lost his family due to the violence in southern Sudan. Joseph was able to take a major stride forward for himself and his homeland when he discovered Banaa in 2007 and in 2008 became the University's first official Banaa Scholar from the Sudan.

Banaa, officially known as "Banaa: The Sudan Educational Empowerment Network" is an international organization that seeks to bring young Sudanese men and women to the U.S. (See <http://www.banaa.org>) Banaa offers them full undergraduate education at U.S. universities on the condition that these individuals return to the Sudan upon graduation and commit to public service. Banaa was founded by undergraduates at the University as a constructive response to decades of violence and continued impoverishment in the Sudan. Professor Churchill serves as the faculty advisor for the University's chapter. Philosophy majors Jeffrey DeFlavio ('08) and Evan Farber ('08) took a leading role in Banaa's founding.

When Joseph (also known as Makwei) first arrived at Dulles Airport, he hardly expected to become a philosophy major. Now beginning his junior year and after adjusting to life in America and sampling different subjects, Joseph has found in the study of philosophy the best way to put his life experiences in perspective and to think ethically and holistically about the future of the southern Sudan.

Joseph is not waiting to return to the Sudan to begin his public service, however. Drawing on his experiences as a teacher in refugee camps and spurred by the need to preserve the endangered culture of the Dinka, Joseph spent the summer after his freshman year working on the *Dinka Book*. The Dinka Book aims to further the Dinka language as a written language. Last summer was dedicated to the preparation of a second language book. Although spoken by approximately three million people, many of whom are pastoralists, there are very few if any instructional materials for teaching Dinka as a written language. Joseph's lavishly illustrated books serve

both as grammars and lexicons for the Dinka language. Joseph and Banaa are presently searching for funding to put copies of the Dinka Book in the hands of educators in the Sudan. In the meantime, Dean Barratt of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences is facilitating efforts to bring Joseph's achievements to the attention of linguists and cultural anthropologists specializing in endangered languages.



Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Club is back! This year the Club is making greater use of technology, including Facebook and a club blog, which will allow students to stay informed about activities and to communicate easily with the Club. The Club meets semimonthly, with one meeting focusing on the ethics of current events, the other looking at a specific philosophical problem or school. The Club is currently planning the Undergraduate Philosophy Conference and the Faculty Lecture series. **Michael Masucci**, President of the Club, says "we are looking to have a much bigger turnout than last year." In addition, the High School Philosophy Seminar has contacted the School Without Walls about having tutors from the University visit the school to teach the rules of logic and argument. This is a big year for the Club.

Alumni News

Ian Tully (B.A. '09) is currently at the University of Colorado at Boulder pursuing a Masters degree in Philosophy. Ian wishes to express his many thanks to the University professors who wrote him wonderful recommendations to help him get in!

This fall, **Tyler Hudson (B.A. '07)** will return to his home state to begin law school at the University of Florida. Since graduating, Tyler has worked as a consultant for Hilltop Public Solutions in Washington. During the 2008 presidential election, Tyler served as the Florida Deputy Field Director for the Obama campaign. While he is thankful for all of his professors in the department, Tyler wishes to express his special thanks to Professors Caws, DeGrazia, and Friend.

After graduating from the University, **Jamie Pemantell (B.A. '98)** began working on a teaching certificate at Rhode Island College to teach High School English. He obtained a second B.A. in English, but did not complete the certification. In the mean time, he began a career in information technology in Boston, and married his college girlfriend, **Jennifer Martel (B.A. '99)**. In 2005, after moving back to Rhode Island, Jamie began a career in Higher Education IT working at Rhode Island College. In 2006, Jamie took a position in the Core Systems department at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Jamie says "I find that the principles of logic and ethics I studied in my Philosophy degree always readily apply to my career and life." This past summer Jamie helped to organize the Higher Education Web Symposium at Wharton which hosted Don Norman for the keynote address. Jamie remembers Dr. Norman as required reading for Dr. Fleishman's Introduction to Logic class at the University. In 2009, Jamie and his wife welcomed their son August Lionel. Jamie says "He is the greatest joy in my life and makes it all worthwhile."

After graduating from the University, **Milton Friedman (B.A. '72)** founded General Business Computers, a software company specializing in inventory control systems for the retail industry. He and his colleagues developed a number of unique predictive algorithms and eventually sold the company. The University of Maryland actually purchased one of their products to learn about these algorithms, then hired Milton to teach a course based on the concepts. During the time Milton was an adjunct professor he also helped the

Navy develop an inventory control system for their ships stores. When the web started to take shape, Milton and his wife formed Friedman Computer Solutions which creates custom, web-enabled database systems. Their pride was the Legal Management System for the Justice Department which is now used by over 300 field offices of the Neighborhood Legal Services agency throughout the country.

Milton, who wrote his graduating thesis on the philosophy of education, says, "As education has always been an interest of mine, our company has moved its focus to providing IT infrastructure products, services and pedagogical consulting to K-12 schools. I sit on a number of committees of the International Society of Technology for Education. We are intimately involved in the current revolution in

K-12 instruction. Interestingly, many of the 'new' concepts in education are similar to the pedagogy I expounded in my thesis over 35 years ago." Milton thinks of his old philosophy professors often. He says, "I received an excellent education and attribute much of my success to the concepts and discipline I learned while at GW."

Matt Vincent (M.A. '10) recently began work as a Program Associate for an organization called One Family, Inc in Boston. The mission of the organization is to end family homelessness in Massachusetts and to break the cycle of poverty. Matt works in the One Family Scholars division of the organization which provides scholarships to single parents that are either homeless or on the verge of homelessness. Individuals that meet the criteria are eligible for the scholarship which includes an education award and a monthly flexible stipend.

Donn Weinberg (B.A. '75) recently became Chairman of The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, a private charitable foundation based in Baltimore and Honolulu, with a mission to fund nonprofit organizations that help economically disadvantaged persons, primarily in the U.S., Israel, and the Former Soviet Union. After graduating from the University, Donn earned his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review and in it published a student casenote. He practiced medical malpractice trial law for fifteen years before joining the Weinberg Foundation, where he has worked for seventeen years, becoming a Trustee in 2002 and Chairman early in 2010. "Reading and thinking about philosophical issues enriches

Keep Us Posted!

Have news that you would like to share with GW Philosophy faculty, students and alumni? Have it published in our Spring 2011 newsletter! Just send your submission via email to Lindsey Petersen at philosop@gwu.edu

Alumni News

my life and is a source of satisfaction and happiness for me,” remarks Weinberg. He considers himself to be libertarian-leaning in his political-economic philosophy and is most influenced by Rand, Nozick, Von Mises, and Hayek. He has been married thirty one years, has two adult children, and one grandson (so far). As a hobby, he also sings for elderly folks at various residential facilities in the Baltimore area.

Recent Graduates

The department would like to congratulate the following individuals who graduated in Spring and Summer of 2010:

Anthony Acosta
Jamie Alfaro
Christopher Avellaneda
Kelsey Baker
Samantha Caplan
Somaera Choudhary
Ewelina Czaplá
Daniel Fogarty
Dasha Galperin
Paul Ghayad
Jacob Goldsmith
Ahuva Grossman
Fahad Juneja

Kfir Klausner
Shawn Meerkamper
Seeta Menon
Peter Muglia
Lisa Ohanian
Joshua Rovenger
Ralph Samuel
William Sherwin
Brianna Spahn
Brittany Verga
Jessica Yager
Nathan Zapolsky

Donations

April 2010 - November 2010

The department gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who have made recent donations:

Mr. Anthony C. Acosta, BA '10
Mrs. Sarah J. Gillies Nicholson, BA '76
Ms. Caitlin L. Bearce, BA '07
Ms. Elizabeth St. J. Loker, BA '69
Mr. Christopher C. Fritz, BA '09

Giving to the Department

All donations to the Department of Philosophy are greatly appreciated and tax-deductible. To be a part of the Department's continuing growth, send your donation through this site:

https://www.gwu.edu/online_giving

(Don't forget to designate your gift to the Department of Philosophy!)

Credits

This issue of the GW Department of Philosophy Newsletter was edited by Lindsey Petersen, with assistance from Professor Jeff Brand-Ballard and student assistants Cait O'Donnell, Garrison Spencer, and Lizzie O'Boyle. The design of the newsletter was created by Julia Louie.