

# SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

**Newsletter:**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**San José State University**  
**Spring 2022**  
Editor: Tom Leddy

**Our Philosophy Department Web Site**

**Address:**

<http://www.sjsu.edu/philosophy/> For the archives of the old newsletters look at Quick Links on the first page and click on “events and newsletters.” There was no issue for 2015, 2018, 2020 or 2021 [big surprise that! The newsletter must have caught Covid]

So, this newsletter will be longer than usual...more like a small book!

## **SJSU FACULTY MEMBER, JOSEPH STENBERG, GAINS MAJOR AWARD**

Prof. Stenberg reports “I received an NEH Faculty Award of \$60,000 to produce an English translation of John Buridan's massive *Quaestiones super decem libros Ethicorum Aristotelis ad Nicomachum* (QNE) or “Questions on the Ten Books of Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*.” John Buridan (c.1300-c.1360) was an extraordinarily influential thinker at the University of Paris in his time and this was among his most influential works with

editions appearing hundreds of years after his death. It was also used as a textbook by universities throughout Europe. Despite its outstanding historical importance and clear merits, Buridan’s *Quaestiones* is little studied today. The fundamental aim of [his] project is to make this fascinating and influential text far more accessible by producing a translation of the work with a variety of scholarly aids. The NEH Award will give him a chance to focus entirely on this project in Spring and Fall 2022.”

## **Alumni Conference May 7, 2022**

The annual Philosophy Department Alumni Conference will be on Saturday, May 7, between 9 am and 6 pm (Pacific Time). Like last year, it will be a virtual conference, which we are hopeful will make it easier for people to attend or present from wherever they may be rooted these days.

Here's the link to the

### **submission form:**

<https://forms.gle/pmmHow1Acij9zuiuW6>

Here's the link to the RSVP form:

<https://forms.gle/oP6z8cdEphkGVyzs7>

# Obituaries

## Dick Schubert

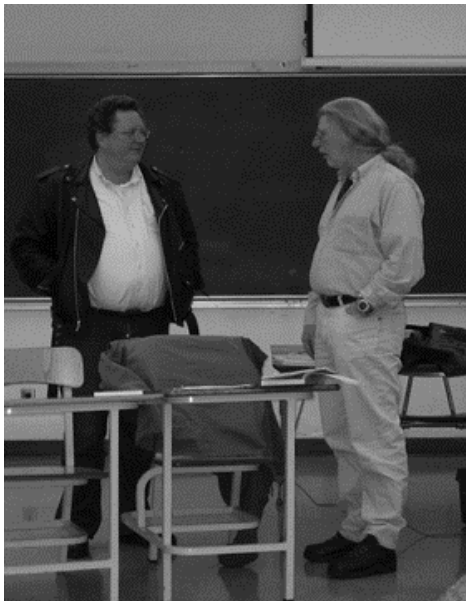
**April 14, 1946-July 22, 2021**

Born in Schenectady, New York  
BA, MA, San Jose State University  
PhD in Philosophy from University of  
Illinois Champaign/Urbana

Our retired colleague Dick Schubert died last July at his home in Ben Lomond. He was 75.

“Die Welt und das Leben sind eins” Wittgenstein. That was the theme of Dick’s retirement part of April 12, 2014.

What follows are thoughts and memories of colleagues and students. The photograph was found online by Lisa Bernasconi.



George Pinto: “It came as quite a shock to learn of Professor Schubert's untimely passing. We were colleagues since I joined the department in 1995 and chatted about various current topics - he always engaged in conversation with a soft-spoken and gentle voice. I was a student in his "Philosophy of Mathematics" class while finishing my SJSU Masters in Philosophy in 1991 (he provided wonderful advice and guidance with my thesis). Professor Schubert made Wittgenstein, Frege and others understandable and relevant, no small task to someone like me whose primary focus then was Ethics. His class was one of the most relaxed, enjoyable classes I took at SJSU. Professor Schubert was laid-back, a free spirit and nothing seemed to ruffle him. So many of his students liked to engage with him and be around him. After he retired in 2014, we kept in touch occasionally and I did run into him a couple of times while he was riding his bike in town. The last time I saw him was a couple of years ago when he came to get his taxes done with my business partner. May Professor Schubert rest in peace.”

Karin Brown: “Dick was the cool professor who taught Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance. Susan, Fern and I arrived in the morning and Susan opened the conference room. There was a homeless man there who slept on the couch. He smelled so bad, the room had a terrible stench. He left when he saw us, and the three of us opened the window and cleaned up a bit. Dick was coming up the stairs, and we shouted: You can't believe what happened!..... and Dick responded: Oh, I'm glad we could be of service.”

Dan Williamson writes, “Schubert and I shared an office for several years. Once he said that he enjoyed our collegial association. The feeling was altogether mutual. It was thus that I heard the news of his passing with more than a little shock and sadness. Shock, because he was constantly biking to and from work, mostly bicycle sometimes his beloved Triumph motorbike and when it rained his VW bus. In any event, he was very healthy and did some bicycle expeditions that I couldn’t hope to even come close to imitating. (A note: I am referring to Dr. Richard Schubert as Schubert. I used to address him as Dick, but he said he didn’t like that, even though I told him that I was not also using the pejorative! So, ok, Schubert. Sometimes, to get around it, I’d address him as Sir Richard or Herr Schubert! Don’t know if that helped much. ) Our conversations were legion spanning the full spectrum of philosophy, politics and just about everything else. Schubert’s mind was completely open in that respect. I especially recall our conversations after his McIntyre seminar. I was auditing to refresh my memory. It was a text-driven course, not too much in the way of secondary work—in many ways the method I use with any prominent philosopher (something I also learned from other faculty while here as a Master’s student). The classroom was rather ghastly. It was in the Industrial Studies building. In the next room were all the hard copy SOTEs, back before they were computerized!!! In other words, it was lacking that “seminar feel” of a room. Schubert got us all in a circle and made it happen. And in the late evening, we’d walk out together chatting it up, oftentimes exchanging humorous asides. Then I’d see him biking off into the

night. In retrospect, this was very melancholic. Schubert was always generous with his time. He helped me move some furniture and get some new stuff at Ikea. I will always be grateful for that. One memory sticks. He and I met over at Guitar Showcase. They were having a raffle and also offering to restring guitars. He brought his beautiful old Epiphone acoustic. I do hope the family still has that. It’s a beauty, deserves TLC and is most assuredly an heirloom. He and I had a great time smoozing with other players. I will miss that, I will miss the collegiality and I miss him and his zest for teaching and continuous learning. Peace.”

Aaron Beagle, a former student recalls, “one thing that I recalled in our conversation last night was the inviting and relaxed way he approached teaching. I remember one meeting things were getting very heated among the students and the class was splitting hard on what was being discussed (it was late into the Spring semester so super hot in the class room that lent to the agitation for sure.) I have this image of Schubert just leaning back in his chair (we were all in a circle) with his hands behind his head and allowed the conversation to run its course not taking a clear side or admonishing anyone for getting stressed or upset. It struck me afterwards that this was completely the right way to approach what was happening in the discussion.”

Anand Vaidya writes, “I remember talking to Dick all the time about Wittgenstein. And I respected his deep study of Wittgenstein and the way in which he excited students about doing philosophy and thinking about things. I remember many occasions on which

students reported to me how inspired they were by Dick's class on Wittgenstein. I was so amazed by their reports, I decided to wait until he retired before I would even try to teach it."

Jan Giddings wrote on July 26, "One of my first courses toward my master's degree at SJSU was with Prof Schubert. Even though we were around the same age, it would take me a long time to call him, Dick. We often ate lunch together at some vegetarian place near school or we talked for long periods of time in his office. He was a good, kind person and a great philosopher. He was one of the most interesting teachers I have ever worked with. In class, he didn't say much. He said only enough to stir thoughts so as to invite discussion but the classes were never about him, they were always about the work and student responses. My first course with him was in a jumbo Philosophy 186. It was right after my father had passed away, I moved back to California from Nevada after teaching for 5 years and there I was in a huge lecture hall looking down the rows at Dick Schubert as the maestro of the orchestra of students. He was brilliant. My favorite courses with him were: one on Alistair McIntyre and the other on Wittgenstein. How great it is to remember learning as fun and deeply intellectual. Yet my best memory of Dick is how much he loved his daughter who was young when I met him, as well as his son. His face lit-up when sharing stories of his children. As it is with time, I always meant to see him again. I will plan on seeing him on the 'other side' where there is no time."

Prof. Leddy writes, "Dick was always genial: a good guy to have around and chat with in the Department hallway. He

was such an unusual combination: someone with long hair who rode a motorcycle and specialized in Wittgenstein. I remember his coming to one of our department get-togethers in Arnold on his motorcycle with his daughter on the back. His comments at philosophy talks were dry and witty, and always on the mark."

Dick is survived by his wife Tamara, his former wife and close friend JoAnn Freda, his children Margot Schubert Ridout, Charles Berhtram and Kate Schubert, and three grandchildren, Serena Ridout, Jasper Berhtram and Esben Berhtram.

Our hearts go out to Dick's family.

## **Tanya Rodriguez 1972-2021**



Photo of Tanya Rodriguez courtesy of [dailynous.com](http://dailynous.com)

**Prof. Tanya Rodriguez drowned at Folsom Lake Aug. 1, 2021, while swimming near Beals Point in the Sacramento area with her 6-year-old nephew, who was later found wandering around by passersby.**

**Her colleagues as Sacramento have stated “She had worked at City College since 2015, and her death, at 49 years old, has weighed heavily on her colleagues.”**

Professor Rodriguez, who gained her B.A. in Philosophy from SJSU in May 1999, specialized in aesthetics and ethics, and was working on a book on the ethics of humor and identity. Prior to her position at Sacramento City College, she was an assistant professor of philosophy at John Jay College, City University of New York. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. You can learn about her by looking at her 2014 resume [here](#). *Phil Papers* lists three of her published essays [here](#).

Prof DeMartini of Sacramento City said “She was inspirational in her courage. It was about showing what it looked like to be a courageous instructor who is like, ‘I know these are the rules, but I don’t care,’” DeMartini adds: “A lot of us are like, ‘I don’t know. Am I going to get in trouble for trying this new thing? I don’t know if I want to do something that’s so radically different.’”

<https://saccityexpress.com/city-college-faculty-remember-late-philosophy-professor-tanya-rodriguez/>

**Tom Leddy remembers:** I knew Tanya since she was at SJSU, so since 1997. She took my Philosophy of Art course and my course on Existentialism and Phenomenology, and was the most articulate and outspoken student in each. She was also my grading assistant in Introduction to Aesthetics. We often had discussions in my office about course issues. I later recommended her for a grant directed to minorities that

eventually led her to the PhD program at University of Minnesota.

I kept up with Tanya as a Facebook friend. She showed herself there as always a lover of adventures in nature, of costume, fantasy, and play, and a fiercely loyal friend. The last time I saw her was about four years ago when she dropped by the Department to say hello. She was happy and beautiful, and that is how I will remember her.

*City College has established an SCC Tanya Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship in Rodriguez’s memory. Checks may be made out to Los Rios Colleges Foundation with the memo “SCC Tanya Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship” and sent to: Los Rios Colleges Foundation, 1919 Spanos Court, Sacramento, CA 95825*

## New Faculty

[If I missed someone over this and the last issue, please let me know. We have had a great turnover of faculty in the last five or six years, a new generation replacing my own, for the most part. So if I neglected anyone, I will make up for it in the next newsletter. Ed.]

**Étienne Brown** became an Assistant Professor Fall 2019. He specializes in the philosophy of technology, political philosophy and ethics (esp. Kant). Étienne has been on the move in the last ten years. After finishing his MA at the University of Ottawa, he moved to Paris to complete his Ph.D. at the Université de Paris-Sorbonne. During his doctoral studies, he spent a year at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin as a

DAAD scholar. During the last academic year, he was a visiting Postdoctoral fellow at the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford. Étienne's publications include: "Political Liberalism and the False Neutrality Objection" (*Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*); "Kantian Constructivism and the Normativity of Practical Identities" (*Dialogue*) and "Propaganda, Misinformation and the Epistemic Value of Democracy" (*Critical Review*). His first publication as a professor at SJSU – "Fake News and Conceptual Ethics" is now forthcoming in the *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*. His first book – *Moral Judgment: Contemporary French, German and Anglo-American Perspectives* – is under contract with *Rowman and Littlefield International*. Étienne is currently teaching two upper-division courses within the department: PHIL 110: Science, Technology and Human Values and PHIL 134: Computer, Ethics and Society. He also looks forward to teaching advanced seminars in democratic theory and the ethics of artificial intelligence for majors and MA students. At SJSU, Étienne is also the Faculty-in-Residence for Joe West Hall and Washburn Hall, where he organizes tutoring sessions for residents.

Etienne offered the following news about himself: My paper "Free Speech and the Legal Prohibition of Fake News" is now forthcoming in *Social Theory & Practice*. In it, I argue that laws against fake news are compatible with the protection of our individual right to free speech.

- I presented at USC on Dec. 1. on the ethics of online trolling ("Lulzing in bad faith: why online trolling is wrong").

- I recently appeared on local news (ABC BayArea) to discuss the Facebook whistleblower's revelations. You can watch the news report [here](#).

- Shortly thereafter, my remarks on online argumentation and democracy were quoted in Metro Silicon Valley and San Jose Inside. You can read them [here](#).

Most of this information came from Etienne's Department web page.

## Noah Friedman-Biglin

Our newest Assistant Professor. You can learn all about Noah at his website:

<http://noah-friedmanbiglin.squarespace.com/>



# History of the Philosophy Department (Parts of the...)

## The MOOC Battle

Here was our original letter that started it all!

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/695716-an-open-letter-to-professor-michael-sandel-from.html>

We continue to be in the news, for example, Jeffrey R. Young "MOOC Pioneer Coursera Tries a New Push: Selling Courseware to Colleges" EdSurge, Oct 4, 2019.

<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-10-04-mooc-pioneer-coursera-tries-a-new-push-selling-courseware-to-colleges> mentions the SJSU Philosophy Department raising questions about MOOCs, some lessons perhaps learned.

The Philosophy Department at SJSU takes great pride in being a major force in the critique of the movement to replace professors in colleges like ours with videotapes of Harvard professors talking with their students in MOOCs, to be tested with quizzes because how else do you test hundreds of students in one class?

In 2018 The Department published a second joint writing to follow up on our famous Open Letter to Michael Sandel (linked above). Here is the citation: The San José State Philosophy Department. "The Open Letter to Michael Sandel and Some Thoughts about Outsourced Online Teaching." In *MOOCs and Their Afterlives: Experiments in Scale and*

*Access in Higher Education*, edited by Elizabeth Losh. University of Chicago Press, 2017. University Press Scholarship Online, 2018. doi: 10.7208/chicago/9780226469591.003.0017.

## Here is some of Prof. Hadreas's contribution as Chairperson during our MOOC intervention.

Prof Hadreas has noted that he "[a]ppeared in documentary film, *Ivory Tower*, directed by Andrew Rossi, speaking against the out-sourcing of MOOCs in higher education. This documentary film appeared in cinemas across the U. S. beginning in June, 2014. He discussed the SJSU Philosophy Department's 'Open Letter to Michael Sandel' with Michael Krasny and Udacity's founder, Sebastian Thrun on KQED's Forum. The discussion was broadcast live, Dec. 12, 2013. 5. My interview with Erick Westervelt on the future of MOOCs was broadcast on National Public Radio, December 31, 2013. The program was titled: "The Online Education Revolution Drifts Off Course."

Here are some more links if you want to learn more about the dramatic role our department played recent Educational History, starting in 2013 and continuing to today.

<https://www.cft.org/california-teacher/massive-open-online-classes-threaten-quality-education>

<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2013/5/3/san-jose-state-edx/>

## **Spartan Dailey Article about Screening of *Ivory Tower* featuring interviews with Professor's Manning, Hadreas and Giddings.**

The Justice Studies department hosted an event about this film focused the SJSU Philosophy Department's refusal to do MOOCs, As the Spartan Daily observed "Manning is featured in the film that concerns several issues: rising tuition costs, quality of education and school and state officials' methods for dealing with increasing prices in higher education. Professor Sang Hea Kil of Justice Studies coordinated the event with nearly fifty students and faculty members in attendance. Prof. Giddings is quoted as saying, "The question is really, 'Should education be commodified?' and it really goes along with what [the Business Ethics students whom she encouraged to attend] are studying"

"The film also touched on the massive open online courses that SJSU offered in partnership with Udacity and the overwhelming failure of the program. The results of the first courses were released and presented passing rates of 50.5 percent, 25.4 percent, and 23.8 percent for math courses"

Imran Najam "SJSU Screens "Ivory Tower." *Spartan Daily* 146:14 pp. 1-2 [https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1012&context=spartan\\_daily\\_2016](https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1012&context=spartan_daily_2016)

## **Dr. Elmo Robinson: Chair in the 1950s.**



Elmo Arnold Robinson  
Andover-Harvard Theological Library  
Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts • bMS 370

**There is a lot of information about Dr. Robinson, Chair of the Department of Philosophy in the 1950s at this site: *Dictionary of Unitarian and Universalist Biography* <http://uudb.org/articles/elmorobinson.html> This quote concerns his years at SJSU**

"Elmo Arnold Robinson (January 1, 1887- January 17, 1972) was a Unitarian Universalist minister, a professor of philosophy for thirty years at San Jose State University in California, and a scholar of American Universalism, especially its history in Ohio and Indiana."

"In 1928, when the State Teachers College at San Jose (later called San Jose State University) asked him to join its faculty, he accepted. At first he taught mathematics, psychology, and the sole philosophy course. He soon learned, however, that philosophy was his main interest as a teacher; so he began studying for an M.S. in philosophy at



Stanford University. By 1933 he had completed the required thesis—on British philosopher Herbert Wildon Carr—and had received his degree. Carr was a Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the University of Southern California from 1925 until his death in 1931.

As more students majored in philosophy, a Philosophy Department was formed, and the university promoted Robinson to the rank of Professor of Philosophy and Chair of what was to become a four member department. He taught for thirty years at the university. [He was listed Head of the Philosophy Department in 1957, TL] When he retired in June 1958 he was named professor emeritus. Throughout his academic career he wrote articles on philosophy, psychology, ethics, and education for magazines such as *School and Society*, *Educational Forum*, *Educational Theory*, and *The Christian Century*.

The last few years of the 1930s were painful ones for Olga and Elmo Robinson; their marriage developed problems that eventually led to divorce in 1940. In time he found a second partner, Elizabeth Magers. She had done her undergraduate work at the University of Illinois, and then earned the M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. She was an Associate Professor at Vassar College, 1927-44. They married in 1942.

In 1936 the Fellowship Committee of the California Universalist Convention had suspended Robinson's Fellowship saying that teaching was not ministerial work; he appealed their verdict to the Central Fellowship Committee, which laid the matter "on the table," and there it died. So he never lost his Universalist Fellowship status. Later the Unitarians

also questioned his Fellowship, took it away, but eventually restored it. Some form of ministry was always important to Robinson and throughout his years of teaching he often preached at Unitarian or Universalist Churches and Fellowships, and several times was a visiting Professor at the Starr King School for the Ministry. In addition, he was an active lay leader in the San Jose Unitarian Church.

When the Unitarians and Universalists consolidated in 1961, ministers were asked to fill out a ministerial form for the new denomination. Robinson wrote, "I take a broad, inclusive view of religion, and have no urge to attach labels to myself, either theological or philosophical. . . . I think the role of our church is to provide a home for the come-outers and the never-was-anythings, give them a genuine appreciation for religion, help them to self-understanding and reverence, and promote a unity out of their diversity."

## **Arturo B. Fallico**

"Probably the greatest influence in my life was my philosophy professor at San Jose State, Dr. Arturo Fallico; who was from Italy. He'd come to this country quite a few years ago—he had escaped Mussolini, who tried to kill him for his agitation for freedom in Italy. He studied under a great philosopher Miguel de Unamuno y Jugo and Henri Bergson, and was a personal friend of Camus. He came to this country, couldn't speak English, but after a few years was a professor of philosophy at Roosevelt College in Chicago, and was the first professor to introduce existentialism to California. He was one of the most popular teachers in San Jose State—and still is—and in his evening contemporary philosophy course, they had to close the enrollment at 350, because they had over a thousand kids each semester who wanted to take the course. He was a master teacher. He was an expert in the philosophy of history, in oriental philosophy, in existentialism, personalism and esthetics. I took every course he's ever taught, and when

I was through, he said to me that in all of his years of teaching he had probably six students that he felt were real students, and I was one of them... The most memorable course that I took from him was a contemporary theology course—philosophy course, which was really a theology course, because it was on the book, *The Courage to Be*, by Paul Tillich. I went from San Jose State to the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School with that background and they weren't even teaching that book yet at the divinity school....

Dr. Fallico's method of teaching was the symposium method. Almost all of the courses that we had that weren't extremely large in attendance, were done in a circle. His main method was primarily the analogy—allegoric personal experience type of lecture, in which he would relate actual happenings of life to the principles that he was trying to teach. As I have stated, he was a master teacher” *H. Clyde Mathews, Jr.: Oral Autobiography of a Modern-Day Baptist Minister Life in California, Missionary to the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony*, Office of Economic Opportunity, Nevada Politics and Civic Affairs Interviewed: 1967-1968 Published: 1969

Interviewer: Mary Ellen Glass

[https://archive.org/stream/MathewsClyde/Mathews%2C%20Clyde\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/MathewsClyde/Mathews%2C%20Clyde_djvu.txt)

Fallico wrote and edited a number of books, including: *Art and Existentialism* (1962), *The Transalpine Thinkers: Selected readings from Cusanus to Suarez* (Renaissance Philosophy, vol.2) ed. With Herman Shapiro (also SJSU Philosophy) 1969, *Renaissance Philosophy: The Italian Philosophers*, Vol. 1 ed. with Herman Shapiro 1967, *Existentialist Essays*, Volume 1, 1968.

**[I had to set this at 10 font for technical issues. It is not intended to disrespect Prof. Fallico. Ed.]**

See also “Memoir of Early Days as SJSU” by Fred Strohm in this newsletter, Fall 2005.

<http://www.sjsu.edu/philosophy/news-and-events/Newsletters/Newsletter-Fall-2005.pdf>

**He gave a talk on American Education and Spiritual Leadership at Santa Clara College in 1951.**

<https://content.scu.edu/digital/collection/broncoseg/id/5734>

## **Frederick C. Dommeyer, 1909-1988.**

Here is the report of when Prof. Dommeyer became chair of the department. “The new head of the Department of Philosophy was announced as Dr. Frederick C. Dommeyer, replacing Elmo A Robinson. Dommeyer “received his bachelor of arts degree from Union College, New York, and his M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Brown University in Rhode Island. He has taught at Brown University, Syracuse University and St. Lawrence University.” Sept. 22, 1958, *Spartan Daily*

Dommeyer edited *Current philosophical issues: Essays in honor of Curt John Ducasse* 1966, and *In Quest of Value: Readings in Philosophy and Personal Values*. He wrote a number of papers including “A Critical Examination of C. J. Ducasse's Metaphilosophy” (1960) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 21 (4):439-455, “Body, Mind, and Death” (1965) *World Futures* 3 (3):3-73, “Death and Dying in Applied Ethics.” *Persons in Metaphysics*, “Comments on Professor A. E. Murphy's the Uses of Reason,” (1946) *Journal of Philosophy* 43 (13):356-361, “Practical Logic. Logic. Methods of Inquiry,” with Monroe C. Beardsley, Lionel Ruby, C. West Churchman & Russell L. Ackoff (1952) *Philosophical Review* 61 (2):279, and “The Philosophy of J. S. Mill” with R. P. Anschutz (1954) *Philosophical Review* 63 (4):630. A full list can be found at <https://philpapers.org/s/Frederick%20Dommeyer>

## Herman Shapiro

Herman was teaching in our department when I arrived in 1983. My first memory of the department hallway was when Herman and Jarrett Brock invited me into their office to celebrate my coming on board. He opened one of those old metal desk drawers that still exist in our office and revealed a collection of liquor. We shared a Scotch. I knew I would fit in fine.

Prof. Shapiro taught the Nietzsche class. When he retired there was no one to take it up. But I [Ed.] had an interest in Nietzsche that went back to my teenage years in the 1960s, the very years in which existentialism was hot at SJSU. [Did you know that? I will write about that in another Newsletter issue.] One of my best friends from Aragon High School, Jim van Boven, although a Psychology major, had taken classes from Shapiro, Koestenbaum and Fallico and was very excited about existentialism. I remembered that enthusiasm when I decided to become the resident existentialist when there seemed to be none left. [I later found that Ruth Manor began as an existentialist, although I only knew her as a logician. Recently I discovered that Joe Waterhouse was interesting in existentialism when quite young.] The first day of my seminar on Nietzsche I expected about six students, but about thirty showed up. They had no idea that I knew nothing about Nietzsche, and so the number soon dropped a bit. But I learned over time, and taught at least six seminars/classes on him since then.

Tom Leddy.

Herman's main work was in Medieval and Renaissance studies. He published. *Medieval Philosophy: Selected Readings From Augustine to Buridan* 1964. Modern Library  
*Hellenistic Philosophy; Selected Readings in Epicureanism* New York: Modern Library (1965) *Renaissance Philosophy Volume I: The Italian Philosophers, Selected Readings From Petrarch to Bruno*, with Fallico, Modern Library, 1967. *Renaissance Philosophy Volume 2 : The Transalpine Thinkers*. Modern Library, 1969

He wrote seventeen articles on Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy from 1957-1965. These are listed at <https://philpapers.org/s/Herman%20Shapiro>

One of our department prizes is named after him as well.

## Upcoming Local Conferences and Events

### Philosophy Talks at Stanford

A lecture by Richard Wrangman will be on March 1.  
<https://philosophy.stanford.edu/events/evolution-societal-patriarchy-human-groupishness>

See <https://philosophy.stanford.edu/>  
For other events at Stanford.

**American Philosophical Association  
2022 Pacific Division Meeting  
will be held in Vancouver.**

Usually several members of our Department attend these meetings. Vancouver is a lovely city, well worth visiting.

[https://www.apaonline.org/m/event\\_details.asp?id=1256299](https://www.apaonline.org/m/event_details.asp?id=1256299)

## American Society for Aesthetics Announcement for March 18-19 Conference.

“We are very pleased to announce the program for the 2022 ASA Pacific Meeting, to be held at the beautiful **Berkeley City Club**, March 18-19. The entire meeting will be **in-person**, both presenters and attendees.

### PROGRAM:

**Word Format** [https://aesthetics-online.org/resource/resmgr/conferences/2022\\_PASA\\_program.docx](https://aesthetics-online.org/resource/resmgr/conferences/2022_PASA_program.docx)

**PDF format** [https://aesthetics-online.org/resource/resmgr/conferences/2022\\_PASA\\_program.pdf](https://aesthetics-online.org/resource/resmgr/conferences/2022_PASA_program.pdf)

The Submission deadline has passed. If you are interested in serving as a commentator or chair, please contact the conference organizers at [ASAPacific2022@gmail.com](mailto:ASAPacific2022@gmail.com)

**REGISTRATION:** *Please register on the web site with your credit card. We will not be able to accept cash or checks on-site.*

<https://aesthetics-online.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1459913>

- **Regular:**
  - Early Bird (register by March 1): \$150

- After March 1: \$200
- **Students and Unemployed\*:**
  - Early Bird (register by March 1): \$80
  - After March 1: \$100

*\*Unemployed: If you do not have a full-time academic or professional appointment, you qualify for ASA Unemployed rates*

### MAIL-IN REGISTRATION

**FORM:** [https://aesthetics-online.org/resource/resmgr/conferences/registration\\_form\\_Pacific\\_2.docx](https://aesthetics-online.org/resource/resmgr/conferences/registration_form_Pacific_2.docx)

**ZOOM Business meeting:** Friday, March 25: 2:00 pm PST. All are welcome at no additional charge, but you must register on this site to be sent the ZOOM connection.

### Keynote Speaker:

**A.W. (Anne) Eaton** will be the Keynote Speaker. Eaton is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She received her PhD from The University of Chicago in both philosophy and art history in 2003. She works on topics in feminism, aesthetics and philosophy of art, value theory, and Italian Renaissance painting. Her special interests include the epistemological and ontological status of aesthetic value, the relationship between ethical and artistic value, feminist critiques of pornography, representations of rape in the European artistic tradition, and artifact teleology. Professor Eaton was a Laurence Rockefeller Fellow at Princeton's Center for Human Values in 2005-6.

### COVID PRECAUTIONS

- The Meeting will comply with all COVID precautions mandated by the City of Berkeley, which currently include

masking AND proof of vaccination at all indoor public spaces.

- For more information: <https://www.visitberkeley.com/plan-your-trip/faqs/covid19-resources/>
- For international travelers entering the US for the meeting: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/requirements-for-air-travelers-to-the-us.html>
- We recommend that you use an N95 mask for the best protection for yourself and others. For recommendations: [Project N95](#)

**Lodging:** We are renting meeting rooms only. Participants will be responsible for their own lodging.

- **Berkeley City Club:** The BCC has lodging, but you are not required to stay there. Regular rates start at \$235/night (\$211.50/AAA/AARP). These rates include continental breakfast.
- **Hotels in Berkeley**

**Co-chairs** for the 2022 meeting: Gemma Argüello Manresa and Jim Hamilton.

**ASA Pacific Steering Committee:** Renee Conroy (chair), Jim Hamilton, Jennifer Judkins, and Dom Lopes.

For more information on the BCC, designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan: <https://www.berkeleycityclub.com/>

For photos of the 2019 ASA meeting at the BCC: <https://aesthetics-online.org/page/2019PacificPhotos>

*See you in Berkeley!*

Gemma Argüello Manresa and Jim Hamilton, Program Co-Chairs

American Society for Aesthetics  
1550 Larimer St. #644  
Denver, CO 80202-1602

## SJSU Philosophy Club

**The Philosophy Club is on Facebook. It has 220 members**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/165445374077/>

“The Philosophy Club at San José State University invites SJSU students to come participate in philosophical discussions and appreciate the joy of philosophy. Discussions are held every Thursday at 4:15pm in FOB 104.”

## ETHICS BOWL



*Caption: Members of the 2012-2013 Ethics bowl team, left to right are: Dan Searles, Aaron Fiorucci, Melissa Montenegro, Lucien Pino, Stacey Chang, Mallory Hughes, Nick Becker, Rita Manning, Riley King, June Brown, Kevin York, Will (forensic support) and Dean Dominguez*

For more information see [https://www.sjsu.edu/philosophy/initiative/s/ethics\\_bowl.php](https://www.sjsu.edu/philosophy/initiative/s/ethics_bowl.php)

We finished our debate season in April and I want to give the department an update. In short, we have had an

amazing season! Kyle and I are very pleased with our SJSU students and this is one of the better teams I have had the pleasure of coaching.

We competed in three virtual events this year with a total of 11 head-to-head matches and we only lost one round. We are 10/1 for the season which is amazing.

In November we competed in the Rocky Mountain and Wasatch Regional Ethics bowl where we finished in first place. We were the only undefeated team and we easily won each of the four matches.

In December we competed in the California Regional Ethics bowl but we failed to qualify for Nationals due to a close round three loss. Unfortunately, this one loss dropped us down the ranking enough to not earn a spot into nationals. It was our only loss for the entire season.

This past weekend we competed in the National Bioethics Bowl Championships where we tied for second place with the University of Alabama. We were one of three teams who were undefeated and it came down to the tie breaker (total points) to determine first place. We were just edged out from winning the event.

Since this year was all virtual, Kyle and I decided to just have one team and put all of our energy into co-coaching the same group of students for the whole year. We have met via zoom with the team twice a week for four hours since September. Our team was composed of the following students.

Ipsita Deshmukh Computer Science  
Manveer Singh Political Science  
Gabriel Guizar Philosophy  
Sam Sutton Philosophy  
Liliana Morreira Psychology/Philosophy double major.

As always, thank you to the department for all of the support. Kyle and I are looking forward to a well deserved break before we start recruiting for the Fall. All the above students are graduating this year but one, so if anybody has any students they think may be interested in the ethics bowl please send them our way.

Cheers,  
Michael Jordan  
June 1, 2021

Michael also reported in 2019

The fall semester was an exciting and busy season for the SJSU Ethics Bowl program. Michael Jordan and Kyle Yrigoyen coached two teams of five students and participated in multiple events competing against nine universities and the San Quentin prison team.

On November 15, 2019, we were invited by the Prison University Project and the UCSC Center for Public Philosophy to compete against the San Quentin State Prison debate team. It was a great match and an amazing experience for all involved. It was a close round, but SJSU came out with the win and gave the prison team one of their only losses in the past three years.

On December 7, 2019 both teams travelled to Arizona State University to participate in the CA regional championships. The regional consisted of 31 teams from California, Arizona, and Nevada. Both teams did very well with some strong wins, a few close losses, and a couple of ties. One of our teams ranked in the top ten. In total, SJSU competed against nine other universities this season including; UCSB, CalPoly SLO, Chapman, UCSC, SCU, Occidental, SF State, ASU, and Stanford.

During the Spring 2020 semester the ethics bowl team will be participating in the National

Bioethics Bowl Championships at Northeastern University. A team of five will be competing against 35 other schools from around the country.

Cheers,  
Michael Jordan

What do we do? We meet twice per week (via Zoom) to discuss a variety of moral issues and learn how to apply ethical theory, while preparing reasoned defenses of moral positions.

Would you like to join us?

We are now recruiting for the 2022 cycle. Let us know if you're interested!

For more information, contact Michael Jordan at

[michael.jordan@sjsu.edu](mailto:michael.jordan@sjsu.edu)

## BIO-ETHICS BOWL

Call for Teams

- Is there an ethical way to use CRISPR on human beings?
- Should we genetically engineer animals so that they experience less pain?
- What, if any, are acceptable exemptions to mandatory mask laws during a pandemic?
- Should facial recognition AI be trained on data sets that include public mugshots?
- Are you interested in questions like these?

The Bioethics Bowl is a regional and national debate competition that takes place in early April 2022. Students from all around the country participate in structured debates concerning contemporary moral issues that often have direct bearing on real-world events and current affairs.

## Center for Comparative Philosophy

<http://www.sjsu.edu/centercomp/hil/>

The Center Co-Sponsors the journal:

**COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY An International Journal of Constructive Engagement of Distinct Approaches toward World Philosophy**

<http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/comparativephilosophy/>

**COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY An International Journal of Constructive Engagement of Distinct Approaches toward World Philosophy**

Volume 11 No. 2 (July 2020)

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Prof Mou previously wrote "For your possible interest, I would like to present to you the content information of the current issue (volume 10 no. 1 / January 2019 issue) of the peer-reviewed, open-

access international journal *Comparative Philosophy* (ISSN 2151-6014), which has come out recently and whose full text is available at the journal website [www.comparativephilosophy.org](http://www.comparativephilosophy.org)

As we have new faculty colleagues and associates recently joining in SJSU, for their possible interest and information, let me briefly introduce the Journal and its relationship to SJSU.

(1) The journal *Comparative Philosophy* is

an independent international academic journal which does not belong to any institution or administration (especially regarding the Journal's mission and direction, its strategic editorial policy, its peer-review-based publication decision, its personnel matter, etc.); the Journal's mission, orientation and emphasis as specified in "About This Journal" file at the journal

website [www.comparativephilosophy.org](http://www.comparativephilosophy.org) are prescriptively set and constitute the *raison d'être* of the Journal which are not up to fundamentally alteration.

(2) The Journal's relation to its co-publishers is similar to that between many independent academic journals and their publishers (either commercial presses or online channels): the latter takes care only of the final-stage journal-issue production and relevant technical editorial support. The current co-publishers of this Journal are three: the Center for Comparative Philosophy (CCP) & the University Library at San Jose State University, USA, and bepress, USA.

(3) With the Journal's distinct emphasis (the "constructive engagement" emphasis - be careful here: with the distinction between USE and



MENTION, it doesn't matter whether one would use [MENTION] the phrase 'constructive engagement' or some other words (though the former is considered to be more accurate to capture the points) to [USE them to] talk about the [same] orientation and emphasis as given in "About This Journal") and other distinct features, this journal is not intended to compete with or replace any current relevant philosophy journal in the market (such as *Philosophy East & West*, *Asian Philosophy*, ...) but is complementary with them (even for a recent four-years-old open-access *Journal of World Philosophy*) in number of substantial connections; in this sense, and to this extent, this Journal is unique in several substantial connections.

(4) Through the forgoing co-publisher relation in the past decade (yes, this year is the tenth anniversary of the Journal since its debut in 2010, see its special tenth-anniversary issue, vol 10, no 1, January 2019 issue), there is the substantial mutual beneficial relation between the Journal and SJSU. On the one hand, the healthy development of the Journal is substantially related to various supports from SJSU [see the "Acknowledgements" list at the Journal's website]; on the other hand, I am glad to see that the Journal enterprise has made its substantial contributions to SJSU in several connections including these: <1> it has enriched the academic life of the SJSU community, <2> it has implemented the international-cooperation agenda of SJSU, <3> it has implemented the open-access enterprise as advocated by the SJSU University Library, <4> it has enhanced the philosophy teaching at SJSU through the CCP members' research activities

related to the journal enterprise (say, their peer-reviewed publications in the Journal), <5> it has enhanced the academic name recognition of SJSU worldwide through some SJSU units serving as its co-publishers and some SJSU CCP faculty members' participating in its international editorial team. In this way, the SJSU-related supports to the journal enterprise in the past decade have also received their beneficial returns in these connections, instead of giving only.)

In the coming Aril, the Journal will coordinate a critical-discussion-oriented workshop "Comparative Philosophy Forum– Bay Area" on the theme "Textual Analysis and Philosophical Interpretation", to be hosted and co-sponsored by the SJSU Center for Comparative Philosophy (tentatively on Aril 11, Saturday, in Conference Room of King Library; further details to be announced). You are welcome to participate.

Thanks.

Bo

**Bo Mou**  
**Editor-in-Chief, *Comparative Philosophy***  
[www.comparativephilosophy.org](http://www.comparativephilosophy.org)  
**Director of the Center for Comparative Philosophy**

## Student News

**Zeke Floro** has been selected as a finalist in the "Silicon Valley Innovation Challenge 2021." He will be pitching my invention for a digital storytelling tablet

device to the judges at the end of the month. He came up with the idea while volunteering at the local boys and girls club in their technology program (He holds a master's degree in computer science).

Zeke has been accepted to the doctoral program in Transformative Studies at CIIS, which just started this fall. I'm very excited about the research work that I will be doing for my dissertation, which will include consciousness studies and personal transformation. This will be my last semester at SJSU, but I hope to return to teach or take courses in the future.

## FACULTY NEWS

### Jason Aleksander

During the long years of 2020 and 2021, Associate Dean Jason Aleksander worked harder than usual to find new sources of relaxation in response to new sources of anxiety and stress. Among these, Jason ran a couple of virtual 5Ks and 10Ks, chopped a lot of firewood, and purchased a teeth guard to help mitigate the damage caused by stress-related teeth grinding. On the research front, Jason was pleased to see the publication in 2020 of the article "Intellectual Virtues and Attention to Kairos in Maimonides and Dante" in *The Edinburgh Critical History of Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy*, Richard Lee and Andrew Lazella, eds. During the long period of pandemic imposed working from home, he also had the opportunity to contribute to two different webinar series. For the Lumen Christi Institute's 2020 Summer Webinar Series on "Reason and Beauty in Renaissance Christian Thought and Culture," Jason

and Professor Arielle Saiber (Bowdoin College) co-presented a webinar on "[Dante as Poet and Philosopher](#)." And for the Dante Society of America's "Canto Per Canto" series, Jason and John Bugbee (University of Virginia) discussed "[Paradiso 4: Freedom, Truth, and Violence Against the Will](#)." In 2021, Jason hopes to complete work on a co-edited volume of essays devoted to *Platonism and Mystical Theology in the Age of Cusanus*. He also has plans to make some progress on a long-term book project on the *Divine Comedy*.

### Rebecca Chan

Cowrote with Jackson, Elizabeth ; Goldschmidt, Tyron ; Crummett, Dustin (2021). *Applied Ethics: An Impartial Introduction*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.

& Crummett, Dustin (2019). Moral Indulgences: When Offsetting is Wrong. *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion* 9:68-95.

Chan, Rebecca (2019). Transformed By Faith. *Faith and Philosophy* 36 (1):4-32.

### Tom Leddy

I published quite a lot recently due to being semi-retired and teaching only one semester out of the year. But my greatest joy since retirement has been teaching. My seminar on Nietzsche in the Fall of 2021 was one of the best I have taught ever. My Introduction to Aesthetics classes, although all online for the last two years due to the pandemic, have been fabulous. The students have really stood up to the plate on this and I am proud of them. In the

Fall I am excited to teach Phil. 70A Ancient Philosophy and Phil 66 Aesthetics. If you haven't taken either I recommend them: they will be fantastic. [all modesty aside.]

**Publications and Forthcoming:**

(1) "Kant and Everyday Aesthetics" in *Kant's Critique of Aesthetic Judgment in the Twentieth Century: A Historical and Critical Comparison of Its Main Interpretations*, ed Stefano Marino and Pietro Terzi, De Gruyter (2019). (2) "Resolving the Tension of Everyday Aesthetics in a Deweyan Way," *American Aesthetics Today: Theory and Practice*. Walter Gulick and Gary Slater. SUNY Press. May 2020. (3) "Dewey, materiality, and the role of the visual (studio) arts in the liberal arts" *Journal of Aesthetic Education*. 53:4 (2019) 40-48. (4) "Johann Herder's *Sculpture*, Somaesthetics and Everyday Aesthetics" *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics* Vol. 42, No. 2 (2-15) 2019 Vishvanatha Kaviraja Institute (5) "ESSAY REVIEW: Analytic Aesthetics Today, Explored Through Ten Conversations: Review of Conversations on Art and Aesthetics, by Hans Maes" *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 53:2 (2019): 102-122. (6) Catalog Essay: "Cross Currents" Erin Goodwin-Guererro, Stan Welsh, Margitta Dietrich-Welsh, for show in Edward M. Dowd Art and Art History Building Gallery, Jan 30-April 14, 2019. (7) Book Review: SEDIVY, SONIA, *Beauty and the End of Art: Wittgenstein, Plurality and Perception*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016, *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 77: 99-102. (8) "Heidegger's The Origin of the Work of Art and Everyday Aesthetics,"

(9) "Clive Bell and Everyday Aesthetics." *Washington University Review of Philosophy*. [https://www.pdenet.org/wurop/content/wurop\\_2021\\_0001\\_0053\\_0060](https://www.pdenet.org/wurop/content/wurop_2021_0001_0053_0060) (10) "The Dialectic of Presence and Interpretation in Everyday Aesthetics: Applying Heidegger and Gumbrecht to a Walk in One's Neighborhood" *ESPES* 56-71 [https://acris.aalto.fi/ws/portalfiles/portal/78064046/Espes\\_v10\\_n2.pdf](https://acris.aalto.fi/ws/portalfiles/portal/78064046/Espes_v10_n2.pdf) Di Stefano, E., & Lehtinen, S. (2021). *Everyday Aesthetics: European Perspectives*. *ESPES*, 10(2), 7-10. <https://espes.ff.unipo.sk/index.php/ESPE/S/issue/viewIssue/20/4> (11) "Langer, Everyday Aesthetics and Virtual Worlds,." Forthcoming. (12) "A Deweyan Approach to the Dilemma of Everyday Aesthetics," *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* [Online], 13-1, 2021, Online since April 2, 2021, accessed on 6 April 6, 2021. URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/ejpap/2273>; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4000/ejpap.2273>, (12) "Real Life Real Art: Aesthetics, politics and subjective experience" *IAI News* Issue 95, April 2, 2021. [https://iai.tv/articles/real-life-real-art-auid-1786?\\_auid=2020](https://iai.tv/articles/real-life-real-art-auid-1786?_auid=2020), (13) "Noë's Strange tools and Everyday Aesthetics" *Studi di estetica, anno XLVIII, IV serie*, 3/2020 ISSN 0585-4733, ISSN digitale 1825-8646, DOI 10.7413/18258646144 249 Book forum On Alva Noë, Strange tools. Art and human nature New York, Hill and Wang, 2015, pp. 304. (14) "Milk and Honey: Plato's Take on Inspiration in the Ion." 264-269. *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, Vol. 45, No. 2, Summer 2022 [387-395] © 2022 Vishvanatha Kaviraja Institute, India, (15) with Kalle

Poulakka, "Dewey's Aesthetics," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, substantive revision 2021  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/dewey-aesthetics/>- (16) Popular Inquiry: *The Journal of Kitsch, Camp and Mass Culture*, Volume 1 / 2022 "Berleant as Educator" forthcoming special issue on Arnold Berleant festschrift. (17) "John Dewey." In *Aesthetics: The Key Thinkers*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Bloomsbury Academic; 2nd edition (2021) (18) "A Philosophical Walk During COVID Times" *Aesthetic Literacy: A Book for Everyone* Volume I Mont Publishing House & Valery Vino 1-5. ISBN: 9 780645 423006 First PDF Edition Summer 2022

### Papers Given

I gave the following papers at conferences: (1) "Langer and Everyday Aesthetics." ASA National Meeting, Phoenix, Oct. 2019. (2) "Some ways to use Kant in Everyday Aesthetics," ASA Rocky Mountain Division, Santa Fe, Spring 2019. (3) "Kant and Everyday Aesthetics," Department of Philosophy annual Alumni Conference May 9, 2019. (4) Comments on Emine Hande Tuna: "Self-Standing Beauty: Tracing Kant's Views On Purpose-Based Beauty" American Society for Aesthetics Pacific Division, March 22, 2019, Berkeley. (5) "Diotima's Truth: The Symposium Deconstructed," April 27, 2018. Department of Philosophy annual "Alumni Conference." (6) - "Mindfulness and/or Defamiliarization: Some Questions about Saito's Defense of the Aesthetics of the Familiar" Author Meets Critics Session. American Society for Aesthetics, Toronto, Oct. 11, 2018.

**YouTube.** My public talk: "Aesthetic Atheism," Humanist Society, Sunday Forum, Feb. 11, 2018, has been posted online  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kmSCVh3IkY>

I have started posting again in my blog Aesthetics Today, which had gone on hiatus for a while.

<http://aestheticstoday.blogspot.com/>  
I am proud to say that this blog has had **518,216 hits since its inception in 2008.**

Coming up: "Everyday Aesthetics" in Handbook of Nature and Environmental Aesthetics Editors and Affiliation: Dr. Glenn Parsons, Philosophy, Ryerson University Dr. Sandra Shapshay, Philosophy, City University of New York Dr. Ned Hettinger, Philosophy, College of Charleston (Emeritus) Project Description The topic of the proposed volume is philosophical exploration of the aesthetics of the natural and human-made environment, both as it has occurred at various points in the philosophical tradition, in and beyond the West, and as it has been practiced in the philosophical subdiscipline of 'environmental aesthetics' that arose in the mid-twentieth century. Whereas previous handbook and companion-format reference volumes on philosophical aesthetics have covered environmental and nature aesthetics in isolated entries, this is the first such volume dedicated solely to this topic.

### Jordan Liz

Jordan published the following since we last reported. Forthcoming, "The Biopolitics of 'America First': Undocumented Immigrants, Latin America and the COVID-19 Pandemic."

Inter-American Journal of Philosophy 2021, “COVID-19, Immunoprivilege and Structural Inequalities.” *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 43(1): 1-6. 2020, “State Racism, Social Justice and the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Public Philosophy Journal* 3(1): 1-11. 2020, “The Categorization of Hispanics in Biomedical Research: US and Latin American Perspectives.” *Philosophy Compass* 15(3): 1-12. 2020, “The Biopolitics of Immigration: A Genealogy of the ‘Hispanic Paradox.’” *Genealogy* 4(1): 1-20. 2020, “Pathologizing Black Female Bodies: The Construction of Difference in Contemporary Breast Cancer Research.” *Interrogating Gendered Pathologies*, edited by Erin A. Frost and Michelle F. Eble. Logan: Utah State University Press, 223-238. Public Writing 2021, “Immunoprivilege: Past, Present and Future.” *Blog of the American Philosophy Association*. <https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/07/12/immunoprivilege-past-present-and-future/> 2020, “Biopower and the ‘New Normals’ of COVID-19.” *International Pandemic Project*. <https://pensarlapanemia.com/2020/05/01/biopower-and-the-new-normals-of-covid-19/> (Also available in English and Spanish in *Pensar la Pandemia: La Emergencia*, edited by Arturo Aguirre Moreno and translated by Sarah Zanaz. Mexico: Afnita Editorial México S.A. de C.V., 2020)

He also gave these presentations: “From Yellow Fever to COVID-19: A Genealogy of State Racism and Racialized Knowledge.” *American Philosophical Pacific Division Meeting*. Online. April 5-10, 2021. “Pharmacogenetics, Global Health and the Politics of Purity: The

Medicalization of Race and Ancestry in the US and Brazil.” *New Social History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals*. University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy. Online. September 24-27, 2020. 4 “From Blumenbach to Population Genetics: An Archaeology of the Five Races in the Life Sciences.” *Third Meeting of the Critical Genealogies Workshop*. University of Oregon. Eugene, OR. May 9-11, 2019.

## Bo Mou

**[Prof. Mou submitted this material for the last newsletter and it was not included by mistake. So most of this material deals with Prof. Mou’s accomplishments in 2018, which will be followed by some of his more recent accomplishments! Ed.]**

“In the past year, Bo Mou has completed three multiple-year research projects whose results have been recently published.

(1) Authored monograph book *Semantic-Truth Approaches in Chinese Philosophy: A Unifying Pluralist Account* (Lexington Books, Jan 2019). This book explains a distinctive pluralist account of truth (jointly-rooted perspectivism) in the context of cross-tradition philosophical engagement for two closely related purposes: <1> to enhance our understanding and treatment of the truth concern as one strategic foundation of various representative movements of thought (the Yi-Jing philosophy, Gongsun Long’s philosophy, Later Mohist philosophy, classical Confucianism, and classical Daoism) in classical Chinese philosophy that are intended to capture “how things are”, and <2> to explore how the relevant resources in Chinese philosophy

can contribute to the contemporary exploration of the philosophical issue of truth in philosophically interesting and engaging ways.

(2) Edited anthology volume *Philosophy of Language, Chinese Language, Chinese Philosophy: Constructive Engagement* (Brill, 2018). From the constructive-engagement vantage point of doing philosophy of language comparatively, this anthology explores <1> how reflective elaboration of some distinct features of the Chinese language and of philosophically interesting resources concerning language in Chinese philosophy can contribute to our treatment of a range of issues in philosophy of language and <2> how relevant resources in contemporary philosophy of language can contribute to philosophical interpretations of reflectively interesting resources concerning the Chinese language and Chinese texts. The foregoing contributing fronts constitute two complementary sides of this project.

The “Book Symposium” session on this monograph was originally scheduled to be held in the main program of 2020 meeting of Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association (10th April 2020, San Francisco) but has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic; it will be rescheduled for a subsequent APA meeting.

(3) Edited reference book *Chinese Philosophy* (4 vols) for Routledge's “Critical Concepts in Philosophy” reference book series (Routledge, 2018). This book project consists of four distinct but complementary volumes (respectively on “Identity, Methodologies, Unity of Truth, Good

and Beauty”, “Moral and Social & Political Philosophy”, “Metaphysics, Epistemology, Reflection on Science”, and “Philosophy of Language, Mind and Logic”) which as a whole give a synoptic view of the major issues, conceptions, approaches, and current engaging exploration in studies of Chinese philosophy. With my “introduction” essay, which places the collected resources in their historical and intellectual context, this reference book provides what a scholar needs to break into the field, and is an updated reference work for the expert.”

2020 (forthcoming). Single-authored monograph book: *Cross-Tradition Engagement in Philosophy: A Constructive-Engagement Account* (New York and London: Routledge). • 020. “Naming, Reference and Truth”, in *Dao Companion to Chinese Philosophy of Logic*, edited by Yiu-ming Fung (Dordrecht: Springer). • 2020. “How Gongsun Long’s Double-Reference Thought in His ‘White-Horse-Not-Horse’ Argumentation can Engage with Fregean and Kripkean Approach to the Issue of Reference”, in Rafael Suter, Lisa Indraccolo and Wolfgang Behr (eds), *The Gongsun Longzi and Other Neglected Texts: Aligning Philosophical and Philological Perspectives* (Berlin: De Gruyter). 2019. “A Further Look at Explanatory Potency of Constructive-Engagement Strategy: Replies to Soraj Hongladarom and Wei Sun”, *Comparative Philosophy* 10.1: 143-191.

## George Pinto

George has taken a few semesters off from teaching during the pandemic but continues to volunteer his time in areas of public concern and justice. He is

currently Interim Board Chair of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa-USA and works closely with 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee to “unlock the wisdom of girls and inspire a new generation of girls to be global leaders, peace builders, and community advocates” (the mission of the foundation). George also supports his friend, 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kailash Satyarthi, in his fight against child slavery, child labor, children sex trafficking and other injustices against children. George continues to volunteer with Goa Sudharop, a USA based non-profit he co-founded in 2000. During the pandemic, Goa Sudharop has provided various charitable and other assistance: PPE to first responders, meals to people impacted by COVID, farm jobs, medical equipment and oxygen supplies, job training for low income women to further the rights of women and empower them (economic independence) by obtaining paid work. George is a Board member of the Joseph Naik Vaz Institute based in California which work on issues of justice in a religious context for people of color. The Institute is currently petitioning Pope Francis to make Saint Joseph Vaz the Patron Saint of First Responders.

## Carlos Sánchez

“Don’t call immigrant farmworkers heroes, they are underappreciated essential workers” San Francisco Chronicle, Oct. 27, 2020

Carlos published *Emilio Uranga’s Analysis of Mexican Being A Translation and Critical Introduction* Bloomsbury 2021.

(forthcoming). Enacting the aesthetic: A model for raw cognitive dynamics. *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*:1-23.

(2021). The Phenomenology of Brutality. *Radical Philosophy Review* 24 (2):247-260.

(2020) And Francisco Gallegos. The Disintegration of Community: On Jorge Portilla’s Social and Political Philosophy, with Translations of Selected Essays. Albany: State University of New York Press. 2019). “Sobre la brutalidad y la narco cultura,” in *Tiempos sombríos: violencia en el México contemporáneo*, Arturo Aguirre (Ed). Buenos Aires: Editorial Biblio: 175-190. 2) (2019). “Authenticity and the Right to Be: On Latin American Philosophy’s Great Debate.” Cambridge History of Philosophy: 1946-2010. Edited by Iain Thomson and Kelly Becker. Cambridge University Press.

Carlos's "[\(M\)existentialism](#)" article appeared in *The Philosopher's Magazine* in March of 2019. This was a prelude to his upcoming book, *On the Horizon of the Accident*, which will be published with *Bloomsbury* in early 2021. Two other books will be published this year (2020): *A Sense of Brutality: Philosophy and Narco Culture* (Amherst College Press) and *The Disintegration of Community* (State University of New York Press). In addition, Carlos continues to edit the APA's *Newsletter on Hispanic Latino Issues in Philosophy*, and will be a guest editor for a special issue of the journal, *Genealogy* (Professor Jordan Liz will participate here as well). In terms of service, Carlos was elected to be the next Chair of the Committee for

Hispanics in Philosophy for the American Philosophical Association and Chair of Inter-American Relations for the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. Finally, he is organizing the Annual Conference of the Radical Philosophy Association to be held in November of 2020.

Carlos gave Lecture, Wilson Institute of International Studies, Brown University. "Reflections after Mexican Existentialism: Innocence, Zozobra, and Latinx Disquiet." 2019

## **Elizabeth Sonnier**

Some people may not know that Elizabeth's dissertation was "Whitehead's Theory of Inheritance" Fordham University. 2003. This book "examines the problem of inheritance in Whitehead's process organicism, explaining how the past is given in the present without a material substrate onto which the past is stored. Proposes that inheritance is enabled through the projection into the present of strains of the past. Strain projection is shown to be based on the tenets of projective geometry and intimately related to Whitehead's topological analysis of extensive connection."

## **Joseph Stenberg**

The big news about Joseph's grant in on pg. 1.

Joseph published (2019). The All-Happy God. *Faith and Philosophy* 36 (4):423-441.

"My research focuses primarily on medieval ethics and late medieval ethical

Aristotelianism, in particular. The first of my two central projects is a monograph, *Aquinas and the Ethics of Happiness*, which examines Aquinas's theory of happiness and that theory's connections to his ethics more broadly. My other major project is a translation of the first three books of John Buridan's *Questions on the Ten Books of Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*. Both projects are under contract at Cambridge University Press.

However, my research [interests](#) extend beyond medieval philosophy into other areas, such as contemporary philosophy of religion, modern philosophy, and ethics.

You can also check out [this interview](#) I did for the Blog of the APA.

<https://sites.google.com/site/josephstenberg/website-builder?authuser=0>

## **Anand Vaidya**

Prof. Vaidya lists all of his numerous recent publications and other activities here. <https://anandvaidya.weebly.com/>

## **John Wilhelmsson-**

I added a selection by Rita Manning entitled "A Care Approach" to my self published course reader "Readings in Classical Ethics"

It now features both Edith Stein's work on Empathy and Rita's Ethics of Care (which really fit one another like a hand in glove).

Rita was extremely generous in letting me use this work in the book.

<https://c2op.com/readings-in-classical-ethics>



-I recently published a book for the first time ever in English by the famous Icelandic author Jon Svensson. It is the story about a trip around the world he took in 1936, at age 80, and is entitled "Nonni in America." It features many encounters with historical figures like Jules Verne and James Garfield plus period photos and reminiscence of his stop in the Bay Area at USF (Svensson was a Jesuit priest who became a famous children's author in his later years).  
<https://c2op.com/>

I do all of this publishing through my own Chaos To Order Publishing company.

## **Emeritus and Retired Faculty News.**

### **Noam Cook**

published in 2010 "Turing, Searle, and the Wizard of Oz: Life and Custom Among the Automata or How Ought We to Assess the Attribution of Capacities of Living Systems to Technological Artefacts?" *Techné*

### **Peter Koestenbaum.**

Has his own website  
[https://www.pib.net/bio\\_peter.htm](https://www.pib.net/bio_peter.htm)  
where we find that he is "founder and Chairman of PiB and the Koestenbaum Institute, [which] brings leadership philosophy to business people globally. He has been close to business executives and their deepest concerns, sharing with them insights and feelings, new perspectives and more serviceable adaptations.

[He] is presently active in establishing the **Leadership Diamond®** globally through the Koestenbaum Institute, headquartered in Stockholm and Los Angeles. Koestenbaum's Leadership Diamond® is a complete program of leadership awareness. The Leadership Diamond® focuses on the power of depth, which leads to emphasizing the power of free will, the ubiquitous presence of polarity and paradox, analyzing the structure of courage, and the critical importance of understanding systems and strategy.

[His] education was in physics, music, and above all philosophy, having earned degrees from Stanford (physics and philosophy), Harvard (philosophy), and Boston University (philosophy) -- (B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. respectively), but also attending the University of California (Berkeley, in music and philosophy).

He taught for 34 years in the Philosophy Department of San Jose State ... having received the Statewide Outstanding Professor Award. While a professor of philosophy, Peter spent 25 years working with psychologists and psychiatrists, in seminars, lectures, and books, exploring the relationship between psychiatry and the healing potential of philosophy. Peter founded in California an accredited institute for teachers, nurses, physicians, psychologists, and psychiatrists. It taught the uses of philosophy in education, psychology, psychiatry and psychotherapy.

Over twenty five years ago (some overlapping with teaching) Peter decided to apply the insights he gained in philosophy and psychiatry to business:

management, strategic thinking, marketing, but above all to leadership. This journey has taken [him] to over thirty-six countries in five continents. Among the firms where he worked with intensity are IBM, Electronic Data Systems, Ford, Ciba-Geigy (now Novartis), Citibank, Volvo, Amoco, Xerox, American Medical International (now Tenet HealthSystem), Warner Cosmetics, Statoil (Norway), Sparbanken Gruppen (Sweden), etc. He is an active faculty member in the School for Managing and Leading Change. His business books, available for sale in [Leadership Offerings](#) are *Leadership: The Inner Side of Greatness* (also, in Spanish, Swedish, French), *The Heart of Business* (also in French) and *Freedom and Accountability at Work: Applying Philosophic Insight to the Real World*. Some of his philosophic books are *The Vitality of Death*, *The New Image of the Person*, *Managing Anxiety*, *Choosing to Love* and *Is There an Answer to Death?*”

## Rita Manning

Rita writes: “I am graduating with a JD from Colleges of Law, Santa Barbara and Ventura, next month.

I am on the Board of the Fremont, Newark, Union City League of Women Voters. The top priority is democracy and voting rights. <https://my.lwv.org/california/fremont-newark-union-city>

I am volunteering as a mediator in small claims court, Ventura Superior Court.

Latest book chapters:

“Immigration Detention and the Right to Health Care,” *Global Bioethics and Human Rights Contemporary Perspectives*, Wanda Teays and Alison Dundes Renteln (eds.), Rowman & Littlefield, 2020.

“Allocating and Prioritizing Health Care in Times of Scarcity and Abundance,” *Ethical Public Health Policy Within Pandemics*, Michael Boylan (ed.) Springer (forthcoming).

“AI in Healthcare: Ethical Issues,” *Ethics in the AI, Techno and Information Age*, Michael Boylan and Wanda Teays (eds.), Rowman & Littlefield, forthcoming July 2022.

“Campus Policing: what authority and limits are appropriate?” *The Ethical University: Transforming Higher Education*, Wanda Teays, Alison Dundes Renteln (eds.) Rowman and Littlefield, forthcoming July 2022.”

Rita also published “The Tyranny of Bodily Strength: Harriet Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill on Domestic Violence. In Wanda Teays (ed.), *Analyzing Violence Against Women*. Springer (2019). pp. 151-165.

## Bill Shaw

Bill reports that he is tremendously enjoying retirement and is reading in a great range of topics.

Bill, one of the most distinguished scholars associated with our department, published a monograph: *Moore's Ethics* (Elements in Ethics). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2020.

## Alumni News

[Alumni: I am happy to publish information about you for future newsletters. This is particularly helpful for students attending SJSU now who may worry about their futures in these hard times. Ed.]

**Adrian Jung** writes he is “currently the acting Assistant Grower at Heirloom Roses in Saint Paul, Oregon (just an hour southwest of Portland) where we specialize in own-root roses and old garden rose varieties. I have been living in Oregon for the past four years and I absolutely love the climate, the people, and the landscape. Most importantly I am doing something that I absolutely love and that I reate meaning. I experience philosophy at work all the time on the farm, whether this involves cultivating our roses, propagation, or pest/disease maintenance - all require an apt mind to exercise your critical thinking skills. I often impart my education from my philosophical aesthetic perspective when evaluating the beauty of our flowers, which only heightens my appreciation for our work. As my career in agriculture strengthens I aim to own and operate my own organic market garden farm (a market garden involves farming on land less than five acres, and mostly relies on hand-scale cultivation tools and practices). I have worked on and off on several organic farms throughout the area and I thoroughly enjoy growing delicious food for local neighborhoods and towns. I often think about writing a philosophy paper regarding organic farming

practices as they relate to Taoist Philosophy, I see many parallels with these teachings. In short, I have only seen my overall philosophical education grow and expand my efforts to enrich my life with meaning and purpose. Many philosophers find themselves making a living gardening or farming!”

### **Tony Nguyen**

Writes that he “left SJSU three years ago to move to Boise, Idaho. I spent a year working for Boeing; 2 years avoiding Covid and the last couple of months substitute teaching at my kid’s school district. If fact, I spent the last month teaching Special Ed. Tony hopes to give a paper on Hellen Kelley at our annual Alumni Conference.”

**Scott Stroud** (M.A. 2002) is an associate professor in communication studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He just finished writing his book manuscript on “The Fate of Pragmatism in India,” the story of Dewey’s student Bhimrao Ambedkar and his anti-caste thought. Before the pandemic struck, Stroud founded the first Center for John Dewey Studies in all of India at Savitribai Phule Pune University. He carried Dewey’s collected works in his luggage all the way from Austin to Mumbai to Pune, so he knows how much philosophical mass Dewey’s pragmatism carries with it. He and his research team continues to produce ethics case studies through the Media Ethics Initiative; feel free to use the 110+ free case studies on various topics in your classes ([www.mediaethicsinitiative.org](http://www.mediaethicsinitiative.org)).

**Wayne Yuen** graduated SJSU with an MA in 2002. He informs us “He’s a tenured faculty member at Ohlone

College in Fremont, CA. He is currently the chair of the GE committee at the college. He's edited several pop culture and philosophy volumes, most recently Rick and Morty and philosophy with his colleague Lester Abesamis, and recently published a short essay on the meta-rules of games and ethical gaming at [prindlepost.org](http://prindlepost.org), which examines how we can make moral judgements on actions within a game that doesn't violate the rules of the game. He is aiming to diversify his curriculum, and currently working to incorporate Carlos Sanchez' work on Mexican Existentialism into some of his courses.

Despite the recent downturn in enrollments state wide amongst Community Colleges, Ohlone's philosophy department has bucked the trend, by increasing enrollments by 25% compared to 2018, in part by offering more courses on-line, which made for a much easier transition to teaching fully online during the shelter in place from 2020-2021. Ohlone College took a cautious approach to re-opening, with only limited courses being offered face-to-face in the Fall of 2021, but expects to offer a more robust face-to-face offering in the Spring of 2022."