

THE STETSON GADFLY

SPRING 2006

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It's a wrap! Another year fades and we thankfully embrace the prospects of summer's serenity. With fingers crossed this hurricane season, we are hoping to avoid another round with the fury of Mother Nature. Our thoughts continue to be with those still recovering from last years' storms. This year's scheduled Lawson lecturer, Professor Samuel P. Huntington of Harvard, had to cancel due to ill health. We do impart our best wishes for his speedy recovery. The Lawson Committee shared ideas on future speakers during a lovely dinner at the Lake Beresford Yacht Club in February and plan two lectures in the upcoming year, one in the fall and one in the early spring semester (see details below). Proudly, I announce the awarding of two Lawson scholarships since last spring, one to Philosophy major Joe Qualls in 2005 and the other to first year student Ryan Napier. Our graduating majors were, indeed, a gifted group with the potential to become our nation's next movers and shakers. In November, Prof. Markle and I enjoyed a successful outing with students to the Florida Philosophical Association's annual meeting in Cocoa Beach. We bid farewell to Gwynn this summer as he heads west and congratulate him on his upcoming marriage and wish him well in his new position at Cal State University. Our national search for a tenure track Assistant Professor in 2006 was unfulfilled and so we reopen it this fall with renewed confidence. We will welcome Richard Glatz, who joins our department as Visiting Assistant Professor in 2006-07. He received a PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara and specializes in metaphysics, meta-ethics, and logic. Lastly, with a heavy heart and much regret, I report the passing of Prof. R. Taylor Scott, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Stetson University in 2003 and 2005. Taylor died at his home in Palm Coast on May 5, 2006. We will miss his dynamic presence at Stetson.

THE LAWSON LECTURES AT STETSON UNIVERSITY

Fall Semester: Wednesday October 18, 2006, Dr. Jewel Spears Brooker

Professor of Literature, Dr. Jewel Spears Brooker, a Stetson alumna, has been at Eckerd College since 1981. She has received awards for teaching, scholarship, and campus leadership. She has held visiting professorships at Columbia University, Doshisha University (Kyoto), and Colorado School of Mines, and research appointments at Yale, Harvard, and Cambridge Universities. Dr. Brooker has written or edited seven books and published scores of essays on modern writers. She has received major fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Knight Foundation, and Pew Charitable Trust. She has lectured widely in Europe and Asia and has served as president of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association and other professional societies. In 2003, she was approved by the United States Senate for a six-year term as a member of the National Humanities Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The topic of her lecture will be announced later.

Spring Semester:

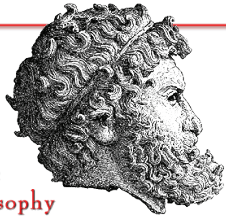
Negotiations are currently underway to secure a distinguished speaker for the spring semester. Details will be announced at a later time.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

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2006 GRADUATES

Greek
Philosophy

*"I am that gadfly which
God has attached to the
state, and all day long
and in all places am
always fastening upon
you, arousing and
persuading and
reproaching you."*

(Socrates)



SENIOR HONORS BANQUET

April 22, 2006

Brendan Rogers, Prof. Hall,
and Trey Smith



Mrs. Betty Brady and
Sean Borelli

Brendan J. Rogers (May 2006) is the Hall Award recipient for 2006. In addition to writing a thesis in which he argued that the categories of time cannot be intelligibly reduced to the categories of space, Brendan produced a video as part of his oral defense. The title of his thesis is "Time that Strikes an Emotional Cord: Emotion Being Used as an Argument for a Tense View of Time."

Trey S. Smith (May 2006) is a double major in Philosophy and History and the Haas Award recipient. He presented a senior thesis entitled "A Critical Look at Political Philosophy from the Student Movement to the Second Iraq War" and explored the evolution of Jurgen Habermas' political philosophy from the German Student Movements in the 1960's to the Second Iraq War. In his project, Trey highlights Habermas' shifting emphasis away from Marx and toward Kant.

Kevin R. Hanson (May 2006) is a Lawson scholar and a double major in Philosophy and Religious Studies. "In God Beyond Theism: An Analysis of John Shelby Spong and a New Paradigm of Christianity's God", he analyzes both the contemporary scholar John Shelby Spong and the traditional understanding of a theistic God. Through a concentration on Spong's view of a non-theistic God and the history of liberal Christianity that he builds upon, Kevin argued that theism is but one human definition of God, none of which can ever fully exhaust the meaning of God.

Tiffany L. Porter (May 2006) graduates with a major in Philosophy and presented a senior project entitled "Woman as Life: An Essay in Nietzschean Hermeneutics" where in opposition to the charge of misogyny (hatred of women), she claims that Nietzsche's emphasis on awakening the Dionysian spirit in us suggests his own positive evaluation of women.

Rebecca L. Nichols (May 2006) graduates with a major in Philosophy and presented a senior thesis on Aristotle's and Nussbaum's accounts of who is capable of leading flourishing lives. Her thesis, "Born Losers: A Criticism of Aristotle's Elitism" examines the question of whom, if anyone, is responsible for providing citizens with the basic necessities essential for human flourishing.

ALUMNI UPDATES — *LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO!*

Elisabeth Gnugnoli (December 2005) graduated with a double major in Philosophy and English and presented a senior thesis entitled "Love in Philosophy and Literature: A Marriage Proposal." In her thesis, Lisa argued that philosophical analysis and literary expression are complementary.

Wesley Sun (2005) is a Hall Award recipient who majored in Philosophy and Religious Studies. He completed his first year of divinity school in May at the University of Chicago and worked closely with prominent Catholic theologian, David Tracy. Next year, Wes will be busy with a church internship and working as a research assistant for the Director of Ministry Studies.

Craig Dobson (1996) graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy. He is a software engineer for Convergys Corporation in Lake Mary, Florida and completed a Master's of Science degree in Computer Information Systems from Florida Institute of Technology in 2003. Craig plans a return to the classroom for an M.A. in Philosophy.

Jacqueline McCarthy Karp (1997) received a B.A. in Philosophy and went on to graduate from Emory University's School of Law in 2000. She practices land use and zoning law in the DC area and in 2004 married Richard Karp, a lobbyist with the American Petroleum Institute.

THE ROB BRADY SCHOLARSHIP

The memory of our dear colleague and friend, Professor Rob Brady, remains everlasting in the Department of Philosophy and in the halls of Stetson University. With the establishment of the Rob Brady Scholarship, many students will benefit from his legacy for years to come.

Philosophy major Sean Borelli was named the Brady Scholarship recipient in 2005-06.

HAPPENINGS

ROAD TRIP TO THE FPA...



In November, Profs. Hall and Markle took six philosophy majors to the annual meeting of the Florida Philosophical Association in Cocoa. The students appreciated hearing what other philosophers were saying and some of our students were bold enough and well-schooled enough to raise questions in the discussion period that followed the paper presentations.

CONGRATULATIONS! Philosophy Club President, Greg Nolan on being awarded the prestigious Truman Scholarship, a merit-based \$30,000 scholarship for those planning a career in government or public service and who wish to attend graduate school to help prepare for a career. *AND*, to John O'Keefe for being accepted to the 2006 Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy, a seminar intended for outstanding undergraduates who are considering graduate school in philosophy. The seminar boasts a highly competitive admissions process.

Well Done!



2006 Truman Scholarship
Recipient
Gregory Nolan

THE STETSON UNIVERSITY PHILOSOPHY CLUB

The Philosophy Club continues to grow with more students in 2005-06 than ever before! Many thanks to our ambitious President, Greg Nolan, for reaching out to students eager to uncover the many layers of philosophical study and discussion. Club members meet in the casual surroundings of their professor's home for discussion and a student convener sets the agenda and distributes texts for conversation. There are usually six meetings a year and a new president is elected annually. It's unanimous! Next year's president will be Chantel Wonder.

The Club explored diverse topics of interest this year with discussions on Eugenics in a Liberal Democratic Society, Philosophical Theology, Wisdom, World Politics, and the doctrines of Just War and Justice in War—but none so powerful as the April screening of the underground film documentary *Winter Soldier*. The film documents the stories of the soldiers who witnessed the My Lai massacre of civilians. Scott Camil, one of the men who testified at the hearing and who played a key role in the film engaged the audience about his experience in Vietnam and how he, along with John Kerry and others, protested the war. Not only was this a brilliant example of documentary art but it also raised important questions relevant to our present war in Iraq.



WINTER SOLDIER

THE HALL AWARD

The Ronald L. and Margaret Smith Hall Philosophy Award was established in 2001 by Prof. Ron Hall and his wife Maggi to honor and recognize the most outstanding graduating senior in the Department of Philosophy. Given at the annual Honors Convocation each spring, a recipient is chosen on the basis of grade point average, quality of senior thesis, and intention to continue philosophical studies at the graduate level. In addition to its monetary component, the recipient receives an award certificate and has his or her name engraved on a plaque listing previous winners. The plaque is honorably displayed on a wall outside the Philosophy Department offices.

Congratulations Brendan J. Rogers —Hall Award recipient 2006!

- (Past Recipients) - Wesley Sun (2005)
 - Robert D. van Kaam (2004)
 - Steven L. Green (2003)
 - Jennifer L. Hodge (2002)
 - Brian J. Mistler (2001)



2006 Hall Award Recipient
Brendan J. Rogers

STAY IN TOUCH ...

We'd love to hear from you and include you in our Alumni News! To update personal information or to change your mailing address, email nrandazz@stetson.edu.

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<http://helmet.stetson.edu/artsci/philosophy>

Goodbye and Good Luck Gwynn!

Visiting Assistant Professor Gwynn Markle makes tracks for sunny California and a position at Cal State University. With a PhD from Fordham University and philosophical interests in contemporary social and political philosophy, as well as German philosophy, Gwynn is sure to impress. At Stetson, he was an active member of the Philosophy Club, campus events, and even traveled to Germany in 2005 to teach Contemporary Philosophy in the Summer Freiburg Program. Though his departure is bittersweet, we wish Gwynn the best of luck and consider ourselves lucky for having known him. *News Flash*... He is newly engaged to his California sweetheart, Selma—Congratulations Gwynn!

Welcome Richard Glatz!

New Visiting Assistant Professor Richard Glatz leaves the bright lights of Las Vegas to join our Department of Philosophy this fall. Specializing in metaphysics, meta-ethics, and philosophical logic, Richard is also highly competent in ancient and early modern philosophy, philosophy of language, epistemology, and applied ethics. Receiving his PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara, Richard's thesis *The Abilities We Have, the Choices We Make, and the Stains We Sustain* focused on the issues surrounding Harry Frankfurt's (1969) criticism of the principle of alternate possibilities—the principle that responsibility requires the ability to do otherwise.

FACULTY NEWS

From Ron Hall: Cheers Friends! It's been a busy year again in the Department of Philosophy and though we've experienced some hiccups, we've already reset the game plan. I spent much time this year reviewing job applicants and interviewing candidates for our tenure track position in Philosophy and though the position remains unfilled, we have gained knowledge and we're moving forward. It was disappointing to learn Dr. Huntington would not make it to campus but we are proud to be able to present two Lawson lectures next year, the first being Dr. Jewels Spears Brooker, Eckerd College, on October 18th and the second TBA shortly on our website. I had the pleasure of teaching in the Honors Program again and, together with Dr. Markle, took six philosophy majors to the annual Florida Philosophical Association meeting in Cocoa Beach. In February, I commented on a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for the Philosophy of Religion in Charleston and also served on the Program Committee. I am honored to be in line for the SPR presidency. I continue to enjoy my role as faculty adviser to the Philosophy Club and remain a faithful public servant to the city of DeLand. And, I am delighted to announce a new addition to the Hall family, our lovely new granddaughter Julia Bereket, an Ethiopian orphan adopted by my daughter and son-in-law.

From Susan Peppers-Bates: Greetings Freunden! I'm off to Germany to teach European Feminism in the Summer Freiburg Program, my first visit to the country. As with Dr. Hall, I too spent a great deal of time this year reviewing dossiers and planning itineraries for a prospective colleague and look ahead to our fall search. It was a great experience teaching in the Honors Program this spring and I hope to do so with more regularity. In March, I submitted a paper to *Sophia* for possible publication and also presented a paper to the Society for the Philosophy of Religion. It was a privilege to evaluate three journal articles and two sermons for Dr. Stephen T. Davis, Russle K. Pitzer Professor of Philosophy at Claremont McKenna College. And, I have been honored with an appointment as Secretary/Treasurer to the Faculty Senate in 2006-07. Though demands on my time have increased since the birth of my daughter Anne-Marie, I greatly enjoyed my time this spring as faculty sponsor for the Vagina Monologues and remain a dedicated adviser to the Philosophy and Canterbury Clubs.

From Bob and Sylvia Perkins: The Drs. Perkins remain active contributors to our department life attending Philosophy Club meetings, student thesis presentations, and various campus events. Bob Perkins continues his role as editor of the *International Kierkegaard Commentary*, which published 'Upbuilding Discourses in Various Spirits' in fall 2005. Sylvia Walsh Perkins will have her translation of Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling* published by Cambridge University Press in July and has been contracted by Cambridge University Press for a book of Kierkegaard's theology.