

THE STETSON GADFLY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY NEWSLETTER



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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR: Greetings to the friends of Stetson's Philosophy Department: Our Department is flourishing. We now have a new curriculum that shifts course credit from hours to course units. Along with this, there is a new general education program in place wherein students can meet some of their requirements in our Department. One major change includes the option of taking logic to meet the general education quantitative requirement. Susan and Josh have worked together on an article for publication and both have had books published this year. During Susan's maternity leave this past semester, her philosophy husband Todd was able to teach for us in her absence. Our Philosophy Club continues to thrive and our current number of majors hovers around 20. We are all excited about having a new administration under the leadership of President Wendy Libby and Provost Beth Paul. I am confident that Stetson's future is bright. In the fall I am teaching a seminar in Wittgenstein, Susan is teaching a newly required course called the Junior Seminar. Her topic is Contemporary Moral Dilemmas. In addition to his regular courses, Josh will teach again this fall in the Honors Program. We are especially proud of Josh's work as the Secretary-Treasurer for the Florida Philosophical Association. As well, Todd Bates, who teaches at Bethune-Cookman and is Susan's husband, is working as the local arrangements coordinator as the FPA comes to BCU for its annual meeting next November. Oh, by the way, Deland (you may have called it Deadland) is as beautiful as ever. Come see us. RLH

A note from Sonal S. Patel, who graduated Stetson with a degree in philosophy in 2007:

Dearest Stetson Family,

After graduating from Stetson University in May '07, many people asked me what exactly I was going to do with my degree in philosophy and minor in women and gender studies. It wasn't always an easy answer but I knew in my heart that I was working towards finding a way to combine the two fields. Both disciplines had strong elements of social justice, which was something I truly valued. I always knew that I wanted to be a part of the great change that our nation was gearing up for, so I took that leap and moved to our nation's capital af-ter graduation. In particular, the very foundation of the women and gender studies program was to encourage their students to go that extra mile to help protect their neighbor --regardless of race, class, gender and sexuality.

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"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



I moved to Washington DC and began an internship with Campus Progress, the student arm of the progressive think tank, the Center for American Progress. I had the opportunity to help organize the 2007 Campus Progress National Conference where I participated in discussion panels on key policy issues, such as universal health care, LGBT rights and affirmative action. I also helped organize events to encourage the engagement of youth in national politics and social justice activism.

After my internship with Campus Progress, I honed in on my interests in working towards strengthening civil rights for all Americans. For the past 2 and half years I've been working at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (www.civilrights.org) as a Field Associate. I work on various issues, including comprehensive immigration reform, the 2010 census, judicial nominations, voting rights and equal pay for women.

The Leadership Conference is an organization that thrives on diversity, leadership and community. One of our greatest strengths is our ability to educate and help shape the lives of young people --particularly through our internship program. One of the tasks that I am most grateful to be charged with is helping to shape and build our internship program. It has given me the opportunity to mentor and counsel some very bright and progressive young professionals.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer myself up as a resource to any Stetson student that is looking for an internship, particularly in Washington DC. I've had the great privilege of having 3 meaningful internships and now in my job I see how much an internship can influence someone's career path. If you'd ever like to talk through some ideas and/or opportunities with me, I'd be more than happy to help. Please find my personal information below. Also, I'd love to reconnect with Stetson faculty and friends, so please contact me.

Work: patel@civilrights.org, (202) 466-1848

Personal: Sonalpate1129@gmail.com, (386) 299-1989

Best Regards, Sonal S. Patel '07

Our Lone Graduating Senior

Sarah Coleman: Minds-Like-Ours

Sarah successfully defended a fantastically ambitious Senior Research paper defending Kant against the so-called "neglected alternatives" objection: if we really can't know anything about the noumena, then there is nothing which precludes it from being spatial and temporal. But Kant holds that only phenomena are spatial and temporal. Congratulations Sarah!

In her own words, here's Sarah's abstract:

This project aspires to revitalize the feasibility of the existence of humanly inconceivable noumenal properties by defending Immanuel Kant's Critique of Pure Reason—which emphasizes the limitations inherent in the nature of the human faculty of sensibility—from its harshest criticism. Charles Parsons' article regarding the 'neglected alternative view' is the main focus. Defending Kant against this criticism is aimed at ensuring the continued vitality of the Kantian perspective. Most importantly, his conclusion regarding the nature of the human condition—specifically his belief in the limitations that are inherent to the nature of 'minds-like-ours'—may logically remain intact. As such, this project defends the Kantian perspective of the necessary limitations of the capabilities of 'mind-like-ours.' By doing so, it allows for the possibility of inconceivable noumenal properties and, consequently, the possibility of the existence of souls, God, and the like.

Our Lawson Scholars

Wendy Libby, Jennifer Schmitt, Claire Stubblefield, Martha Apgar, Ron Hall, and Ryan Napier



THE LAWSON LECTURES AT STETSON UNIVERSITY

This year Stetson was pleased to have two Lawson Lecturers. Dr. Leon R. Kass, a physician, and one of America's leading experts on biomedical ethics, delivered Stetson fall 2009 Lawson Lecture on Oct. 19 and Ignat Solzhenitsyn presented the lecture on March 21st. The Lawson Lecture Series regularly features distinguished scholars who address some aspect of the broad theme of Faith and Reason. The Lawson Endowment Program was made possible by a gift in memory of the Very Rev. LeRoy Lawson, former Stetson philosophy professor and rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in DeLand.

Dr. Kass' lecture was entitled: "Science, Religion and the Human Future." For nearly four decades, Dr. Leon Kass has been engaged with ethical and philosophical issues raised by biomedical advances and, more recently, with questions of human nature and with broader moral and cultural issues. He is the Addie Clark Harding Professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, and currently is a Fellow in Social Thought at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

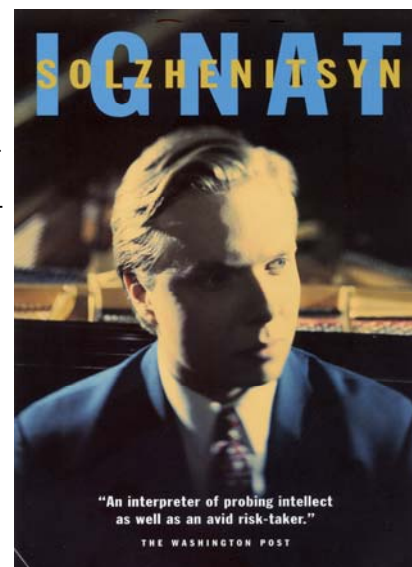
Kass was chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics from 2001-2005 and served on the council through 2007. His widely reprinted essays in biomedical ethics range from in vitro fertilization, cloning, genetic screening, and organ transplantation to aging research, euthanasia, and steroid use in sports.

He is the author of numerous books and published essays. Three of his books will be available at the Stetson lecture: *The Beginning of Wisdom: Reading Genesis* (The University of Chicago Press, 2003); *Life, Liberty and The Defense of Dignity: The Challenge for Bioethics* (Encounter Books, 2002); and the anthology *Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar: Readings on Courting and Marrying* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2000), which he edited with his wife and fellow University of Chicago faculty member Amy Kass. Other of his books, include *Toward a More Natural Science: Biology and Human Affairs* (1985); *The Hungry Soul: Eating and the Perfecting of Our Nature* (1994); and *The Ethics of Human Cloning* (with James Wilson in 1998).

A Chicago native, Kass earned his undergraduate and M.D. degrees at the University of Chicago, and a doctorate in Biochemistry at Harvard University. He began his professional career as a member of the U.S. Public Health Service, serving as a researcher in molecular biology at the National Institutes of Health. He has received numerous awards and honors.

Ignaz Solzhenitsyn, the son of the famed Russian dissident, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, The Russian-American Pianist is the conductor and music director of the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra. He has also served as the principal guest conductor of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. The Lawson Lectures are made possible through the Lawson Endowment at Stetson University.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn was featured in two separate events on campus on Sunday, March 21. He presented the Lawson Lecture in Lee Chapel. The topic was "One Life to Live: Choice and Free Will in *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*." He also presented a performance/talk entitled "A Schubert Sonata." Given Father Lawson's wide ranging interests, I am sure he would have been proud to have such a distinguished man of culture carrying on his legacy of interests in culture and the arts.



Alumni News and Notes

From: Jim Dator (Class of 1954) Professor, and Director, Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies Department of Political Science University of Hawaii at Manoa Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 Well, probably the weirdest thing that has happened to me recently is that my PhD dissertation, written and defended at American University in 1959 and of absolutely no interest to anyone then, was published this year as "Many Parts, One Body: How the Episcopal Church Works" (Church Publishing) church-publishing.org because it deals with the hottest issue in the Anglican Communion at the present time. And THAT happened because someone completely misquoted what I had written and used the misquote in documents to support their position. That was brought to my attention by proponents of the other side, and eventually led to publication after 50 years. It is already in a second printing, I am told. The relevance to Philosophy might be this: The future has a long fuse.

From: Hoyt Edge Hedge@Rollins.edu (Class of 1966) I am still the Hugh F. and Jeanette G. Professor of Philosophy at Rollins College. I continue my research into cross-cultural issues, particularly conceptions of self. For the past two years, I have begun research in a relatively new area of philosophy called experimental philosophy, and am currently publishing research on work that I have done comparing the US, Bali (Indonesia), and China. I leave Monday taking a group of 19 faculty from Rollins on a cultural trip to Bali, Indonesia. I really enjoy the *Gadfly* and keeping up with you guys; give everyone my regards.

From: Dr. Thomas W. Fauquet (Class of 1966) Special Assistant to the President for International Programs and Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences Urbana University 579 College Way Urbana, Ohio 43078 1-937-484-1315 tfauquet@urbana.edu HI!! I am currently working as the chief international officer at Urbana University. I will be transitioning back to fulltime teaching in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. I teach a variety of courses in Psychology, Sociology, and ORG Behavior in the MBA program. They are going to let me teach Ethics in the Fall. I'd be glad to hear from any and all.

From: Thomas S. Rice (Class of 1975) I was in Rob Brady's first PY 201 Intro to Philosophy class in the fall semester 1972. Coincidentally, today is my 35th anniversary of graduating from Stetson. I have nothing newsworthy to report. However, I understand that today many philosophy majors go to law school. If you'd ever want a panel of philosophy major alums to talk to your students about how a philosophy major might help a student in law school, my home Orlando number is (407) 898-7324.

From: Don Gast (Class of 1992) (USANCW) Don.Gast@usdoj.gov I am an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of North Carolina in Asheville, NC. I am a criminal prosecutor in charge of violent crime in Indian country (on the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians reservation, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River).

From: Mary Bernard (Class of 2007) fiercemuggus@gmail.com My mom forwarded me an email asking what I was up to. I am going to grad school this fall at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for my PhD in French. Right now I'm working for the Census Bureau... other than that, not sure what else to say! Let me know if you need any other info.

From: John O'Keefe (Class of 2007) andrewnius@gmail.com Just to update you on my future plans: I was accepted to Florida Coastal School of Law with a scholarship. I am moving to J-ville in August.

From: Sonal Patel (Class of 2007) sonalpatel129@gmail.com I wanted to let you know that I got into grad school at NYU! It's for my Masters in Counseling for Mental Health & Wellness in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Development. I'm still waiting to hear back from Columbia so we'll see what happens! But I am very thrilled about NYU! Dr. Peppers-Bates wrote me a recommendation to both programs. Also, my fiancé will be starting a new job in New York City in 3 weeks so we'll both be there together. I'm sad to leave Washington DC but I think this is a step in the right direction, especially for my career! I wanted to let you know, for many reasons. Namely that my experience at Stetson, particularly in the Philosophy department helped shape me! And I'm thrilled to share this exciting news with you! I hope all is well. Let me know if there's anything I can do for the Philosophy department.

UPDATE: I found out last Friday that I got into Columbia University for my Masters in Education w/ a specialization in counseling for mental health/clinical psychology. I'm thrilled and have accepted their offer!!

From: Ian Wasser (Class of 2007) iwasser@stetson.edu I have neither news nor notes that are print worthy, but I would be happy to update the department on my current situation. Currently, I teach middle school mathematics at a middle school in St. Cloud, FL. This is my first permanent job, and I hope to work on my Masters in education in the near future once I find the time to do it. I still use some philosophy in class, though it is somewhat difficult to convince 8th graders that a "drizzle" does not mean it can and cannot rain at the same time. However, it is difficult being a philosopher in an educational career since it one is dealing with one of the most irrational beings: the student and the administrator. I do try to promote existential thought in my class, especially in concern to personal responsibility and always accepting the consequences one's actions earn. Next year I'll work in some Nietzsche and Sartre.

From the Chair: Dan Quattrone (Class of 2003) is working on a Ph.D. in philosophy at Georgetown; **Matt Smith** (Class of 2003) is a practicing physician in Birmingham Alabama; Recently **Rob Van Kaam** (Class of 2004) dropped by for lunch. He has just finished his Masters in Religious Studies at the University of Chicago and is doing well. He keeps me informed about **Wesley Sun** (Class of 2004) who is working for The Lily Foundation as a Chaplin in Chicago. Wes recently completed his Master of Divinity at Chicago. **Demaris Del Valle** (Class of 2005) is a practicing attorney; **Chantel Wonder** (Class of 2007) is in Stetson's College of Law; **Kevin Winchell** (Class of 2007) is working in Residential Life at Stetson; **Brad Hewitt** (Class of 2008) is working on the MA in philosophy at Virginia Tech; **Antoinette Scully** (class of 2008) married John Scully and is a librarian in Sherman Oaks, CA. **Derek Stottlemyer** (class of 2009) is studying economics at the London School of Economics; **Michael Simpson** (class of 2009) is looking into graduate school in philosophy while living with his wife in North Carolina.

Did we miss anyone? Keep us up to date. We are proud of your accomplishments.

Please join the new Stetson Philosophy Department Facebook group. Either type in "Stetson Philosophy Department" in the Facebook's search bar, or type the following into the address bar of your browser:

<http://goo.gl/DsfK>

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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, dbungard@stetson.edu.

Faculty news

From Ronald Hall:

Professor Hall presented the Presidential Address at the Society for the Philosophy of Religion's annual meeting that was held this year in Claremont, California. The paper was entitled "It's a Wonderful Life: Reflections on Wittgenstein's last words." He has just finished teaching the Department Seminar on the topic: The Pursuit of Happiness. Here Ron parades down Woodland in the annual dog parade. He's dressed as Noah pulling an ark and representing an animal rescue organization his wife Maggi began and heads up.



From Susan Peppers-Bates:

2009-2010 Was very big for Professor Peppers-Bates, figuratively and literally, as she packed on 40 lbs growing baby Sophia Frances Bates, born January 13 2010, 7lbs 7 oz. Big Sister Anne-Marie hasn't stopped kissing her yet and Daddy Todd and Momma Sue are charmed as well. In the fall, I collaborated with Dr. Rust writing an article, "A Vampire's Heart has its Reasons. . .that Scientific Realism Doesn't Understand" for *True Blood and Philosophy* (which I will be using in my spring Intro to Philosophy classes). After a spring maternity leave, I will be back in the mix in the fall.



From Joshua Rust:

Publications galore! In addition to his book on John Searle, Professor Rust co-authored two articles on empirical philosophy which appeared in *Mind* and the *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. They asked and tried to answer the question, are ethicists more ethical than nonethicist philosophers? (No) Dr Rust also had the pleasure of co-authoring a paper with Dr Peppers-Bates on one of their favorite TV shows, *True Blood*: "A Vampire's Heart has its reasons that Scientific Naturalism can't Understand". But more important than all of that—Dr Rust got married to Kim! Here's a picture of them kayaking in Amelia Island FL. Dr Rust looks forward to another year working with our Philosophy Majors, Honors students, and those in the Philosophy and Film Appreciation Society.

