



LOGOS

DECEMBER, 2004 NEWSLETTER FOR THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

Special points of interest:



- Dr. Earl Spurgin will be spending the holidays with family in Oklahoma and Texas. The highlight of his vacation will be teaching his niece how to ride a bicycle.
- On Jonathan Gundersen's recent trip home for Thanksgiving Day he was thrilled and honored to be invited to give a presentation to a graduate workshop in the philosophy of mind at his alma mater, the University of Minnesota.
- As Chaplain of the Alumni Association, Fr. Casey Bukala will once more join the Chicago Alumni for a Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 12th, at the Water-tower Campus of Loyola University. The event includes a Mass, breakfast, and Santa for the kids.
- Dr. Andrew Stypinski's Aquinas Club is alive and well. Anyone interested can contact Dr. Stypinski at stypinski@jcu.edu



Chair's Corner

As the semester draws to a close, we can together savor some of its high points. The Philosophy Club sponsored a host of different activities: everything from reading groups to debates to Babble tournaments (whatever that is exactly!) We had almost a record number of students in our PL classes—when exams are over and grades are finally in, we'll be able to appreciate that even more! We also hosted a great NEOPC conference in which several of our faculty and undergraduates participated. Much to be thankful for. Have a restful Christmas holiday!

Jim Swindal

Brenda Wirkus attended a meeting of the Radical Philosophy Association in Washington, D.C. from November 4-7, 2004, where she presented a paper entitled: "Performing Masculinity: Strength and Empire since 9/11."

Jen McWeeny will be traveling to Boston over the holidays to visit family and attend the Eastern Division APA. At the APA she will be presenting a paper entitled "Love, Theory, and Politics: Critical Trinities in Simone de Beauvoir's The Mandarins," which explores the role of a mediating third party in Beauvoir's theories of interpersonal, theoretical, and historical relationships.

Sharon Kaye's article, "Personhood and Freewill" was just published in *The Philosopher*, Autumn, 2004.

Sharon Kaye submitted both a Fulbright and a Grauel

Book Review

The Xmas Files

The Philosophy of Christmas by Stephen Law

Picture the scene: Aunt Gertrude has just given you the most appalling Christmas tie, complete with snow-flecked kittens in bowler hats. Do you smile, nod, and confine it to the bottom drawer? Or do you tell the truth and spare yourself future ties from hell? Kant would say that we must, at all costs, tell the truth—whilst Mill would insist that we should think of the consequences.

The Xmas Files is a fun frolic through the myths and rituals of

Christmas today, asking such important questions as does Santa exist? What's wrong with the Christmas kitsch? Is it all a commercial racket? What was Augustine's attitude to 'peace on earth'? And what would David Hume have to say about the virgin birth?

Paperback
176 pages
ISBN: 0753817950
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Philosophical Quote

Therefore something than which greater cannot be thought undoubtedly exists both in thought and in reality.....and you, Lord God, are this being.

St. Anselm
—Proslogion



HAPPY NEW YEAR

application to travel to Ireland to work on philosophy for high school students in the Spring of 2006. Although the Fulbright was not successful, the Grauel was.

Dr. Patrick Mooney, Dr. Paul Thomson and Dr. Mariana Ortega have also received Grauel Awards for the spring semester, 2006.

Andrew Trew has recently worked with Rev. Clem Metzger, S.J., to create a series of workshops for local Doctors on health care, bioethics and spirituality. The first two programs were held early in October and December and were attended by thirty five local medical practitioners. Andrew also provided a workshop on Faith Power and Science at the Chagrin Falls Library on November 17th. with an illustrated analysis of Dan Brown's novel Angels & Demons.

