



Volume 2  
March Issue



## NEWSLETTER FOR THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

### Special points of interest:

- Professor Earl Spurgin traveled to London, England over spring break and while there he toured some local pubs and museums and saw Jeremy Bentham.
- Dr. Jonathan Gunderson went back home to Minnesota to relax and spend break time with his dad and mom.
- During the spring break Dr. Nlandu traveled with Dr. Pam Mason to Dakar and Saint-Louis, Senegal where they discussed various issues concerning the development of both a short-term and a long-term African Study Abroad Program. The highlights of their trip included, among others, a meeting with Professor Mamadou Kandji, Dean of La Faculte des Lettres et Sciences Humaines at Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, a visit to Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis, where they met with the Administrative Secretary General of the University and a meeting with Professor Bonaventure Mve-Ondo, Director of West Africa Bureau of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie.
- Planning has begun for the 2004 Conference of the Northeast Ohio Consortium, to be held at JCU, probably on the third Saturday of October. Anyone interested in presenting a paper, commenting on a paper, chairing a session, or helping out in some other way is encouraged to contact Dr. Mooney ASAP, at pmoooney@jcu.edu; or, 216-397-4786.
- Dr. Sharon Kaye has had two cartoons published in *the Philosopher's Magazine*, Issue 25, 1st. quarter 2004, p.23 & 50.

### Chair's Corner



The Philosophy Club has been sponsoring a variety of events this semester. In addition to running two different study groups, one on Sellars's "Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind," and another on Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*, they sponsored on March 3rd a debate on Platonic views on action in which Dr. Mooney, Ryan Lingo, Brad Kershner and I participated. The Club is also organizing students who want to attend the upcoming Ohio Philosophical Conference, April 3rd at Kent State. Robert Brandon will be the featured speaker. The Club also has a student debate on the nature of philosophy early in the semester.



Dr. Earl Spurgin refereed a manuscript submitted to the Journal of Business Ethics, reviewed 3 papers submitted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Business Ethics, and reviewed a proposal for a reader on Business and Professional Ethics for Broadview Press.

Routledge recently published Ethics: Contemporary Readings, An Anthology on Contemporary Ethics edited by Harry Gensler, Jim Swindal and Earl Spurgin.

Dr. Brenda Wirkus chaired a session wherein Dr. Dianna Taylor read a paper at the meeting of the Radical Philosophy Association in Washington, D.C. at the annual Eastern Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, December 28, 2003.

Dr. Mooney recently had an article published called: "Republic X: What's Wrong With Being a 'Third Remove From the Truth?'" and it appeared in the book, Desire, Identity and Existence: Essays in Honour of Terry Penner. His article is a portion of a book-length manuscript very slowly being prepared with the working title: *"Imitating the Beautiful: the Unity of the Socratic and the Platonic Dialogues"*.

### Graduates Column

Some news from Greg Ericksen, a major in ('02): he has recently taken on the role of restructuring the HIV/AIDS classes and program with the Red Cross, while being a local caseworker. He has also started his application process for the Peace Corps.

John Klein ('95) wrote that he married Kim and they are now the proud parents of a little boy named Jack. John and his family now live in Michigan where John has been busy teaching 5th grade and writing county K-12 curriculum for social studies. He worked to develop the economics curriculum last year and now is working as a consultant on the history,

civics strands of the curriculum.

Mat Foust ('02) successfully defended his thesis, "William James and the Rationality of Possibility."

Congratulations are in store to Ryan Tidball, one of our Borromeo students and a philosophy major, but not yet a graduate, who has been chosen as a finalist in the competition for the Truman Scholarship. This is a national competition and Ryan had his interview March 20 in Washington, D.C. Ryan is the first nominee JCU has had in a number of years.



### JUST KEEPING BUSY



Anyone interested in helping to edit the manuscript as it is produced, organizing the text, and otherwise contributing to the project, are urged to contact Dr. Mooney at pmoooney@jcu.edu; or, 216-397-4786.

Four members of the Philosophy Department are participating in the University's Celebration of Scholarship week, March 22-26:

Brenda Wirkus will engage in a panel discussion with other Grauel Faculty Fellowship awardees on Tuesday, March 23, at 3:30 p.m. about their fellowship results.

Sharon Kaye and Dianna Taylor will be part of a panel presenting results from Course Development Fellowships on Wednesday, March 24, at 12:15 p.m.

Jim Swindal will moderate a student panel on Wednesday, March 24, at 3:30 p.m.

Dianna Taylor will moderate, with Richard Clark from the Dept. of Sociology, a student panel discussion on the death penalty on Thursday, March 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Tamba Nlandu and six faculty members from other departments

represented JCU at the Heartland Faculty Conversations (on "What is the 'Praxis' of Jesuit Higher Education?") held at St. Louis University, February 20-22, 2004.

### Philosophical Thoughts

The main thing contemporary academic Marxists inherit from Marx and Engels is the conviction that the quest for the cooperative commonwealth should be scientific rather than utopian, knowing rather than romantic. This conviction seems to me entirely mistaken. I take Foucault's refusal to indulge in utopian thinking not as sagacity but as a result of his unfortunate inability to believe in the possibility of human happiness, and his consequent inability to think of beauty as the promise of happiness.

Richard Rorty

-- Achieving our Country

