

Indiana University Alumni Newsletter

P H I L O S O P H Y

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College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Fall 2009

Ethics Bowl team beats Clemson to win national tourney

The Indiana University Ethics Bowl team won the 15th Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Competition on March 5 in Cincinnati. The competition began in the fall with 10 regional bowl competitions; 32 teams advanced to the national event.

IU beat the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in a narrowly contested quarterfinal round and bested the University of Miami in the semifinal round. In the final match, IU beat Clemson, the defending champion.

The 2008–09 team members are **Devin Carpenter**, a junior majoring in philosophy, religious studies, and political science; **Laura Goins**, a sophomore majoring in math and philosophy; **Rachel Morris**, a sophomore doing an interdepartmental major in political science and philosophy; **Dylan Pittman**, a sophomore majoring in political science, economics, and Spanish; and **Neil Shah**, a senior majoring in economics, mathematics, and finance who is a four-year member of the team.

The team was coached by **Shana Bergen**, MA'08. **Sandra Shapshay**, director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Philosophy, was the faculty adviser, and Richard Miller, director of the Poynter Center and professor in the Department of Religious Studies, was the team sponsor.

In advance of the competition, teams receive 15 cases to analyze with an eye toward ethical dimensions and quandaries. Each team then develops extensive arguments justifying one line of action or another to resolve the moral tensions that each case poses. Team members also develop arguments in light of possible objections they might face from opposing teams and judges.

In each round of the competition, one team is matched against another. Team A is asked a question about a case, and a member of that team is given 10 minutes to explain what action his or her group recommends and why. The opposing Team B then comments on and challenges the first team's answer. Team A is

required to respond to Team B's critique. Finally, the judges ask Team A questions about its position and responses to the opposing team's challenges. In the second portion of each match, roles are reversed.

Three judges then evaluate each team's presentation, critiques, and responses. Typically, each match lasts more than an hour, and all presentations, critiques, and responses must be done from memory. All 32 teams compete in three matches in the morning. The top eight teams from the morning competition move on to compete in the quarterfinals, semifinals, and final matches in a single-elimination format.

"The most striking aspect of the team's performance is the fact that each team member weighed in with a supporting comment or argument during the portion of the competition devoted to on-the-spot critique and response," said team sponsor Miller. "They showed collective command of the ideas, concepts, and relevant facts regarding each case under review. On several occa-

sions, judges assigned IU a perfect 10 for this component of the competition. At the conclusion of the competition, a large audience of scholars in ethics from around the country rose to give the IU team a standing ovation — richly deserved," Miller said.

In IU's final case, the team was asked whether the U.S. has a moral responsibility to convene an international conference to craft a treaty banning killer robots. IU's Devin Carpenter argued at length that the U.S. does not have a moral responsibility to ban killer robots, but given some of the putative benefits of including such robots for some military contingencies, the U.S. should take the lead in crafting a treaty to restrict the use and types of robots.

The Poynter Center has sponsored the IU Ethics Bowl team since 2001. The national competition is presented as part of the annual meeting of Association for Practical and Profession Ethics. See <http://poynter.indiana.edu/ethicsbowl.shtml> for information about the competition and about previous teams.



2008–09 champions — IU's Ethics Bowl team

Conferences at IUB

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Indiana University and the Department of Philosophy were pleased to host the 35th annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology this June 11–14. **Jonathan Weinberg**, an associate professor in our department and a member of the core faculty in IU's cognitive science program, served as local-arrangements chair of the conference, working closely under SPP President Colin Allen, adjunct professor of philosophy and professor of history and philosophy of science and cognitive science. Philosophy graduate **Tony Chemero**, PhD'99, now of Franklin & Marshall, was one of the program chairs for the event.

The conference brought in 150 philosophers and cognitive scientists from around the country and around the world. Several current IU graduate student philosophers presented papers: **Cameron Buckner**, on "Heuristics as Natural Kinds" and **Carlos Zednik** on "The Varieties of Dynamicism." Since there were only a very few papers by graduate students presented on the main program, this is quite a mark of accomplishment. Allen's presidential address, "Similar Minds," was well-received as the final philosophical event of the conference. Recent IU philosophy PhDs were also well-represented on the program: **Joshua Alexander**, PhD'08, served as a session chair, and **Georg Theiner**, PhD'08, presented a poster on "The Measure of a Group Mind." Thanks to everyone's hard work — from the pre-conference workshop on animal neuroethics to the closing banquet at the IU Art Museum — the conference was a smashing success.

Undergraduate Conference

The Philosophy Society at Indiana University held its first undergraduate philosophy conference last April 3–4. Three students each presented exciting papers of philosophical interest within certain discussions and problem areas, a part of the philosophical endeavor itself as it exists today.

Tony Mills (Northwestern) discussed important nuances within Kantian studies that help us see the projects Kant took on in a different light. Francisco Castillo (Notre Dame) presented his
(continued on back page)

Lecture series named in Bo Clark's honor

Anil Gupta, professor of philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh, gave the first annual Bo Clark memorial lecture Sept. 12, 2008. A reception was held prior to the lecture, and philosophy chair Tim O'Connor greeted the attendees with a few words about Clark:

Bo's wife, Lynn, passed away ... not long after Bo himself passed. They are survived by four children, whom we are honored to have here today: twin daughters Carolee and Cathy and sons John and Ron, himself a philosopher.

Bo was born and raised in Iowa. He began his bachelor's work at the State University of Iowa after having served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943–44. He went on there to earn his master's degree as well as his doctorate, in 1952. His teachers included Gustav Bergmann, Wilfred Sellars, and Everett Hall. He taught at Duke University until 1970, when he came to Bloomington as a full professor. He was drafted to serve a term as department chair early on, though he wasn't fond of doing so and never did so again after a two-year term. (He commonly referred to all bureaucratic procedures associated with this office as "frickle-frackle.")

As a philosopher, Bo was interested in the philosophy of perception, the structure of natural language, and the nature of common patterns of inference in everyday reasoning. His research was well-received, and he won

several prestigious grants and fellowships. He retired in 1991.

When he learned of Bo's death, our colleague Paul Spade wrote a tribute that was circulated to all the members of the department. "Those of you who didn't know Bo missed a wonderful opportunity," Paul wrote. "He was an acute philosopher. ... And, I must say, he's one of the few philosophers I've known whose work everyone who knew him respected — even if they strongly disagreed with his own views. ... He always asked the most penetrating questions in departmental colloquia and papers, ones that clarified issues for everyone and went right to the heart of the matter."

Paul also wrote of Bo's admirable personal qualities ... : professionalism; insightful criticism; generosity with time with junior faculty. (He and Lynn both were noted to be warmly welcoming to all members of the philosophy community here.) Lastly, he was even-tempered and kind with his words, even when expressing disagreement.

The word that several used to sum up their estimation of him: "a gentleman."

Professor Gupta, a longtime friend of Clark's, spoke on *The Rationality of Perceptual Judgments*. The talk included reference to Clark's criticism of Sellars's account of perception and his favored alternative to it. This year's speaker in this series will be John Fisher, who will talk on Sept. 25.

Faculty news

Kate Abramson was a conference speaker at New York University and gave a talk at the University of Rome.

Marcia Baron has been awarded a yearlong research fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a similar grant from the College of Arts and Humanities Institute here on campus. She will spend the year working on a new book project under the title of *Self-Defense, Reason, and the Law*.

Gary Ebbs has published *Truth and Words* (Oxford University Press, 2009), which presents a unified, systematic theory of truth, contrary to philosophical consensus.

Adam Leite gave an invited paper at the Pacific APA in Vancouver that was selected by the program committee as one of the conference's best papers. Titled *Taking Skepticism Seriously*, it will be published in a special issue of *Philosophical Studies*.

Tim O'Connor, our globetrotting chair, has given talks or seminars in Budapest, Beijing, Korea, London, and Spain.

Joan Weiner spoke at a conference at the University of York in England.

Adjunct Professor **Colin Allen** has an NEH grant to fund the Indiana Philosophy Ontology project, which involves creating interactive, digital tools to help students and scholars explore philosophical topics and categories. Philosophy graduate student Cameron Buckner is working with Allen on this project.

Professor Emeritus **Michael Morgan** is far from retired. This fall, he will be the Horace W. Goldsmith Visiting Professor in Judaic Studies and Philosophy at Yale. In spring 2010, he becomes visiting professor in Jewish studies and philosophy at Northwestern, and the following fall, he goes to the University of Toronto as the Shier Distinguished Visiting Professor, Jewish Studies, and Philosophy.

Alumni news

1960s

In 2008, Columbia University Press published *The Multivoiced Body: Society and Communication in the Age of Diversity* by **Fred J. Evans III**, BA'66, MA'69. The book employs philosophical and multi-disciplinary analyses to theorize a model of society as both a heterogeneous and homogenous entity. Evans is a professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Interpretive Research at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He has published numerous articles and book chapters on continental philosophy and is the author of *Psychology and Nihilism: A Genealogical Critique of the Computational Model of Mind* and co-editor of *Chiasms: Merleau-Ponty's Notion of Flesh*. Many of Evans's academic projects have been inspired by his teaching and developmental work in Laos, Cambodia, and in other countries in the southern hemisphere. He lives in Pittsburgh.

William F. Cooper, PhD'67, writes, "I have taught at Baylor University since 1965, progressing through the ranks. In the

early '80s I was appointed dean of faculty development and continuing education, and in 1987 I [became] dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, remaining in that position for nine years. I returned to teaching for another five years before retiring and have continued to teach in an interdisciplinary program along with courses in philosophy. I took off a year in 2006–07 to help take care of a new grandson. That's when I learned how exciting life really is!" Cooper continues to teach a course at Baylor each spring semester. He and his wife live in Waco, Texas. Cooper adds, "During the summers, [we] make a pilgrimage to Chautauqua in upstate New York, where we spend about four months. I get a good bit of research done there and also do some pottery and woodwork and visit with family and friends who come up for the pleasant weather."

1990s

Andrew U. Straw, BA'92, MS'95, JD'97, is a research assistant at the University of Otago in New Zealand. He lives in Dunedin, New Zealand, with his wife, Paola

Voci, MA'97, PhD'02, a senior lecturer of Chinese at the University of Otago.

Emily L. Gilliland, BA'95, marched in the Inaugural parade in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 20 as one of 150 AmeriCorps alumni chosen to represent the national network of civic leaders. She served as an AmeriCorps member of Volunteer Maryland from 1996 to 1998. Gilliland is executive director of the Oregon Campus Compact for Portland State University, engaging colleges and universities across the state in service. She also serves on the Oregon governor's Commission on Service and Voluntary Action as well as the national Leadership Council for AmeriCorps Alumni. Gilliland lives in Portland.

2000s

Michael A. Cortese, BA'06, received his law degree from Rutgers Law School in May 2009. He lives in Haddon Heights, N.J.

Hilmi M. Demir, PhD'06, is an assistant professor of philosophy at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey.

Alumni spotlight: Doug Dayhoff, BA'92

Permission to be a pirate sparks a philosopher's journey

Mark Twain wrote, "Now and then we had a hope that if we lived and were good, God would permit us to be pirates."

I didn't realize it at the time, but the philosophy faculty from whom I learned the most were in some way channeling this notion. Fred Beiser, the first (and maybe only) Kantian whom I couldn't help but like, is now teaching at Syracuse. Every time I read the department newsletter, I hope to find a blurb announcing his return to Bloomington. I'm lucky to run into Paul Eisenberg almost weekly these days, but I haven't yet told him that "Nietzsche Changes Lives" is my idea for a good bumper sticker. Now he knows. The class taught by Ken Gros Louis that traced the early ideas in western civilization wasn't technically in the Department of Philosophy but should have been. It's not fair to say that these people drove me to an alcoholic beverage business, but I'm grateful that they all encouraged us not simply to follow conventional wisdom.

But when the department asked me to describe how one gets from a philosophy major to a brewery owner, no explanation would be truthful or accurate. Chronologically speaking, the IU degree was followed

by an MBA at Dartmouth College, which was then followed by a short stint as a finance manager at General Electric. Along the way, I thankfully married my college sweetheart. We returned to Bloomington in 1995, the result of a frustrated moment when I declared (not making this part up), "I'll try working at a small company and if I don't like it, I'll go back and get a PhD in philosophy and teach." We now have two wonderful sons and an assortment of big and small animals on an old farm east of town.

The entrepreneurial life has been full of ups and downs — existential crises that have tested us in unanticipated ways. Lately I've settled down with a couple small companies whose missions are to provide quality products created by gifted artisans: Upland, a craft brewery, and Kline Cabinetmakers, a custom cabinet and furniture maker near Indianapolis. Hopefully, our products enhance the lives of our customers, and our staffs are able to follow their own professional callings through the businesses. I'm lucky to work with so many talented and interesting people.

If you're back in Bloomington, you are invited to visit Upland's brewery — where

you can sample one beer named "Nut Hugger" and another that sports a "jet-pack-gangster monkey" on the label. But none of this is as honestly adventurous as a real pirate's life. In fact, maybe another thing Twain said is more appropriate: "The proverb says that Providence protects children and idiots. This is really true. I know it because I have tested it."

(Editor's note: Dayhoff now owns Upland Brewery in Bloomington.)



Doug Dayhoff

Conferences

(continued from page 2)

proposed solutions to difficult areas within discussions of personal identity. Jonathan Payton (York), who had previously not been to the United States, gave a presentation covering a specific discussion within aesthetic experience. Each was followed by a short critical commentary provided by an officer of the Philosophy Society.

In conjunction with these papers, the Department of Philosophy's **Adam Leite** presented a recent paper of his in epistemology. The conference attendees were treated to an excellent extended argument against certain lines of skeptical thought within theory of knowledge.

The conference was a great success and was important not only as a beneficial learning experience for the undergraduate students involved, but also in its encouraging and supporting the life of the mind, and in particular philosophical pursuits within the student body at IU and beyond. At a time when individual and collective focus tends to center on monetary matters, here is an event that continues the effort to answer the "big questions."

PHILOSOPHY

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