

Philosophy Department Annual Report (2007-08)

Prepared by Corliss Swain, Chair

Faculty: Karen Gervais (.50 FTE), Jeanine Grenberg (1.0 FTE), Geoffrey Gorham (1.0 FTE), Vicki Harper (.50 FTE), Jennifer Manion (.33 FTE), Gordon Marino (.66 FTE), Ed Langerak (.50 FTE), Anthony Rudd (.50 FTE), Corliss Swain (.66 FTE), and Charles Taliaferro (.66 FTE). Swain was Chair. Marino served as Curator of the Kierkegaard Library.

The department retained a strong presence in the Great Conversation with Harper and Langerak teaching in the first year and Taliaferro in the second year.

Book Publications

Charles Taliaferro: *Naturalism* co-authored with Stewart Goetz (Eerdmanns, 2008).

Articles and Chapters:

Gervais: "Ethical Considerations in Pandemic Influenza Planning," co-authors J. Eline Garrett, Dorothy E. Vawter, Angela W. Prehn, Debra DeBruin, *Minnesota Medicine*, April 2008. "Health Care Workers' Willingness to Work in a Pandemic," co-authors Dorothy E. Vawter, J. Eline Garrett, Angela W. Prehn, forthcoming in *American Journal of Bioethics*. "Rationing Vaccines in Minnesota: Recommendations of the Pandemic Influenza Ethics Work Group," co-authors Dorothy E. Vawter and J. Eline Garrett, *Vaccine*, 2007, 25:6522-6536. "Studying neurological implants for Parkinson disease: A question of design," co-authors A.W. Prehn, D.E. Vawter, R.G. DeVries, J.E. Garrett, T.B. Freeman, and T.Q. McIndoo, *Neurology*, 67 (8):1503-05, 2006.

Grenberg: (1) Symposium on Kant and the Ethics of Humility: A Story of Dependence, corruption and Virtue. (comments on book by Robert Loudon and Patrick Frierson, followed by my response), in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, Vol. 75, No.3 (November, 2007), pp.622ff. (2) "Social Dimensions of Kantian Courageous Humility in Jane Austen's' Mansfield Park," *Social Theory and Practice*, vol.33, #4 (October, 2007), pp.645-666, and two forthcoming articles.

Gorham: 2 forthcoming articles.

Langerak: "Seeing Through," *The cresset*, LXXI/3 (February 2008), 45-48.

Marino: 3 features in the *Wall Street Journal*, 1 article in *Commonweal*, symposium article in "Nothing Personal" *Common Knowledge* - refereed journal, article in *Philosophy Now* recent edition, article coming out in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in June, articles reprinted in writing textbook by Longman Publishers, article "On the Distinction between Despair and Depression" translated into Portuguese, articles in the *Huffington Post* on race, article in *Best Life* on parent coaches.

Rudd: (1) “Kierkegaard, MacIntyre and Narrative Unity – Response to Lippitt,” *Inquiry* (Vol 50, No 5, 2007), (2) “In Defence of Narrative,” *European Journal of Philosophy*, (forthcoming, in print, 2008; available on line since 2007).

Taliaferro: Scholarly Articles and Chapters (1) “L’importanza di essere conscienti,” *L’uomo a due dimensioni*, ed. By Andrea Lavazza (Milano: Bruno Mondadori, 2008). (2) “A Shakespearean Account of Redemption” in *The Psychology of Character and Virtue* (Arlington, VA: The Institute for the Psychological Sciences Press, 2008). (3) “Feminism and Impartiality,” *Philosophia*, 2007. (4) “The Prospects of Christian Materialism,” co-authored with Stewart Goetz, *CSR*, 2008. (5) “Burning Down the House: D.Z. Phillips and the Metaphysics of Theism,” *Philosophia Christi*, 2007. (6) “Philosophy of Religion,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2007. (7) “Comprehensive Explanations and Cumulative Arguments,” *Philosophia Christi*, 2007, and several forthcoming articles. Popular Essays: (1) “Bond as Chivalric, Comic Hero,” with Michel LeGall in *James Bond and Philosophy Volume*, ed. James South, (2007). (2) “Being J.R.,” with Craig Lindel-Urban in *Johnny Cash and Philosophy*, ed. J. Huss and D. Werther, (Open Court, 2008).

Presentations, Papers, Conferences

Gervais: Numerous state, national, and international presentations on topics in health care ethics (e.g., organ donation after cardiac death, rationing in a severe pandemic, ethically informed health care decisions for persons with dementia)

Gorham: (1) “Analogical Reasoning about Absolute Time: Gassendi and Barrow,” HOPOS, Vancouver, BC, June 18, 2007 (2) “What sort of Realism can explain the Success of Science? Comments on Harker.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 18, 2008. (3) “‘The Twin-Brother of Space’: Spatial Analogies in Precursors of Absolute Time.” South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Tulsa, November 16, 2007. (4) “Scientific Understanding: Comments on Newman.” Minnesota Philosophical Society Annual Meeting. Inver hills Community College, October 20, 2007.

Grenberg: (1) “The Value of Feeling-Centered, First Personal, Phenomenological Experiences in Kant’s Practical Philosophy,” Colloquium Paper for the 2008 Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, March, 2008. (2) “Teaching Kant’s Ethics to Majors and Non-Majors,” as part of panel discussing the teaching of Kant’s philosophy, Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April, 2008.

Langerak: (1) Talk on “The Ethics of Global Warming,” at Carleton/St. Olaf conference on global warming, June 19, 2007. (2) Chapel talk on “The Just War Tradition,” November 19, 2007. (3) Talk to St. Olaf Study-Travel meeting on “Perspective Pluralism,” April 5, 2008. (4) Talk to St. Olaf Alumni on “Rights and Wrongs in the Over-Promised Land,” (Israel and Palestine), May 24, 2008.

Marino: (1) “Kierkegaard and Self Deception,” University of Florida, January 17, 2008 (invited guest lecturer) (2) interviewed on radio station from Nashville on sportsmanship.

Rudd: (1) "Reason in Ethics Revisited: Either/Or, 'Criterionless Choice' and Narrative Unity," presented at the Annual research Seminar, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, university of Copenhagen, Denmark, August 16, 2007. (2) "Narrative and the Self," presented at the Centre for Subjectivity Research, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, August 21, 2007. (3) "An Expressive Model of Selfhood," given at the Pacific Division meeting of the American philosophical Association, Pasadena, CA, March, 2008.

Swain: (1) "The Consolations of Empiricism" presented at the 34th Annual Hume Conference, Boston, MA, August 2007. (2) Attended Midwest Faculty Seminar on Embodied Cognition, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 2008.

Taliaferro: (1) Bethel Lectures in Philosophy, "Human and Nonhuman Minds" and "Religious Rites: A Neglected Area in Philosophy of Religion," Bethel College, March 25-26, 2008. (2) "Boston Personalism and the Future of Philosophy of Religion," Boston University, January, 2008. (3) Authors Meet Critics, American Academy of Religion, November, 2007. (4) Davis' Philosophical Theology, American Academy of Religion, 2007.

Reports and White Papers:

Gervais: "Rationing Vaccines in Minnesota: Recommendations of the Pandemic Influenza ethics Work Group," co-authors Dorothy E. Vawter and J. Eline Garrett, Minneapolis, MN; Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics, 2006.

Reviews:

Marino: 2 reviews: *New York Times Book Review*, review *Christian Century*, Review in *Los Angeles Times*.

Taliaferro: *Philosophy of Religion*, by L. Zagzebski, *Philosophia Christi*, 2007, and *Religions, Reasons and gods*, by Philip Clayton, *Notre Dame philosophical Review*, 2007.

Abstracts:

Gervais: Co-authors T.B. Freeman, D.E. Vawter, A.W. Prehn, R.G. DeVries, J.E. Garrett, T.Q. McIndoo. "The modern era of surgical trial designs: perspectives of Parkinson's disease (PD) researchers." [abstract] *Experimental Neurology* 2006: 198:5680569. Co-authors D.E. Vawter, A.W. Prehn, T.B. Freeman, R.G. DeVries and J.E. Garrett, "Ethical Issues in Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Research: Perspectives of Surgical Researchers Studying Parkinson's Disease (PD)." *Movement Disorders*, 2006: 21 (Supp 13); S127-128. Abstract P244. Co-authors D.E. Vawter, A.W. Prehn, J.E. Garrett, T. McIndoo, R. DeVries, "Funding Surgical Device Research: perspectives of Parkinson's Disease Researchers." *Movement Disorders* 2006: 21 (Supp 13); S155. Abstract P330.

Professional Offices:

Gervais: (1) Committee member, National Academies of Science, Institute of Medicine: Institute of Medicine Report, *Antivirals for Pandemic Influenza: Guidance on Developing a Distribution and Dispensing Program*, June, 2008. (2) Project Leader, *Minnesota Pandemic Ethics Project, For the Good of Us All: Ethically Rationing Health Resources in Minnesota in a Severe Influenza Pandemic*, Minnesota Department of Health, June, 2008.

Rudd: Appointed to Honorary Committee of the British Wittgenstein Society.

Swain: Executive Secretary-Treasurer, The Hume Society (term extended one year due to failed search for replacement).

Taliaferro: (1) American Philosophical Association committee on Lectures, Publication, and Research, (2) Editorial Board of *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Religious Review*, *The Philosopher's Annual*, *Sophia*, *Ars Disputandi*, and *Philosophical Theology*.

Committee Assignments:

Gorham: SCI-CON Steering Committee, Theme Year Steering Committee, Philosophy Department Colloquium Series organizer.

Grenberg: Ringstad Prize Reading Committee (First-Year and Sophomores).

Harper: (1) CALL: Forum on critical thinking in February (community time); Inter-institutional CALL conference in April, (2) Nominating Committee for Phi Beta Kappa, (3) Ringstad Prize Reading Committee (Juniors and Seniors).

Langerak: (1) Regents-Faculty Conference Committee, (2) Boldt Chair Task Force (3) Ringstad Prize Reading Committee (First-Year and Sophomores), (4) Philosophy Department Library Committee, (5) Institutional Review Board, (6) Religion Department Search Committee (Judaism position), (6) On-campus advisor to Term in the Middle East.

Marino: (1) Search committee for head football coach, (2) Bookstore Committee, (3) Philosophy Departmental Distinction Reading Committee, (4) Faculty advisor to Philosophy Forum and (4) *The Reed*.

Rudd: Ringstad Prize Reading Committee (Juniors and Seniors), Kierkegaard Library Committee.

Swain: Philosophy Departmental Distinction Committee, Faculty Task Force on Student Mental Health.

Taliaferro: (1) Kierkegaard Library Committee, (2) Director for Junior Year Abroad at the University of Oxford, Harris Manchester College, (3) Philosophy Departmental Distinction Reading Committee.

Editorial Positions:

Marino: (1) Founding co-editor *International Journal of Religion and Sport* (MERCER U PRESS and York University), (2) assistant editor *Common Knowledge*, (3) editor of *Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter*.

Taliaferro: book review editor for the quarterly journal: *Faith and Philosophy*.

Promotion: none

Tenure Track Searches Approved: in Philosophy of Science (failed search).

Sabbaticals: none

Appointments (for 2008): Arthur Cunningham (new, part-time), Karen Gervais (renewed), Anthony Rudd (renewed).

Grants:

Grenberg: final semester of Millicent C. MacIntosh grant (release time).

Gorham: co-authored a faculty development grant for SCI-CON workshop, summer 2008.

Curricular Developments:

- New Philosophy Courses: (1) Space and Time (interim: Gorham) approved for GE credit – NST and IST, (2) Kantian Ethics in Film and Literature (Grenberg) approved for GE credit – EIN.
- Philosophy courses with the following GE attributes were reapproved: ALS-A, ALS-L, BTS-T, EIN, HBS, HWC, MCS-D, MCS-G, NST (IST)

Lectures Sponsored by Departments and the Faculty:

2007-08 Belgium Lectures, “Virtue and Happiness” by Julia Annas, University of Arizona, March 2008.

Cowling Professor Faculty Seminars (at Carleton College): Attendees – Grenberg, Gorham, Langerak, Rudd, Swain.

Departmental Colloquia in 2007-08: Anthony Rudd, Jeanine Grenberg, Patrick Stokes (Kierkegaard Library and University of Adelaide), Brian Woodcock (Carleton), Charles Taliaferro, Susan Hawthorne (job candidate), and Deepanwita Dasgupta (job candidate).

Charles Taliaferro invited by Class of 2008 at St. Olaf to the “last lecturer” on graduation weekend.

Gordon Marino: guest lectures in American Conversations, Great Conversation, and Philosophical Theology.

Assessment: The department developed intended learning outcomes for the philosophy major.

II. Students

Courses:

The department offered 36 courses (6 FTE). Total enrollment in philosophy courses; 796 (summer – 1, fall – 331; interim – 95; spring – 369). Enrollment was 789 in 2006-07.

Total number of sections under 19: 23 (63.9%) 9 in the fall, 2 in interim and 2 in the spring.

Total number of sections over 35: 4 (11.1%), 2 in fall and 2 in spring.

Total number of sections between 20 and 30: 6 (16.7%), 3 in fall, 1 in interim, 2 in spring.

Majors:

The total number of senior majors was 11 (10 in spring; 1 in January). Five seniors were awarded distinction in philosophy: Joe Christianson, Valerie Deal, Brett DeFries, David Moon, and Krista Lucas. At the end of the spring semester the total number of majors was 10 seniors, 15 juniors, 13 sophomores, and 10 first-years.

Ringstad Prize winners: This year all the winners were philosophy majors. Joe Christianson won first prize in the junior-senior division. Second prize in this division was a three-way tie between Brett DeFries, Valerie Deal, and David Moon. In the sophomore-junior division, Gil Thompson won first prize and Michael Smeltzer won second prize.

Joe Christianson and Valerie Deal were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Senior philosophy and history major, Joe Christianson, served as president of the Philosophy Forum.

Senior philosophy and music major, David Moon, served as co-editor of *The Reed*.