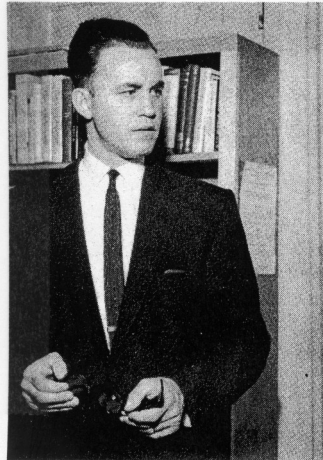


Philosophy at Gustavus

Reminiscence

Erazim Kohak



Jovan Brkic, Ph.D.
Instructor in Philosophy



Erazim V. Kohak, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Philosophy



Oscar Ahlenius Winfield, Ph.D.
Professor of Philosophy and Head of
Department

Philosophy
Department 1958

Professor Erazim Kohak was a professor in the department for two years in the late fifties.

The fall of 1958 was lovely and golden, as Minnesota autumns can be. The view from the cupola above the Philosophy Department was breathtaking. I knew the view of endless ocean, horizon to horizon. Nothing prepared me for the idea that it could also be cornfields. Truly awesome.

The name of the department chair back then was Oscar Alenius Winfield, a wonderful pastor turned teacher with a genuine love for his students and for the kind of careful reflection which is philosophy at its best. That fall, he got a helper. Because he was as open as he was generous-hearted, he did not pick someone to his own image but a brash – and in retrospect, I think rather obnoxious – young Czech with a fresh baked PhD from Yale who could not even tell an Olafson from an Olafsen. I shall ever be grateful for his thoughtful patience as I made all the mistakes a first-year teacher could manage.

Gustavus back then was far from the intellectual powerhouse and stepping

stone to the best graduate schools in the country it has since become. It undertook a humbler, honourable task of providing a liberal opening on the world of learning for young people who were often the first generation in their families aspiring to higher education, sons and daughters of hard working farmers and craftspeople who often still spoke Swedish at home – as, for that matter, did Prof. Winfield as a lad.

We did not think it our primary task to prepare our students for professional study of philosophy, then rather narrowly oriented to logical positivism. It seemed far more important to give our students a philosophical posture to take them through life. We wanted to provide them with an overview of philosophy as then it was, but most of all to help them build what we thought the two mainsprings of philosophical life.

One of those, we thought, was a habit of critical reflection which is at the same time critical of assumptions and respectful to diversity. For

Prof. Winfield it was an extension of critical reading of the Scripture. I was then laboriously producing my first article and so thought it an extension of the Socratic negative reason which does not pontificate but clears away dogmatic slumbers.

The second mainspring we thought the persistent quest to grasp not only the fact but the meaning of experienced reality. Prof. Winfield would cite William James about “the persistent effort to think clearly.” I, with my European background, thought of it as Husserl’s descriptive study of the meaning structure of lived experience. [For the curious: yes, Husserl does define *Wesen* as *meaning*, see *Grundprobleme der Phän.* p. 41.] Though this way or that, we tried as best we could to give our students a philosophical dimension for future years, whether as teachers, pastors - or farmers.

How well we succeeded – or failed – only our students, today mostly retired, can attest. We were a part of an era in the history of Gustavus, long gone with the wind. When, though, I think of some of those students, as Paul Tideman, today a retired pastor in Minneapolis, I think it was not love’s labour lost. It was definitely love’s labour.

Welcome to the Gustavus Philosophy Department!

Deane Curtin, Department Chair

Gustavus Adolphus College

When I arrived at Gustavus some time ago (OK, it was thirty-one years ago), I had one senior colleague, Doug Huff, and he was senior only by a small handful of years. Our very junior department had no connection to its past. All of our predecessors, the people who had founded and built the department, were gone. We heard of legendary figures like Oscar Alenius Winfield and Erazim Kohák. Our senior colleagues in other departments knew them and universally admired them. Doug and I, however, were handed the proverbial “blank slate” and told to draw something that fit with Gustavus. I think we’ve done OK for ourselves over the past three decades, but I’ve always wondered about those who made this department possible.

Because of my interest in environmental philosophy I have always followed the subsequent career of Erazim Kohák. Although he spent only two years at Gustavus, he was a teaching legend. From Gustavus, he went on to a distinguished career at Boston University, and then, after the 1989 Velvet Revolution that freed his homeland, Czechoslovakia, from Soviet tyranny, he returned to Prague and assumed a position at Charles University. His is still very active today, and we now have a term for people like him. He

is a “public intellectual”. More than a narrow academic, he is known widely for his public defenses of democracy and the natural world.

Well, it was something of a pleasant surprise, then, that as a result of last year’s philosophy newsletter, I received an email from a certain Professor Erazim Kohák in Prague. I jumped at the chance to correspond a bit, and eventually broached the point of my first paragraph: we would like to know about you and the department in 1958. He kindly responded with a reminiscence of his time at Gustavus.



It strikes me that, despite the break between our time and theirs, we have very much continued the commitments that Winfield and Kohák brought to Gustavus. He writes of their approach to

teaching, “...most of all [we wanted] to help them build what we thought the two mainsprings of philosophical life. One of those, we thought, was a habit of critical reflection, which is at the same time critical of assumptions and respectful to diversity.... The second mainspring we thought the persistent quest to grasp not only the fact but the meaning of experienced reality.” Critical of assumptions, respect for diversity, grasp of the facts, but even more, the meaning of experienced reality.... That pretty much says it, in 2008. My thanks to Professor Kohák for taking a moment to say hello.

On other fronts in our department, I think the past year has been the most active and creative in the years I’ve been here. With this newsletter you’ll find Kate Goodpaster’s account of her time in Senegal, Jennifer Lee’s account of the Philosopher’s Guild, and Chris de Laubenfels’ reporting on our students who presented papers at the Minnesota Philosophical Society meeting, which was held here at Gustavus. Many of you responded to our request for information on how you are doing. We hope you continue to stay in touch, and consider coming back to campus as part of our Mom/Dad events, which have become signature yearly events for us. Thanks for your support and interest. Keep writing!

Fall 2008

Issue 4

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Books We Recommend!

THE BARN AT THE END OF THE WORLD: THE APPRENTICESHIP OF A QUAKE, BUDDHIST SHEPHERD, Mary Rose O’reilly - a Minnesotan Quaker who is also an accomplished poet...Read Locally!

HOT TO TALK ABOUT BOOKS YOU HAVEN’T READ, Pierre Bayard, *Beyond being witty, arch and clever, and says something very important about the role of books in our collective, communal life.*

CATCHER IN THE RYE, J.D. Salinger
Everyone should give it try at some point in their lives.

THE LAST LECTURE, Randy Pausch
A dying man’s legacy to his children an inspiring and thought-provoking, especially to a philosopher.

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP, John Irving
Blends absurd situations with emotional realism to make a book that has literally made me laugh and cry on multiple occasions.

CAT’S CRADLE, Kurt Vonnegut
Wonderful satire on religion, technology, and “the bomb”.

23 QUESTIONS FROM GREAT PHILOSOPHERS by the Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski

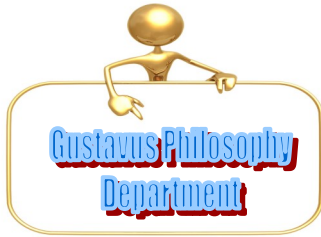
A HANDMAID’S TALE, Margaret Atwood. *A scary, but necessary read.*

THE RACIAL CONTRACT, Charles Mills. *Explores epistemologies of ignorance as it relates to racism.*

Celebration of Creative Inquiry

Andi Twiton, '08 and Laurel Hoch, Senior

This Spring Gustavus hosted its first Celebration of Creative Inquiry, where students voluntarily presented work to be argued, criticized, and praised by the public. Presentations ranged from posters summarizing papers, research, and other interests to videos and numerous detailed diagrams. The presentation not only allowed students to stand alongside the work but allowed this to occur through the individual's eyes. Presenters were obviously supported and given resources through the process but end results were that of the student. Many students presented their honors thesis work as a senior, the inquiry adding to the work and time put into the final works. Walking around the Celebration one felt the higher intellectual level existing among our students, professors, and staff as students and visitors shared, discussed, and debated.



Since I started at Gustavus I have yet to see something like this Inquiry. Students were voluntarily questioned and challenged by all who found interest. This event is the start of a beautiful tradition at Gustavus that will continue to push and challenge the growing student mind.

Philosophy Participants:

Chris deLaubenfels presented 'Where Gustavus Should Move?'

Harald Van Gaasbeek presented 'Jane Addams and International Relations: An Alternative Approach.'

Daniel George presented 'An Exploration of the Implications of John Dewey and Nagarjuna's Rejections of Essence for Education'

Laurel Hoch presented '"Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History"- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich'

Rhea Muchalla presented 'Deconstructing Dowry'

Jason Pitt presented 'Sanjive Qazi'

Andrew Twiton presented 'Hull House and Democratic Space'

Min Woo Shin presented 'The Importance of Immigrant Issues: Why Social Ethics?'



Importance of Immigrant Issues: Why Social Ethics?'

All in a day's work...Professors and their Research

Doug Huff has recently published two articles: "Wittgenstein and the Lure of Mysticism," in RE-VISITING MYSTICISM (Cambridge Scholars Press), and "Wittgenstein and the Paradox of Consciousness," in SUVIDYA: JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION (June 2008).

Lisa is finding her work in philosophy of food has made her almost popular these days! Last spring, she spoke at a one-day conference on "Food and Memory," hosted by the University of Iowa's Department of Ethnic Studies and the Arts. This fall, she gave an invited lecture, "Cultivating Cosmic Patriotism by Cultivating Cosmos: Urban Gardning and the Creation of Community," in Hamburg, Germany, as part of "Elbinsel Sommer: Kultur/Natur," a curated city-wide "artistic and contextual forum." (Translation: audience members had to go on a three-hour bicycle ride before listening to her talk.) She presented a talk, "Food Security: Three Concepts of Access--Charity, Rights and Coresponsibility, at a one-day symposium at Washington University in St. Louis, and she presented a paper entitled "Food and Aesthetic Value: Beyond Haute Cuisine," at the Radical Philosophy Association Conference in San Francisco. She's pleased to have been chosen to lead the new Gustavus semester program in Sweden; she'll head there during January Term and Spring Semester, 2010. In her off hours, she continues to hone her skills as a baker, and as a tender of the department dog, Tilde.

Peg O'Connor

Wittgenstein wrote that "Work on philosophy--like work in architecture in many respects--is really more work on oneself. On one's own conception. On how one sees things. (And what one expects of them.)" For Wittgenstein, the philosopher's work is liberating herself and others from bewitching pictures, skewed conceptual schemes, unreasonable and perhaps unjustified expectations. Above all else, philosophy ought to aim for clarification--of oneself, one's place in the world, and the ways we make meaning. Philosophy as typically practiced generates more confusions than clarifications, which explains why Wittgenstein spent so much time diagnosing the sicknesses of philosophy. Philosophy, when practiced well, can be *useful*. It can enable us to grapple in productive ways with questions about the meaning of life. I am beginning a long-term project to bring Wittgenstein's insights back to questions about the meaning of life, especially for those marginalized in multiple ways. I am working on two essays that are part of this larger project. The first is an essay that explores the legacy of a radical dualism of minds and bodies in the context of survivors of sexual trauma. The second essay extends Wittgenstein's concept of "form of life" to alcoholics/alcoholic identities.

Senegal Stories

Kate Goodpastor, senior

I spent this Spring 2008 semester in Senegal, West Africa, through the School for International Training (SIT) Senegal: Arts and Culture program. With an emphasis on experiential learning, our group of 22 students from all over the U.S. were immersed in Senegalese culture. We were trained in various art and music forms, explored the country, and made it our home.

In terms of classroom time, we had an Arts and Culture Seminar with various guest lecturers covering topics from Islam to traditional musical instruments to women's rights. We also had a Field Study Seminar, to prepare us for projects and eventually for our Independent Study Project (ISP). We also had language classes in French and Wolof.

The most important learning, however, occurred outside of the classroom. One can't walk down the street without learning something new when everything is so completely different from

home. Everything from temperature (I left when it was negative degrees in MN and came to Senegal where it was about 90 degrees) to religion seems exactly opposite to what I came from at the beginning of the semester. I stayed in a homestay in Dakar, with excursions and village stays periodically through the months until the last month, which was ISP period. During that time I lived in an apartment with other students in a village-like neighborhood in the Dakar area, and had the thrill of feeling truly independent. I was challenged physically, emotionally, and intellectually, but have been overall joyful about my experience.

This semester has helped me as a philosopher to a great extent. First of all I had the opportunity to experience and reflect on many issues as I experienced them. My ISP, which focuses on business ethics, business education, and Senegalese values and is titled "Cradle to Corporation: Values in the Formation

of Senegal's Business Leaders," is philosophy-oriented and gave me a chance to research and write extensively about a topic of interest to me. I look forward to the new perspec-



tive this semester will give me, especially going into my senior year at Gustavus. I also feel confident that international travel and inter-cultural exchange will be an even larger part of my life from here on out.

Franz de Waal and Bonobos

Matt Born, '08



On April 12, the Philosophy Colloquium course had the honor of having Frans De Waal join us for our class session. Rather than lecture the class, Dr. de Waal opened a question session in which the class was able to discuss how bonobo chimpanzees and common chimpanzees related to human behavior, as well as the possibilities of bonobos of being potentially capable of ethical behavior. Frans De Waal himself is a primatologist who studies both common chimpanzees and bonobo chimpanzee. He is the author of many books on primates, including, most recently, *Primates and Philosophers, How Morality Evolved*.

Much of the conversation revolved around the bonobo approach to problem solving and whether it would work for human society. Dr. de Waal's

final position was that neither the common chimpanzee nor the bonobo chimpanzee was a proper model for humans. One should note however that just because bonobos operate differently from humans, the sentiments bonobos have evolved to possess, such as the desire to suppress physical conflict and the amazing fact that no one has witnessed a bonobo killed by the hands of another bonobo, seem to be capable of acting in an ethical manner.

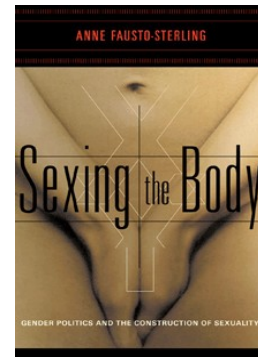
Frans deWaal visited Gustavus as the annual Rydell lecturer.

Anne Fausto-Sterling brings Biology of Sex debate to Campus

Rhea Muchalla, Senior

This year's prestigious MOE lectureship series brought Anne Fausto-Sterling, Professor of Biology and Gender Studies at Brown University to campus. The night of April 22nd began with white fish, cheese, crackers, and lots of mingling between students, faculty, and Fausto-Sterling. For dinner Fausto-Sterling sat with a table of students, a table that I happened to be sitting at, and engaged in a delightful conversation about her research, theories, and thoughts. Fausto-Sterling is known for her groundbreaking research in the biology of sex. Notable works of hers argue against our conception of sex, her most recent work being "Sexing the Body", that discusses the politics of sexuality and its construction. I was first introduced to her work when I read "The Five Sexes" a work that disposes of the notion that there are two binary and polar opposite sexes. Instead Fausto-Sterling argues for an expansion of the categories of sex to include at least 5 and thus recognizing the normalcy

of intersex people. After dinner a plethora of Gusties crowded into Alumni Hall to hear Fausto-Sterling's lecture on 'dynamic systems'. In her lecture was filled with discussion about the ways that neither biology nor society are isolated from each other, and instead work with each other to produce what we interpret as 'norms'. This presents an entirely new way of viewing the biology we are so apt to think of as sterile and unbiased. If these systems are truly dynamic then there is no way to look at a biology that operates in a sexist society as not sexist, and conversely no way to view a society as not sexist that works with a sexist society. As expected, it was quite a forceful presentation and talk. It presented quite a different view from Biologist Frans de Waal who seemed to take science as an unbiased compass showing us what is 'natural'. With Fausto-Sterling a new appreciation for how deep questions of sex construction must go.



Fausto-Sterling's latest book "Sexing the Body" investigates the social nature of biological knowledge about human and animal sexuality.

Philosopher's Guild

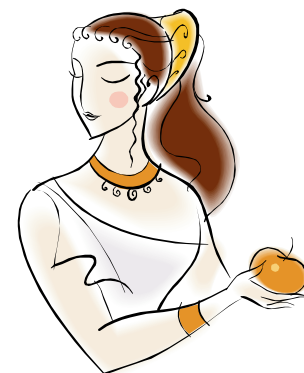
Jennifer Lee, Junior

The student-founders of Philosophers' Guild are seniors Andi Twiton, Danny George, and Rhea Muchalla. The Philosophers' Guild seeks to address problems that philosophy majors encounter, encourage students to declare their philosophy major or minor, connect philosophy students to one another, and create a comfortable environment for students in the Philosophy department.

Upon entering Old Main, I put on my imaginary shades as if I am swaggering my way to a jazzy coffeehouse where I can listen and talk to others who also want to listen and talk just as much as I do. Through the entryway and into the Philosophy department, I find an emollient setting where I can relax

and perhaps mention thoughts that have been occupying my mind all day. When I go to Philosophers' Guild, I have the opportunity to converse on matters that I am curious about or inquire on ideas from other classes.

The Philosophers' Guild occurs every Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30 in the Philosophy department office of Old Main, snacks regularly provided. I know from experience that everyone at Philosophers' Guild is, well, philosophically normal and extremely friendly. As a new and semi-clueless philosophy major, the guild is a great place to ask questions concerning what to expect from philosophy courses. For non-philosophy majors or minors and everyone else, the guild is THE place to express your personal views and/or interests. Do not be shy to show up! Visiting alumni welcome!



Rhea's version of Hypatia

"Philosophy is a battle against the bewitchment of our intelligence by means of language" - Ludwig Wittgenstein

My Philosophy

Tori Sanzone, class of 1995

Tori Sanzone was a philosophy minor during his time at Gustavus. He has recently been musing on the importance of philosophy, as a result of a serious accident, which he describes below.

On Sunday, June 22, 2008 at 4:34 am I crashed my Lexus IS250 into a wall trying to avoid hitting a motorcycle that cut me off on Western and Fulton. Here I am in the streets of Chicago bleeding to the death in this luxury car with the chance of dying. I was rushed to Cook County Hospital and underwent surgery to save my right leg, because I broke the right femur in half and ripped my patella tendon into two pieces. In addition, I broke my left hip, fractured my sternum and suffered light head bruises from not wearing a seat belt. After 12 hours of surgery these bone carpenters were able to put me back together, but it would take 66 days of lying in a hospital bed to somewhat recover.

After sitting in the hospital for 1 month, I remembered a conversation that my Philosophy professor, Dr. Heldke, had mentioned one time in class about Descartes locking himself in a cabin and writing one of his books. I felt like Descartes going crazy alone, lying in this bed with a morphine drip and unable to move and in a tremendous amount of pain. I am a professional dog trainer by trade and have spent the last six years teaching dogs to be patient inside of crates and cages, but here I am unable to teach or compose myself to be patient inside of this cage of a room. In order to keep my sanity, I thought of myself as Descartes and started to write my meditation, my stream of consciousness, my life diary, my thoughts, my pains and anguishes, and my soul on paper.

I became addicted to telling the truths and revealing secrets that have been in my mind for over 30 years. My critical thinking became stronger every day I meditated about lying in a hospital bed unable to walk and how my situation

was very similar to caging a dog/wolf for the first time. Lying in a hospital bed for 66 days and meeting AIDS patients, cancer patients, gunshot victims and people who have lost hope because of their physical condition is a religious experience. All I could do to stay alive was write and meditate and develop a new philosophy that would save my life from the clutches of death.

My philosophy is that we are wolves looking to find a deep level of internal peace, but we only find this peace when we are finally caged and develop our own philosophies to master our cage in order to be released as a victorious wolf. Mohandas Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." The greatest animal is the human and greatness of a human is unearthed by deep soul searching. I wish I had majored in philosophy, because I realize now that dog training has been preparing me to be the Descartes of the dog training world. I am doing more than training dogs, I am changing the human animal by training their dogs/wolves, but the dog is the final manifestation of what's happening in a person's life.

Hence, by analyzing the dog, we are analyzing the human and by changing the dog we are changing the human. As a philosopher and wolfkeeper, I had to first analyze myself, so that I could better analyze my dogs and in turn better analyze the humans. I hope to inspire more people to become more philosophers and to lock themselves in a room for 66 days in order to write their meditations, so that they can start their journey looking for a higher level of internal peace.



Tilde the
Philosopher Dog

Senior Colloquium, Spring 2008

Chris deLaubenfels

What do Hegel, the existence of God, democracy, and genetic engineering have in common? No, the answer is not some cocktail party joke. All of these subjects and more were addressed in the Spring Philosophy Colloquium under the guidance of Professor Deane Curtin. With all philosophy majors having the same core classes under our belts, we decided to take the class in a different direction than years past.

The colloquium did not focus on one given subject, but featured discussion on an array of topics. One day we would discuss free will and determinism and the next the philosophy of the liberal arts. All topics were chosen by the students and Professor Curtin. It was a rewarding experience to be able to discuss, day-in, day-out, with peers about topics that were of personal and contemporary interest.

Much like our class discussions, the choices for philosophy theses had a wide variety. Since we did not have one topic focus for our class, students were allowed to choose a topic of personal preference. The following are philosophy majors and their thesis topic:

Danny George, "The Rejection of Essence and the Relationship Between Reflective and Nonreflective Experience in Dewey and Nargajuna"

Chris deLaubenfels, "Existentialism and Running: Improvement and Camus' Absurd"

Rhea Muchalla, "Colliding Coalitions"

Laura Engel, "The Process of Preference"

Harald Van Gaasbeek, "Jane Addams and International Relations"

Andi Twiton, "Hull House and Democratic Space"

Min Woo Shin, "Multi-culturalism in the United States"

Matt Born, "G.W.F. Hegel"

Mark Wirbiski, "Philosophy of Music and Adorno"

Overall, the colloquium was successful in giving us seniors a chance to creatively explore an area of interest, and discuss and challenge our fellow majors' philosophical thought.

Student Research at Drury

Andi Twiton, '08

On March 7th, 2008 I was invited to share a paper at the 11th Annual Drury University Interdisciplinary Research Conference in Springfield, Missouri. My paper, Hull House and Democratic Space, grew out of my semester in Lisa Heldke's seminar on the philosophy of the Progressive Era. I was really taken by our readings from philosopher Jane Addams and decided to write my paper on her work at Hull House.

Near the end of the semester, Lisa showed me the call for papers from

Drury University and encouraged me to submit an abstract. The deadline for abstracts was quickly approaching and it was a busy time in the semester, so I took my introduction paragraph and submitted it as my abstract. About a month later, I heard that my paper was accepted and that I was invited to present it at the conference.

The conference itself was a lot of fun and the presenters covered a wide variety of topics. Drury tried to match paper topics to classes that might

be interested in the paper. For my paper, I found myself in front a group of 30 political science students.

One of the best things about my conference experience is that I got a lot of support and encouragement from the Philosophy Department and Gustavus. Both Gustavus and the department have funds set aside for sending students to conferences. If you are philosophy major, you should definitely consider submitting one of your papers. It's not as scary as it sounds.

NAME the NEWSLETTER CONTEST!!!

Send your creative, philosophical ideas for the newsletter to rmuchall@gac.edu by March 15th, 2008 and see your title as the new and improved newsletter title here on out!!! Don't be shy!

See You Later Seniors!

We asked seniors...

1. Why did you major in philosophy?
2. What is your favorite memory/class?
3. What are your future plans, hopes, goals?
4. If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

1) Philosophy continues to absorb me, from the moment I started studying it, Philosophy involves the questions that I am most interested in handling.

2) Well, not yet a memory, but I am terribly excited for studying Buddhism in India with Deane Curtin over January Term 2009.

3) I plan on baking as an apprentice for a few years on the West Coast, then going to graduate school with the aim of following a professorial track or starting my own bakery.

4) Ravens captivate me in ways they haven't in the past. Ravens have intelligence, complicated behavior, flight, and what I imagine is the avian equivalent of wit.

Kate Goodpastor



1. I took one class and couldn't get enough. I realized that I fit in and it fit me.

2. There are too many favorite moments to list! Favorite classes: Modern Philosophy and Ethics of Development.

3. I will hopefully spend the next academic year in Senegal doing research on education and culture. I also plan to explore the world of library science to see if it might be something I'd like to pursue for graduate school instead of or in addition to philosophy.

4. Tilde the dog.

Caleb Phillips



Joe Hillman



1) I think philosophy chose me. After taking Ethical Theory freshman year, I was hooked and have continued in the life-changing subject ever since.

2) Senior Seminar with George... enough said

3) I plan to teach English abroad after graduation and return to start law or grad school for philosophy. Regardless of the decision, I see travel and deep thinking with philosophy, and fabulous experiences ahead.

4) Polar Bear because they are so huggable.

Jeff Nicols



1) Philosophy felt like the most natural choice for me; as soon as I dove in, I didn't want to get out!

2) Going to San Francisco with amazing people and learning from new amazing people.

3) I hope to go to graduate school and focus on Feminist Philosophy; then change the world.

4) I would be a hummingbird so people would put out sweet food in pretty feeders outside of their window, all just to get a glimpse of me.

Laurel Hoch



Rhea Muchalla



Alumni Updates

'54 John G Hallstan

Memories I have of Gustavus certainly include Dr. George Forell, and Dr. Winfield. Dr. Forell went to the U of Iowa about the same time I graduated, but his influence on my life has carried over to this day! I am retired, but enjoyed several "different lives" during my professional life; parish pastor in several parishes, in what is now the ELCA, Lutheran University Pastor (NLCM) at CSU in Ft. Collins, CO, clinical psychologist at UAF in Fairbanks, Alaska, Clinical Supervisor, Yukon--Tanana Region of the Tanana Chiefs in Interior Alaska, and private practice here in Fairbanks, Alaska.

In my retirement I continue to be interested in my family, exercise (time at the cabin, biking & gym), what I eat, and theology! I serve on the Church Council, and Intern Committee in my local Lutheran parish, and facilitate an adult group study on occasion. I care most deeply about the direction of the Country, in State political corruption, and the upcoming National election.

'55 Gerald Christianson

Emeritus Professor in Residence at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he has taught Early and Medieval Church History since 1967. He received his education at Gustavus Adolphus College, Augustana Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago. Before teaching, he was pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Gary, Indiana. He has served as visiting professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary and Yale Divinity School.

'59 Larry D'Cartford

Yes, I sort of stumbled on a philosophy major, liked many of the courses so kept taking them, and thought, why

not, so part of my triple major was philosophy. Glad I did it, the most influential courses were in existentialism. Sure like that stuff. In fact, it became the foundation of my life, authentic and inauthentic, aloneness, being toward death, et al. I became a pastor, did an STM on the existential theology of Paul Tillich, went into the parish, couldn't believe all the stuff I preached, so quit after 30 years and became a financial planner. I guess now you'd call me an existential atheist. I am retired and loving it. Still read a lot of philosophy, good keeping the mind in the clouds and thinking that which very few people think. Thanks for the note and I'm seldom in MN so won't be showing up at any of your classes, though I do have my 50th reunion in 09.

'62 Ted Stoneberg

I took the philosophy major as preparation for Lutheran ministry. When I was taking courses, there were initially two faculty members but in my last two years there was only one and the courses were mostly tutorials because there were so few of us in the major at the time. After graduating from Gustavus, I attended Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary and graduated in 1966. I served as the pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Lakewood, Colorado (1966-1971). Then I went to Northwestern University and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary to do a Ph.D. in Religion with the specialty of pastoral psychotherapy. We returned to Indiana where I was hired as a Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Anderson University School of Theology. I served there for 25 years and now am retired as an Emeritus Professor.

'72 Paul Hoff

In my time, opposition to US involvement in Vietnam and Cambodia was at its highest pitch, and I was actually approached by other departments to become

a major in their discipline because of my leadership role in campus protest. I did accept the invitation from the history department and finished Gustavus with a dual major. When I graduated from Gustavus in 1972, I pursued an MA course in philosophy to be coupled with a teaching degree at Vanderbilt. But before I indicated I would attend, I got accepted into the Peace Corps. I figured I could always return to grad school, so took the two-year English teaching assignment in Korea with the Peace Corps.

I worked in Korea and Japan connected with English teaching from 1973 to 1982, when I joined a British stockbroker. I have stayed in finance and am now running the Asia Pacific licensing business of FTSE, an index provider owned by the London Stock Exchange and the Financial Times. My territory covers all of Asia west to Pakistan. I travel extensively, but keep my home base Tokyo where I have lived since 1978. My two boys are in international high schools in Tokyo and Yokohama and my wife is a sewing teacher at a girls' international school in Tokyo.

There are lots of philosophical concepts which help me with the cross-cultural aspect of my current job. My training for finance has been OJT and taking the London Stock Exchange exams before Big Bang; I never went to grad school. I like to think that my philosophy study leveraged my ability to move smoothly from teaching into finance, and helps me every day to think through tasks and situations of varying complexity.

My career hasn't been carefully planned. It's more like one of the phrases on a tee shirt I bought at Kimo's on Maui twenty years ago which says, "Goals are deceptive. The unaimed arrow always hits its mark."

'90 Chris Marshall

I graduated from Gustavus in 1990 with a philosophy major. My first "regular" job, post-Gustavus, came from Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, where I worked for five years as an editor on various Lutheran periodicals. It was publishing right from the get-go for me.

In 1996, a couple years after buying our first house, I decided to change gears and start writing and editing for the home improvement market. I was fortunate enough to pursue some latent woodworking interests I've always had. We made books in the most "grass roots" fashion, with a rag-tag group of freelance book designers, photographers and shop guys, all stuffed into an old warehouse space in northeast Minneapolis. then moved north of Columbus Ohio one day

I got a call from a woodworking magazine called Woodworker's Journal — published, of all places, in Medina, MN. They gave me an assignment to build an end table...then another assignment to review some tools. And, the assignments haven't stopped since. I have yet to really draw a paycheck outside of Minnesota.

Currently, I'm the Field Editor for Woodworker's Journal. I have a woodshop about a hundred yards behind our home on ten acres in rural Ohio. I build things from wood, write about them, photograph the process and am always there at the end of the driveway at the end of the day to get my kids off the school bus. I have an extremely blessed life--quiet, contemplative and doing what I absolutely love to do: create, write, photograph and edit. There are horses outside our kitchen window every morning, and we've got a lovely pond out back filled with all sorts of living things.

'91 Mary Stone

I'm a second-year master's student at the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work. I'm studying animal-assisted social work and I'm

also a student at the Denver Family Institute, studying marriage and family therapy. I'm planning a party in June to celebrate both my 40th birthday and earning my MSW degree! My partner of over 10 years, Alex, and I were able to get married last September because he is now legally male (he was born female). We continue to be involved in the fight for recognition of all kinds of relationships, not just heterosexual ones.

'95 Nathan Caroll

I am Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Communication, Theatre, and Art at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN since 2006. I received my MA in Philosophy (Aesthetics) from the Univ. of York (UK) and my combined PhD from Indiana University, Bloomington in the Depts. of Communication and Culture and American Studies. My emphasis there and my current specialty is in Film Studies. I regularly apply my Philosophy background in the large array of courses I design and teach at St. Scholastica. Last year I even went back to my roots and taught a Philosophy course on the evolution of sublime aesthetics from the Greeks to Postmodernists called "Beauty & Death: Sublime Aesthetics." I integrated this course with my current work in Film Studies (effectively, a course in Philosophy of Film) and featured weekly illustrative film screenings. This year I was voted Vice-Chair of the Faculty Assembly and will become Chair next year. I successfully completed my two year tenure review this past spring and host a monthly faculty colloquium featuring School of Arts and Letters faculty at St. Scholastica. I am currently teaching courses in the history of film as art, a wide variety of film genres, special topics like anti-corporate documentary films and Russian Culture Through Film, along with courses studying various film auteurs (currently, Hitchcock; next year, Kubrick). I have two published articles and am working on getting another published along with a book manuscript. My wife, Nichole Sterling, was also a

Gustie ('97) and we live with our cat in a big old Victorian home from the late 19th Century in Superior, Wisconsin. Nichole just finished her Ph.D. at UC Berkeley this summer in Scandinavian Languages and Literature and Medieval Studies and has been accepted to the University of Michigan Law School. We oddly like all the snow (possibly due to years of inundation in St. Peter) and live right off Lake Superior.

'96 Kristen Richardson Wilcox

I went to law school, got married to a wonderful man, graduated from law school, moved to Minneapolis for a big city private law firm practice, had a little boy, moved to Iowa, had a little girl and am now at home tending to two beautiful children and contemplating returning to private practice here in good 'ole Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I have all of my philosophy books lovingly displayed on my bookshelf. I think longingly about those wonderful ethics conversations we had in the Spring of '96. I miss the analysis...not that law doesn't provide infinite opportunity for analytical analysis.

'00 Chris Hamsher

After spending the last several years in Chicago, IL, I am happy to have returned to Minnesota to attend law school at the University of Minnesota. In Chicago I formed and led two rock bands, recording and releasing several albums and playing a lot of shows. I also worked at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago--administering, speaking with students, guiding Teaching Assistants, organizing exhibitions, as well as continuing my education, particularly by reading (or trying to read) Theodor Adorno's writings on music and society with Chris Cutrone.

'00 Lauren Fleer

I graduated with a Philosophy major and Women's Studies minor. During my time at Gustavus I was a member

of Queers & Allies, the Womyn's Center, Student Senate, Juggling Socialists and the Women's Soccer team. Since then, I has worked as a NGO staffer, labor union researcher, carpenter, woodworker, and now a civil engineer. I am dedicated anti-war activist in Chicago.

'00 Erica Lucast (now Stonestreet)

I finished my Ph.D. from Michigan (AOS ethics and moral psychology) in June, completing a dissertation about what I've called "self-creating reasons"-- reasons that stem from a desire to be a certain kind of person. I'm now teaching at St. Ben's/St. John's in what is currently a three-year appointment, with an expectation that it will convert to tenure-track. I absolutely love it here-- it's not Gustavus, of course, but it has the same warm kind of community, as well as a great deal of natural beauty, and I've been made to feel right at home. This semester, I'm teaching business ethics--which is quite a challenge, since I feel like I know little about business, and the students haven't been used to philosophizing--and philosophy of human nature, which has so far been terrific fun.

'01 Joshua (JR) Roever

I don't know if Lisa recalls or not, but she suggested that I attend graduate school at Marquette and now after graduating with an MA and JD, it was clearly a good choice. More than that however, I met my wife at Marquette so I need to send out a special thank you for that.

'04 Ryan Morse

I remember taking my first Philosophy class with Deane my freshman year. Needless to say, it was an experience (a rude awakening if you will) to learn what college life would bring. My original plan after graduation was to enroll in law school, but was deterred by a few different situations. I ended up obtaining a position at U.S. Bank in the retail environment and quickly learned that that was not something for me. I then obtained a position within

Corporate Treasury at the bank as an analyst, and quickly learned I needed to work with people rather than be isolated, which led me to my current position as a broker at U.S. Bank still working in Corporate Treasury. This past May, I married a fellow Gustie from the 2004 class (Kirsten Kaufmann, nursing major) and we now live in Apple Valley. But **what Philosophy really helped me learn was how to formulate and develop responses to situations we may experience in life;** in other words, the power to stand on my own two feet, disconnecting myself from your typical 'corporate robot.' For what it is worth, all superiors I have ever worked for/with have been impressed with my undergraduate major choice. The philosophy major is viewed very positively in the financial world.

'06 Adam Tehle

First, many things have shifted since my one year stint in Durham/Chapel Hill, NC. I spent a little over a year in North Carolina doing wonderful work with two video production companies. Most recently, I worked in Chapel Hill, NC as a marketing director and producer for Digital Development Communications; a firm specializing in the development of documentary films about issues pertaining to environmental conservation, public health and social and economic expansion in developing countries. We completed films for many organizations including: The World Bank, The International Finance Corporation, USAID, Wildlife Conservation Society, Conservation International, UNICEF, University of North Carolina and Duke University.

I recently made my return to the upper Midwest late this summer. I currently reside in Duluth, MN where I took a position at Marshall College Preparatory School as their Director of Alumni Relations. I know, quite the change from video production! However, in the position of Alumni Director, I have the opportunity to use the countless skills I developed at Gustavus. More, I have the incredible opportunity to serve on a number of diverse fronts including an editor for Marshall's major publica-

In short, as I attempt to live more present to the moment and hope to bring more integrity to the moment, I cannot but help recall my wonderful experience at Gustavus as a student and more a philosophy major. I cannot express to you as my professor, now colleague, and friend how tremendous my experience as a philosophy major continues to influence my life.

'07 Megan Buckingham

I am now in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps for the next year (2008-2009), residing in San Francisco and working with Pesticide Action Network North America.

Thanks to
all of our
wonderful
Alumni!

Send us your story
for next year's
newsletter!

Mom, Dad, I'm a Philosophy Major!

What did your parents say, the year you came home for the holidays and announced, “well, I decided my major. It’s going to be philosophy.” For many students, choosing this “impractical” major means running the friend-and-relative gauntlet, explaining that, no, they will NOT be unemployed for the rest of their lives, that philosophy students lead full, rewarding, financially stable lives upon graduation!

Looking down the list of the occupations of our alumni, I often tell students you wouldn’t be able to guess what holds that list together; what do all these people have in common? Who’d guess that you could do all these things...beginning with a philosophy major of all things! Yes, there are the “expected” occupations, the ones for which “they” told us philosophy was a good preparation: law, ministry, librarianship, and even philosophy! But would you guess that the ranks of department alumni also include a woodworker and woodworking magazine editor/writer? A signer? Physical therapists and nurses? Psychologists? Elementary and secondary teachers? Bankers? It seems that those professors were right; philosophy is the perfect major, because it doesn’t preclude *any* career choices!

In an effort to give our students more evidence of this fact, the department has been hosting dinners each semester, at which we invite a few alumni to return to campus and talk with our majors and minors about what they are doing with their lives, and how philosophy has played a role in those lives. On the Monday before Thanksgiving, we held this fall’s event. Presenters included Michael Boe (’82), a librarian with the Hennepin County Library System; Lauren Fler (2000), a civil engineer who has also worked as an NGO staffer, labor union researcher, carpenter and woodworker; and Bjorn Hedstrom (05), an attorney with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota. It was the sort of evening we professors dream of...an evening of listening to our former students (and, in my case, our former classmate, since Michael and I *were* the class of ’82) *being* their adult, professional, *interesting* selves. (This year, for instance, we learned why story time really *matters*, and how philosophy really *does* prepare a person for law school.) It’s exciting—no, really, it is—to learn about the ways that *you all* think philosophy has shaped your lives, and it’s thrilling to see our present students catch that excitement, and imagine their own futures.

The department would love to welcome *you* to campus, to talk about your life now, and to ruminate, just a bit, about how philosophy figures into it. You don’t have to prepare a speech (though if you do, we’d love a copy of it; check out Bjorn’s speech on our webpage). You don’t have to keep a copy of Kant by your bedside. Heck you don’t even have to remember what epistemology means! Just come and tell us about your life now—and about your thoughts about how your college study has served you in that life. If you’d be interested, send Lisa Heldke a note, an email, or a phone call. (heldke@gac.edu; Department of Philosophy, Gustavus, St. Peter, MN 56082; 507-933-7029.) We’d love to welcome you back to campus!

Radical, Philosophical Gusties

As if the election wasn’t exciting enough, November 5th four Gusties boarded an airplane and headed to San Francisco to present their work at the Radical Philosophy Association’s National Conference. Professor Lisa Heldke presented a paper entitled, “Food and Aesthetic Value: Beyond Haute Cuisine” and Professor Peg O’Connor presented a paper entitled, “The Cartesian Mind in the Abused Body: This Pilot Isn’t Going Down with the Ship.” Students also had a chance to showcase their work as Rhea Muchalla presented, “Deconstructing Dowry” and Anna Tibstra presented, “Emotion, Devotion, Delicacy, and Detail: The Work of Gender in Art Historical Understanding of the Northern Renaissance.” While there two Gustavus Philosophy Alum, Megan Buckingham ’07 and Andi Twiton ’08, joined in attending the other stimulating presentations. It was an intellectually full weekend, jam packed with radical ideas and radical philosophy. *Students, submit your work!*



Pictured from left to right: Peg O’Connor, Andi Twiton, Megan Buckingham, Rhea Muchalla, Anna Tibstra, and Lisa Heldke

Hey Alumni...

1. Please send us your alumni news! We'd love to include it in our next annual newsletter. Please include an address where your classmates can find you, if you'd like to be contacted.

Gustavus Adolphus College

2. Would you be willing to participate in "Mom, Dad, I'm a Philosophy Major," the dinner discussion we hold each semester for our students, at which philosophy graduates appear as our special guests? We're interested in seeing the way that philosophy plays a role in your current life--however informally. These events are among the highlights of the year for students and professors alike. Please consider volunteering to come back for one!

3. Are you interested in donating to Gustavus? If so, please consider earmarking your contribution toward the philosophy department. We hope to raise money for an endowment for student travel to conferences. And we are still hoping to add an endowed chair to the department.

Check out our webpage!
<http://gustavus.edu/academics/philosophy/>

Please send information to
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