

The Philosophy Newsletter

LOYOLA
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CHICAGO



Jesuit Philosopher Works for Social Justice

"I've come to look at justice by way of injustice, by looking at the faces of the people who are hurt . . . The study of justice affects you, and then you cannot let go."

Eminent social philosopher Daniel Hartnett, S.J., will join Loyola University's Department of Philosophy as a visiting professor after he steps down from the Considine Chair of Applied Ethics at the end of this school year.

During the three years that he has held the non-departmental chair, Fr. Hartnett has been a central figure in social justice projects in the university and across the nation. He created a graduate course, "Justice Conceived and Practiced," and organized numerous justice conferences and symposia. Last year he brought together religious leaders from various faiths to discuss justice within their traditions, and organized

a national conference on foreign debt reduction. This spring, in a program that he organized, Loyola students and staff will travel to Chiapas, Mexico, to work and live among the people in a week-long immersion experience.

Fr. Hartnett, who grew up a few blocks from the Lake Shore Campus, has a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Chicago. He spent 23 years in Peru, directing the Center for Adult Education in a squatter settlement of 220,000 people and teaching at the School of Philosophy, which he founded at the Catholic University of Peru. "I've come to look at justice by way of injustice, by looking at the



Fr. Daniel Hartnett

faces of the people who are hurt," Fr. Hartnett said. "The study of justice affects you, and then you cannot let go."

Half Million to Health Care Ethics Program

"With all of the developments in medicine and science, especially in genetics, I foresee a tremendous need in the field for ethical thinking."

John F. Grant, M.D.

The Department of Philosophy enters the millennium with a half-million dollar gift for its Health Care Ethics program from a Loyola alumnus, the late John F. Grant, M.D. Nearly four years ago he established the John F. Grant Endowment for the Study of Health Care Ethics with an initial gift of \$50,000; he subsequently built the gift up to \$500,000. During that period he met several times with Mark Waymack, co-

director of the Health Care Ethics program, as well as with students in the program. Liking what he heard, Dr. Grant directed that the Endowment be used to support student financial awards, a special course in health care ethics, and an annual guest lecture.

Grant Lectures have been given by Robert Nelson, M.D., and Lainie Ross, M.D. This year's lecture will be delivered on April 9 by

Edmund Pellegrino, M.D., of the Kennedy Institute for Ethics at Georgetown University.

For more information contact Dr. Waymack, 773-508-2738

In Memoriam

Dr. John F. Grant passed away on April 10, 2000. Read the story "Sixteen Credits Short" on page 3.

From the Chair . . .



Paul K. Moser

“The department welcomes the help of friends and alums in its ongoing effort to strengthen its programs.”

Welcome to the first issue of **The Philosophy Newsletter**. My colleagues and I want to share with our many friends and alumni our experience of doing philosophy at Loyola, and bring you up to date about the department. We'll have one issue each semester, since there is much activity in philosophy at Loyola these days.

- We are one of the largest philosophy departments in the world, with 32 full time faculty, including the Arthur J. Schmitt endowed professorship.
- We regularly teach over 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students each semester in over 100 philosophy courses.

- Besides the philosophy major we offer specially designed minors for undergraduates, as well as master's degrees in areas such as Health Care Ethics and Social Philosophy and a doctorate in Philosophy.
- Faculty publish and lecture extensively, producing literally hundreds of books and articles over the last decade and well over a thousand scholarly presentations.
- The department hosts over a dozen philosophy conferences, lectures, and colloquia each year.
- Our faculty teach interdisciplinary courses related to theology, biology, nursing, health care, education, psychology, management, peace studies, literature, Asian studies,

black world studies, women's studies, international studies, neuroscience, and much more.

- Our alumni and friends recently established two new endowments to strengthen the financial base of the department and to enhance its commitment to health care ethics. The department welcomes the help of friends and alums in its ongoing effort to strengthen its programs.

Philosophy at Loyola is thriving and exciting. Visit our extensive and colorful website, join us for lectures and other events, or just drop in to say hello.

— Paul K. Moser, Chairperson

New Faculty

Over the last two years four new faculty have joined the department, each bringing a different approach to philosophy.

Patricia Huntington (Ph.D., Fordham University), came to Loyola in 1998 to teach continental philosophy and feminist theory. She is the author of a major book on Kristeva, Heidegger, and Irigaray, and has edited several related works. A frequent visitor of Mexico, she is also the founder of the Chiapas Solidarity Project.



Blake Dutton (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania) also arrived in 1998. He specializes in medi-



eval and early modern philosophy. A passionate music lover with a B.M. in music composition, he is intrigued by the Arabic contribution to Western thought and is currently working on a book about the medievals'

reactions to skepticism.

T. C. (Jack) Kline (Ph.D., Stanford University) came to Loyola in 1998 with a specialty in early Chinese philosophy and contemporary ethics. Before his doctorate he earned an M.A. from the University of Chicago and studied in Taiwan. Kline is now working on his third sourcebook on ancient Chinese philosophy.



Jacqueline Scott (Ph.D., Stanford University) arrived here in 2000, after teaching 19th-century philosophy and race theory at the University of Memphis. She is editing a volume



on Nietzsche and African American thought, and writing a book on Nietzsche's "worthy opponents," Socrates and Wagner. Like Kline, also a Stanford alumnus, Scott is a native Chicagoan.

POP QUIZ

Is the following sentence true, or is it false?

“The sentence you are now reading is false.”

(This is a version of the Liar Paradox. Both answers turn out to be impossible.)

Faculty Grants and Awards

David Ingram and **Jennifer Parks** have received fellowships from CURL (the Center for Urban Research and Learning) for the Spring 2001 semester to study social and ethical issues related to disabilities and prepare a special graduate seminar for next fall.

David Ozar, **Ardis Collins**, and **Julie Ward** have received research leaves for 2001–02 for projects on medical ethics,

Hegel, and ancient philosophy, respectively. **Paul Abela** and **Blake Dutton** have been awarded research stipends to work respectively on Kant and on medieval philosophy next summer .

Victoria Wike has received funding from the Office of Education's IPLP program (Illinois Professional Learners Partnership) to develop a course "Ethics for Teachers." It will be offered next fall in

conjunction with Loyola's School of Education, and will be a central component in an IPLP project for instituting reforms in teacher preparation programs.

Thomas Wren has received a seed grant of \$10,000 for a pilot project entitled "The da Vinci Program," for training philosophy graduate students to use computers for teaching and learning. The project began in January, 2001.

Avicenna claimed that he read Aristotle's *Metaphysics* 40 times without understanding it.

(Actually, many have done *that* in far fewer times.)

Sixteen Credits Short

The philosophy department's friend and benefactor, Dr. John F. Grant, passed away April 10, 2000. He studied philosophy as a pre-med student at Loyola from 1937–40, and eventually received his M.D. from Loyola's Stritch School of Medicine. Because his undergraduate education was interrupted by World War II, he never received a

bachelor's degree (he was just 16 credits short), but always regarded the philosophical part of his undergraduate training as crucial to his long and successful career as a surgeon in Sandusky, Ohio.

"With all of the developments in medicine and science, especially in genetics, I foresee a tremendous need in the field for ethical think-

ing," Grant said when he made his half-million dollar gift to the Department of Philosophy. "This is a burgeoning field and I thought the university could use a little help to address this educational need." A home page has been set up in his honor on the department website at www.luc.edu/depts/philosophy/john-grant.htm.



John F. Grant, M.D.

Where Are They Now?

Thomas Sheehan (retired in 1999) is now living with his wife Diana and their children in Palo Alto, where he teaches in Stanford University's Department of Religious Studies. **Richard Westley** (ret. 1998) and his wife Ethel still reside a few blocks from the Lake Shore Campus. Dick continues to teach at Loyola and lectures extensively on numerous topics. He is now working on a book about

changes in the Catholic faith. **Frank Catania** (ret. 1998) also lives a few miles from the Lake Shore Campus. He spent a post-retirement semester in Italy with his wife Zelda, teaching at Loyola's Rome Center. Frank teaches a special epistemology course to graduate nursing students, for which he is now writing a textbook. **Suzanne Cunningham** (ret. 1997) commutes with husband George Dickie

between Florida and their Edgewater home, and drops by the department regularly. This year Sue published a book entitled *What is a Mind?* **Peter Maxwell** (ret. 1996) and Carron are still in the Chicago area; he sometimes teaches a course on Aristotle or Kant. **Robert Barry** (ret. 1999) and Dottie have moved to Colorado. **Ben Llamzon** (ret. 1995) and Gloria are still in Evanston.



Alumni, this is your newsletter, too! Please write to us with your ideas, news, questions, memories, and other comments. If you wish, we'll also forward your information to the Alumni Relations office.

Remembering Our Mentors



Fr. Edward Maziarz

“He invited countless men and women of all ages to search for constructive ways to face the challenges of the secular culture and relate it to our religious beliefs.”

*“We see farther because we stand on the shoulders of giants.”
- John of Salisbury*

One of the most influential professors in the philosophy department from the mid-60s to the mid-80s, Edward Maziarz, C.P.P.S., passed away on August 2, 1997. Fr. Ed, as he was known to his friends, came to Loyola in 1967 from St. Joseph’s College in Indiana, where he had served as academic dean for nine years. Born in 1915, he joined the Missionaries of the Precious Blood congregation, was ordained a priest in 1940, and was a loyal albeit often critical member of that congregation throughout his life. Ed was lured to Loyola

in 1967 by Frank Catania, the new philosophy chairperson, to begin the complex process of moving into the philosophical mainstream, which was the principal agenda of most major Catholic philosophy departments during the years following Vatican II. He was the department’s first philosopher of science and mathematics, having published articles and books in those areas. Over the ensuing years - nearly two decades - he directed numerous theses on those topics as well as the university Honors Program. He also taught and published in other areas such as social philosophy, religion, and philosophical anthropology,

and was a mentor and friend to countless undergraduate as well as graduate students.

Friends and former students have assembled a scrapbook of anecdotes and other memorabilia to honor this friend and teacher who they said “invited countless men and women of all ages to search for constructive ways to face the challenges of the secular culture and relate it to our religious beliefs.”

Contact Sharon Barsotti at 630-834-7553 (cveritas@kqom.com).

(Future issues of the Newsletter will feature other popular mentors from the philosophy department.)

Philosophy Students Return to Ethics Bowl

Once again Loyola undergraduates will participate in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, to be held in Cincinnati on March 1, 2001. The Loyola team will be selected after a round of intramural “Loyola Bowls.” These events are directed by David Ozar, philosophy professor and director of the Center for Ethics, assisted by philosophy graduate students Carole Heath and Shannon Shea.

In the past six years Ozar has taken teams to several regional and national competitions, where they placed among the top six teams three years in a row (1997 to 1999). The 1998 team, which missed first place by one point out of 200, also represented Loyola in the

annual Loyola-Marymount business ethics competition, taking first place in a competition that included a number of MBA teams as well as undergraduates such as themselves.

The Ethics Bowl, which began as a local event in Chicago in 1996, is a good-natured competition combining features of the College Bowl television program and collegiate debate tournaments. Teams of three or four students reason their way through concrete moral cases, and their extemporaneous performances are scored by a panel of judges drawn from business and government as well as academia. Fast and logical thinking, with sensitiv-

ity to moral complexity, is what is judged rather than the “correctness” of the team’s answers to questions about issues such as whistleblowing or conflict of interest.

“We’re very proud of all our Ethics Bowl contestants,” Ozar said. “They trained rigorously for months for each competition to enhance their teamwork, open-mindedness, and reasoning skills.” Ozar added that contestants have gone on to prestigious schools of law and medicine, as well as to other graduate schools.

Alums willing to serve as judges for the Loyola Ethics Bowl should contact David Ozar at 773-508-8349, or at dozar@luc.edu.

Descartes is sitting in a bar, having a drink. The bartender asks him if he would like another. “I think not,” he says and vanishes in a puff of the Cartesian Cogito.

Virtual Reality in the Philosophy Department

For St. Thomas, “virtual” meant having the power to evoke awareness of God. But, that’s not quite how the word is used today in the philosophy department, where virtual reality is found in its seemingly ubiquitous computers.

The department has always been on the crest of the academic computing wave. In the late 70s, when the Lake Shore “data center” was next to the philosophy offices in Wilson Hall (where a parking structure now stands), philosophers were

the first Loyola faculty to use the mainframe for word processing. Activity increased in the 80s, when the National Endowment for the Humanities funded a project for computer-generated concordances and logic teachers developed instructional programs for their students. By the 90s every professor had an office PC, if only to access something called email, and Philosophy became the first department to design its own website on the main university

server.

That website is now the model for the rest of the university, especially since faculty webmasters Arnold vander Nat and Thomas Wren gave it a Java makeover for the new millennium. The website also hosts a special page that supplements stories featured in the Newsletter, as well as pages dedicated to alumni, special events, faculty biographies, and programmatic information. See us at www.luc.edu/depts/philosophy.

We're on
the Web at
[www.luc.edu/
depts/philosophy](http://www.luc.edu/depts/philosophy)

The Philosopher's Corner

Meaning, Mystery, and Life

by Adriaan Peperzak

As with such words as “mystery” and “God,” we cannot rid the word “meaning” of its indeterminacy. First, it does not indicate any particular thing. Meaning is not an object, a substance, a person, an angel, a god, a world, a totality, a spirit, or an entity. It is more like “something by means of which” things, persons, gods, the universe, and even God are worthwhile and “meaning-full.” A second aspect of meaning is that it corresponds to a deep but hidden impulse, an original feeling or desire that drives us on. In certain moments of our lives we are forced into an awareness that life ultimately is not worth living unless it is *meaningful*. For the great philosophers this awareness was constant, and still shines often brilliantly through their writings. A third attribute of meaning is that it is essentially obscure and hidden. It cannot be grasped or seen, but only sensed or felt. When meaning is represented as a sharply delineated concept or judgment, we should be suspicious of its apparent neatness. It is precisely in its hiddenness and obscurity that meaning is experienced as what is the most real, actual, and active. It holds life in tension as that which in the end (and from the beginning) is really at stake.

Perhaps, then, I should capitalize “Meaning” to stress that it is neither a thing nor a puzzle, but rather a secret or even a mystery. Philosophy is an intellectual and heartfelt recognition of Meaning, even though Meaning itself remains mysterious. This recognition is both rigorous and thus intellectually responsible and interwoven with personal experiences that it tests for genuineness and depth. Thus philosophical thinking takes on the character of a quest, an adventure, an experiment.

responsible and interwoven with personal experiences that it tests for genuineness and depth. Thus philosophical thinking takes on the character of a quest, approaching this mystery by tracking other aspects of reality that reflect its radiance. In this way, philosophical thinking about Meaning proceeds by being concerned for many other matters—questions, desires, aspirations, phenomena, resistances, and oppositions—that point or *refer* to it. Meaning is not an object that we can reach out and possess whole and entire. Although not a thing, it is a “something” that is continually present to us in a specific, mysterious but real relationship with all other realities (animals and persons, nature and culture, history and eternity) when we are engaged with them—for example when we concentrate on them in our thinking. Philosophy, then, consists of tracing a network of references to Meaning. We succeed or fail depending on how we bring the world of persons and things into speech. The tone and style of our approach—the voice in which it is spoken, its earnestness that is not without irony, its careful and level-headed elation, a certain form of grateful patience, and so on—will reveal whether or not we have a genuine bond with Meaning. Even so, Meaning’s secrecy requires that our speech about it be indirect, since direct access does not seem to be available in human language.



Adriaan Peperzak has held the distinguished Arthur J. Schmitt Chair of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago since 1991.

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Inaugural Issue



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Philosophy Breakfast Series

On December 5, 2000, the Department of Philosophy inaugurated a series of "Philosophy Breakfasts," designed to bring together small groups of alumni and friends of the department for informal discussions of selected philosophical issues.

The first breakfast featured Loyola's well-known philosopher of religion, Paul Moser, who took up the question "Why Isn't God Obvious?"

The breakfasts will take place every few months at the Water Tower Campus. The time frame stretches from 7:30-9:30 AM to accommodate those who must be in their offices at nine and those

who cannot get into the loop before eight (enabling participants to come late or leave early).

The next breakfast date is **Thursday, March 15, 2001**, in the Presidents' Room on the 2nd floor of Marquette Center, 820 N. Rush. A discussion of "The Art of Living" will be led by two of our new faculty, Jack Kline and Jacqueline Scott.

To make reservations (strongly encouraged) or to get more information, call 773-508-2291. You can also visit the breakfast website, www.luc.edu/depts/philosophy/breakfast, where the discussion topic is previewed.

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