Hello everyone and welcome to the inaugural issue of our new Department Newsletter!

Why a newsletter? It is because we worked with you for four or more years, took an interest in you and your education, and hate seeing those relationships severed by a graduation date. We would like to stay connected, learn about your life beyond Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), share developments in our department you might have missed out on, and extend an offer to be available to you beyond the classroom. We have therefore decided to launch a bi-annual newsletter that should help us to accomplish these goals; so expect to find a fall and a spring edition to arrive in your mailbox unless we settle for other means of delivery (maybe a Facebook page?).

Our newsletter will have a simple layout. On its first page the department chairperson will keep you abreast of recent developments in the department, while the second page will highlight faculty projects. A third page then features alumni news, while the fourth one offers random philosophy news. A double-sided insert in the middle will critically engage you with a selected topic in philosophy or religious study. We hope you come like our newsletter! (In this first issue, however, we use page two and the insert for our current faculty to briefly introduce themselves to you; a future issue will then contain a little department history.)

To make this a meaningful endeavor for all involved, we need your opinions. So, please, help us with our efforts and send me an e-mail at <buldtb@ipfw.edu>. Many thanks in advance!

As we shall mention recent developments in the department and introduce faculty and their projects in more detail in editions to come, I can be brief today; so here is where the department stands right now.

We currently have a total of nineteen part- and full-time faculty; the most recent additions were Joyce Lazier and Ioan Muntean (fall 2009 and 2010 resp.) as limited-term lecturer and Abe Schwab (fall 2010) as a new tenure-track faculty who will help us building expertise in the area of applied ethics. A new major in philosophy will become effective fall 2011. We call it “Philosophy Plus Two” (PP2), as it encourages our current students to pursue philosophy in a contextual and transdisciplinary spirit—in line with our new mission statement that stresses the same features—where credit hours outside philosophy proper can count towards their major. For those who graduated a longer time ago, I should also mention that we have had for years now a minor in religious studies, a very popular one! Since I joined my colleagues in 2006 our faculty have published a total of seven books, 40 plus refereed articles and book chapters, made more than 50 presentations at national and international conferences, and (co-) organized eight conferences ourselves, three of which were held on the IPFW campus. During the same time we have created more than 20 new courses and are delighted to have a re-invigorated student club due to the efforts of its past and current student officers. I should also mention that we have tripled our graduation rate! All in all we can certainly be a little bit proud, although we understand that much needs to be done. Preparing our students for a changing world means we have to change as well!

Enjoy now reading through the rest of the newsletter, stay tuned for more, and let us know what you think.

All our best and yours in discourse,

(Bernd Buldt, Professor and Chair)
Rene Albright (2008–): I joined the Department as a high school teacher at South Side. We always had one epistemology class on our books as part of the “International Baccalaureate” South Side offers, but I’m delighted to be now able to teach two “real” philosophy classes—“Introduction to Philosophy” and “Ethics”—that my students can take for college credit as part of IPFW’s school-based program.

William Bruening (1969–): I am in the third year of a five year voluntary early retirement program and teach two courses in the fall semester. I am still involved in the health care community serving as guardian of the person and property for one nursing home resident and power of attorney for another nursing home resident. I am also a member of the Ethics Committee for Hospice Home. My most recent publications include two e-notes in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Bernd Buldt (2006–): I am currently working on my missing pieces for Paul Bernays’ Selected Works in Logic and the Philosophy of Mathematics, waiting to hear back from the editors of the new Kant Lexikon (with de Gruyter) for which I submitted ten articles earlier this year, and am thinking a lot about assessment recently. I loved reading all books in the The Ranger’s Apprentice series with my boys and am very excited every time I find another Furtwängler vintage recording for just two bucks at the local “half price books” store.

Johnathan Decker (2002–): My areas of interest and competency are philosophy and religion, especially ethics (theoretical and applied); metaphysics; epistemology; critical thinking; religion and culture; Biblical languages; theology (historical and applied); African traditional philosophy and religion; philosophy of religion; Islam and Christianity; and cults and ‘isms.


Jeff Governale (2006–): I’m currently working on metaphysical and epistemological issues as well as questions about the unity of
Interview with Nathaniel “Nate” Hubley, BA Philosophy and History (2006)

During his years at IPFW Nate made quite an impression: an honors program medallion recipient, a Wither’s Scholarship recipient two years in a row, student body vice president, IPFW Ambassador from 2004 to 2006, and the IPFW Homecoming King in 2006. When I caught up with him in September 2010 Nate was happy to recall his days at IPFW and the value of his philosophy degree in getting him to where he is now. Recently married (in 2009 to Christina, a fellow lawyer in a different practice) and with a first child due in April, sitting at his desk across from me in his plush office at 110 W. Berry Street in Fort Wayne, Nate looked every bit like a slightly heavier version of the eager student who took my symbolic logic course just a few years back.

KL: You are an attorney for?
Nate: The Murphy Law Group
KL: And in which area and what type of law do you specialize?
Nate: Defense litigation, primarily worker’s compensation claims, we represent businesses and employers. I primarily do that and some medical malpractice stuff and general defense litigation.
KL: And how many are in your practice?
Nate: I’d say probably about ten attorneys
KL: What classes did you take in philosophy?
Nate: I took obviously all the prerequisites and the standard philosophy courses, logic with you, a lot of courses with Dr. Moore for whom I did an honor’s presentation.
KL: Did they help prepare you for your profession?
Nate: As far as preparing me for law school and practicing the legal profession I do have to say that the classes I took that were philosophy, including my logic and the other philosophy courses, ultimately helped prepare me. If you look at getting into law school, they’re testing your analytic abilities and, specifically on LSAT, one big thing is the logic games, so taking logic and things like that definitely helped me get into where I am now.
KL: So you think if somebody is intending to go to law school and to do well on the LSAT, a course or two in logic or other philosophy would be helpful?
Nate: I think philosophy is an ideal subject to major in if you’re planning on going to law school just because of the fact that it’s really geared towards the analytical process, to developing that. Then again, with the courses I took at IPFW, they were challenging, the reading comprehension was intensive; so, like the practice of law, you were presented with a large amount of reading material and you’re forced to go through it and become proficient at reading comprehension and being able to boil down to the nitty-gritty. I think the courses I took in philosophy were right on that path and really did help me going into law school where you get assigned this massive amount of reading and so it was really beneficial to me.
KL: So it taught you to work hard and absorb a lot of material in a short amount of time?
Nate: Yeah, it was nothing new, I felt that I was pretty prepared for it; it was like I’ve gone through all these classics with my philosophy professors at IPFW and so it wasn’t all that intimidating. It taught me how to approach it.
KL: Dropping a 200 page brief in front of you was no big deal after a chapter or two of Hegel, huh?
Nate: There you go!

(Interview by Ken Long, 09/13/2010)
Facility Highlights

Jared Lindahl (2010–11): I was recently hired as a visiting assistant professor of religious studies to teach an array of courses on Asian religious traditions, especially Buddhism. I recently completed my Ph.D. at the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a dissertation on the significance of light in the contemplative paths of Tibetan Buddhism and Greek Christianity.

Kenneth Long (1981–): I teach critical thinking, logic, and philosophy of science. My main research area in the philosophy of science concerns the issue of scientific realism, the extent to which a commitment to an empirically successful scientific theory requires a corresponding commitment to the existence of the theoretical unobservable entities posited by the theory. My wife Lisa and I live with three dogs and two cats. My hobbies include running and playing jazz guitar.

Sheila McGarry Bruening (1976–): For years I keep teaching one or two evening classes for the department when I’m done with my highschool classes at Northside. Besides “Ethics” and “Intro to Philosophy” I love teaching classes on feminism which are usually cross-listed with women’s studies.

Duston Moore (2002–): I continue to be interested in using Whitehead’s metaphysics to refine Critical Theory’s search for a revolutionary agent. With the understanding that education is essential in developing a subversive sensibility, I will become the Director of General Education at IPFW in 2011. I’m also responsible for supervising the International Process Network’s “Young Process Scholar...
Essay Contest.” The winner will be recognized at the 2011 IPN Meeting in Tokyo, Japan.

Ioan Muntean (2010–): In July, I presented several papers at the British Society for the Philosophy of Science meeting and the Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association (Dublin, Ireland). After relocating from the UK, I presented in November a paper at the Philosophy of Science Association meeting (Montreal) on explanation in string theory. I am currently revising a paper on the metaphysics and philosophy of physics to appear in the European Journal for Philosophy of Science and another paper on numerical simulations and scientific discovery.

Erik S. Ohlander (2004–): I am on sabbatical this year and work primarily on a monograph—tentatively entitled The Sufis of Mecca: Mysticism and Transregionality in the Later Medieval Islamic World—in which I pursue questions related to the social, cultural, and institutional histories attendant to the development, spread and diffusion of Sufism in the medieval Muslim world. When not engaged directly in “professor stuff,” I enjoy catching up on my reading; recent favorites have included Freud, Toynbee, Ortega y Gasset, Barthes, and—at the instance of my three-year-old—Brown’s (and Hurd’s) Goodnight Moon.

Abraham Schwab (2010–): I came to IPFW this fall as the “go-to guy” for applied ethics, have already established a relationship with Lutheran Hospital (Health Care Ethics Committee, Institutional Review Board), and will soon be reaching out to other health care providers and businesses throughout northeastern Indiana. I also continue my interdisciplinary work on the ethical, legal, and social issues of the human microbiome. My personal research project is the exploration of the intersection of the epistemic and the ethical; how do we know what we should do?

Michael Spath (2004–): I recently presented “Theology of the Land and American Civil Religion” in Bethlehem, and “Godless on Mount Sinai” in Milwaukee. I also led a “solidarity tour” to Israel and Palestine, as well as a retreat, “Spirituality in the Art of Munch, Rembrandt, Rodin, Warhol, and O’Keeffe. I direct the Indiana Center for Middle East Peace and am Vice President of Fort Wayne Urban League. I recently became a first time grandfather.

Kathy Squadrito (1973–): I recently concentrated on just teaching and put a lot of effort into revamping my classes on “Animal Rights” and “Environmental Ethics” and keeping them up-to-date. Much as I enjoy being a college professor, I look forward to retiring soon.

Jeffrey Strayer (1998–): I teach business ethics and the philosophy of art. I am currently at work on Haecceities. This volume follows my Subjects and Objects (Brill, 2007). I am also an artist producing works of art in which limits of abstraction in art are determined. As Haecceities builds on the foundations of Subjects and Objects, it pertains to these artworks, and issues of artistic, philosophical, and aesthetic importance that they raise.
Join our Department’s student “Phi-Club” on facebook. Log in to your facebook account, search for “Phi-Club IPFW” and connect!

Puzzle Competition
Have you figured out what important thinker makes up the water mark sign on the front page? The first three correct solutions that reach our Department via phone (260) 481-6366, fax (260) 481-6367, or e-mail (hoiled@ipfw.edu) win a book!