Check it out! IU Art Museum receives unique collection

We are absolutely delighted that the IU Art Museum has received a splendid collection of about two dozen scientific instruments dating from the late 16th century onward, a gift from Laura and Raymond Wiegus. The photos in this newsletter and on our website give a sense of the quality, outstanding craftsmanship, and unbelievable conditions of these artifacts, which in some cases have come down to us in their original boxes. Make sure to arrange a visit to the Art Museum to see them in person!


See more photos on page 2 and online at www.indiana.edu/~hpscdept

CHAIR’S CORNER

Keeping up the connections

Many of you have taken part in the celebrations and events in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. For those who were unable to attend, our web page features a selection of photographs and some of the texts of the contributions by our alumni, including Mary Domski, MA’02, PhD’03; Alice Dreger, MA’93, PhD’95; and Melinda Fagan, MA’05, PhD’07.

The best part of a year has gone by since our 50th anniversary celebrations, and we are already making plans for future reunions and celebrations in Bloomington and elsewhere. At Montreal we had our first History of Science Society–Philosophy of Science Association alumni and friends reunion, which saw many of you attend. We are planning similar informal events at the HSS annual meeting in Cleveland later this year and at the HSS–PSA joint meeting in San Diego in 2012.

There have been substantial changes to our web page, involving the general layout, the addition of our areas of strength (under “areas of study”), and a much improved “events and news” section. The change alumni and friends may find most interesting and relevant to them, however, is the addition to our alumni page of the list of all MA recipients: we very much hope that you will find it easier to get in touch with each other and, of course, we in the department are happy and proud to shine of the reflected light coming from your names on our web page! I would like to thank Timothy Blackwood, MA’68, for having set in motion the process that led to this important and overdue change. If you have any addition or correction to suggest, please let us know.

Our triangular exchange involving the Max-Planck-Institut (MPI) for the History of Science in Berlin and the Collins Living-Learning Center here at IU is entering its third year. After Christina Brandt, working on cloning, and Jochen Büttner, working on Galileo and Renaissance mechanics, we are getting ready to welcome Susanne Bauer, who will join the department in the fall. Bauer will work on “Biomedicine and Nuclear Science During the Cold War.” On our side, fourth-year PhD student Scott Hyslop, MA’10, has spent the spring semester of the current year at the MPI in Berlin working on 17th-century mechanics and especially the intersection among mathematical, physical, and philosophical themes in the problem of collision. The next student from our department to visit the MPI is Tawrin Baker, who will work on the problem of color in the Renaissance between chemistry and medicine.

Our Jubilee Fund to help recruit and support graduate students has broken the ice with several donations from alumni, current faculty, and emeriti. To make life easier for all those who wish to make a donation, we have created a new give now button on our website. Please remember that all donations, whether small or large, will make a difference to our ability to make competitive offers and continue recruiting high-quality graduate students.

In just a few months several colleagues have received impressive awards and recognitions for their work: Elisabeth Lloyd’s book The Case of the Female Organs: Bins in the Science of Evolution won the Women’s Caucus Prize for the best essay/book in “Feminist philosophy of science” in the biennial meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association in Montreal, Canada, in November 2010. The Discovery Channel interviewed Lloyd (continued on page 3)
More from the Wielgus collection


SPOTLIGHT

Major publications

Major publications continue to be a mark of department life.

- Ed Grant
  The Nature of Natural Philosophy in the Late Middle Ages (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2010).

- Amit Hagar
  The Complexity of Noise: A Philosophical Outlook on Quantum Error Correction (San Rafael, Calif.: Morgan and Claypool Publishers, 2010).

- Nico Bertoloni Meli


CLASS NOTES

1960s

Mary E. Gindhart, MA'67, writes, "I retired from my work as a program coordinator in 2002. Since then I have been a non-governmental organization observer at the United Nations for The Grill, an international women's movement committed to spiritual search, social transformation, global solidarity, and ecological sustainability. I have especially followed the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, which meets every March in New York. I moved to Pilgrim Place, a senior living community in Claremont, Calif., in June, and I am active in peace and justice efforts locally, nationally, and internationally."

1970s

Omaha, Neb., poet and playwright Paul Dickey, MA'75, is the author of They Say This Is How Death Came Into the World, published in 2011 by Mayapple Press of Bay City, Mich. In the 1970s, Dickey studied in the creative writing program at Wichita State University and his poetry appeared in Nimrod (University of Tulsa), Karaman (Eastern Illinois University), Quarter (Texas A&M University), and Kansas Quarterly (Kansas State University). He relocated from Wichita, Kan., to Omaha in 1986 and worked for Mutual of Omaha and Ameritrade Holding Inc. He is now retired from his career in data processing and management. In addition to writing, Dickey teaches philosophy at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, where he is a co-editor of MCC's student literary magazine, The Metropolitan. After taking a hiatus from publishing his work, Dickey started to do so again in 2003. His poetry and fiction has now appeared in journals such as Rattle, Mid-American Review, Our Stories, Sentence: A Journal of Prose Poetry, Southern Poetry Review, Cider Press Review, Free Lancer, and Crab Orchard Review. In all, Dickey has appeared in close to 100 literary journals, and a chapbook, What Wisconsin Told, was published in 2006. In the last few years, Dickey has developed an interest in theatre and has written several one-act plays and one full-length, The Good News According to St. Dude. He is married and has three adult children.

1980s

David A. Grandy, MA'90, PhD'94, is the author of Everyday Quantum Reality, published in Sept. 2010 by Indiana University Press. The book shows that, rather than being an area of science that describes a difficult, complex, and abstract reality, quantum puzzles can be found in the backyard of everyday experience. Grandy is professor of philosophy at Brigham Young University and is also the author of The Speed of Light: Leo Szilard: Science as a Mode of Being; and co-author of Magic, Mystery, and Science. He lives in Orem, Utah.

To submit information: Use the form on the back page, write to the IU Alumni Association at 1000 E. 17th St., Bloomington, IN 47408, or visit the IUAA on the Web: alumni.indiana.edu/classnotes.

Chair's corner

(continued from front)

for a documentary on her book.

On Oct. 12 Bill Newman was featured in the "Science Times" section of the New York Times; the article by Natalie Angier, "Moonlighting as a Conjuror of Chemicals," provides a fascinating account of Newman's work on the roots of Newton's pursuit of alchemical transmutation.

Jutta Schickore received a fellowship from the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. She will spend the fall semester there completing her book on snake poison.

Colin Allen was named Provost's Professor. The professorship recognizes faculty who have achieved local, national, and international distinction in both teaching and research, and who display fruitful interactions between the two.

Anit Hagar received the prestigious and highly competitive Outstanding Junior Faculty Award, given every year by Indiana University to the very best junior faculty. The award recognizes outstanding achievements not only in research but also in teaching and service and singles out junior faculty members who show promise of achieving great distinction as scholars. We are looking forward to another year of accomplishments by our graduate students and faculty. — Nico Bertolini Meli
This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of History and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to iualumni@indiana.edu.

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