

# The Philosopher

## Social Philosophy Club

### Special points of interest:

- Recap of the Fall Semester
- Plans for the Spring Semester
- Letter From The President
- Farewell to Graduating Philosophy Majors

### Inside this issue:

- Looking to the Future – Spring 2007 Pg. 2
- Grad School Workshop Pg. 2
- Philosophy Retreat at Raquette Lake Pg. 2
- 2006 Annual Conference, con't.. Pg. 3
- Letter From The President Pg. 3
- Philosophy Café Pg. 3
- Farewell to Graduating Philosophy Majors Pg. 4

### Social Philosophy Club Reinstated

Basically, this fall we worked on re-grouping and re-energizing after being deactivated last year. We have new leadership this year, and we are working hard to make the Philosophy Club an exciting and dynamic part of the Cortland community. The beginning part of the semester was mainly taken up with a great deal of organizational business – getting ourselves reinstated as an official club, re-vamping our Constitution, electing officers, and getting a budget in place. We held weekly meetings

where, in addition to more mundane business, we also found time to discuss a variety of interesting



Jason, Dave, Stephanie and Karin help out at the first Fall Open House  
Photo courtesy of Karin Howe

philosophical topics. Some of the topics that were discussed at this semester's meetings were: War, Do Our Thoughts

Have an Impact on the World Around Us?, and various discussions of on-campus events that club members attended, such as the Fundamentally Speaking series. We also created a website for the club, and a listserv for the purposes of online discussions of club business and philosophical topics. We have big plans for the spring semester – check out the articles in the next few pages to find out more!

~ Karin Howe

### 2006 Annual Conference of the CNY Peace Studies Consortium

The 2006 Annual Conference of the CNY Peace Studies Consortium took place at SUNY Cortland on November 18, 2006 and involved many interesting speakers, including several members of the Cortland

faculty and student body. There was "food for thought" in many of the talks, on a variety of subjects. It was an excellent opportunity to interact and enter into a discussion with scholars and activists from

different backgrounds, but all with a common purpose – to promote peace and lessen the effects of violence in the world.

... story continued on pg.3

## Looking to the Future – Spring 2007

We plan to start off the Spring semester with a BANG!!, so please keep in touch over the break and help us plan our activities for next semester. We hope to utilize the listserv to plan out a number of events so that we can keep up the momentum we have built over the Fall semester and realize our very ambitious plans!

Some of the things that we are planning for the Spring semester:

- Philosophy Retreat at Racquette Lake
- Philosophy Café
- Grad School Workshop
- Philosophy in the Schools

- Bi-semester Newsletter

- Fundraisers

Read more about some of these plans in more detail in the articles in this newsletter, and on our website.

~ Karin Howe



## Get the 411 on Grad Schools at the Grad School Workshop!

We are looking to organize a Grad School Workshop for this spring, specifically geared toward philosophy majors/minors who are applying to philosophy grad programs in the fall, but much of the information will also be of general use to the general student body as well. We are envisioning this as a series of informal talks, with faculty and students who have gone through this process giving advice and answering questions from students on a variety of topics.

## Grad School Workshop

Some possible topics include:

- Writing your statement of purpose
- Writing your CV
- Guidance on writing samples
- Questions to ask when visiting (Get the 411 on Grad Schools)
- Filling out applications

- Where/when to apply
- GREs

Additionally, we would like to get representatives from nearby philosophy grad programs to come and do informal informational sessions on their various programs.

~ Karin Howe

## Philosophy Retreat at Raquette Lake

The Philosophy Club and Social Philosophy Department are planning a Philosophy Retreat at Raquette Lake in the spring. Join us there for fun, fellowship, and most of all,

philosophy!! We are planning to organize our discussions for the weekend around a central topic of interest – we will be planning this over winter break so be sure to

stay tuned to our listserv discussions! Event is open to all active club members and Philosophy Department faculty.

~ Karin Howe



Alters Lodge at Raquette Lake  
Photo courtesy of SUNY Cortland

## 2006 Annual Conference, c o n ' t .

Con't. from pg. 1...

This was the first time that the conference was hosted by the Social Philosophy Department at SUNY Cortland. Previous conferences of the Peace Consortium were hosted by other nearby colleges and universities such as Le Moyne College, Syracuse University and Cornell University.

The Philosophy Club provided help to the Philosophy Department in running the conference, both by working to publicize the conference around campus before the event and by helping out at the registration table during the conference.

The Philosophy Club was also represented at the conference via the following student presenters:

- Meaghan Connaire: "Irish-American Feminism: Studying the Violent Past While Working for a Peaceful Future"
- Karin Howe: "Capital Punishment and Violence"
- Katy Hudy: "Harry Potter and the Myth of Redemptive Violence"
- Meaghan Connaire and Chad Daniels, as a part of the panel discussion on: "Reading war: media analysis of mainstream war news coverage"

~ Karin Howe



## L e t t e r F r o m t h e P r e s i d e n t

The semester is over?



The semester is over!

As some of you may know, we worked very hard to get the Social Philosophy Club reinstated with SGA. Thank you to everyone who helped – I never

could have done it on my own.

We have many projects planned for next semester: a newsletter with faculty and student short papers, creating a program to take philosophy into the public schools (elementary and secondary), and some really cool fundraisers. Think Monty Python argument skit, only with philosophical concepts instead...

Tell your friends about philosophy club and remember, there is no high, cloudy mountain-top we all sit upon. We all use philosophy every day, whether we know it or not. There are many issues to tackle and fun to be had. You wouldn't want to miss out on that, would you?

~Stephanie VanHamlin

“We all use philosophy every day, whether we know it or not.”

## P h i l o s o p h y C a f é

Every month, we plan hold a Philosophy Café that is open to students and faculty, as well as members of the Cortland community. It's a forum for us to come together and engage in a dialogue about issues of interest, in a comfortable and social way. We will be

inviting speakers to come and present various philosophical topics, to be followed by a discussion period. Coffee and other refreshments will be served.

Some of the topics and speakers we have planned for next semester:

- Dr. Kathy Russell, will speak on her sabbatical research in Cuba last year.

- Cortland alumni Karin Howe, will speak on the genocide in Darfur

~ Karin Howe



Join us!







# SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY CLUB

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Old Main, SUNY Cortland  
Photo courtesy of SUNY Cortland

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Stephanie VanHamlin	Jessica Garcia	Katie Hudy	Jason Crouch
			

## Farewell to Graduating Philosophy Majors

While we are sad to see them go, we are pleased to announce the graduation of two philosophy majors: Karin Howe and David Warner. Congratulations! Both of these students have contributed much to our classes and the department at large. They are approaching philosophy from different directions, which is what makes our field so dynamic.

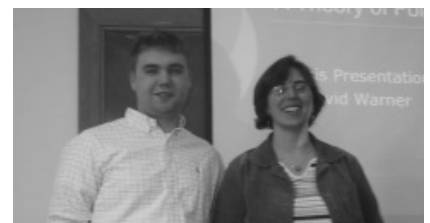
Karin is a non-traditional student who returned to college after ten years of real-world education. Her focus is on logic, specifically teaching logic to children, which will be the topic of her senior thesis presentation. She is still exploring graduate schools and plans to one day – imagine this – teach logic!

David plans to move to Boston to pursue work in the private sector, and will be enrolling in law school in the fall of 2008 to pursue a career in environmental or labor law. His senior thesis is on social contract theory. If you have any questions about law school or social contract theory, feel free to contact David at [david.james.warner.iv@gmail.com](mailto:david.james.warner.iv@gmail.com).

I have had the pleasure of taking classes with both Karin and David. Their experience and love of philosophy have enriched each class. I am happy to have had the chance to meet both of them and I, along with the entire Social Philosophy department, wish them the best of luck! Thank you so much for everything you have

given us, Karin and David. You will be missed.

~ Stephanie VanHamlin



Karin and David at their defense

Photo courtesy of Karin Howe