A Year of Dynamic Growth

Following the transition to Wiley-Blackwell, 2010 saw *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* expand both its operations and its professional profile.

One measure of the health of an academic journal is the number of unsolicited manuscripts it receives. So I’m pleased to report that from 2009 to 2010 the number of submitted manuscripts increased by more than 34%. Thanks to our new online submissions and review system, the editorial office was able to keep pace with this substantial increase. To take just one example of the SJP’s improved efficiency, for those submissions sent out for external review, the average length of time between when an article is submitted and when its author is notified of our verdict decreased by more than three weeks (from 58 days to 34 days): an improvement of over 41%.

In addition, the SJP has augmented its professional profile by participating in a host of new partnerships and initiatives. We have renewed our relationship with the Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP) (p. 2), and beginning this year the recipient of the Griffith Award for Best Philosophy Paper will see his or her article appear in our pages. This year’s Spindel Supplement will include the winning essay of the first Spindel Prize Essay for Emerging Scholars in Philosophy (p. 2). And the December 2011 (49.4) issue will feature Mark Timmons’s inaugural Nancy Simco Lecture (p. 2). The exposure that accompanies all this activity positions the SJP well for an exciting celebration of our 50-year anniversary in 2012 (p. 2).

But for all that, the SJP still needs your support. Although Wiley-Blackwell is aggressively marketing the journal both at professional conferences and online (p. 2), research universities and liberal arts colleges alike are seizing every opportunity to cut back on academic journal subscriptions. If your institution is not already a subscriber, please contact the acquisitions librarian to recommend adding the SJP. And if your library is looking for subscriptions to cut, I hope you’ll find in these pages more than enough reasons to convince them to look elsewhere.
Timmons Delivers Inaugural Simco Lecture

Mark Timmons (University of Arizona) delivered the inaugural Nancy Simco Lecture at the University of Memphis on April 8, 2011. The title of Timmons’s lecture was “The Significance of Gratitude in Kant’s Ethics.” This article will appear in the December issue of the SJP.

SJP and SSPP Collaboration

The SJP has recently revived its relationship with the Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology (SSPP). Recipients of the Richard M. Griffith Memorial Award for Best Philosophy Paper presented at the SSPP’s annual meetings will be invited to submit their essays for publication in the SJP.

This year’s Griffith Award winner was Corey Maley (Princeton University). Corey’s paper, “Toward Clarifying Guilt and Shame,” will appear in an upcoming issue of the SJP.

Alumnus Named Co-Editor of JFFP

University of Memphis philosophy PhD alumnus John Drabinski (Amherst College) and Scott Davidson (Oklahoma City University) have been named co-editors of the recently revamped Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy (JFFP). Led by an international editorial board comprised of leading scholars in the field and published by the University of Pittsburgh Press, the JFFP has recently published its inaugural issue in an electronic, open-access format.

Founded in 1989 by Colette Michael as the Bulletin de la Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française and later published as the Journal of French Philosophy, the JFFP is devoted to the study of French and francophone thought. In addition to peer-reviewed articles and book reviews (written in English and French), the JFFP also publishes interdisciplinary extensions and explorations of French and francophone thought. Issues address a diverse range of francophone thinkers, including special issue sections on Swiss filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard, Martiniquian theorist Frantz Fanon, Tunisian intellectual Albert Memmi, and the former Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba. The JFFP operates in coordination with The Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française (SAPLF), whose current director is Pleshette DeArmitt, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Memphis. Visit www.jffp.org for more details.

Spindel Prize for Emerging Scholar

Congratulations to Joshua May (University of California, Santa Barbara), winner of the first Spindel Prize for Emerging Scholars in Philosophy. In addition to receiving a $250 award, Josh presented his paper, “Egoism, Empathy, and Self–Other Merging” in a special session at the Spindel Conference. His paper will appear in the 2011 Spindel Supplement.

Getting the Word Out

Word of the SJP’s renaissance is out. An ad ran on Leiter Reports for several months in the fall of 2010.

And our new Academia.edu page is one more way to keep up with SJP news and activities:
http://journals.academia.edu/SouthernJournalOfPhilosophy

SJP Celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2012

2012 will mark the SJP’s 50th anniversary. In celebration of this milestone, each of the quarterly issues in volume 50 will be a special issue dedicated to a particular topic from the areas in which we publish (analytic philosophy, continental philosophy, and history of philosophy) and guest-edited by a distinguished scholar in that field. Here’s a preview:

50.1: Epistemic Coherentism, ed. Ted Poston


50.3: Newton and Newtonianism, ed. Mary Domski
CONTRIBUTORS: Hylarie Kochiras and Peter Machamer, Mary Domski, Andrew Janiak, Eric Schliesser, Marius Stan, Michael Friedman, Janet Folina

50.4: Relativism about Value, eds. Max Kölbl and Dan Zeman
CONTRIBUTORS: Andy Egan, Aaron Meskin and Carl Baker, Bent Brogaard, Ragnar Francen, Iris Einheuser, Isidora Stojanovic, Stanley Chen, Folke Tersman, Karl Schafer
Debes traces philosophical interest in empathy at least as far back as Plato. In the Republic, we find Socrates engaged in a discussion of moral education. There he expresses deep misgivings about our capacity to adopt the emotions of others. But as Debes notes in his introduction to the Supplement, "what Socrates found to be merely suspicious, however, many after him have taken to be crucial for fully explaining, even justifying, our deepest moral convictions and values. This is especially true today, when ethics is witnessing one of the most widespread and sustained booms of research on the nature and effects of empathy." For a few days last fall, Memphis was the epicenter of this resurgent interest, and the fruits of the discussions had there can be found in the forthcoming Supplement.

So watch for the 2011 Spindel Supplement this fall! And be sure to check out past Spindel Supplements via the SJP website:

www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=SJP
Support The Southern Journal of Philosophy

Please consider supporting the SJP and the philosophical community at the University of Memphis by making a donation to one of the following funds:

Nancy Simco Speaker Series Fund
Professor Nancy Simco served as Editor of The Southern Journal of Philosophy for thirty-four years and as Chair of the Department of Philosophy for nineteen years. Upon her retirement, the faculty established a speaker series fund to honor her commitment to undergraduate and graduate education. This fund provides the resources to bring some of the most distinguished thinkers from this country and abroad to the University of Memphis.

Each Simco Lecture will be published in The Southern Journal of Philosophy.

To make a donation to either of these funds, please visit the following website:
http://www.memphis.edu/giving

Be sure to specify that your donation should be directed to either the Nancy Simco Speaker Series Fund or the Spindel Fund. Thank you for your support!