

# Smoke Signals



VOLUME 2

JUNE 2008

## Dr. Martha Nussbaum Delivers UCA Centennial Lecture

### Calendar of Events

August 21 - Fall 2008 semester classes begin

October 16-17 - Fall Break

December 13 - Winter Commencement

January 17 - Spring 2009 semester classes begin

March 21-29 - Spring Break

May 9 - Spring Commencement

In an era of profit-making and global citizenship, what will the future hold for liberal arts education? This question was addressed by UCA's Centennial Lecturer, Dr. Martha Nussbaum. The College of Liberal Arts hosted an evening with Dr. Nussbaum on 25 October 2007 in Ida Waldren Auditorium as part of UCA's 100-year anniversary. Her lecture was entitled, "The Assault on Liberal Education: Global Citizenship in an Era of Profit-Making."

Dr. Nussbaum is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, appointed in the Law School, the Department of Philosophy, and the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. She is also an associate in the Classics Department and Political

Science Department. She is the author of thirteen books and she holds thirty-two honorary degrees from universities around the world.

Her research and writing covers a broad range of subjects: philosophy and literature, ancient philosophy, liberal education, social and political issues and philosophy of law. Her book on liberal education, "Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Liberal Education," is widely regarded as the primer on educating for global citizenship in a diverse world. It won the Ness Book Award of the Association of American Colleges and Universities in 1998, and the Grawemeyer Award in Education in 2002.

A reception in McAlister Hall



**Dr. Martha Nussbaum**  
University of Chicago  
Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor

followed Dr. Nussbaum's lecture. In many ways, the event exemplified UCA's commitment to liberal arts education and critical thinking.

## Humanities Lecture Series Explores The Arkansas Jewish Experience

From Spanish and French territorial periods to the civil rights era, Jewish-Arkansans have played an instrumental role in shaping and defining Arkansas history. To explore this facet of Arkansas history, the UCA Departments of Philosophy & Religion and History teamed up to host the three-night Fall 2008 Humanities Lecture Series, *Into The Wilderness: Exploring Jewish Arkansas*.

The public lecture series featured three speakers in Dooyne Health

Sciences Auditorium from November 26 - 28. Rabbi Eugene Levy, Spiritual Leader of Congregation B'nai Israel, entertained and educated the first night's audience with his presentation, "From Classical Reform Judaism to 21st Century Reform Judaism in 20 Years."

Carolyn LeMaster, author of *A Corner of the Tapestry: A History of the Jewish Experience in Arkansas, 1820s to 1990s*, presented her groundbreaking historical research on Arkansas Jewish history in her lecture, "Threads of History: The Arkansas Jewish History Collection."

The third night's featured speaker was Arkansas Tech University Associate Professor of History, Dr. James Moses. Dr. Moses explored Jewish involvement in Arkansas' civil rights struggles in the presentation, "Southern Rabbis and Social Justice in the South: Rabbi Ira Sanders of Little Rock."

Funding for this event was made possible by the UCA College of Liberal Arts, UCA Foundation, Department of Philosophy and Religion, and Department of History.

## Faculty News

**Dr. Clayton Crockett** is the current editor of the online *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* ([www.jcrt.org](http://www.jcrt.org)) and author of *Religion and Violence In A Secular World: Toward A New Political Theology* (2006). In addition to being appointed Religious Studies Program Director and promoted to Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Dr. Crockett published his new book, *Interstices of the Sublime: Theology and Psychoanalytic Theory* (Fordham University Press, 2007).

**Dr. Jim Deitrick** was appointed Director of UCA's Humanities and World Cultures Institute, and promoted to Associate Professor of Religious Studies.

**Phillip Spivey** was promoted to Lecturer II of Philosophy and Religion.

### New Faculty

**Dr. Jesse Butler**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Oklahoma. His research and teaching interests include analytic philosophy, philosophy of mind, and logic.

**Dr. Jim Highland**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion, specializes in Ancient Greek and Early Medieval Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy, Aesthetics, Ethics and Islamic Philosophy.

**Dr. Jeffrey Williams**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, received his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Florida State University. Dr. Williams specializes in World Religions, History of Islam, and the Doctrine of Jihad.

**Tanya Jeffcoat** (ABD in Philosophy: Southern Illinois University) substituted for Dr. Dawn Jakubowski in Spring 2008, and will continue to teach philosophy courses in Fall 2008.

**Dr. Benjamin Rider** (Ph.D. in Philosophy: University of Texas, Austin) will join the UCA Department of Philosophy and Religion in Fall 2008. Dr. Rider's main research interest is ancient philosophy.

## Alumni Report

**Matthew Krepps '91** is the owner of Barefoot Yoga Studio in Little Rock.

**David Hawkey '96** is an associate attorney at James R. Wallace & Associates in Little Rock specializing in Civil and Criminal Litigation. He has also served as Prosecutor for the City of Little Rock.

**Graham Gordy '00** is a project/script developer who wrote the script for the independent film, "War Eagle," which was the Best Overall Film Winner at the 2008 Tupelo Film Festival. Graham Gordy's new film, "The Love Guru," opens nationwide on June 20, 2008.

**Brittany Gnau '05** completed her MA

degree in Philosophy in 2007, and is finishing a second MA degree in Comparative Literature at Brock University (Canada).

**Emily Simpson '05** is pursuing both JD and MPH degrees in Health Policy from Saint Louis University.

**Autumn Thompson '05** is a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of KS.

**Blake Vernon '06** received a graduate assistantship in the MA program in Philosophy at Northern Illinois University. After completing his MA degree, Blake plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Philosophy.

**Nick Simmons '06** is pursuing a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Kansas.

**Stuart Liles '06** was killed in Afghanistan. He served in the US Army's 101st Airborne Division, and his death was ruled non-combat related.

**Phillip Huddleston '08** will pursue a MA degree in English at UCA in Fall 2009.

**Michael Loudon '08** has been accepted into the MA program in Comparative Religion at Miami University (Ohio) for Fall 2008.

**Daniel Hall '08** will pursue a MA in Philosophy at the University of AR ( Fall 2008).

## Student Awards and Achievements

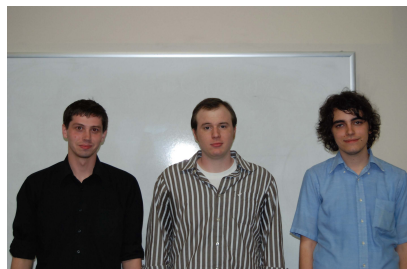
**Wesley Lovett** is the winner of the 2007/2008 PhiRe Essay Contest. He presented his essay, "Three Criticisms of Jean-Paul Sartre," as a panel session at the First Annual University of Central Arkansas Undergraduate Philosophy Conference on March 14. The two runners-up (**Michael Loudon** - "Emotionally Qualified: The Ontological Connection of the Self and the Other in Sartre" and **Phillip Huddleston** - "The Noumena Problem: From Kant to Lacan") also presented their essays during the panel session.

**Nathan McCune** received the 2007/2008 Outstanding Philosophy Student Award.

**Christy Devor** received the 2007/2008 Outstanding Religious Studies Student Award.

**Kristen Fox-Eason** was awarded the 2007/2008 Outstanding University Student, and was a UCA Honors College Graduate.

**Michael Loudon** has a paper that is scheduled to be published in the journal, *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* (Vol. 16, Issue 1) in January/February 2009. The paper will be a version of his essay that was submitted to the 2007/2008 PhiRe Essay Contest. Michael also received a teaching assistantship in the Department of Comparative Religion at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



**Third Annual 2007/2008 PhiRe Essay Contestants** (left to right): Michael Loudon, Wesley Lovett, and Phillip Huddleston

## PhiRe Film and Lecture Series Expands Horizons

For the past five years, the UCA Department of Philosophy and Religion has hosted a film series. Faculty lectures were added to the film series in 2007/2008 with great success. Three films and three lectures were held in Main and Harrin Halls. The films and lectures addressed important aspects of contemporary philosophical and religious issues. These events were only open to UCA students currently enrolled in philosophy and/or religious studies courses, faculty, and alumni.

Three films were shown and discussed in Fall 2007: *What The Bleep Do We Know?*, *The Mission*, and *Jesus Camp*. Two lectures were presented in conjunction with the films: Dr. Jacob Held's "Philosophy and Popular Culture," and Dr. Ron Novy's "Zombies and the Mind/Body Problem."

In Spring 2008, three films were viewed: *Fast, Cheap, and Out of Control*, *Everything is Illuminated*, and *Full Metal Jacket*. Three faculty lectures were presented in Harrin

Hall: Dr. Clayton Crockett's "The End of the World as We Know It: The Four Horsemen of the Secular Apocalypse," Dr. Jesse Butler's "How to Be Open-Minded Without Letting Your Brain Fall Out," and Dr. Gary Thiher's "Freedom Isn't Free: Determinism and Indeterminism."

All alumni are welcome to attend the PhiRe Film and Lecture Series. If you have any suggestions for films and/or lecture topics, then send your requests to Phillip Spivey at [pspivey@uca.edu](mailto:pspivey@uca.edu).

## First Annual UCA Undergraduate Philosophy Conference



PhiRe Club President Corey Rea presents a paper at the 2008 UCA Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

Phi Sigma Tau (Arkansas Gamma Chapter) and the UCA PhiRe Club hosted the First Annual University of Central Arkansas Undergraduate Philosophy Conference on March 14 in Harrin Hall.

The one-day conference involved undergraduate presenters from UCA, Ashland University, Hendrix College, and Missouri State University. Conference paper titles ranged from Lana Allen's (Hendrix) "The Underground Man As the Knight of Infinite Resignation" to Jeremy

Davis' (Missouri State University) "The Dangers of Clemency."

Conference keynote speaker, Dr. Cory F. Juhl, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin, has written on the foundations of induction and formal learning theory, and is currently working on naturalized theories of content. His papers have appeared in *Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophical Studies*, and the book *Reading Putnam* (Blackwell, 1994).

## PhiRe and Phi Sigma Tau Elects New Officers for 2007/2008

UCA's Phi Sigma Tau and its Philosophy and Religion Club (PhiRe) proved to be a dynamic and vital aspect of the Department of Philosophy and Religion in 2007/2008. New officers, an undergraduate philosophy conference, and an end-of-the-year picnic were on the slate of this year's events.

The 2007/2008 UCA PhiRe Club Officers are **Nathan McCune** - President, **Eric Wilson** - Vice-President, and **Shelli Mann** - Secretary. Phi Sigma Tau—with Herculean labors from **Allison Turner '08**—organized

the First Annual UCA Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, PhiRe organized a trip to the Mid-South Undergraduate Philosophy Conference held at the University of Memphis. The PhiRe Club celebrated another year of learning at a pot-luck picnic held at Dr. Charles Harvey's home. **Dr. Gary Thiher** was appointed as the 2008/2009 UCA PhiRe Club Faculty Advisor.

Phi Sigma Tau (Arkansas Gamma Chapter) elected new officers: **Caleb Norris** - President, **Shelli Mann** - Vice-President, **Nathan McCune** -

Treasurer, and **Joe Wilson** - Secretary. Founded in 1930, Phi Sigma Tau is the International Honors Society in Philosophy. UCA's Phi Sigma Tau Chapter was started by UCA Philosophy and Religious Studies major Zak Jones in Fall 2006. UCA Phi Sigma Tau is dedicated to acknowledging high quality undergraduate scholarship and research in philosophy.

The 2008/2009 UCA Phi Sigma Tau Faculty Advisor is **Dr. Jacob Held**.

## Message From The Chair

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**Dr. Charles Harvey**  
Professor of Philosophy  
and Chair of the  
UCA Department of  
Philosophy and Religion

Greetings once again graduates! As you can see from our newsletter, the department had another productive, active and exciting year. The majors in the department kept things hopping with an interdisciplinary seminar in the fall on "Creating Gender" featuring faculty speakers from philosophy, English and art history and by organizing and hosting the First Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in the spring. Faculty members were busy in other ways as well, publishing 1 book, 19 articles and giving 13 professional presentations – local, national and international. A number of our faculty members were promoted to new ranks in the professoriate and a number of our graduates are starting new, exciting careers. We were happy to have Dr. James Highland (Ph.D.: Southern Illinois University) with us this year on a one-year appointment, and Tanya Jeffcoat (ABD: SIU) substituting for Dr. Jakubowski in the spring. In the fall, Dr. Benjamin Rider (Ph.D.: University of Texas, Austin) will join us to become our specialist in ancient philosophy.

Please keep us informed about your selves (however many you may or may not have), feel free to attend some of our events, and pass this on to alumni whom we may have missed. This wishes you all the very best.

## Endowment Contribution and Alumni Contact Information

### Support Philosophy and Religious Studies at UCA!



If you make a contribution to the UCA Foundation (Buffalo Hall, UCA, Conway, 72035), then you can earmark your gift specifically for the Philosophy and Religion Endowment, or the Mehl Scholarship Fund (224 Harrin Hall). All donations are tax-deductible. We appreciate your support!

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**Endowment Contributions Support Faculty and Student Conference Travel, and Student Book Scholarships**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Graduated in:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:**

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**Tell Us What You Are Doing:**