



# The Society of Christian Philosophers



C. Stephen Evans, President • Kelly James Clark, Secretary/Treasurer • Spring 2000

## From the President

The founders of the Society of Christian Philosophers decided not to define either “Christian” or “philosopher” but rather allow anyone to join who is willing to describe herself or himself as both a philosopher and a Christian. I think time has shown the wisdom of this situation, in that it has allowed the SCP to function as a pluralistic organization. We have members who are Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant. Our members disagree about many theological issues and teach and function in a variety of settings. There is also diversity in philosophical interests, methodologies and views. The SCP functions well as a vehicle for common work as philosophers who share a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

This pluralistic character is not something to be taken for granted, however. It can only continue so long as nominating committees consciously work to see that the diversity of the membership is reflected in leadership positions. Fortunately, the level of activity of the SCP is very high. We have tremendous needs for program committees for the meetings in conjunction with the Divisions of the APA, for Regional Meetings, Outreach Committees, and other committees, including the Executive Committee. I encourage those who are serving on nominating committees to continue to nourish our diversity.

To increase participation, I would welcome nominations and expressions of interest from people who would like to serve the organization in various capacities. Feel free to suggest yourself or someone else, and please include a brief bio or cv if that is appropriate. Of course I cannot promise that all suggestions can be used, but I would like very much to have names of people interested in serving.

—C. Stephen Evans ([sevans@calvin.edu](mailto:sevans@calvin.edu))



## Executive Committee Minutes

The 2000 SCP Executive Committee met on April 7, 2000 in conjunction with the Pacific Division APA meetings in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The following is a summary of the minutes:

1. A motion was passed to express appreciation for the excellent work of William Wainwright, retiring editor of *Faith and Philosophy*, and Linda Zagzebski, retiring book review editor of *Faith and Philosophy*.
2. SCP has been approved as an “affiliated, related organization” by the AAR. The first SCP sessions will be held during the 2000 AAR meetings.
3. A motion was passed to express appreciation for the hard work of Michael Murray for his proposal on behalf of the Fund-raising Committee. The Executive Committee, with the President serving as liason, will advise the fund-raising committee about proceeding with fund-raising.
4. The proposal for selection of sites for regional conferences was approved:

*The Regional Meetings of the SCP should not be held at or subsidized by any private institution professing to be Christian while at the same time subscribing to a doctrinal position directly contradicting the ecumenical creeds accepted by all branches of the Christian Church, Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant, such as the Nicene Creed and the Chalcedonian Creed. The Executive Committee reserves the right to override the restriction under special circumstances.*

5. The proposal passed to return regional elections to the respective regions. Caleb Miller, Chair of the Committee on Regional Committees, will explore options for holding elections with the chairs of Regional Committees.
6. Two proposals were passed concerning the SCP Eastern Regional Meeting to be held in South Carolina in May, 2000 (which arrangements were made prior to the announcement of the boycott).
  - (a) By meeting in South Carolina, the Society of Christian Philosophers does not wish to endorse the raising of the Confederate flag and does not mean to suggest that we oppose the boycott.
  - (b) The Society of Christian Philosophers will observe the boycott in the future.

# The Morris Institute for Human Values

The Morris Institute for Human Values in Wilmington, NC is seeking to appoint one or more Speaking Fellows to assist in its mission of bringing ancient wisdom into modern life. They currently have four fellows and are looking for philosophers of any age who have a passion for bringing powerful ideas into the broader culture. Institute Fellowship is a status that brings with it occasional writing duties and speaking responsibilities to clients of the Institute. Fellows typically remain in their home institutions and travel to Morris Institute functions. They are seeking exceptional, practical philosophers with serious academic credentials who are lively, energetic, funny, and wise, and yet almost too humble to admit all this. Duties can involve speaking to large groups of business people or leading small discussions of top executives on retreat. Compensation for keynote speeches can range from one to five thousand dollars for an hour. Weekend retreats as a whole fall into the same range. Applicants must operate at the level of the best award

winning classroom teachers nationwide. Backgrounds in moral philosophy or history are helpful but not necessary. Presentation topics often include ethics, decision making, leadership, success, happiness, and aligned issues. To apply, send a letter of interest (maximum two pages) describing your desire to serve the institute and the nation as a public philosopher, a one page bio or abbreviated academic vita, and a video tape of one of your talks to a group of people, preferably not a classroom lecture, unless it is incredibly good. After a review of these materials, applicants may be asked to submit letters of recommendation at a second level of consideration. Applications are accepted year round. Appointments are extremely highly selective and are made only when the right candidate is found. To get a feel for what the Institute does, visit our website [www.MorrisInstitute.com](http://www.MorrisInstitute.com). Address applications for fellowship status to Tom Morris, Chairman, and mail to: Morris Institute for Human Values, 1213 Culbreth Drive, Wilmington, NC 28405.

# Announcements

## Konyndyk Memorial Lecture

The 2000 Konyndyk Memorial Lecture was delivered by Philip Quinn, John A. O'Brien Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He spoke on "Kant's Philosophical Ecclesiology." The lecture was given at the SCP session of the Central Division APA Meetings in Chicago, April 21-23, 2000.

## APA Eastern Division

The SCP session at the 2000 APA Eastern Divisional meetings will feature Nicholas Wolterstorff on divine discourse. Jack Caputo will respond and Marilyn Adams will moderate. The session will be held in honor of Diogenes Allen.

Quote

"Sometimes men come by the name of genius in the same way that certain insects come by the name of centipede-not because that have a hundred feet, but because most people can't count above fourteen."  
*—George C. Lichtenberg*

# Evangelical Philosophical Society Conference

November 15-18, 2000

The EPS will hold its annual conference at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. Following the conference, EPS will conduct a session, as it did in 1999, at the 2000 meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. EPS ([www.epsociety.org](http://www.epsociety.org)), founded in 1978, is an association of evangelical Christian philosophers formed to encourage and advance research and scholarly production in any area of philosophy that is of interest to Christians. The current EPS president is William Lane Craig. Submissions are ongoing for EPS, a peer-reviewed journal, *Philosophia Christi*. Submissions should be sent to the managing editor: Professor Craig Hazen, Biola University, 13800 Biola Ave., La Mirada CA 90639. email: [craig\\_hazen@peter.biola.edu](mailto:craig_hazen@peter.biola.edu) Those interested in EPS membership, should inquire with Paul Pardi, EPS Sec/Treas. email: [p\\_pardi@msn.com](mailto:p_pardi@msn.com)

## Financial Report

December 31, 1998 – December 31, 1999

<b>Balance on Hand December 31, 1998</b>	<b>\$ 14,914.73</b>
Income:	
Society Dues .....	\$ 46,180.00
Gift for F&P .....	1,000.00
Bank Interest .....	189.32
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 47,369.32</b>
	<b>\$ 62,284.05</b>
Disbursements:	
F&P Gift.....	\$ 1,000.00
F&P (from dues).....	28,500.00
Certificates of Deposit .....	3,600.00
Gift for Eleonore Stump .....	150.00
Envelopes .....	158.41
Printing costs.....	679.00
Refund to SCP Member.....	17.00
Konyndyk Lecturer .....	250.00
State of Michigan fee .....	10.00
Bank Service Charges .....	316.79
Returned Checks .....	157.00
<b>Total Disbursements:</b>	<b>\$34,838.20</b>
<b>Balance on Hand December 31, 1999</b>	<b>\$27,445.85</b>

# Nominations for SCP Executive Committee 2000

**Michael Bergmann** received his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame and is currently an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. The main focus of his research is epistemology. His journal publications are in epistemology, metaphysics and philosophy of religion. During 1999-2000 he was the recipient of a one-year research fellowship from the Pew Evangelical Scholars Program.

**Tom Buford** is the Louis G. Forgiione Professor of Philosophy at Furman University. He is a Baptist and an active member of First Baptist Church, where he has served as chair of the diaconate. His doctorate is from Boston University, where he wrote on the relation of God to the world under Peter A. Bertocci. After leaving Boston, his research centered on issues in Christian higher education, an interest developed through creating a program of interdisciplinary studies for Kentucky Southern College, a new experimental Baptist school in Louisville, KY. Since 1969 he has taught Philosophy at Furman. The author/or editor of eight books, including *Essays on Other Minds*, *Ambushed on the Road to Glory: Finding the Way Through Jesus' Parables*, *In Search of a Calling*, *Personal Philosophy: the Art of Living*, *Contemporary Studies in Philosophical Idealism* (with John Howie), and *Toward a Philosophy of Education*, he also founded the journal, *The Personalist Forum* and the *Conference of Persons* (with Charles Conti of, Brighton, England), an international forum for the study of persons and their lives in this world. He has served as executive secretary for The Personalist Discussion Group (that meets yearly at the APA Eastern Division meeting), president of South Carolina Society for Philosophy, and president of the South Atlantic Philosophy of Education Society. Recently, he was the Senior Lilly Fellow in the Lilly Program for Humanities and the Arts at Valparaiso University. His current research is on the relation of God to institutions, particularly small liberal arts colleges. Buford also plays cello in the Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra and is currently working on becoming a certified flight instructor.

**David Hunt** is Professor of Philosophy at Whittier College. His two dozen articles in the philosophy of religion, action theory, and ancient and early medieval philosophy have appeared in such journals as *Philosophical Studies*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Phronesis*, and *Faith and Philosophy*. He is

co-author of a forthcoming book on divine foreknowledge, and is currently writing a book on free will while holding a Senior Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame's Center for Philosophy of Religion. He has served on more SCP program committees than he can remember, and hosted the Pacific meeting of the SCP at Whittier in 1997. He is also on the executive committee of the Philosophy of Time Society.

**Kevin McDonnell** (B.A. Manhattan College; Ph.D. Georgetown) began his career as a medievalist writing on religion and ethics in William of Ockham. On coming to Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame) in 1976, he undertook to teach a course in medical ethics, which is now his academic specialty. In his field he has published *Tough Decisions: A Casebook in Medical Ethics* (Oxford), *A Health Law Reader* (Carolina Academic Press), and several articles. Kevin currently holds the George and Edna McMahon Aquinas Chair in Philosophy at Saint Mary's. He is active in medical ethics in South Bend and, with his wife, works with church groups in resettling refugees.

**Derk Pereboom** received his B.A. from Calvin College in 1978 and his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1985. Since 1985 he has been a member of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Vermont, of which he is currently Chair. His research and teaching interests are in metaphysics, philosophy of mind, history of modern philosophy, and philosophy of religion. He has published articles in each of these areas, and his new book, *Living Without Free Will*, will appear with Cambridge University Press in 2001. He is an Episcopalian, and he is active in administrative service at the congregational and diocesan levels.

**Caroline Simon** is currently chair of the Philosophy Department at Hope College. She specializes in ethics, with an emphasis on the use of literature in moral reflection. She has published a book, *The Disciplined Heart*, and many articles on this topic, as well as on moral knowledge, virtue ethics, sexuality, and multiculturalism. She has served on the editorial boards of two journals that relate the Christian faith to the intellectual life. She is currently directing the Lilly Mentoring Initiative funded by the Lilly Fellows Program to enhance the mentoring of new faculty at church-related colleges.

**W. Jay Wood** received his MA and Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. He is currently chair of the

department of philosophy at Wheaton College where he has taught since 1982. His research interests include epistemology and the philosophy of religion. Recent publications include *Epistemology: Becoming Intellectually Virtuous* with InterVarsity Press, and "On the Uses and Advantages of an Epistemology for Life," in *Postmodern Philosophy and Christian Thought*, ed., by Merold Westphal. He served three years as chair of the programs committee for the SCP Central Division, has refereed articles for *Faith and Philosophy*, and has been an active and long-time member of the SCP. He lives in Wheaton, IL with his wife and four children and serves on the vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church where he has been a member for 16 years.

**Linda Zagzebski** (Ph.D. UCLA), is Kingfisher College Chair of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at the University of Oklahoma. Previously she taught for twenty years at Loyola Marymount University. Her books include *Virtues of the Mind* (Cambridge University Press, 1991), *Rational Faith* (Notre Dame Press, 1993), and *Virtue Epistemology* (co-edited), forthcoming Oxford University Press. Her current book project, *Divine Motivation Theory*, presents a virtue ethical theory with a theological foundation. She is past President of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, and was Book Review Editor of *Faith and Philosophy* from 1995-2000. She has directed several regional conferences of the SCP and has spoken at numerous SCP meetings. She is on the Editorial Boards of *Religious Studies*, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, and *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, and is North American Editor of the Philosophy of Religion series of Ashgate Press.

**Kelly James Clark** is running unopposed for Secretary-Treasurer. He has served SCP as Secretary-Treasurer since 1994. He is Professor of Philosophy at Calvin College where he has taught since 1989. Prior to that he taught at Gordon College. He has directed an SCP regional conference, organized an international conference on philosophy of religion, directed three summer philosophy seminars for non-philosophers and organized a departmental exchange with Xiamen University in China. His major publications include: *When Faith Is Not Enough*, *Readings in the Philosophy of Religion*, *Philosophers Who Believe* and *Return to Reason*.



# Society of Christian Philosophers Election Ballot 2000

## Executive Committee

(Vote for up to four)

- Michael Bergmann
- Tom Buford
- David Hunt
- Kevin McDonnell
- Derk Pereboom
- Caroline Simon
- W. Jay Wood
- Linda Zagzebski

## Secretary-Treasurer

- Kelly James Clark

Send your completed ballot by **August 15, 2000** to: Kelly James Clark, Secretary-Treasurer, Society of Christian Philosophers, Department of Philosophy, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

## SCP on the Internet

Listserve: subscribe by sending e-mail to: [scp-request@calvin.edu](mailto:scp-request@calvin.edu), with the subject "subscribe" (no quotes).

WWW: <http://www.siu.edu/departments/cola/philos/SCP/>

SCP Canada WWW: <http://iago.stfx.ca/people/wsweet/scp.html>  
or <http://www.ncf.ca/~ax448/scp.html>

## Quotes

"Asking a working writer what he feels about critics is like asking a lamppost what it feels about dogs."  
—John Osborne

"It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do."  
—Jerome K. Jerome

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