Assistant Professor of Philosophy Jason Eberl is the editor of a new volume that turns to popular culture to help explore timeless philosophical themes. *Battlestar Galactica and Philosophy: Knowledge Here Begins Out There* (Wiley, 2008) uses the Sci-Fi Channel's critically acclaimed series as a teaching and learning tool for students and others seeking new ways of understanding and exploring challenging life's most challenging questions. Eberl is also the editor of a similar volume on Star Wars and Philosophy published in 2005.

Over the past year, the Polis Center has increased its collaboration on FEMA's disaster mitigation planning efforts, expanding its role from Indiana to Illinois and Wisconsin. In Indiana, Polis has worked with nearly all 92 counties and has contributed to Indiana's status as a leader in the nation in disaster mitigation planning. Polis has provided training across the nation in support of sophisticated Geographic Information Science (GIS) software developed by FEMA for disaster management and has worked with states from Florida and California and with major cities on applying the software locally.

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Five Liberal Arts faculty have received nearly $175,000 from the university in support of their work. IU New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities grants are funded by Lilly Endowment support and help faculty expand their scholarly/creative work into innovative/interdisciplinary "frontiers." Recipients are:

- Gabrielle Bersier (World Languages and Cultures) "Paths of Healing: Goethe's Physiological Autobiography in Context," $34,945
- Susan Brin Hyatt (co-recipient), (Anthropology) "Inside Out Indiana's Prison Exchange Program: Linking Universities, Communities and Prisons through Education," $19,900
- Jane Schultz (English) "Cancer Stories: Patients, Practitioners, and the Making of Narrative," $20,000

IUPUI Intercampus Applied Research Program (IARP) is a new internal funding program, jointly sponsored between IU and Purdue University, designed to foster new applied, translational research projects and creative projects.

- Larry Zimmerman (Anthropology and Museum Studies) (co-recipient), "Digital Inspection and Virtual Restoration of 3D Objects," $50,000
- David Bodenhamer (Polis Center) (co-recipient), "Development of Water Quality Decision Support Tools Using Service Oriented Architecture and Web 2.0 Development Approach," $50,000

This past semester, graduate students in Professor Kristina Horn Sheeler's Advanced Public Communication course researched, developed, and began implementation of communication and marketing plans for two Indianapolis organizations. The organizations-Starfish, which pairs economically disadvantaged high school students with mentors and the Donate for Democracy campaign, which is designed to get younger, more tech savvy poll workers for local (and eventually state-wide) elections-were thrilled with the students' work.

The 2008 Joseph Taylor Symposium will honor the memory of U.S. Congresswoman Julia Carson. The event, *You Talkin to Me?*: Political Messages/Multicultural Perspectives, explores the relationship between politics, the media, and democracy, and will be held on February 29th, at the new IUPUI Campus Center.

Visit http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/taylor for more information.

Professor Richard Gunderman (Philosophy, Radiology, Pediatrics, Medical Ethics, Liberal Arts, and Philanthropy) will receive the Herman Frederic Lieber Award at Indiana University's Founders Day this spring. The award is one of twenty university-wide distinguished teaching awards given each year.