

# PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

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## DUQUESNE GRADUATE PHILOSOPHY NEWS

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This is our second edition of the *Duquesne Graduate Philosophy News*—our way of keeping alumni and friends up to date on activities in the department.

### POLANSKY FUND

The Ronald Polansky Graduate Student Scholarship Fund was established to provide financial assistance to graduate students in their language study and dissertation writing. Last summer, the Polansky Scholarship Fund, along with funds from the Dean of the McAnulty College, assisted four students in their language study. Here are two reports:

From **James Bahoh** (third year doctoral student).



As a recipient of a Polansky Student Scholarship, I was able to travel to Freiburg, Germany, and complete a two-month intensive German language course at the Goethe Institut there during the summer of 2008. Making this trip proved to be invaluable. I was able to develop language skills necessary for my doctoral research in an efficient way while interacting with proficient instructors. Being in Freiburg allowed the opportunity to participate in the scholarly community harbored by Albert-Ludwigs Universität—the epicenter of research in continental philosophy and the history of philosophy—as well as cultivate philosophical and professional conversations with other scholars from around the world in residence there. On top of this, I was able to enjoy a beautiful region of Europe and be immersed in another linguistic and cultural context, while being progressively perplexed by the German fidelity to techno-music.

From **Jacob Graham** (third year doctoral student).



I attended an intensive German language study at the Goethe Institute in Dresden, Germany. It was an eight-week course designed for beginners. All class sessions, from beginning to end, were entirely in German, so the student begins to learn the language in much the same way as a child would. Although the program was designed for practical German, being exposed to the language daily is invaluable for those who wish to learn German. I am grateful that this opportunity was presented to me, and I would recommend it to anyone who is serious about learning German.



Last year marked the founding of the **Ronald M. Polansky Graduate Student Scholarship Fund**, established by a generous gift from Dr. Polansky. The scholarship makes possible special graduate student projects, particularly language study abroad. Contributions to the fund can be sent directly to the department, with checks made out to the Fund. For more information call 412.396.6572.

### GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Stan Marlan's** *The Black Sun: The Alchemy and Art of Darkness* appeared in a paperback edition from Texas A&M Press. He also published *Archetypal Psychologies: Essays in Honor of James Hillman* (Spring Journal), and hosted a conference on Hillman's work in Pittsburgh in the spring.

**Joe Cimasky** received the Strasser Award.

The graduate program welcomed five new doctoral students, and 15 master's students this year.

We have the following new international graduate students: Hamad Mohammed (a Fulbright scholar from Bahrain), Nalan Sarac (a doctoral student from Turkey), Norman Schulz (a master's exchange student from the University of Köln, Germany) and Kamal Shlbei (a pre-graduate student from Libya).

The Graduate Students in Philosophy program is hosting its Third Annual Graduate Student Symposium on March 28, 2009. Details will be made available on [www.gradphilo.duq.edu/](http://www.gradphilo.duq.edu/).

### SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE

**Zhu Liping**, who is a professor of philosophy at Southwest China University, has been working at Duquesne on a fellowship since August. She is working on a project on skepticism, particularly as regards religious beliefs. She will present a paper on her research in the late spring of 2009.

**Fr. Stephen Okello**, the rector of the Consolata Missionary seminary in Kenya, has been here since the early summer. He is completing a book on Husserl and intersubjectivity and will present a paper on his research in late January 2009.

**James Haile**, a graduate student from the University of Memphis, is working on a dissertation with Dr. George Yancy on critical race theory. He has also been teaching part-time in the department.

Visit [www.gradphilo.duq.edu/](http://www.gradphilo.duq.edu/) for the latest information about the Philosophy Department.

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) Conference, which our department hosted in October 2008, was an unqualified success. Held at the Pittsburgh Marriott and at Duquesne University's new Power Center, it had 600 participants and was one of the largest annual meetings the Society has ever had. There were participants from at least 17 different countries. In addition, Duquesne hosted the following satellite organizational meetings in conjunction with SPEP: The Ricoeur Society, the World Phenomenology Institute, the Society for Continental Philosophy in a Jewish Context and the International Association for Environmental Philosophy. Several alumni attended the meeting, among them Peg Birmingham, Diane Bowser, Walter Brogan, James Risser, Tony Coumoundouros, Matt Eshleman, Ted Kisiel and Gary Scott. Over 20 graduate students helped with the hosting of the event.

**Dr. Patrick Lee Miller** attended Collegium in June 2008. A weeklong gathering of selected faculty and staff from various Catholic universities, Collegium provides participants with the opportunity to read and discuss a number of topics about life and work in a Catholic University. This year's meeting took place at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass.

**Dr. George Yancy** will be sponsoring another Speakers Series in the spring of 2009.

We have an emphasis on political philosophy at the graduate program. In the spring of 2009, **Dr. Fred Evans** will be teaching a graduate course on Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy; **Dr. Dan Selcer** will teach a course in Early Modern Political Philosophy; and **Dr. James Swindal** will be teaching Marx and Critical Theory.

The Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center is hosting its annual Spring Symposium on the theme "The Theological Turn in Phenomenology." It will take place April 28–29, in the Power Center. The featured symposiasts will be Jean Luc Marion (University of Chicago), Richard Kearney (Boston College), Edith Wyschogrod (Rice University) and Jay Lampert (University of Guelph).

## SPEAKER SERIES

In October 2008, Dr. Nicholas Rescher, University of Pittsburgh, gave a talk on pluralism. It was done in conjunction with the McAnulty Lectures for the Year of St. Paul. Spring Speakers will be announced on [www.gradphilo.duq.edu/](http://www.gradphilo.duq.edu/).



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## FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

**Dr. George Yancy's** *Black Bodies/White Gazes* was published by Rowman & Littlefield. It received a *Choice* award as well as an Honorable Mention from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights. His research now involves three edited book projects: a work on the writing of Bell Hooks, one on white women in the profession of philosophy and a work about the philosophical and institutional family resemblances between African American and Latin American philosophy.

**Dr. Ronald Polansky** is editing the *Cambridge Companion to Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*, which will be published by Cambridge University Press.

**Dr. Fred Evans** spent June 2008 in Quito, Ecuador. He presented a paper, "Voices of Chiapas: Bakhtin, the Zapatista and Human Rights," at Selesiana University in Quito. It will be published in the journal, *Alteridad*. He also led a workshop on Deleuze for a group of professors and graduate students from Selesiana and the national university (La Universidad Central). Later in the summer, he used a Duquesne Presidential Grant to support research at the Chicago Historical Society's archives and at Millennium Park for his paper, "Voices of Democracy: Citizenship and Public Art."

**Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer** received a university NEH grant to finish a monograph on research into the "voice" of the body, interpreting the "expression" of the body through its "resonance" with the discourses that envelop it. The monograph introduces the diaries of Lou Sullivan, a female-to-male transsexual, in order to identify how the body "speaks," analyzing his experiences in order to evaluate the body's contribution to subjective identity and intersubjective discourse. She is also editing a volume entitled *Feminist Phenomenologies*, with Sara Heinamaa.

**Dr. Tom Rockmore** gave a series of lectures in Hanoi in May 2008. He also recently finished the second volume of his study of *Phenomenology and Epistemology* and is finishing a manuscript on the general theme of the world political situation in light of the events of 9/11. His research applies concepts concerning a general theory of human action, based on insights drawn widely from the history of philosophy as well as other disciplines, especially economics.

**Dr. James Swindal** has finished a manuscript entitled *Action and Existence: The Case for Agent Causation*. It is a compilation of arguments from Catholic Philosophy, German Idealism, and pragmatism about action theory. He is also finishing, with David Rasmussen, the editing of a four-volume set of secondary literature for SAGE Publishers on Jürgen Habermas' work published since 2000.

**Dr. Dan Selcer's** manuscript, *Philosophy and the Book: Early Modern Figures of Philosophical Inscription*, was accepted for publication by Continuum. It develops an approach to seventeenth-century continental philosophical texts through an investigation of the role played in them by images of inscription and reading. The book argues that the material, technological and historical situation in which early modern texts were produced both shaped their rhetorical contours and constituted a reservoir of imaginative forms.

**Dr. Patrick Lee Miller**, who is on leave this year, is a Fellow at the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., finishing his book, *Becoming God: Pure Reason in Ancient Philosophy* for Continuum Press. The book follows the intertwined development of Greek ideas about God, the human self and the best life for us. He is also writing a blog on immortality and spirituality for the Web site *The Immanent Frame*.

**Dr. Jennifer Bates** is finishing a book entitled *Hegel and Shakespeare on Moral Imagination* for SUNY Press. It concerns shapes of self-consciousness and their roles in the tricky interface between reality and drama.

**Dr. Michael Harrington** is completing a book that is the second in a series of critical editions and translations of the thirteenth-century version of the Dionysian corpus used by Albert the Great and Aquinas. It contains his editing and translation of Dionysius' treatise *On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy*.

## CONTRIBUTING NEWS

If you would like to send a news item about yourself to this newsletter, please address your e-mail to [swindalj@duq.edu](mailto:swindalj@duq.edu). The *Graduate Philosophy News* is published twice a year.