

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

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DUQUESNE GRADUATE PHILOSOPHY NEWS

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

This fall, **Kathy Weber** is scheduled to teach in Arusha, Tanzania, at the Spiritan Missionary Seminary, a full-year appointment. She will be teaching Ethics, Existentialism and the philosophy of Nietzsche, among other courses, and is the first teacher to be sent under our new exchange program with the seminary.

Jacob Graham raised more than \$200 from the students in his course to help purchase philosophy books for inmates. The inmates are taking courses through the Inside-Out education program, a unique learning project where inmates and conventional students take college courses together.



We are happy to announce the hiring of **Kelly Arenson** for a one-year appointment. She is currently an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Memphis. A former Mellon Fellow, her work is in the history of ancient ethics and philosophy, particularly the development of the notion of pleasure in the Platonic Academy and in Epicureanism. Her other

interests include philosophy of the body (in ancient, modern and contemporary contexts, including twentieth-century Continental thought), the philosophy of science, and the relationship between morality and politics in legal theory and political philosophy.

Faith Bjalabok worked as a judge for the Better Business Bureau Torch Awards, which recognize efforts by individuals and organizations to promote ethics in the workplace.

SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Jennifer Bates had a monograph, *Hegel and Shakespeare on Moral Imagination*, published by SUNY Press this fall.

Dr. Fred Evans discussed his recent monograph, *The Multivoiced Body*, in an author-meets-critics session at the SPEP conference in Montreal this past fall.

Dr. Charles Keyes is the director of Incarnational Social Thought, an interdisciplinary, ecumenical research center that aims to strengthen belief in rational social change and the creation of a just society. The organization advocates a policy of legislation as the alternative to violent revolution, authoritarian repression and atomist individualism. The NEH Endowment Competition awarded funding to develop the project from its current status. For information visit www.duq.edu/ist.

Dr. Patrick Lee Miller's book, *Becoming God: Pure Reason in Early Greek Philosophy*, was published by Continuum in 2011.

Dr. Tom Rockmore's monograph, *Kant and Phenomenology*, was published with University of Chicago Press. Another of his monographs, *Before and After 9/11: A Philosophical Examination of Globalization, Terror and History*, is forthcoming from Continuum Press. He also delivered a keynote address at a conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in February 2011. His paper was titled, "Naturalism as Anti-Kantianism." In addition he will give an informal presentation on the theme of Philosophy in the United States. He will spend the spring 2011 semester teaching at Beijing University.

In conjunction with the initiatives for teaching in Tanzania and Kenya, we are announcing an **African Book Project**, for which we will accept donations of either money or books. The contributions will be sent to our partner organizations in Africa to support their libraries. Contact the department for additional information.

We welcome any news from alumni. Let us know what you have been doing by contacting Joan Thompson, thompson@duq.edu.

Visit www.duq.edu/philosophy for the latest information about the Philosophy Department.



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Dr. Fred Evans poses in August 2009 with Professor Fabio López de la Roche and graduate students of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

During the past decade I have served as an external reader for a number of dissertations in the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh. The primary reason for this service is my ability in theory and Spanish (the dissertations and defenses are in Spanish). The doctoral candidates and I also usually exchange extensive Spanish-English instruction with each other.

Besides the great enjoyment I derive from this involvement, I have also received invitations to speak and teach in Latin American countries, particularly in Ecuador and Colombia. This has been important for my work, because some of the philosophical concepts I have been developing, for example, society as a “multi-voiced body” and “dialogic hybridity,” are closely related to the prevalent use of hybridity, *mestizaje* and allied ideas in Latin American thought and politics.

In June 2008, I presented a paper, “Voces de Chiapas: Los Zapatistas, Bakhtin y los Derechos Humanos,” at the Semana de la Comunicación conference, under the auspices of La Universidad Politécnica Salesiana, Quito, Ecuador. The paper was subsequently published in the Spanish language journal *Alteridad* (English and French language versions had been

published previously). At the same university, I also presented a workshop for professors and graduate students on the work of Gilles Deleuze.

In August of 2009 I was invited by Professor Fabio López de la Roche to team-teach a graduate seminar with him for the Institute of Political Studies and International Relations at the National University in Bogotá, Colombia. The course was taught in Spanish and involved joining the social-political theory in my book, *The Multivoiced Body*, with Professor de la Roche’s work on the history and politics of television journalism. The seminar of eight students met three times a week for three-hour sessions during the month of August and, after I returned to the US, one time a week with Prof. López de la Roche until it finished at the end of December.

I was impressed by the commitment and politically astute thinking of the students and especially with Prof. López de la Roche’s knowledge of and interaction with journalism in Colombia. Besides his professorship at the National University, he has received a graduate degree in history in the former Soviet Union (where he studied for five years) and, more recently, a PhD in Latin American Studies from Pitt. While at the National University, I also was invited

by Professor Victor Viviescas to lecture to his graduate students in theater on my work concerning public art and citizenship.

These involvements contributed to my keynote address at this summer’s Collegium Phaenomenologicum in Italy, “Cosmopolitanism-to-Come: Derrida and Latin American ‘Border Thinking’.”

Prof. López de la Roche has recently published an important article in Colombia critical of television journalism in the years of right-wing President Álvaro Uribe—an era of reporting that reminds me of the journalistic lapses in the United States during the George Bush years.

A Canadian scholar—Professor Greg Nielsen, of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Concordia University in Montréal, where he is also director of the Centre for Broadcasting Studies—along with Prof. López de la Roche and I have provisionally agreed to jointly undertake a cross-national project on journalism in Colombia, Canada and the United States. The project would focus on how journalists’ imagined audiences typically exclude those on whom they are reporting, the social-political effects of this oddity and how it might be corrected. Prof. Nielsen has already published articles on this topic.

Recent Dissertation Defenses

Michael Kilivris defended in August 2010. His project was titled *Affinities: Heidegger and Adorno on Subjectivity*. He is currently an adjunct instructor at Fordham University and Hunter College.

Taine Duncan defended her dissertation in August. It was titled *Habermas and the Feminist Engagement with Communicative Ethics*. She is currently an assistant professor at the University of Central Arkansas.

Awards

Fred Erdman received the 2009–10 Strasser Award.

John Fritz and **Joseph Cimasky** both received the Philosophy Department's 2009–10 Graduate Teachings Award.

Other News

The largest and the oldest Serbian newspaper in America, *American Srbobran*, published an article about the philosophical work of **Milos Rastovic**.

Justin Habash finished his fall 2010 semester teaching the Basic Philosophical Questions at the Allegheny County Jail. Plans are underway to offer an introductory course every semester at the jail.

David Hoinski has received a dissertation scholarship for 2010–2011.

Nathan Eckstrand is hosting the Marginal Theory Society interdisciplinary workshop in the fall of 2011. The workshop topic will be Technology and Identity.

Graduate Students in Philosophy

Graduate Philosophy Conference

Plans are under way for the fifth annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, to be held Saturday April 2, 2011, in 719 Fisher Hall. The Department is currently accepting papers on the conference topic: Philosophy's Relationship to Wonder. Dr. David Bollert, assistant professor of philosophy at Manhattan College, will serve as the conference keynote speaker.

The Graduate Philosophy Conference is jointly supported by the Dean's Office of McNulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts and the Philosophy Department. A program and further details will be published in mid-March.

We are pleased to be in the third year now of the Ronald M. Polansky Graduate Student Scholarship awards. Scholarship recipients, along with their study destinations for summer 2011, are:

Matt Lovett (France)	Boram Jeong (France)
Zach Hamm (France)	Nathan Eckstrand (France)
Natalie Wilbur (Germany)	Fred Erdman (Germany)
Kelsey Ward (Germany)	Jacob Greenstine (Germany)

Contributions to the Polansky Fund can be mailed: c/o Chair of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

The Undergraduate Philosophy Society will host its second annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference on April 2, 2011.

The Society had a meeting in December 2010 at which **Dr. Michael Harrington** presented a paper on "Confucius, Aquinas and the Philosophy of Fashion."

Four undergraduate philosophy majors have been admitted to the 2010–11 Philosophy Honors Program. **Louis Butler** is writing on Heraclitus (directed by Dr. Patrick Miller), **Timothy Rothhaar** is writing on Gabriel Marcel (directed by Dr. Thérèse Bonin), **Ben Cahill** will write on "The Christian Contemplative Tradition in relation to Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit" (directed by Dr. Jennifer Bates) and **Michael Savakinas** will write on Catholic social thought (directed by James Swindal).

SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE

Dr. Ying Yang has arrived from the Huaqiao University's Philosophy and Social Development Institute in Fujian Province, China. In the 2011 calendar year he plans to research Marxism with Dr. Tom Rockmore. He is spending the year here with his wife and eight-year-old son.

Yuan Jun-ya, a scholar-in-residence from the University of Beijing, finished her term working in collaboration with Dr. Tom Rockmore on a dissertation on alienation in the work of Karl Marx. She plans to take a teaching position at the Central Party School in Beijing, where she will be teaching Western Marxism.

Dr. Bernie Freyberg gave a paper in the fall of 2010 at a meeting of the Society for Ancient Philosophy at Fordham University.

SILVERMAN PHENOMENOLOGY CENTER

The theme of this year's Phenomenology Center Conference will be Phenomenology and Music. It will be co-hosted by Dr. Jessica Wiskus, of the Duquesne University Mary Pappert School of Music. Details of the speakers will be posted on the Phenomenology Center's website: www.duq.edu/phenomenology.



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ALUMNI NEWS



Scott Davidson, associate professor and chair of the Philosophy and Rhetoric Department at Oklahoma City University, recently published an edited book titled *Ricoeur Across the Disciplines* (Continuum Press), the first work to carry out a multidisciplinary study of the thinking of Paul Ricoeur. In his introduction, Davidson suggests that Ricoeur's account of the work of translation provides a good model for thinking about the benefits and difficulties facing interdisciplinary scholarship.

Davidson is also co-editor of two online journals: *The Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* (www.jffp.org) and *Ricoeur Studies* (ricoeur.pitt.edu), both of which will be launched in the fall of 2011. Both are open-access journals that welcome contributions from faculty, students and alumni working in relevant areas.

He also translated the book *Seeing the Invisible: On Kandinsky* by Michel Henry (Continuum, 2009).