

# PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

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## DUQUESNE GRADUATE PHILOSOPHY NEWS

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### FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT



**Kamal Shlbei** is a doctoral student from Libya. He studied engineering in Libya, and worked in a cement factory for 10 years, then decided to study philosophy at Elmergib University, one of Libya's three major universities, specializing in the humanities. He completed a master's degree there, writing his thesis, which has subsequently been published, on the priority of existence over essence in the work of Mulla Sadra. He then taught philosophy and logic for three years at Asmarya University, which provided a grant for doctoral study.

Shlbei, his wife and four young children moved to the United States early last year. After ESL study in Oklahoma City, he applied to Duquesne. At present, Shlbei is the only Libyan studying graduate philosophy in the United States.

He plans to continue working on the problem of existence, particularly in postmodern thought. In addition, Shlbei is a published poet, with one collection in Arabic entitled *Musica Teptehege Be (Music Enjoys Me)*.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

**Dr. Tom Rockmore** will be teaching in the spring semester at the University of Beijing in their school of foreign philosophy. He regularly lectures in China and elsewhere.

**Dr. Fred Evans'** paper presentation and workshop in Ecuador last summer will be followed up with a paper presentation and a team-taught course this summer at La Universidad Nacional in Bogotá, Colombia. The course will make use of his theory of society as a multi-voiced body and the work of his co-teacher, Professor Fabio López, on television journalism and politics in Colombia.

**Dr. George Yancy** was cited in the May 2009 edition of *Rolling Stone*, in an article on Cornel West.

#### CIQR - Critical Race Theory Speaker Series

This past semester in March the CIQR program partnered with Dr. George Yancy's Critical Race Theory Speaker Series and the University of Pittsburgh's Cultural Studies Program to present a program titled *A New Democracy? Economics, Culture and Difference*. Speakers included Franco Berardi (Accademia delle Belle Arti, Milan), Clarence Sholé Johnson (Middle Tennessee State) and David Schweickart (Loyola Chicago).

#### Philosophy of the Environment Roundtable

Speakers at the most recent Philosophy of the Environment annual conference, held in April 2009, this year were Karen Houle (University of Guelph) and three Duquesne faculty members: Michael Irwin (Sociology), Eva Simms (Psychology) and James Swindal (Philosophy).

#### Duquesne Women in Philosophy

Duquesne Women in Philosophy (DWiP) hosted what is hoped will become an annual event, a roundtable symposium featuring student work from across the University. This year's event, *In Her Shadow: Contending with the Spectre of Eve*, took place on February 13 and featured a paper presented by our department's Holly Mohr.

### FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

**Dr. Jennifer Bates'** manuscript *Hegel and Shakespeare on Moral Imagination* was accepted for publication by State University of New York Press.

**Dr. Fred Evans'** monograph *The Multi-Voiced Body: Society and Communication in the Age of Diversity* was published by Columbia University Press. In addition, Dr. Evans gave a keynote address for the Sixteenth Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference at Kent State University.

**Dr. Patrick Miller** won the SPEP Junior Scholars Prize for this year's upcoming annual meeting, for a paper titled "Immanent Spirituality."

**Dr. Ron Polansky** has been asked to edit the *Cambridge Companion to Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*, published by Cambridge University Press. Dr. Polansky also received the McNulty College's Academic Excellence award for 2009.

**Dr. Tom Rockmore** used a summer NEH grant award to work on a new manuscript on aesthetics.

**Dr. George Yancy** co-edited *Critical Perspectives on bell hooks*, published by Routledge. Dr. Yancy is also editing, along with Clarence Johnson, *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Race*.

## Graduate Job Placement, 2009

Geoff Bagwell (ABD). Full-time Instructor, Xavier University.

Grant Julin (ABD). Assistant Professor, St. Francis College.

Emily Katz (Ph.D 2008) Part-time Instructor, Michigan State University.

James Stover (ABD) Full-time Instructor, Wheeling Jesuit University.

## Graduate Dissertation Defenses, 2008–2009

Kenneth Agede, *The Transformation of Kant's Transcendental Idealism: Fichte's Wissenschaftslehre*. Directed by Tom Rockmore.

Eric Duffy, *Mounting the Stage of the World: Theory of the Subject as Actor in the Parallel Positions of Johann Gottlieb Fichte and Jean-Paul Sartre*. Directed by Tom Rockmore.

Josh Miller, *On Whether or not Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology of Lived Body Experience Can Enrich St. Thomas Aquinas's Integral Anthropology*. Directed by James Swindal.

Our graduate student organization (GSIP) sponsored its third annual **Graduate Philosophy Conference** in March. Kathleen Higgins of the University of Texas was the invited speaker. Graduate students from several different universities presented papers at the highly successful event.

**Clayton Bohnet** received a McNulty College Dissertation Award for the 2009–2010 academic year for his project on the development of logic in German idealism.

**Chris Rawls** will be studying in Rotterdam for next academic year, working with Prof. Piet Steenbakkers as a scholar in residence at Erasmus and Utrecht Universities in the Netherlands.

**James Bahoh** and **Nalan Sarac** will be attending the Collegium Phenomenologicum in Citta di Castello, Italy, in July.

**Norman Schulz** was our exchange student this year from the University of Köln. He is returning to Köln this fall for further studies. His long-term project is to study with Peter Sloterdijk in Karlsruhe. During his year in Pittsburgh, Schulz was a member of the first place team in the Pennsylvania State Amateur Chess Team championships.

**Brad Wilson** (M.A., 2009) will begin doctoral studies at the University of South Carolina in the fall.

## Scholars in Residence

**Dr. Zhu Liping**, (Southwest China University). Dr. Zhu arrived in Pittsburgh in August, for a yearlong study. She has audited courses at Duquesne and the University of Pittsburgh. She is writing on skepticism, specifically religious skepticism, and is interested in the problem of whether or not a skeptical position can inform praxis: whether one can live out one's skepticism. She resolves the issue by examining the distinction between skepticism about judgment and skepticism about belief. The former is consistent with living a life; the latter is not.

**Fr. Stephen Okello** (Consolata Seminary, Kenya). Fr. Okello spent nearly all of last year working on a monograph on Husserl he is hoping to publish in the near future. He presented a paper on his findings. His particular interest is in defending the theory of intersubjectivity that Husserl presents in *Ideas II* and the *Cartesian Meditations*.

**Dr. Habip Türker** (Fatih University, Istanbul) arrived in April, and will be in residence for a full calendar year. He is working on a comparison of Christian and Islamic aesthetics. He has also done extensive work on the phenomenology of Moritz Geiger and Nicolai Hartmann. He has found the Phenomenology Center's holdings in phenomenology to be extremely valuable for his research.

**Dr. Francoise Monnoyeur Broitman** (Sorbonne) has studied extensively in France, working on Cartesianism and philosophy of science, and is conducting research on phenomenology.

**Dr. Kelly Arenson** (University of Memphis) finished her dissertation at Emory University on Plato and Epicurus.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Philosophy Department and Duquesne University had the privilege of hosting events for the 47th annual conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) held in Pittsburgh in October 2008. More than 600 persons, from at least 20 nations, registered for the conference, making it one of the largest ever held.

We were authorized for a full-time one-year position beginning in the fall semester of 2009, and are happy to announce that **Dr. Lauren Freeman** will be taking that position. She just finished her doctorate at Boston University. Her dissertation concerns ethics in the early writings of Heidegger. She will teach a number of undergraduate courses for us, concentrating in the area of ethics.

## Polansky Scholarship Award Recipients

We are in the second year of the Ronald M. Polansky Graduate Student Scholarship Fund drive. Last year the funds provided support for four students. This year Polansky Scholarship funds will support summer language study for Ryan Pfahl, Patrick Craig, Chelsea Harry, Stephen Krogh and H.A. Nethery. Pfahl and Craig will study in Paris, Harry in Freiburg am Breisgau, Krogh at Franciscan University and Nethery in Köln.



## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2007 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.

Send contributions to the department: c/o Dr. James Swindal, Department of Philosophy, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282.

Our annual alumni gathering took place this year at the SPEP conference, held this year in Pittsburgh. We plan to have another informal gathering at the upcoming SPEP conference in Washington, D.C., October 29–31, 2010. Information will be forthcoming.

### Featured Alumni

#### Mark Maller (Ph.D. 1996)

“Since my graduation I have been working as an adjunct professor for several colleges in the Chicago area. I was adjunct assistant professor at Lewis University, near Chicago, for many years. Presently, I teach introductory courses at the College of DuPage and at Wilbur Wright City College in Chicago. This term I am teaching Social and Political Philosophy. I also serve as a writing consultant for students and an adjunct reference librarian there. My primary research, recently, has been in the problem of evil from a very skeptical position. I have also written an (unpublished) article on William James’ theory of universals and ethics. My novel *Getting Back* was published by *Writer’s Showcase* in 2003. It received favorable reviews. I also have written numerous philosophy book reviews for *Choice*, an academic library journal.”

We welcome news from alumni. Contact [thompson@duq.edu](mailto:thompson@duq.edu).

### Silverman Center

A recent spring symposium, *The Theological Turn in Phenomenology*, featured Jay Lampert (University of Guelph), Edith Wyschogrod (Rice University), Richard Kearney (Boston College) and Jean Luc Marion (University of Chicago).

Next’s year’s spring symposium will be titled *Phenomenology, Cognition and Neuroscience*. Evan Thompson (University of Toronto), Shaun Gallagher (University of Central Florida) and Catherine Malabou (University of Buffalo) will be among the speakers.



Natalia Rudychev on **Wilhelm Wurzer**: “I took several classes under his guidance: on philosophy of film and on Kant’s Third Critique. Dr. Wurzer’s inspired and brilliant presentation made me interested in the philosophy of art and film in particular. I’ve made six conference presentations on the philosophy of film and published an article on the

philosophy of film. I also taught a course on the Philosophy of Film at Duquesne. Dr. Wurzer’s reading of Kant’s Third Critique left a lasting impression on me, and now I’m writing my dissertation proposal on Hegel and Heidegger’s reading of the Third Critique. I fondly remember Dr. Wurzer as a kind and attentive listener and brilliant thinker.”



Joy Simmons on **Eleanore Holveck**: “Dr. Eleanore Holveck immediately put me at ease in my first graduate level class with her laid-back, personable demeanor. She arranged the chairs in a circle so that we were all facing each other and chatted casually about Simone de Beauvoir and philosophical literature. Her lectures felt more like conversations one might have with a

friend over coffee, yet in them she revealed an encyclopedic knowledge of French existentialism. She set the bar high for other professors by taking a very personal interest in each student’s research project. She even left me her own copy of a Richard Wright novel at the end of the semester, hoping it would enrich my research. Later, I discovered just how well respected Holveck is in her field when I attended a Simone de Beauvoir conference. Every scholar knew who she was and referenced her work. A truly exemplary philosopher, Holveck affected me personally and intellectually.”



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## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

### Graduate/Professional School Placements

Ron Baumiller (B.A., 2009) Philosophy: University of New Mexico

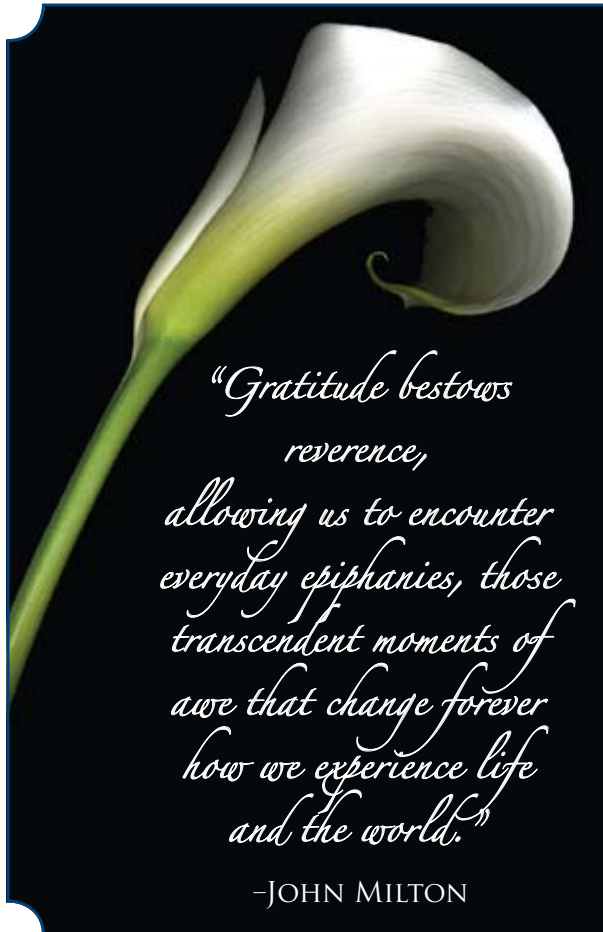
Susan Dattalo (B.A., 2009) School of Law: Duquesne University

Rob Guerin (B.A., 2008) Philosophy: University of Kentucky

### Undergraduate Honors Theses for 2009

Ron Baumiller: *The Ancient Problem of Reference*. Directed by Michael Harrington. Baumiller also won the Undergraduate Excellence award in philosophy.

Susan Dattalo: *Women in Plato’s Republic*. Directed by Ron Polansky.



## MEMORIAL FUNDS

This has been a year of profound loss. Faculty members **Eleanore Holveck**, **Wilhelm Wurzer** and the McAnulty College’s Acting Dean **Al Labriola** all passed away in the spring. It was a time of mourning but also of remembering their unique and lasting legacies for our department and for all of their students through the years.

We have established two memorial funds: the **Dr. Wilhelm S. Wurzer Memorial Fund** and the **Dr. Eleanore Holveck Memorial Fund**. Each of these funds will provide money to support graduate students in philosophy. You can donate online to these funds at [www.duq.edu/giveto](http://www.duq.edu/giveto).