

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

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DUQUESNE GRADUATE PHILOSOPHY NEWS

Spring 2012 • Volume 5, Issue 1

MESSAGES FROM OUR DEAN AND CHAIR



I have been the acting dean of the College this year, and in March, was named dean. As such, I have been unable to teach, but have been able to learn a great deal about what is going on in the College overall—especially the many good things. One of these is how many faculty, and students, outside of the department have interests in philosophy. They come from political science, communications, history, the natural sciences, and English—just to name a few areas.

One bit of news I can report is that the College is proposing to host the International Merleau-Ponty Circle in September 2013. We hope that this proposal will be successful. The College is also starting a Faculty Debate series. The first featured Dr. Miller and two other faculty members in a discussion entitled “Belief Today,” about religion in the public sphere. - *James Swindal*

I look forward to our continuing as a very vibrant undergraduate and graduate Philosophy Department. We seek greater links with the rest of the College and University, with alumni, and with the life of philosophy. - *Ron Polansky*



DEPARTMENT NEWS



Daniel Selcer has been serving as interim Director of Graduate Studies, replacing Ron Polansky while he serves as interim Chair. Dan has recently spoken on early modern materialism at the University of Pittsburgh,

on the importance of history for philosophy at Slippery Rock University, on Spinoza’s account of individualism at the University of Guelph, and on the idea of ‘operative science’ in Bacon and Spinoza at Simon Fraser University. We are also pleased to announce that Dan was awarded the 2012 McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching for his fine classroom work.

EVENTS

Jennifer Bates, with a grant from the NEH, hosted a conference on Hegel’s *Logic* on October 28, 2011. Panel attendees included: Dr. Jay Lampert (University of Guelph), Dr. John Russon (University of Guelph), Dr. David Morris (Concordia University), and Dr. Tom Rockmore.

On March 6, 2012, the department hosted a panel discussion on faith and society entitled **Belief Today**. Our Dr. Patrick Miller was among the panel speakers along with Fr. Elochukwu Uzukwu (Theology) and Dr. Bruce Ledewitz (Law) moderated by Alek Schrenk.

SILVERMAN PHENOMENOLOGY CENTER

This year’s symposium, April 19-20, was on Phenomenology and its Critics. The event explored how the work of philosophers such as Alain Badiou, Stanley Cavell, Jacques Derrida, Gilles Deleuze and Michel Foucault engages the phenomenological tradition. Speakers included Bruno Bosteels, Claire Colebrook, Leonoard Lawlor, and Paola Marrati.

Jeff McCurry, the director of the Center, taught a Basic Philosophical Questions course in the Fall of 2011 at the Allegheny County Jail as part of the Judicium Learning Community. Plans are underway to offer philosophy courses every semester at the jail.



This year marks the debut of **George Yancy’s** authored book: *Look, A White!: Philosophical Essays on Whiteness* (Temple University Press, 2012). He also has two edited books coming out in 2012:

Reframing the Practice of Philosophy: Bodies of Color, Bodies of Knowledge (SUNY 2012), and *Christology and Whiteness: What Would Jesus Do?* (Routledge 2012). He also co-edited a book titled: *Therapeutic Uses of Rap and Hip-Hop* (Routledge 2011).

Ron Polansky and **Chelsea Harry** received a Faculty Development Grant for 2013 to develop a section of Basic Philosophical Questions that incorporates a spring break trip to Magna Grecia in Italy. This is the first time the philosophy department has incorporated study abroad in the curriculum.

The department developed a curriculum that has been taught to juniors in Charter High School. Duquesne undergraduate freshmen assisted.

Kelly Arenson presented a paper entitled “Plotinus and Porphyry on the Faculty of Attention” at the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy meeting in October. In August she presented a paper entitled “Augustine’s Defense and Redemption of the Body” at the 16th International Patristics Conference at Oxford University. In addition, she received a Duquesne Student/Faculty Research Grant to pursue the topic of free will and determinism with junior philosophy major Colin Stragar-Rice.

Jennifer Bates received a book contract for her upcoming edited volume: *Shakespeare and Continental Philosophy*, with State University of New York Press. (Contributors include Edward S. Casey, Andrew Cutrofello, Bernard Freyberg, Harry S. Harris, Agnes Heller, David F. Hoinski, James A. Knapp, Paul A. Kottman, and Sarah MacDonald). Dr. Bates published an article titled “Phenomenology and Life” on Hegel’s dialectic of “Life” in the *Phenomenology of Spirit* and Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Antony and Cleopatra*, in a special issue of *Criticism* on “Shakespeare and Phenomenology,” edited by James Kearney and Kevin Curran, Issue 54. 3, 2012.

Fred Evans was elected Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee for the Society of Phenomenological and Existential Philosophy (SPEP). He was one of four Keynote speakers of the Seminario International: Rutas y Encuentros de Los Estudios Sociales y Culturales in Bogota, Columbia in October, presenting his paper “Voces de la democracia: ciudadanía y arte public en el Millenium Park de Chicago.” His time in Columbia also marked the start of a collaborative project: “Journalism and the Displaced,” which develops a theory of a reporter’s imagined audience and its impact on media representation of displaced peoples.

Michael Harrington published his new book: *On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy: The Thirteenth-Century Textbook Edition*.

Don Keyes published his essay “New Julian Casserley Research and Incarnational Social Thought,” in *The Anglican* in the Spring of 2011. He published “Julian Cassereley’s Hope for 2050: a New Interpretation,” in the Fall of 2011, likewise in *The Anglican*.

Patrick Miller was promoted to Associate Professor. His “Love’s Ladder’s God” appears on *The Immanent Frame*, a blog sponsored by the Social Science Research Council. This talk can be accessed at <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2012/04/05/loves-ladders-god>.

Ron Polansky recently had accepted by the *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, a paper co-authored with Joe Cimasky, “Descartes’ ‘Provisional Morality.’” He has a chapter forthcoming, “One Mind Under God Indivisible: Aristotle on Mind and God”, in *Aristotle: Nature, Logic, Being* to be published by Continuum.

Tom Rockmore published his latest monograph, *Before and After 9/11: A Philosophical Examination of Globalization, Terror, and History*, with Continuum Press in April.

Lanei Rodemeyer presented her paper: “Similar (but Different) and Different (but Similar): The Possibility for Intercultural Others in Husserl’s Fifth Cartesian Meditation,” at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan. She was invited to speak at the “Feminist Phenomenology and Medicine” conference at Uppsala University where she presented her paper “Feminism, Phenomenology, and Hormones,” which has been submitted for publication in an anthology on Feminist Phenomenology and Medicine.

Joan Thompson, administrative assistant, was awarded the 2012 McAnulty College and Graduate School staff award.

George Yancy was awarded the 2012 McAnulty College and Graduate School Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award.

Notable

We are happy to announce that all Master’s and Ph.D. students in philosophy are now able to enroll in modern language courses at no cost or credit thanks to the Modern Languages and Literatures Department.

On February 18, the graduate students in philosophy hosted our Sixth Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference: “Aesthetics in Politics.” Our keynote speaker was Gabriel Rockhill (Villanova).

Fall Dissertation Defenses

Clayton Bohnet defended his dissertation, directed by Dr. Rockmore, in November entitled: “Logic, Thought, and the Unconditioned: An essay on Kant and Hegel.”

Keith R. Martel defended his dissertation in November entitled: “The Narrative Subject and Place,” directed by Dr. Rodemeyer.

Patrick J. Reider defended his dissertation, directed by Dr. Rockmore, in November entitled: “German Idealism, Analytic Philosophy, and Realism.”

Spring Dissertation Defenses

Jacob Graham defended his dissertation, directed by Dr. Harrington, in March entitled: “The Flourishing Self in Aristotle and the Authentic Self in Heidegger.”

Awards

Nathan Eckstrand was awarded the 2012 **McAnulty College Graduate Student Scholarship Award**.

The 2009-2010 **Philosophy Graduate Teaching Award** was won by **Joe Cimasky** and **John Fritz**.

The 2010-2011 **Charles J. Dougherty Philosophy Graduate Student Teaching** was won by **H. A. Nethery**.

The 2010-2011 **Philosophy Essay Prize** was won by **Zachary Hamm**.

Publications

Stephanie Adair. “Unity and Difference: A Critical Appraisal of Polarizing Gender Identities,” *Hypatia*. Doi.

Brock Bahler. Journal Article: Kierkegaard’s View of Religious Pluralism in *Concluding Unscientific Postscript, Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies*, Volume 3:1 (2011).

Patrick Craig. “*Absoluta Cogitatio*: Badiou, Deleuze and the Equality of Powers in Spinoza,” *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy* (forthcoming, Fall 2013).

Chelsea Harry. “Socrates as Seducer.” in *What Philosophy Can Tell You about Your Lover*. Edited by Sharon Kaye. Oxford: Blackwell (February 2012). “Unhappy Man or Happy Beast: A Platonic Response to J.S. Mill,” in *Parmenideum* III, no. 1, May 2011. “Seeing the Unseen: Suggesting Points for Intersection between Levinasian Ethics and the Daoist Reverence for All Beings,” *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*: Springer Netherlands, 2011.

Chris Rawls, book review, *Spinoza Now*, Edited by Dimitris Vardoulakis, University of Minnesota Press 2011), in *Critical Horizons*, January 2012. Illustration (photography): “Gray Matter(s),” *Spinoza Beyond Philosophy*. Edited by Beth Lord, Edinburgh University Press (2012)

Clancy Smith. “Hippies, Jews, and the Philosophy of Memory.” in *The Big Lebowski and Philosophy: Keeping Your Mind Limber with Abiding Wisdom*. Edited by Peter Fosl. Wiley-Blackwell (May 2012). “Prestidigitation and Racial Oppression: Falsity and the Demystification of Social Manipulation,” *Purlieu*: Volume 1, Number 2, Spring 2011 (released, ISSN 2159-2101).

GRADUATE SPEAKER SERIES

In February we were visited by Professor Paolo Palmieri, of the History and Philosophy of Science program at the University of Pittsburgh, who delivered “Ethics and Learning: A Deweyan Approach.”

In early March we hosted Dr. Markus Gabriel, holder of the Chair in Epistemology and Modern and Contemporary Philosophy at the University of Bonn. In addition to organizing a well-attended seminar for the graduate students, Gabriel spoke on “The Meaning of Existence and the Contingency of Sense.”

On March 30, we hosted our final event of the year featuring Professor Dorothea Olkowski of the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (Ph.D. from Duquesne, 1986). She spoke on “Postmodern Philosophy and the Scientific Turn.”

POLANSKY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

We are pleased to be in the fourth year of the Ronald M. Polansky Graduate Student Scholarship awards. Recipients for summer 2012 are:

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| Stephanie Adair (Germany) | Dave Mesing (Germany) |
| Keith Hehr (Germany) | James Bahoh (France) |
| Ryan Johnson (Germany) | Billy Dean Goehring (France) |
| Sila Ozkara (Germany) | Paul Zipfel (France) |
| Becky Vartabedian (France) | Jacob Greenstine (Germany) |

Any contributions to the Polansky Fund can be made directly to the department:

c/o Chair of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
Duquesne University
Pittsburgh PA 15282

Presentations

Brock Bahler, “The Relationship of Philosophy and Theology in Aquinas’s Thought,” The Pittsburgh Consortium for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Colloquium. He also presented “The Psychology of Merleau-Ponty’s Embodied Other: An Alternative to Levinasian Alterity,” Psychology and the Other Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, and presented at The Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences Annual Conference (SPHS), Philadelphia, PA.

Chelsea Harry, “*Kinesis, Chronos, Energeia* and The Possibility for Non-linear Time in Aristotle,” 29th Annual Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (SAGP), Fordham University.

David Hoinski, “Aristotle & the Question of a Science of Sciences: On the Intellectual Virtues in Book 6 of the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” Moral Reasoning: Reading Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

Boram Jeong, “A Processual Understanding of ‘Centrality (中)’ in the *Book of Changes*” Center for Process Studies Winter 2012 Seminar: North-East Asian Views on Process and Feminism, Claremont Lincoln University, Claremont, CA.

Clancy Smith, “Sliding Doors: A Phenomenology of Deleuzian Vice-diction in Inner Time Consciousness,” The Philosophy of Time Society panel at the Eastern American Philosophical Association (APA), Washington, DC. “Becoming Human: How a Marcusean View of Technology Impacts Pragmatic Theories of Habit Formation,” 33rd Annual Humanities and Technology Association Conference. Bowie State University, MD. “Can’t Stop the Signal: Firefly and Critical Theory on the Raggedy Edge,” 2011 Dragon*Con: Comics and Popular Arts Academic Conference. Atlanta, GA.



NEWS FROM ALUMNI

Bernie Freydberg. The production process begins at SUNY Press for my seventh book, *David Hume: Platonic Philosopher, Continental Philosopher*. It is my most original. Also, I have just been invited to be a plenary speaker for the October Meeting of the Pacific Association for Continental Thought. My topic is "From the Annals of Ancient Jurisprudence regarding the Political Animal: A Philosophical Inquiry"; the trial in question occurs in Aristophanes' *Wasps*, where two dogs present their opposing cases regarding a hunk of Sicilian cheese. A paper of mine has appeared in *Comparative and Continental Philosophy*, titled "Ihr Hinweis auf Aristophanes Clouds Wichtige Fragen Einschließt, die Ich Hätte Sehen Sollen : Gadamer and the Question of Comedy."

During the first week of May 2011, I gave two lectures at Istanbul University. The first, "Radically Rethinking Hume," was presented to the Philosophy Department the second, "Socrates' *eros* in the Symposium: *Ti legei*", was presented to the philology department.

Toward the end of March, I presented another paper on *Wasps*, this time at a Classics Conference with the theme *Nostos* (Homecoming), titled "Philocleon's Interrupted Odyssean Homecoming: A View from Aristophanes' Comedy." It was an amazing conference featuring scholars from the best schools, including ours! I am delighted to report that for our 8:30 AM Saturday session, it was standing room only, and I'm glad no one called the fire marshal.

This summer, I have been invited to give a lecture at Universität Freiburg for the annual Hermeneutic Conference. It is titled "*Wirkungsgeschichte vis à vis Ancient Mathematics.*"



The Philosophy Department hosted its 50th Anniversary as a Ph.D.-granting department. The first phase, on September 9, featured a documentary film on Heidegger by Jeffrey Van Davis, entitled *Nur noch ein Gott kann uns retten* (Only A God Can Save Us). Both Tom Rockmore and Ted Kisiel appear in the film.

Our **AFRICAN BOOK PROJECT** was immensely successful last year. We were able to send for 12 boxes of donated textbooks for African libraries.