

# PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

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## DUQUESNE GRADUATE PHILOSOPHY NEWS

2010 • Volume 3, Issue 1

### DEPARTMENT NEWS



We are very pleased to announce the hire of **Dr. Michael Marder**, currently at the University of Saskatchewan. He received his Ph.D. from The New School in 2007. He is the author of two monographs, *The Event of the Thing* (Toronto University Press) and most recently *The Political Ontology of Carl Schmitt* (Continuum) and of numerous articles, book chapters and anthologies. In addition, he is associate editor of the journal *Telos*. For more information, visit his website: [michaelmarder.com](http://michaelmarder.com). He will join the faculty in the fall of 2011, spending the next year on a fellowship at the Centre of Philosophy, at the University of Lisbon.

Duquesne will host a talk by **Alasdair MacIntyre** on November 18, 2010. The talk will be sponsored by a partnership of the Center for Health Care Ethics and the Philosophy Department.

Duquesne will be hosting the **Critical Theory Roundtable** October 23–25, 2010. The Roundtable, which has been in existence since 1993, is the only annual conference dedicated to critical theory in North America.

This past May, **Dr. James Swindal** visited philosophy programs at seminaries in Arusha, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. Duquesne University is exploring possible connections with these African institutions, perhaps at the level of faculty and graduate student and teacher exchanges or shared degree programs. The aim of the trip was also to increase opportunities for the contribution of these institutions to the proposed Africana Studies Program at Duquesne.



*Dr. James Swindal, the Philosophy Department Chair, at Tangaza College, a Catholic university in Nairobi, Kenya.*

### POLANSKY SCHOLARSHIP

We are in the third year of the Ronald M. Polansky Graduate Student Scholarship awards. Recipients for summer 2010 will be:

**Deirdre Black**, for study of Danish at the University of Copenhagen, and for study in the Kierkegaard archive in the Royal Library.

**Christopher Haley**, for study of French at Institut Catholique de Paris.

**Scott Sparrow**, to enroll in a Goethe Institute in Berlin.

**Nalan Sarac**, to study French at Alliance Française de Paris.

**Christopher Moutenay**, to enroll in a Goethe Institute in Dresden.

Contributions to the Polansky Fund can be made directly to the department: c/o Chair of Philosophy, Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15282.

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

For news and information about the Philosophy Department, visit [www.duq.edu/philosophy](http://www.duq.edu/philosophy)



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## GRADUATE NEWS

### Placement

**Taine Duncan** has been hired as an assistant professor on tenure track at Central Arkansas University. She will begin her teaching duties in the fall.

**Doug Peduti**, who defended his dissertation last August, has been hired as an assistant professor at Fairfield University. He will start his work there in the fall.

### Dissertation Defenses

**Geoff Bagwell** successfully defended his dissertation, "A Study of Plato's Cratylus." He is currently teaching in a full-time adjunct position at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

### Awards

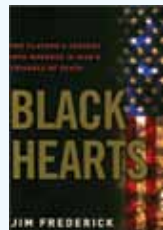
**Kelsey Ward** received the Strasser Award for 2009–2010.

**Kathy Weber** received a Graduate Student Teaching Award from the University this spring.

### Other News

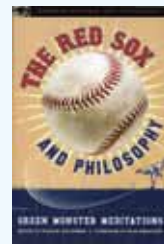
**Jennifer Luo** will be attending the Collegium Phenomenologicum in Citta di Castello, Italy in July 2010.

**Clancy Smith, Taine Duncan,** and **Melanie Walton** attended the IAPL at the University of Saskatchewan this past May.



**Justin Habash** was consulted, and is quoted several times, in Jim Frederick's recent book *Black Hearts: One Platoon's Descent into Madness in Iraq's Triangle of Death* (Random House, 2010). The work is a detailed account of the role played in the Iraq War by the 101st Airborne Division, in which Justin served as an officer.

**John Fritz** contributed Chapter 4 to *Mad Men and Philosophy: Nothing Is as It Seems* (June, 2010), the latest addition to Blackwell's Philosophy and Pop Culture series.



**Chelsea Harry** was among the contributors to volume 48 of Open Court's Philosophy and Popular Culture series, *The Red Sox and Philosophy: Green Monster Meditations* (March 2010). Harry and three other contributors participated in a unique book reading at Professor Thom's, a Red Sox bar in New York City, this past May.



**John Harvey** wrote a letter to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* in response to a recent editorial arguing that philosophy departments are expendable, given the need to cut programs to balance university budgets:

*"Philosophy is historically the center of a liberal education, a curriculum referring, of course, not to liberalism but to the education appropriate to a free (liber) person. To suggest that the offering of philosophy is unnecessary (an advocacy I do not attribute to your newspaper) is to further the trend that sees education (better in this case called training) as mere job preparation, rather than the development broadly or narrowly defined. If people cannot rationally evaluate ideas, above all ethical ideas, they will be reduced to the melancholy options of blind acquiescence or spasmodic and unreasoning rebellion.*

*The reference to whether Indiana University of Pennsylvania 'can still afford' to offer a bachelor's degree in philosophy is ludicrous: in terms of investment of resources, philosophy (along perhaps with English) must be among the cheapest subjects to teach: little audio-visual equipment is used and none required; no lab equipment is employed, only books that the students purchase from the school.*

*Finally, at the risk of appearing to descend to the petty, I must note that a philosophical education might have prevented your writer from referring to 'the works of Socrates.' There are no works of Socrates: He wrote nothing; we know him from the works of others."*

## FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Jennifer Bates's** monograph, *Hegel and Shakespeare on Moral Imagination*, is forthcoming with SUNY Press this fall. Dr. Bates has also been integral in the formation of the Duquesne Academic Sustainability Committee and is on its general committee.

**Dr. Fred Evans's** recent monograph, *The Multivoiced Body*, will be featured in an author meets critics session at the upcoming SPEP conference in Montreal this fall. Dr. Evans spent two months last summer working on projects in South America. In 2008 he taught in Ecuador.

**Dr. Patrick Miller's** *Becoming God: Pure Reason in Early Greek Philosophy* will be published by Continuum in 2011.

**Dr. Ronald Polansky** co-presented a paper, with graduate student David Hoinski, entitled "Why Do the Gods Have Horses in Plato's Phaedrus," at the recent West Coast Plato Conference in the University of California San Diego.

**Dr. Tom Rockmore's** monograph, *Kant and Phenomenology*, will be published with University of Chicago Press. He is finishing another semester of teaching at the University of Beijing. Dr. Rockmore's monograph, *Marx After Marxism*, is being translated into Russian, underwritten by a grant from the Russian Humanities Foundation.

Dr. Rockmore will also be one of the plenary speakers at a UNESCO-sponsored meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, September 26–30, 2010. The theme of the meeting is "Cultural Diversity and Dialogue."

**Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer** was a visiting scholar from April 26 to May 17, 2009, at the Centre for Gender Research at Uppsala University in Sweden. She was invited by the Body/Embodiment research group, and as part of her stay gave a presentation/discussion on one of the chapters of her manuscript on transsexuality and embodiment.

**Dr. Daniel Selcer** published *Philosophy and the Book: Early Modern Figures of Material Inscription* (London: Continuum, 2010).

**Dr. George Yancy** edited *The Center Must Not Hold: White Women Philosophers on the Whiteness of Philosophy* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2010).

## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

The Undergraduate Philosophy Society hosted its second annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in April 2010. Participants came from Westminster, St. Vincent and John Carroll.

Three philosophy majors have been admitted to the 2010–2011 Philosophy Honors Program for their senior year. **Louis Butler** will write on the self in Heraclitus (directed by Patrick Miller), **Timothy Rothhaar** will write on Gabriel Marcel (directed by Thérèse Bonin), and **Michael Savakinas** will write on Catholic Philosophy (directed by James Swindal).

## SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE

**Dr. Habip Türker** finished his term as a post-doctorate student from the Fatih University in Istanbul. He will begin his teaching duties in Turkey at Mardin Artuklu University in the fall. Here's what he wrote recently about the position:

*"The university is on the border of Syria. The inhabitants of the city are Arabs and Kurds. It is actually an ancient Syriac city and important for Christianity. Archeologists digging there still find different versions of Bible. I have never visited the city, but a friend said that the city has authentic, impressive beauty. This area is not well developed, neglected because of its ethnic structure and fears of terror.*

*"Recently, the ruling government took a different stance and encouraged the development of the area. The university was founded for these purposes in 2007, and it has the first department of Kurdish language and literature ever founded in Turkey. The educational language of the university is Turkish, however. The philosophy department has no students and only one assistant professor. Indeed it is an advantage for me, for we can form the university as we wish. Of course, it takes long time to become a real department. I want this department to focus on phenomenology and critical theory. I want it to benefit from Duquesne as a model."*



**Dr. Bernie Freyberg**, a graduate of our Ph.D. program in 1977, who taught at Slippery Rock University for many years, will be a scholar in residence of the Department. He has just returned from teaching for three years at Koç University in Istanbul.

**Yuan Jun-ya** is a visiting scholar from the University of Beijing working in collaboration with Dr. Tom Rockmore on a dissertation exploring the topic of alienation in the writings of Karl Marx.

## SILVERMAN PHENOMENOLOGY CENTER

The Center's annual symposium took place February 18–19, 2010. It was titled Phenomenology, Cognition, and Neuroscience, and the speakers were Evan Thompson (Toronto), Shaun Gallagher (Central Florida), Dan Zahavi (Copenhagen) and Catherine Malabou (Buffalo).

Next year's theme will be phenomenology and music. Details of next year's speakers will be forthcoming on the Phenomenology Center's website:

[www.duq.edu/phenomenology/](http://www.duq.edu/phenomenology/)

## DUQUESNE WOMEN IN PHILOSOPHY

Members of Duquesne Women in Philosophy (DWiP) have been volunteering with the Thomas Merton Center's Book 'Em program, which helps provide books to inmates. They logged 60 hours in service over the course of the 2009–2010 academic year.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS IN PHILOSOPHY

The Graduate Students in Philosophy (GSIP) organization sponsored its fourth annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, Thinking Desire, April 10, 2010. Prof. Babette Babich from Fordham was the invited speaker. Graduate students from several different universities, including Emory University, The New School, Boston University and Brock University, presented papers.



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