This past year, the Duquesne Philosophy Department teemed with excitement, change, and intellectual growth even while facing the radically unexpected demands of the COVID-19 pandemic this spring. In the fall, the Department welcomed scholars from around the world as the host of the 2019 meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) and its affiliated societies. We welcomed Dr. Daniel Selcer to his new role as Department Chair, Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer assumed the role of Director of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Patrick Miller became the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center hosted intellectually engaging lectures from a wide background of philosophy for the Duquesne Philosophy Speakers Series. Even with the buzz of around these activities and the disruptions of this spring, our community of scholars was still able to extensively publish and present as well as apply for grants, graduate programs, and non-academic positions.

The 58th International Annual Conference and Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP) was held at Duquesne University, October 30-November 4, with on-site coordinating led by Dr. Fred Evans and Dr. Jeff McCurry. SPEP is the leading organization of continental philosophy in the world. The conference is also coordinated with the annual meetings of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy (IAEP), Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences (SPHS), as well as satellite events and colloquia from dozens of specialized affiliated scholarly organizations. Together, these groups brought together over 1000 of the leading scholars in the continental tradition from across the globe to Pittsburgh for an intense and wildly successful academic event.

Just prior to SPEP, the Philosophy Department took advantage of the SPEP-provoked convergence of so many philosophers to host the Duquesne Philosophy Alumni Reunion conference, which brought together over 100 former Duquesne philosophy undergraduates, MA students, PhD students, and faculty in the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center.

The Duquesne Undergraduate Philosophy Society (formerly known as both the Undergraduate Philosophy Society and the Philosophy Club) has once again become a University-recognized student organization, eligible for Student Government Organization financial support. DUPS members had been meeting to discuss philosophy every Thursday before the campus closure, while also organizing a series of public debates and discussions by department faculty on topics including gender, the existence of God, and free will. DUPS always welcomes new members! To be added to the mailing list and informed of future DUPS events, please email Dr. Patrick Miller (millerp2212@duq.edu).

Our three graduate student organizations – Graduate Students in Philosophy (GSIP), Duquesne Women in Philosophy (D-WiP), and the Duquesne chapter of Minorities in Philosophy (MAP) – had an active year, hosting a series of research symposia, reading groups, and professionalization colloquia, as well as organizing to effectively advocate for graduate student interests. They worked together to organize what promised to be a fantastic two-day spring conference co-hosted by all three groups, but unfortunately cancelled due to the campus closure during the pandemic.

Philosophy Department faculty and students would like to profoundly thank Prof. Fred Evans for his many years of productive, creative, and incisive research; his transformative teaching and profoundly moving mentorship; as well as his extensive and wide-ranging service to the Philosophy Department, the Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research, Liberal Arts, Duquesne University, the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, and the profession at large. We also thank him for the fundamental solidarity and comradery he's provided for his students and colleagues. As he evolves into emeritus status, Fred will remain active in the Philosophy graduate program, teaching a seminar each spring, continuing to sit on dissertation committees, and continuing to write and publish. Thank you for everything Fred!

The abrupt transition online this spring brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic turned this year into a strange and stressful one for us all. We hope that all our students, staff, faculty, and alumni, as well as their family and friends, remain safe and healthy. Social distancing need not mean social isolation, and a commitment to community solidarity will help us all get through this. We wish you all the best!
Recipients of the 2020 Ronald M. Polansky Summer Intensive Language Grants were MA student Ryan Adams (Japan), PhD student Eva Chrysochoou (France), MA student Suhyeon Hwang (France), MA student Tiffany Race (France), and MA student Bradley Waldraff (Germany). With university-affiliated international travel cancelled through the summer, they will not be able to take advantage of the grant this year, but we hope to be able to renew the awards for summer 2021. Congratulations Ryan, Eva, Suhyeon, Tiffany, and Bradley!

Dr. Kelly Arenson has been awarded a fall 2019 competition Wimmer Family Foundation Endowment Award to support an intensive summer course in ancient Greek at the Italian Exedra Mediterranean Center, in preparation for taking over mentorship of the long-running Ancient Greek Reading Group. Unfortunately, the pandemic has rendered summer travel impossible, but we are hopeful that the award will be eventually renewed. Dr. Arenson also won a spring 2020 competition Wimmer Family Foundation Endowment Award to provide institutional support for the Hellenistic Philosophy Society, an international scholarly organization for which she serves as President. Congratulations (twice!), Kelly!

Dr. Jennifer Bates has received a spring 2020 competition NEH Endowment Award in support of Idealistic Studies: an Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy, for which she serves as the General Editor. Congratulations, Jennifer!

Dr. Fred Evans has been awarded the well-deserved 2020 McAnulty College & Graduate School of Liberal Arts Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship on the basis of both his extremely well-received recent Public Art and the Fragility of Democracy: An Essay in Political Aesthetics (Columbia University Press) and the strength of his decades of extensive scholarship, Congratulations, Fred!

PhD student Aaron Higgins-Brake is the recipient of the 2020 Philosophy Department Excellence in Teaching Award, recognized for the excellence of his pedagogical work over the past several years. In the coming year, Higgins-Brake has received an Honors College-sponsored teaching fellowship. Congratulations, Aaron!

Now-former doctoral student Dr. Jeff Lambert (PhD 2020) is the recipient of the extremely competitive 2020 Graduate Student Award for Teaching Excellence, conferred by Duquesne’s Center for Teaching Excellence on only two student instructors across the entire university each year. He is the first ever winner from the Philosophy Department. Congratulations, Jeff!

Graduating Philosophy major Michael Maryniak has been awarded the 2020 Excellence in Philosophy Award. Congratulations, Michael!

PhD student Ellen Moysan is the recipient of the 2020/21 McAnulty College & Graduate School of Liberal Arts Dissertation Fellowship, the sole dissertation completion fellowship awarded by Liberal Arts this year. It will provide funding for her work on “Inner Song: Phenomenological Description of a Musical Object of Fantasy”, directed by Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer. Congratulations, Ellen!

Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer is the recipient of a 2020 Global Health Faculty Course Development Grant, for research and course development for her future class, “Institutional Narratives of (Trans)gender”, to be offered in connection with the Global Health undergraduate minor and graduate concentration. Dr. Rodemeyer has also won a spring 2020 competition NEH Endowment Award for research support in completing her next monograph, What Would Husserl Do? A Husserlian Account of the Phenomenological Levels of Experience. Congratulations (twice!), Lanei!

Dr. Daniel Selcer won a spring 2020 competition NEH Endowment Award in support of research and course development this summer to redevelop the Philosophy Department undergraduate curriculum to meet the demands of the new Bridges Common Learning Experience (which will replace the University Core Curriculum in fall 2021). Congratulations, Dan!

Dr. James Swindal has won a fall 2019 competition NEH Endowment Award in connection with the Philosophy Department’s exchange program with Universität Heidelberg. The award will bring Prof. Dr. Anton Koch to Duquesne next fall (if international travel is again possible) for a public lecture and a series of graduate student and faculty-oriented events celebrating and renewing the relationship between our departments. Congratulations, Jim!

PhD student Jurgis Viningas is the recipient of the 2020 Philosophy Department Essay Prize for two of his essays, “Kant on Figurative Synthesis and Self Affection” and “Between Concepts and Affects: Philosophy, Painting, and the Problem of Genesis in Merleau-Ponty and Deleuze.” The committee decided the essays were of equal excellence and so (unusually) conferred the prize for both. Congratulations, Jurgis!
Conferences

SPEP 2019

The SPEP conference was a significant event for the promotion of the Philosophy Department’s intellectual mission. Its subject matter corresponds to our two major areas of expertise, the history of philosophy and continental philosophy. SPEP provided students and faculty the opportunity to engage with experts on these topics and to build connections among the leading minds in the continental tradition. Dr. Fred Evans and Dr. Jeffrey McCurry co-organized the conference and served as the local contacts. PhD student Michael Kramer coordinated the book exhibition. MA student and CIQR Fellow Angela Dibelka coordinated an army of graduate student volunteers. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work!

The SPEP Executive Committee issued a letter extending their appreciation to the members of the Duquesne University Philosophy Community for their assistance in organizing this year’s conference, including the following:

Without the efforts of the Duquesne Host Team, the conference would not have been the great success it turned out to be. The Executive Committee received numerous kudos from conference attendees, and the incredible team of Duquesne students, staff, and faculty helped to make our jobs easier throughout the conference. We are truly grateful for the time and effort you and everyone else tirelessly and cheerfully put into this year’s conference. We hope it was as rewarding and gratifying an experience for you as it was for us and our many members.

SPEP presentations by Duquesne Philosophy faculty and students included

- Dr. Jennifer Bates (Philosophy faculty), “Sustaining the Trivial: Why the Liberal Arts and the Environment Need to be Sustained Together”
- Angela Dibelka (MA student), “How to Become-Extinct: A Consideration of Coetzee’s, Deleuze’s, and Guattari’s Animal Ethics During the Decline of Biodiversity”
- Dr. Martin Krahn (now-former Philosophy doctoral student, PhD 2019), “Denormalizing Hegel’s Concept of Health”
- Dr. Jay Lampert ( Philosophy faculty), “Deleuze and AlphaGo”
- Dr. Jeffrey McCurry (Silverman Center Director and Philosophy affiliated faculty), “Disonance and Freedom: A Phenomenology of Homelessness in the Music of Schoenberg”
- Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer (Philosophy faculty), “Noesis, and Noema, and Gender – Oh My!”

2019 Philosophy Alumni Reunion Conference

Just prior to the SPEP conference (on October 30, 2019) Philosophy Department Chair Dr. Daniel Selcer organized a wildly successful conference for former students and faculty of the Duquesne Philosophy Department. Over the course of the day, the event at the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center was attended by over 100 people and relied on the help of many graduate students to pull off. We hope to continue to strengthen our ties with our department alumni in future events like this! The alumni conference included presentations from over 20 speakers:

- Dr. James Bahoh (Duquesne PhD 2016), Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Marquette University, “Salomon Maimon and the Productive Critique of Kant”
- Dr. Bettina Bergo (Duquesne Philosophy Faculty 2002-04), Professor of Philosophy, Université de Montréal, “Some Socio-Political Implications of the Age of Anxiety”
- Dr. Clayton Bohnet (Duquesne PhD 2013), Lecturer/Superfluous (NTT) Full Time Faculty, Central Washington University, “Faciality, Masks, and the 1st Amendment”
- Dr. Walter Brogan (Duquesne PhD 1981), Professor of Philosophy, Villanova University, “On Derrida and Animality”
- Dr. Robert Cavalier (Duquesne PhD 1978), Teaching Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, Carnegie Mellon University, “Our Beginnings Don’t Know Our Ends”
- Anthony Celi (Duquesne MA 2017), Instructor, Middlesex County College, “A Case for Self-Ownership”
- Alexander Crist (Duquesne MA 2016), PhD student, Texas A&M University, “The Question of Embodiment in Philosophical Hermeneutics: Breath-Paths and ‘Handwerk’ in the Works of Paul Celan”
- Dr. Chelsea Harry (Duquesne PhD 2013), Associate Professor of Philosophy, Southern Connecticut State University, “φυλή in Aristotle’s Historia Animalium Book Nine: In Defense of ‘Living Well’”
- Dr. Eric Hamm (Duquesne MA 2010), Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Lynn University & Will Conway, BA student, Lynn University (and incoming Duquesne MA student!), “Understanding Disability through Being and Nothingness”
- Dr. David Hoiniski (Duquesne PhD 2014), Teaching Assistant Professor of Philosophy, West Virginia University, “The Utopian Function of Philosophy from Plato to Deleuze and Guattari”
- Dr. Bob Johnson (Duquesne PhD 2002), Philosopher/Artist/Earthling At-Large, “‘Art for Our Own Sakes’, ConArtists for CommonWealth: Public Trust, Social Sculpture, Cultural Contagion – Oh My!”
- Dr. Ryan Johnson (Duquesne PhD 2015), Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Elon University & Dave Mesing (Duquesne MA 2012), PhD student, Villanova University, “On Preparing Practice, a sequel to Contemporary Encounters with Ancient Metaphysics”

continued
Philosophy Faculty News

Dr. Kelly Arenson: Kelly has just finished editing the Routledge Handbook of Hellenistic Philosophy, a nearly 900-page guide to ancient Greek and Roman Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Skepticism due out in mid-2020. In October, the Philosophy Department celebrated the release of her first monograph, Health and Hedonism in Plato and Epicurus (Bloomsbury, 2019). In February, she presented “Women Epicureans and their Anti-Hedonist Critics” at the Symposium on Women Intellectuals in Antiquity at the University of Oxford.

Dr. Jennifer Bates: Jennifer published “Kiss me K...: Engendering Judgment in Kant’s 1st Critique and Shakespeare’s The Taming of the Shrew” in The Routledge Companion to Shakespeare and Philosophy (Routledge). She also secured contracts for two new completed book chapters: “Hegel’s Rome and Shakespeare’s Coriolanus: Grounds for Tragedy” in the Coriolanus Reader (Arden) and “Sustaining the Trivial: Why the Liberal Arts and the Environment Need to be Sustained Together” in The Global Sustainability Challenge (Cambridge Scholars). She presented the first as a paper to Miami University, Ohio Department of Philosophy Speaker Series and the second at the Society of Phenomenology and the Human Sciences. She was a Faculty Fellow for Duquesne’s 2019 Integrity of Creation Conference, and in that capacity worked with four of her Philosophy of Environment students to have their course papers accepted for publication in the proceedings, appearing as Toward a Healthy Planet (Cambridge Scholars). The student contributions are: Dejah Braggs, “Towards a Healthy Planet: Sustainability in Low Income Communities”; Theresa Schaetze, “Toward a Healthy Planet: How the Reduction of Plastic Could Heal Our Planet”; Haley Wisniewski, “Climate Change: The Effects of Human Activities”; and Lauren Linsao, “Passive Homes”. Jennifer delivered a commentary on a Hegel paper at SPEP 2019, and wrote referee reports for a book (Routledge), two articles (Teaching Philosophy and Environmental Values) and a book chapter (Penn State University Press). She continues as General Editor of the journal Idealistic Studies. Based on the journal’s 2019 success, the Philosophy Documentation Center is now contributing at least

Conferences

continued

• Dr. Grant Julin (Duquesne PhD 2011), Associate Professor of Philosophy, St. Francis University, “Kierkegaard and the Comic Spirit”

• Dr. James Risser (Duquesne PhD 1978), Professor of Philosophy, Seattle University, “The Task of Thinking in Arendt and Gadamer”

• Dr. Monique Roelofs (Duquesne Faculty 2001-02), Professor of Philosophy, Hampshire College & Karl Loewenstein Fellow and Visiting Professor of Political Science, Amherst College), “The Question of Address: From Barthes and Althusser to a Critical Political Aesthetics”

• Dr. Dennis Skocz (Duquesne PhD 1974), Independent Scholar, “Turning the Monad Inside-Out: Leibniz, Heidegger, and Deleuze”

• Joshua Sturman (Duquesne MA 2017), Independent Scholar, “Toward a Structural Theory of Racism”

• Dr. Mélanie Walton (Duquesne PhD 2009), Associate Professor of Philosophy, Belmont University, “A Phenomenology of Burn-Out: Drear in Heidegger, Levinas, Nancy, etc.”

News and Events
$1,400 yearly toward hiring an MA student as Assistant to the Editor and has widened the number of journals to which Duquesne students and faculty have free online access.

**Dr. Fred Evans:** The highlights of Fred’s accomplishments for the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020 fall in three different areas. Awards: Fred won the College of Liberal Arts Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award, 2020, and is also the College nominee for the President’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship, 2020; his recent Public art and the Fragility of Democracy (Columbia) was awarded a “Book Session” slot on the next SPEP annual conference (Toronto, 2020). Service: Fred co-hosted the SPEP 58th annual conference sponsored by Duquesne, Oct. 30–Nov. 1, 2019. Publications: Fred published an article in Spanish on the “mente cosmopolita” or “cosmopolitanism mind” for the Latin American journal RELACES in fall 2019 and “Public Art in Urban Spaces” for the Handbook of Philosophy and the City (Routledge, spring 2020). Invited Presentations: 1) a public conversation on Evans’ public art book with two distinguish art historians (Kirk Savage and Terry Smith), sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Humanities Center and the Pitt Dept. of Art History; 2) “In Remembrance of Iris Marion Young: Citizenship in the Academic Community,” for the 2019-20 Annual Iris Marion Young Awards Ceremony and Reception, University of Pittsburgh; 3) & 4) “Cosmopolitanism to Come: Derrida, Mignolo, and Latin American “Border Thinking,” and “The Political Aesthetics of Public Art in a Democracy,” both sponsored by the Social Justice Center, the Concordia Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Society and Culture, the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, and the Dept. of Philosophy, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, Nov. 14 & 15, 2019. Dissertation: Director, The In/Authentic Subject: Kierkegaard, Heidegger, and Selfhood (Joseph Tighe), Feb. 19, 2020.

Swan Song: After 29 years at Duquesne, and 10 years past the usual retirement age, I am “evolving” (Dan Selcer’s felicitous term) to the expected status of Professor Emeritus. The plan is that I will teach a graduate course in the spring and perhaps other springs, continue with dissertations I am already directing and serve as a member on other dissertation committees for as long as PhD students and the Department wishes, attend speaker, celebration, and other Department events, and author a book on cosmopolitanism as well as continue other academic pursuits. So this is not “good bye”; my manner of holding on expresses how much I esteem my colleagues and our students. Old(er) professors never die, they just lurk in nooks and crannies.

**Dr. Tom Eyers:** Tom spent much of the year finalizing his next book manuscript, Romantic Abstraction: Language, Nature, Historical Time. A comparative study of 18th and 19th century English, French and German romantic literature and philosophy, the book argues for a new understanding of the interrelation in romantic poetics and aesthetics of especially abstract conceptions of nature, figural language, and history. Reading these in the context of our current climate crisis, the book should see publication in 2021. He was invited to present a part of the manuscript at Cornell University’s Institute for German Cultural Studies in March 2020 (an event unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic, but hopefully rescheduled for later). He gave invited talks at Carnegie Mellon University and at the Modern Language Association conference. He also convened a seminar with his Ph.D. student Tom Ball on the topic of metaphor at the American Comparative Literature Association annual conference at Georgetown University. He was one of the keynote speakers at the Duquesne conference on Jacques Lacan’s Écrits. His articles have appeared this year in Symplék and Textual Practice, as well as a chapter on the idea of reflexivity in critical theory appearing in What’s Wrong with Antitheory? (Bloomsbury). Tom composed an entry on ‘Formalism’ for the Bloomsbury Handbook of Literary and Cultural Theory and he wrote essays to appear in 2020 in The New Wallace Stevens (Cambridge University Press) and Form and Aesthetics: Close-Reading in the 21st Century (Palgrave).

**Dr. Jay Lampert:** Jay published a paper called “Problems with the Future” in Deleuze and Guattari Studies. He also gave a paper on “Deleuze and AlphaGo” at SPEP (under review at for publication), and a paper called “Short Term Ideas and Temporal Segmentation” at a Deleuze Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina. That paper will be published next year, in Spanish, in Deleuze Ontología Práctica.

**Dr. Jeff McCurry:** The Director of the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center presented papers on Merleau-Ponty, Freud, Lacan, Schoenberg, and Virginia Woolf at conferences including the Organization of Phenomenological Organizations in Memphis, the Pittsburgh Psychoanalytic Center, the Duquesne Student Counseling Center, the Interdisciplinary Coalition for North American Phenomenologists in Washington, DC, the Society for European Philosophy in London, the Lacan Écrits conference at Duquesne, and the Society of Phenomenology and the Human Sciences in Pittsburgh. He also published a co-written paper, “The Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center at Duquesne University and Phenomenology in North America” in The Reception of Husserlian Phenomenology in North America (Springer).

**Dr. Daniel Selcer:** Dan spent the year adapting to his new role as Philosophy Department Chair, under circumstances that became especially strange and challenging this spring! He is now serving as the Philosophy volume Advisory Board representative for the ‘Knowledge’ Division of the Routledge Renaissance Encyclopedia of the Renaissance World, a long-term and large-scale online peer reviewed scholarly work, which Routledge projects will continue expanding its article base for the next twenty years. In November he presented a talk on Descartes, Gassendi, and early modern nothingness through the Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research. He will spend the summer completing articles on Spinoza’s neo-Euclideanism, Leibniz’s analysis situs, and the transformational rhetoric of Olympe de Gouges’ political philosophy.

**Dr. James Swindal:** After many years serving Duquesne and its students as the Dean of the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, Jim has returned to the Philosophy Department with an appointment as the Henry Koren C.S.Sp Endowed Chair in Scholarly Excellence.
Graduate Student News

Duquesne Women in Philosophy (D-WiP), the Duquesne chapter of Minorities in Philosophy (MAP) and the Graduate Students in Philosophy organization (GSIP) collaborated to plan “Embodied Voices: Phenomenological, Hermeneutical, and Psychoanalytic Approaches to Health”, a symposium and conference to be held this March but unfortunately cancelled due to the campus closure. These events would have brought together current Duquesne graduate students and faculty, grad program alumni, grad students at other continental philosophy programs, and distinguished scholars from across the country. The Plenary for the symposium was to be delivered by Dr. Yolanda Covington-Ward (University of Pittsburgh), with the Keynote for the to be delivered by Dr. Gail Weiss (George Washington University). We hope the work that already went into planning the conference can contribute to its future iteration!

Duquesne’s Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) chapter continued to organize readings groups on issues relating to philosophy of gender, race, sexual orientation and post-colonialism. This year’s readings included selections from Susana Nucatelli and Gary Seay’s Latin American Philosophy, moderator: Brian Cordero; Laboria Cubonik’s “Xenofeminism: A Politics for Alienation” (moderator: Peter Heft); and Stefano Harney and Fred Moten’s The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study (moderator: Bradley Waldraff).

The Graduate Students in Philosophy (GSIP) Colloquium series was working in low gear during the fall since grad students were putting so much time and energy into preparing to host the SPEP conference, and then interrupted this spring by the conference closure. At its October 4 session, Emily Grice presented “Leibniz and Kripke” and Jacob Joyce presented “Peirce’s Abduction: Historical Origins and Applications from Emerson to Chomsky.”

Graduate Student Scholarly Activity


Angela Dibelka: Angela presented “How to Become-Extinct: A Consideration of Coetzee’s, Deleuze’s, and Guattari’s Animal Ethics During the Decline of Biodiversity” at The International Association for Environmental Philosophy conference meeting in conjunction with SPEP. She also concluded her tenure as a 2-year Fellow for the Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research, assisting Dr. Fred Evans.

Devon Hawkins: Devon presented “Plato on ‘Knowing Thyself’ in the Philebus” at the annual conference of the ArkansasPhilological Association. She was also scheduled to present “Postmodernity, Atomization, and Cognitive Mapping: Reading Jameson Reading Deleuze and Guattari” in March at the New Orleans Narrative 2020 conference. She is helping plan the next Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World conference.

Dr. Jeff Lambert: Jeff delivered “The Truth of Relations in Leibniz: An Early Modern Approach to Intimate Knowledge of Relations” at the Scientiae: Early Modern Knowledge conference held at Queen’s University in Belfast.

Ellen Moysan: Ellen was participating in this year’s exchange program with the Universität Heidelberg when the international travel bans came down. She decided to remain in Heidelberg to pursue her dissertation work during the lockdown, and hopefully will be able to continue to engage Heidelberg’s philosophy faculty as restrictions lift in the fall.


Sparkles Stanford: Sparkles presented “White Supremacist and Neo-Reactionary Readings of Gilles Deleuze” at the DePaul University Graduate Student Conference, Necropolitics and Violence.

Dongke Tu: Working in conjunction with the Pappert School of Music’s Center for Performance and Innovation, in January Dongke conducted “Earth Fusion”, leading his ensemble through experimental performances of Gustav Mahler’s Das Lied von der Erde Symphony and a reinstrumentation of Igor Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring.

Defenses & Placements

Doctoral Dissertation Defenses

Dr. Jeff Lambert successfully defended his dissertation, “Relations and Folds in Leibniz: Monadological Intimacy”, directed by Dr. Daniel Selcer. Jeff took up a Visiting Assistant Professorship at Thiel College and is continuing to apply for academic jobs and postdoctoral fellowships.

Dr. Alessio Rotundo successfully defended his dissertation, “The Problem of Nature in the Phenomenology of Merleau-Ponty”, directed by Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer. Alessio has moved to New Orleans and is applying for academic jobs and postdoctoral fellowships.

Dr. Joseph Tighe successfully defended his dissertation, “The In/Authentic Subject: Kierkegaard, Heidegger, and Selfhood”, directed by Dr. Fred Evans. Joe continues his longstanding role as an English teacher at Mt. Lebanon High School.

Dr. Paul Zipfel successfully defended his dissertation, “The Appearance of the Other in Edmund Husserl's Phenomenology”, directed by Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer. Paul will teach at Duquesne next year as he applies for academic jobs and postdoctoral fellowships.
**MA Placements**

Anthony Casadonte will join the Philosophy PhD program at the University of Kentucky. He is also currently an alternate for a Fulbright Fellowship for research in China.

Peter Heft will join the Philosophy PhD program at the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism at Western University.

Patrick Pender will join the Philosophy PhD program at Emory University.

Kyle Rodewald will take the bar exam and continue his training as a Judge Advocate for the United States Marine Corps. Kyle is the first graduate of the Joint MA/JD program offered through a collaboration between the Philosophy Department and the Duquesne Law School.

Dongke Tu will join the Music PhD program at Stony Brook University.

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**Alumni Placements, Promotions and Awards**

Dr. Jim Bahoh (PhD 2016) has been hired as a tenure track Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Memphis. He also received a 2019/20 Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship at Deakin University, which was unfortunately cut short due to the pandemic. His Heidegger's Evental Ontology appeared with Edinburgh University Press in January.

Dr. Ryan Johnson (PhD 2015) has been awarded a Summer 2020 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship to pursue work on early American Hegelianism. He is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Elon University.

Dr. Evan Strevell (PhD 2016) has accepted a position as a full-time Teaching Professor of Philosophy at Xavier University.

Dr. Becky Vartabedian (PhD 2015) has received tenure and been promoted to Associate Professor of Philosophy at Regis University.

We welcome any news from alumni! If you have anything you would like to share with the department, please contact us at philprint@duq.edu.

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**2019-2020 Department Events**

**Philosophy Visiting Speakers Series**

Dr. Jay Lampert took over organizing the speaker series this year, with things more or less on hold in the fall thanks to SPEP, but picking up again in the spring. The series included the following events:


Dr. Elias Bongmba (Rice University), “Evil in Africa,” February 20 (co-sponsored by the Center for African Studies).

Dr. Béatrice Longuenesse (NYU), a talk on Kant, Hegel and German Idealism scheduled for April 17 but unfortunately cancelled due to the campus closure.

**Duquesne Undergraduate Philosophy Society Events**

At the suggestion of the Duquesne Undergraduate Philosophy Society members, Dr. Patrick Miller organized a series of public faculty debates on controversial philosophical topics. These included: Dr. Miller and Dr. Lanei Rodemeyer discussing the relationship between gender and nature, Dr. Patrick and Dr. James Swindal engaging in “Does God Exist? A Debate for Skeptics and Saints”, and Dr. Miller and Dr. Eric Vogelstein debating “Are We Free? A Debate on Free-Will and Determinism”.

**Other Departmental Events**

In January, the Philosophy Department and the Center for Healthcare Ethics co-sponsored “Philosophy in Practice: Pursuing a Career in Applied Bioethics”, featuring presentations by Dr. Aimee Zellers and Dr. Joseph Bertino, both of whom received MA degrees from the Philosophy Department and went on to complete PhDs through Duquesne’s Center for Healthcare Ethics. The successful event was designed specifically for Duquesne Philosophy and health sciences majors, minors, and MA students.
Alumni Giving

Philosophy Department faculty, staff, and students would like to extend our deep gratitude to Regis and Dianne McKenna for their generous donation to the McKenna Family Philosophy Endowment, which supports Philosophy academic programs at Duquesne. Thank you for your support of our commitment to phenomenology, existential philosophy, and their history!

We also would like to direct alumni attention to several specific opportunities for supporting Duquesne University and the Philosophy Department under the current difficult circumstances:

As always, an open gift the Duquesne Fund allows the University to continue to serve its students in a comprehensive way. See duq.edu/make-a-gift-to-duquesne for more information.

Donations through the Make a Gift site above that are specifically earmarked for the Philosophy Gift Fund (designate your donation for ‘Gifts - Philosophy Department #210436’) will directly support Philosophy graduate students, and will specifically underwrite the Summer Intensive Language Grants that allow them to pursue language study to work as closely as possible with philosophical texts. Many thanks to the alumni who helped us raise $3,500 around the October Philosophy Alumni Reunion Conference!

Duquesne’s new Emergency Student Assistance Fund provides targeted aid to students who are most in need during the current crisis. All funds raised will be directed to eligible students identified by the Division of Student Life in consultation with Spiritan Campus Ministry. Visit duq.edu/esaf to donate, access campaign updates and view a live donor wall; email Dave Jakiello, Assistant Director of Annual Giving, at jakielod@duq.edu for more information.

Duquesne’s Brother Keating Initiative is a basic-needs umbrella program designed in response to insecurities being evidenced on college campuses across the country, with students reporting higher prevalence of housing and food insecurity in regional and national surveys in recent years. Under current circumstances of the pandemic, the Keating Initiative’s food pantry has experienced a significant increase in use as students have lost safe access to grocery stores and/or financial means in which to support their access to food. Donations can be mailed to Dr. Alia M. Pustorino-Clevenger, 115 Union, Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15282. Checks can be written to Duquesne University with Brother Keating Initiative on the memo line. Aldi, Giant Eagle and Shop n’ Save grocery store gift card donations are also accepted, and an Amazon wishlist can be found at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1IEZ62VJGQG9Q?ref_=wl_share

Stay safe and healthy!