

News from the Chair

This past academic year was a time of transition for our department. Just before fall semester began, we moved from our long-term home in Main Hall to Anderson. Although we are split between the first and third floors, we have much more office space in the new location. This extra space was immediately filled as we also welcomed three new tenure track faculty to the department, Dr. Tim Golden, Dr. Larry Udell, and Dr. Simon Ruchti (split with Women's and Gender Studies). I encourage you to read through what our new folks have been up to this past year and am sure you'll agree that they are wonderful additions to our program!

It was a time of transition for me personally as well, taking over as department chair. I had so much to learn, but the task was made much easier by the fact that Dr. Woolfrey had left things in good order, and by the excellent organizational skills of our department secretary, Rose Sykes.

In spite of all these transitions, it has been an incredibly productive year for us! Inside you will find information about some of the events we sponsored, some new program initiatives, and the wide range of activities our faculty have been engaged in.

One of the best things about serving as chair and compiling information for this newsletter

is hearing from alumni! As you'll see inside, we had a great response to an e-mail solicitation for news from our former students. I would also like to thank long-term department chair Dr. George Claghorn for his efforts to maintain contact with our alumni and for all the information he has shared with me this past year.

Finally, just a quick update on one aspect of my own scholarship. In November, Dr. Karin Gedge (WCU History) and I presented the results of our work-in-progress on "Documenting Diversity: Religious Perspectives in Oral History" at the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion in San Francisco.

To Anderson Hall!

Rose Sykes, Department Secretary AND108
610-436-2841



Dr. Schroepfer 108A
Dr. Porritt 108B
Dr. Woolfrey 108C
Dr. Ruchti 108D
Dr. Hoffman 108E

Dr. Golden 106
Dr. Forbes 332A
Dr. Striblen 332 B
Dr. Udell 332 C
Dr. Pierlott 332D

Inside this issue:

Events & News Items	2-3
Upcoming events	3
Former and Current Faculty	4-5
Alumni News	6-7
Award Winners & New Alumni	9

Events

7th Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference

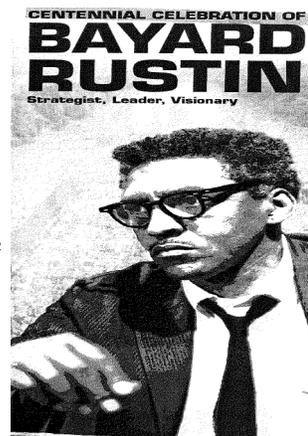
Internationally recognized Levinas scholar **Dr. Robert Bernasconi**, currently of Penn State University, was the keynote speaker at the annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference held at West Chester on April 7, 2012.

Dr. Bernasconi spoke on “The Emancipation of Ethics from Politics,” and the conference featured eleven graduate student papers revolving around the theme of *Ethics in Dialogue*.

Conference awards went to Jacob Graham, Duquesne University, for “Going Beyond Good and Evil in the Nichomachean Ethics” and to David Loeffler, Franciscan University of Steubenville, for “The Role of Speculative Philosophy in Ethics.”

Centennial Celebration of Bayard Rustin

The Philosophy Department helped to sponsor a day-long event celebrating the life and legacy of West Chester native Bayard Rustin. Dr. Timothy Golden, Dr. Joan Woolfrey, and Dr. Helen Schroepfer spoke at various sessions during the day.



Phi Sigma Tau Induction

On October 6, 2011, the following 16 students were inducted into the philosophy honors society, Phi Sigma Tau.

Mike Ardoline
Jillian Barton
Greg Bertoti
William Davis
Steven Ellison
Elizabeth Freund
Etna Garofalo
Harvey Greer
Joshua Gribbin
Rei Horst
Andrew Lanni
Holly Meneses
Joseph Myers
Geoff Naylor
Elizabeth Remelius
Allan Taney



Phi Sigma Tau Inductees 2011

Dr. Tom Sparrow (WCU MA 2004) was the guest speaker for the ceremony.



Help Increase the Peace

The "Help Increase the Peace" (HIP) program is a workshop series developed by the American Friends Service Committee that promotes non-violent conflict resolution and social justice. The workshops are designed to provide participants with a "safe space" and with concrete skills for discussing interpersonal and intergroup conflict. The workshops use guided discussions, didactic games, role playing, and other activities to develop a sense of community among participants and to encourage open conversation about social injustice. Participants who complete both the "Basic" and "Advanced" workshops are then certified to facilitate their own workshops, expanding the reach of the program. Over the course of the 2011-2012 academic year, Drs. Woolfrey and Striblen participated in five of these workshops on campus, along with around 40 students from West Chester and Cheyney. Drs. Woolfrey and Striblen, plus a number of other students, are now trained as facilitators of HIP and can spread the message even further.

NSF Grant

The NSF grant team, which includes our own Drs. Woolfrey and Pierlott, entered SciEthics Interactive in the U.S. Army's annual competition, the Federal Virtual Worlds Challenge (FVWC). The project was selected as a finalist and invited to display at the 2012 Defense GameTech Users' Conference in May. Dr. Pierlott and Mr. Andrew Miranda, one of the student scripters on the project, attended the conference and exhibited both of SciEthics Interactive's virtual islands to attendees and judges. On the first island, TransGen Island, students guide their avatar to a facility farming genetically modified salmon. While learning about genetic modification, students take samples, create graphs and interpret the data. The students are then confronted with a request to present ambiguous data in a way preferential to the farm's interest and must decide how to respond. The second island, Rainforest Research island, still under construction, presents opportunities to conduct field research on soil, water and flora to help determine how the land will be developed. The two areas of focus for this year's challenge were "Engaging Learning" and "The Holodeck - Making It So." SciEthics Interactive won a \$3,000 2nd Place award in the category of "Concept Building" under "Engaged Learning." The whole team was greatly pleased by this high profile recognition of the project.

**Mark Your
Calendars!**

Upcoming Events

Inaugural Frederick Douglass

Philosophy Conference

Friday, October 26

Sykes Student Union

Dr. Tim Golden secured a grant from the American Philosophical Association (APA) to support this conference, which will focus on recruiting African-Americans and women to WCU to study philosophy at the graduate level. **George Yancy**, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Duquesne University, will be the keynote speaker for the conference.

Check our website for further information and specific details on the following:

Graduate Student Philosophy Conference— An annual spring conference hosted by our graduate philosophy students.

GPPC— The Greater Philosophical Philosophy Consortium offers a wide array of lectures and conferences each year.

IAPRS— The Interdisciplinary Association for Philosophy and Religious Studies hosts an annual spring conference.

News from current and former department members

Steve Croddy

Dr. Croddy reports: "While continuing my attempt to understand the evolution of European culture, I am current studying Claude Levi-Strauss on art, Jacques Le Goff's interpretation of the Middle Ages, an analysis of Cezanne's paintings, and a history of Cubism. I would welcome any thoughts on these subjects at stcroddy@aol.com."

Ruth Porritt

Ruth Porritt served on the ArtAbility Committee for Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital this year, planning the largest national exhibition of artists who have overcome physical and cognitive changes to find new approaches to artistic expression. Dr. Porritt continues to advise the WCU chapter of National Students of Ailing Mothers and Fathers, a student bereavement support group. Her proposal "Using Personal Lyric Poems in Grief Counseling" was accepted as a poster session for the 34th Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. For the annual Philosophy Department Retreat Dr. Porritt researched the possibility of offering an internship course for undergraduates in the near future. Internships would

(Continued on page 8)

Frank Hoffman

Frank J. Hoffman published an article, "Unskillful Karma: Environmental Pollution as Ignorance in Action", *International Journal for the Study of Humanistic Buddhism*, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Issue 1, September 2011. Hoffman also published three book reviews this academic year: Bret W. Davis, Brian Schroeder, and Jason M. Wirth (eds.), *Japanese and Continental Philosophy: Conversations with the Kyoto School* in *CHOICE* April 2012; Keping Wang, *Reading the Dao* in *CHOICE* December 2011; Bryan W. VanNorden, *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy* in *CHOICE* November 2011.

Hoffman again served as Associate Director of the Ethnic Studies Institute this year. He organized the twenty-four events in the 2011–2012 academic year listed on the

(Continued on page 8)

Joan Woolfrey

Joan Woolfrey has been reveling in her adjustment to civilian life (i.e., not being chair), and has been putting much of her spare energies into the Peace & Conflict Studies program, which she has been directing since 2008. The program has a revamped and revitalized curriculum and has doubled the number of minors over the last couple of years (credit goes to a handsome and capable team of adjunct instructors).

Other directions for her energies include the NSF-funded virtual worlds project now in its third year. Collected data is currently under analysis, and will show whether or not awareness of ethical issues is heightened by the virtual world experience. She and Matthew Pierlott, the ethicists on the team, are

(Continued on page 8)

Matt Pierlott

This year was another eventful year for Dr. Matthew Pierlott as he began his first term as Graduate Coordinator this year. His latest publication, "Silverstein's Missing Pieces: Lessons in Love and Incompleteness," in *Philosophy in Children's Literature*, edited by Peter R. Costello, came out from Lexington. The piece explored the interconnections between Shel Silverstein's two works and Plato's Symposium, while drawing on Lacan and Zizek.

In November, he joined Dr. Woolfrey and Dr. Seth Kahn (WCU English) to present their work on the NSF EESE funded SciEthics Interactive project. The talk was titled "Applying Virtual Worlds to Ethics Education," and was presented to the Congress on Teaching the Social

(Continued on page 8)

Dan Forbes

This past year Dr. Forbes taught courses in Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics, History of Ancient Philosophy, History of Modern Philosophy, and a graduate course in Epistemology. He especially enjoyed teaching Ancient and Modern Philosophy—these history courses are his bread and butter! This past spring as a pedagogical experiment Dr. Forbes and Dr. Pierlott team-taught an innovative Introduction to Ethics course. Part of their goal was to see if two experienced philosophers could model for students new to philosophical argument and conversation how to engage in substantive philosophical discussion—conversation that is neither inflexible polarized debate or mushy relativism. They found that they had

(Continued on page 10)

Cassie Striblen

During this past academic year, Dr. Striblen worked on new projects related to teaching, research and service. Her primary teaching project involved developing a partially online version of PHI 190 (Logic), which will be taught for the first time in Fall 2012. Along with Dr. Woolfrey, Dr. Striblen did a service project related to nonviolent conflict resolution called the Help Increase the Peace (HIP) program. Thanks to an internal grant, they participated in four weekend workshops and trained additional people as HIP facilitators. Regarding research, Dr. Striblen is continuing to explore issues of group responsibility. She helped to organize the 6th Independent Arendt Circle Conference held in Baltimore and she presented a paper at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology in Savan-

(Continued on page 8)

Larry Udell

Dr. Udell's first year as a regular faculty member has been exciting and rewarding. He completely re-wrote the introduction to his introductory philosophy reader, *Ten Philosophies That Shook the World*, which is being published now by University Readers. He has also started plans for a new program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics and is looking forward to getting the program approved and up and running. This would make West Chester University the first non-research university to have such a program, and would put us alongside such programs as Oxford, Duke, and the University of Pennsylvania. He is looking forward to teaching business ethics in the fall and a graduate seminar on Marx and Rawls in the spring, after teaching philosophy of law and human rights this past year.

(Continued on page 10)

Tim Golden

Dr. Golden's areas of specialization are 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy, African-American Philosophy/Critical Race Theory, and Philosophy of Religion/Philosophical Theology. Dr. Golden's most recent publication, a book chapter entitled "Two Forms of Transcendence: Justice and the Problem of Knowledge," is forthcoming in the book, *Pursuing Trayvon Martin: Historical Contexts and Contemporary Manifestations of Racial Dynamics*, edited by George Yancy and Janine Jones, and published by Lexington Books. The book chapter presents a discussion of the concept of transcendence in Augustine and Emmanuel Levinas, and applies this concept to the social dynamics at work in the Trayvon Martin tragedy. Dr. Golden also presented a

(Continued on page 10)

Simon Ruchti

Dr. Ruchti received a University Forum grant (with Lisa Ruchti) to put on a feminist and queer film festival. Tentatively scheduled for April of 2013, it will include films made by WCU students about their experiences with issues of gender and sexuality on campus. They will spend the fall and winter helping students make their film shorts and will also bring in established filmmakers to show and discuss their films. Each film showing will include a discussion afterward.

With Lisa Ruchti, she is co-editing a reader for Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies courses for Oxford Press. It will include primary texts in feminist theory and activism with commentaries

(Continued on page 8)



Drs. Cassie Striblen, Joan Woolfrey, and Simon Ruchti preside over the Phi Sigma Tau induction, October 2011.

Alumni News

Michael C. Duff (BA 1991) On February 15, 2012, Michael C. Duff was unanimously voted tenure and promoted to Full Professor in the University of Wyoming School of Law. He will serve as visiting professor at the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver in Spring of 2013. His postal address is 3948 Alta Vista Drive, Laramie, WY 82072. His Email address is: seemlessweb@gmail.com

Donovan Martin (MA 2009) His first novel, *Two Days of Dying* (ISBN: 9780615552767), has received positive reviews overall and has been picked up for distribution in Europe and the UK. His second book, *The Ontological I & Other Essays* (ISBN: 9780984815906), is out in paperback and was mostly written while a student at WCU and is a result of his studies there. His second novel, currently titled *Things in Brown Paper*, is scheduled for a late summer release with a second work in philosophy to follow soon after.

He has been accepted into the joint PhD program in Philosophy and Literature at Purdue University and will be moving to Indiana this August to begin doctoral studies in phenomenology, hermeneutics, and the philosophical novel (emphasis on French Lit. and its influence on 20th century American Lit. i.e. Faulkner). In the interim, he has been teaching philosophy at Rosemont College, Neumann University, Delaware Co. Community College, and Widener while practicing philosophy as a counselor with the American Philosophical Practitioners Association (APPA).

Anton Shannon (BA 2007) Anton and a colleague run Good Work Farm, a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and market farm in Emmaus, PA. You can check out the farm's website at goodwork-farm.com.

Pete Moyer (BA 1990) I graduated in 1990 and cannot mention what Dr. Claghorn and the Philosophy Department did for me. I actually enjoyed school for the first time. Today I am Vice President of Sales for Orpak USA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Orpak Systems based in Bnei Brak, Israel. We are a manufacturer of secure outdoor payment terminals and fuel management systems for gas stations. We are also the world leader in vehicle recognition and collecting vehicle data for fleet management. This year I was elected District Governor for Toastmasters International's District 66 in Virginia. I oversee more than 115 clubs and 2400 members. Toastmasters is a communication and leadership organization with clubs all over the world. I am currently working on a book entitled *Never Go A Day In Your Life Without A Job*. I am married (20 years) with two daughters. My oldest daughter is in the International Baccalaureate Program and the younger one is in the Advance Technology Academy in High School. We live in Virginia Beach, VA.

Veronica Birmingham (BA 1990). Working for Bank of America (purchased MBNA in 2006) since 1993. Putting my philosophy degree (the logic & critical thinking parts especially) to use by managing portfolio analysis, operations, projects and most recently process design and improvement. I use business intelligence technologies to deliver decision support systems, technical business requirements, process mapping, risk assessments and solutions. I have a Green Belt with Design for Six Sigma. I have a son in college who wants to transfer to West Chester!

Brian Pakpour (MA 2009) I'm very excited to announce I graduated from Santa Clara University School of Law last month with a J.D. I'm currently studying for the California Bar Exam, which I'll sit for in July. My wife Nazy and I live with our 1 year old daughter Layla

in Davis, Ca. I plan to practice family law once I'm admitted to the bar.

Stephen Lahey (BA 1986) is Associate Professor of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, and his translation of John Wyclif's *Trialogus* will be published by Cambridge University Press in November. He is learning Czech so he can study Wyclif's influence among the Hussites in 15th Century Bohemia. He is also an Episcopal priest in the diocese of Nebraska, and is drawing a cartoon version of Augustine's City of God in his spare time.

Michael Jones (MA 1995) I'm still teaching at Liberty University. One change is that I now teach about 50% of my load online, which has been an interesting experience. I also continue to publish as time permits. In the 2011-2012 school year my pub-

lications were limited to a chapter translated from a Romanian philosopher into English and a book review. The former is: "The Historical Phenomenon," an excerpt from *Ființa Istorică* (The Historical Being) by Lucian Blaga. It was published as a chapter in *Meridian Blaga 11* (Cluj-Napoca, Romania: Casa Cărții de Știință, 2011), 3-10. The latter is: Sandu Frunza, *Dumnezeu și Holocaustul la Elie Wiesel: O etică a responsabilității* (God and the Holocaust according to Elie Wiesel: An ethic of responsibility), published in *Mathal/Mashal: The Journal of Islamic and Judaic Multidisciplinary Studies* 1:1, Nov. 2011 (<http://ir.uiowa.edu/mathal/vol1/iss1/2/>). In more personal news, my wife began work on her EdD, our oldest son got married, and our youngest son is a senior in the biology/environmental sciences program at Liberty.

Brian Jones (BA 2007; MA 2009) I am still living in Dedham, Massachusetts. After completing a second master's degree in Psychoanalytic Counseling in April 2012, I am teaching Philosophy and Psychology at MassBay Community College and Philosophy at Salem State University: primarily, Ethics, Critical Thinking, and Abnormal Psychology. I recently published a paper entitled, "What is the critical idea?: Some preliminary notes on critical pedagogy" found in the *Journal of Pedagogy and Human Sciences*, a paper that was so acclaimed that the journal invited me to be a reviewer. In addition, I have another paper forthcoming entitled, "The Social-Ecology of Homelessness: Exploring the Dynamics of Engagement Among Homeless Adults". Third, I am in the process of presenting a paper series with several other academics concerning the notion of the "Everyday". I will focus on Heidegger's notion of Dasien's fallenness and what I identify as the fixation into the mundane. Finally, I have engaged in several advocacy projects working to establish workforce training programs for homeless individual's in Boston. Also, I have been working with psychologists from around the country to promote humane detainee interrogation practices. I have appeared in the Massachusetts State House to promote bills that would ban psychologists from participating in any acts of torture. Again, I am ever so grateful to West Chester University's Philosophy Department for giving me the essential tools I needed to propel myself in such a rich and fulfilling path.

Robert Allen (MA 2003) I'm doing well. I recently took a new position at St Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, so I'm currently transitioning from New Jersey back to Pennsylvania. I am the manager of their Sleep/Wake Disorders Center. I also have been asked to serve on the hospital's ethics committee, so I'm still using my Masters de-

gree :) In my spare time I serve as Grand Province Advisor for Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and try to keep up with my wife Kristina.

Caroline Lawson (BA 1993). After graduating from West Chester, I worked at Freedom's Foundation for many years as the Asst. Youth Education Director. I then went back to school at Albert Einstein Medical College in Philadelphia to earn my Paramedic certification. I have worked as a full time Paramedic at many 911 ambulance services in Philadelphia, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties. I am currently working as a full time paramedic for Lower Providence Township EMS (Montgomery County) and part-time for Trappe Community Ambulance. One of the frequently heard Philosophy jokes is: I graduated with a Philosophy degree, work taking orders at McDonald's and ask: "why" do you want fries with that order? Well, as a Paramedic with degrees in Philosophy and History, many of my co-workers tease me about working cardiac arrest cases while asking the (now unresponsive) patient: "So is there life after death?" However I find myself being more compassionate with dying patients and able to deal with important patient questions in a more humane fashion. Eventually I would like to enter hospice care work and write a book about end-of-life preparation. I am a strong advocate for end-of-life care and decision-making, support Do Not Resuscitate orders and am interested in the constantly evolving medical ethics issues faced by today's American society. If there is one thing that my experiences with philosophy has taught me it is: Enjoy life, celebrate it every day and make your life worth living. Or did I learn that from doing CPR? hmmm...

Jenna Thrasher-Sneathen (MA 2006) I still reside in Locust Grove, GA and I'm still teaching philosophy and ethics at Gordon College (four years). In fact, I just got offered a temporary full-time position. This means more classes, more pay and an office of my very own! I also teach online courses for Strayer University. Jes (husband) and I have added chickens to our large, four acre homestead. Not only are we enjoying the eggs, but they also help out with fertilizing the garden. Our newest hobbies include spinning fiber (we have 5 spinning wheels) and weaving on our loom. I have attached a picture of me spinning at the Georgia State Renaissance Festival. Dr. Woolfrey and Dr. Pierlott may not believe me!! Thank you for getting in contact with the alumni.



Russell Waltz (MA 2004) I'm doing well here at KU (Univ. of Kansas) (almost done!). I passed my PhD comprehensive exam and dissertation proposal examination last December. I am currently writing my dissertation and expect to defend this upcoming May. I spend my time teaching at the University of Kansas and the Kansas City Art Institute, as well as serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Auslegung: A Journal of Philosophy*. We primarily publish work of recent PhD's but high quality work by graduate students has been published as well.

Faculty News (cont'd)

(Porritt, Continued from page 4)

give seniors the opportunity to complete supervised job tasks for regional businesses, social services or non-profits. These valuable work experiences can assist students' transitions into full-time employment after graduation.

(Woolfrey, Continued from page 4)

eager for assessment data so they can start publishing results. In July, she also attended the annual meeting of the North American Society for Social Philosophy held this year in Boston, where she presented a paper on Bayard Rustin and institutional injustice.

(Ruchti, Continued from page 5)

to help guide readers through the historical, social, intellectual, and activist contexts of the readings. She is also co-editing an anthology with Chris Stangl and two students, alumnus Kim Jewitt and junior Nick Silveri-Hiller, on anarchist activism on university campuses. This anthology is under contract with Peter Lang Publishing.

She is also serving as the faculty advisor and faculty fellow for Sigma Phi Epsilon.

(Pierlott, Continued from page 4)

and Ethical Implications of Research, held in Tempe, AZ.

The grant team also entered Sci-Ethics Interactive in the U.S. Army's annual competition, the Federal Virtual Worlds Challenge (FVWC— see details on page 3). Dr. Pierlott has also been active both on and off campus this year. Here at WCU, he co-facilitated a workshop in November on "Cisgender Privilege" with our own Dr. Simon Ruchti, for the *Understanding Privilege Project*. He joined Dr. Ruchti again in March on a faculty panel for the Political Science Club to discuss censorship. In April, Dr. Pierlott served as an invited paper respondent and panelist for the inaugural ethics symposium of the Institute for Ethical Leadership and Social Responsibility at Rosemont College. And in June, Dr. Pierlott served as a consultant for a business ethics exam standard setting workshop at Excelsior College (Albany, NY).

(Striblen, Continued from page 5)

nah. Her encyclopedia article on Virginia Held was published in *The Encyclopedia of Global Justice* and a book review was published in *Ethics*. Dr. Striblen is currently obsessed with *The Hunger Games* and is thinking of getting a second dog.

(Hoffman, Continued from page 4)

Institute's Seminar Series Archive on the Ethnic Studies Institute home page. With Director Bonita Freeman-Witthoft, he received an International Award from West Chester University to develop academic affiliations between WCU and institutions in China and Sri Lanka. He facilitated Ethnic Studies GA Tim Bock presenting his research "Ethnicity and the Environment," on Research Day 2012.

He also presented a paper at the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies (MAR-AAS), "Moral Integrity in the Three Traditions: Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism" at Princeton University in October. He also gave talks at the University of Pennsylvania on "Karma", at the Philadelphia Buddhist Association on "The Life of the Buddha, and at WCU on "Gandhi's Satyagraha." He was discussion moderator for the Asian and Comparative Philosophy Discussion Group held at WCU focused on Brian Van Norden's, *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*. He completed his first year as chair of The Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium, attended most of their events throughout the year, and was a discussion moderator at two of them.

He mentored undergraduate students Gina Meyer, Marci Irvin, and Beverly Littlewood to be panelists on "Karma, Avatar, and Narrative" at the PASSHE IAPRS at Kutztown University in March. With Dr. Tim Golden, he mentored graduate students Tim Bock and Tim Burke to present papers at MAR-AAS, Asian and Comparative Philosophy Panel, Princeton University, October 23, 2011; he mentored undergraduate student Alexander Hickman to present his paper from a political science course, "Chinese-Taiwan Relations" at the undergraduate conference of Greater Philadelphia Asian Studies Consortium held at Swarthmore College on April 28, 2012.

2012 Award Winners



Claghorn Award:
Timothy Ebersole

“My experience at West Chester University has further deepened my appreciation for the discipline of philosophy, and given me a broader understanding of how philosophical thought

fundamentally permeates all of human life. I have come to believe that an open mind toward its concepts, systems, problems, and solutions, provides individuals the opportunity to engage their world in meaningful ways. Furthermore, I believe that it does so by pointing out the inexhaustible complexity of human life in a way that promotes humility on the part of the philosopher. While I have come to learn much in the classrooms at West Chester University, what I've come to know best is my own ignorance in light of the sheer magnitude of reality. I will be forever grateful for these experiences and look forward to what philosophy has to teach me in the future.”

Streveler Research Prize: R. Kevin Bloomquist for his paper “Embracing Underdetermination”



Abstract: Scientific practice is often viewed as a deductive process undertaken by an individual or a group of individuals sharing a common goal. This "deductive" process is expected to yield data that, if interpreted "properly", will expand the current body of knowledge toward a more complete understanding of its subject. A philosophical analysis of what is categorized as scientific has historically revealed the harmful effects of common presumptions regarding scientific methods and practices. This paper aims to re-orient the philosophical discussion surrounding science and scientific practices by properly framing scientific practice in a way that might alleviate equivocation and ease the dialogue surrounding scientific processes, goals, motivations, and data interpretation.

New Alumni!

B.A. in Philosophy

- Michael Bagwell
- R. Kevin Bloomquist
- Sam Burghoffer
- Bryan Funk
- Etna Garofalo
- William Hanrahan
- Andrew Hopkins
- Rei Horst
- Geoffrey Naylor
- David Perry

B.A. in Religious Studies

- Jillian Barton
- Steve Ellison
- Joshua Gribbin
- Elizabeth Remelius

M.A. in Philosophy

- Chris Stine
- Natalie Virtue
- Timothy Burke

(Golden, Continued from page 5)

paper in July at the Levinas Research Seminar at the University of Nevada, Reno entitled “Epistemic Addiction and Epistemic Injustice: Violence and Politics in Levinas.” In addition to his work on Levinas, Dr. Golden is writing essays on Kant and Kierkegaard, Levinas and Kierkegaard, Edmund Husserl’s phenomenological method, and he is editing a collection of essays in honor of Derrick Bell.

In the spring of 2012, Dr. Golden taught a graduate seminar on Kierkegaard, and two sections of PHI 100 (Creating Meaning). He also wants to recognize his thesis advisee, Tim Burke, on the successful defense of his thesis in the spring of 2012. Tim’s thesis, entitled “Past, Process, and Phenomena,” discussed Husserl, Heidegger, and Whitehead. Good work, Tim! Congratulations!

On May 30, 2012, Dr. Golden argued the case of *United States v. Felton Walker* before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati, Ohio. He appealed a lower court ruling that he believed violated his client’s rights under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Although the appeal was unsuccessful, Dr. Golden moves with much enthusiasm to his next appeal, believing that losing a case does not diminish the justice of his cause, which is providing a high quality of legal representation to indigent citizens appealing their criminal convictions.

This fall (2012), Dr. Golden will be teaching a section of PHI 100 (Creating Meaning), a section of PHI 349 (Ideas of the Bible) and a mixed graduate/undergraduate course (PHI 499/599) on African-American Philosophy. He looks forward to the inaugural “Frederick Douglass Philosophy Conference” this fall (see item p. 3)

(Forbes, Continued from page 4)

similar views on many of the ethical issues they were teaching and so their in-class interactions were a little *too* agreeable! Fortunately, the students in the course themselves rose to the challenge and generated some lively discussions about ethics and justice. Last November Dr. Forbes’s article “You’re Just a Shade: Knowing Others, and Yourself” was published in *Inception and Philosophy: Because It’s Never Just a Dream* edited by David Kyle Johnson. In his essay Forbes discusses the idea of shared dreaming and the thought of Spinoza, Leibniz, and Buber (among others) in an examination of the question of what it means to *know* someone else when one only has access to his or her own perceptions of and attitudes about others, and what this surprisingly entails about knowledge of oneself. Dr. Forbes is particularly proud that this book can be found in mainstream bookstores and not just on the shelves of university libraries. Now he’s waiting to see if someone will edit a volume on Ridley Scott’s latest film *Prometheus*—in his view, one of the more interesting philosophy movies he’s seen in recent years, and one he’d like to write about!

Also in November Dr. Forbes presented a Philosophy Forum talk at WCU on W. D. Ross’s moral philosophy. The talk, entitled “Am I Doing the Right Thing?: A Reappraisal of Ross’s Ethical Intuitionism,” focused on the question of how to understand Ross’s moral intuitions concerning *prima facie* duties and actual duty. Dr. Forbes argued that moral intuitions about *prima facie* duties cannot be regarded as requiring antecedent rational justification for accepting them because Ross considers them axiomatic. Actual duties, by contrast, are not determined through moral intuition; rather, we make our best judgment on what our actual duty is, act on it, and then find out if it was the right thing to do. If we make a bad judgment, then we incur a further moral duty to rectify it. Hence Ross’s moral philosophy is ultimately fallibilist rather than morally dogmatic.

Dr. Forbes also writes book reviews for *CHOICE*, a publication for academic libraries; recently he has written reviews on books on Spinoza and on the history of analytic philosophy.

Dr. Forbes worked closely with some of our graduate students this spring. One of the department’s graduate assistants, Mike Weaver, assisted Dr. Forbes in his research by composing a review of recent scholarship in the continental tradition on the contemporary significance of the philosophy of Benedict de Spinoza. This summer Dr. Forbes is advising graduate student Mike Ardoline as he writes his thesis on Gilles Deleuze’s conception of the virtual entitled “On the Excess of Necessity”. This coming fall Dr. Forbes will be focusing on organizing a Pedagogy Workshop Series to help graduate students learn the nuts and bolts of college-level teaching. Meanwhile, in his spare time Dr. Forbes has been contemplating whether the confirmation of the Higgs boson might constitute decisive evidence of the reality of the Force.

(Udell, Continued from page 5)

Dr. Udell also took over the coordination of the Philosophy Forum series, and plans to expand it into a colloquium series as well as a forum for our own people. With many excellent philosophers in our area, he hopes to make this a low budget/high return project, and welcomes suggestions for speakers from other area schools who would visit us for a pro bono talk. He also serves on University committees for parking, new faculty orientation, and transportation. He is the current Vice-President of the Interdisciplinary Association for Philosophy and Religious Studies (IAPRS).

His main research project remains the revision of John Rawls’s theory of justice, and this summer he is re-reading Rawls, including all his major papers as well as secondary literature. This research will culminate in a major paper, which he will be working on this year.