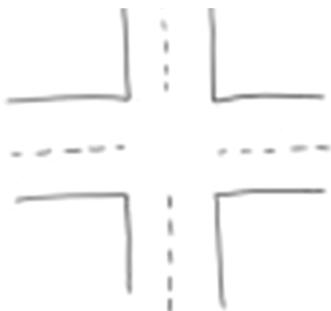


News from the Chair



INTERSECTIONS

The 2015-2016 academic year witnessed major transitions in the Department and the University. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary, and this provided an opportunity to reflect on where we've been, where we see ourselves headed, and how to work in that direction. Many former faculty members and alumni joined us for the various events, and I encourage you to check out the next few pages of the newsletter for pictures and further information.

We welcomed three new faculty, Dr. Rob Main, Dr. Josh Mason, and Dr. Jea Sophia Oh. We conducted another successful search, and Dr. Ronke Òké will join us in the fall, bringing us up to 13 permanent faculty members. In my view, the support that we have

received in securing new tenure-track lines reflects the administration's confidence in our ability to generate courses that appeal to a diverse student body, and their recognition of the high quality of the general education courses that my colleagues offer!

Another transition is in the works as I will be on sabbatical this fall and will wrap up my last semester as department chair when I return in the spring. I am confident that whoever the department chooses will bring new energy and vision to the position, and I will look forward to more time in the classroom. During my sabbatical, I will continue my work on "Documenting Diversity: Religious Perspectives in Oral History" and on incor-

porating these interviews into the religious studies curriculum. Many thanks to Dr. Woolfrey for sitting in as interim chair!

Finally, important transitions are taking place for the university. Our President retired this year, so we will be operating under new leadership. Also, the university is realigning the various colleges. Given years of rapid growth in the College of Arts and Sciences, this college will split, creating a College of Sciences and Mathematics and moving the Humanities into a newly formed College of Arts and Humanities.

Many transitions, many changes, and new opportunities ahead!

(JW: as of Fall 2016, the new colleges are in place!)

Philosophy Department

Faculty and Staff

Anderson Hall, 610-436-2841

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dr. Dan Forbes 332 A | Dr. Matthew Pierlott 332 D |
| Dr. Steven James 332 D | Dr. Ruth Porritt 108 B |
| Dr. Dean Johnson 108E | Dr. Helen Schroepfer, Chair 108 A |
| Dr. Rob Main 336 | Dr. Cassie Striblen 332 B |
| Dr. Joshua Mason 336 | Dr. Larry Udell 332 C |
| Dr. Ronke Òké 332 A | Dr. Joan Woolfrey 108 C |
| Dr. Jea Sophia Oh 108 D | |

Ms. Rose Sykes, Department Secretary 108

Inside this Issue:

	Page		Page
50th Anniversary Events	2-3	Student Events	6
Faculty	7-9	Award Winners	14
Alumni News and New Alumni	12-13	Upcoming Events	16

CELEBRATING PHILO5OPHY

1966-2016

PHILO5OPHY Past

On October 9, Dr. Fred Struckmeyer led attendees through a review of the Philosophy Department's history of accomplishments over the past 50 years. With graceful words from Drs. George Claghorn (founder of the department who was present with his wife, Shirley) and Tom Platt (accompanied by wife Pat), and the presence of Mr. Paul Banyascki (original member of the department), several alum and current students celebrated a half a century of success.



Department of Philosophy—Professors Claghorn, Streveler, Riukas, Banyascki, Croddy, Williams, Struckmeyer, Platt.

Philosophy Department – 1971
Professors Claghorn, Streveler, Riukas, Banyascki, Croddy, Williams, Struckmeyer, Platt

PHILO5OPHY Present

Alumni Rei Horst (Program Director for Family Services of Chester County), Henry Poce (who teaches religion at Malvern Preparatory School), and Jonathan Udell (a law clerk at the Rose Law Group in Scottsdale, AZ with one semester to go in law school) met with current students on April 5 to discuss their career paths in public service, education and administration, and law. They shared how studying philosophy helped to prepare them for what they do, and what they know of opportunities in their area of work. Dr. Ruth Porritt also prepared information regarding Internship opportunities for students, and we had a presentation on the University's Career Center and the services they offer.

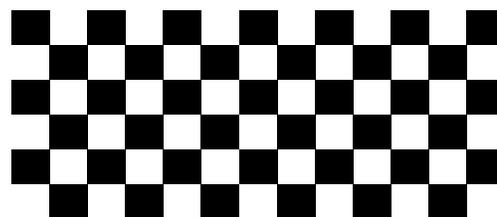
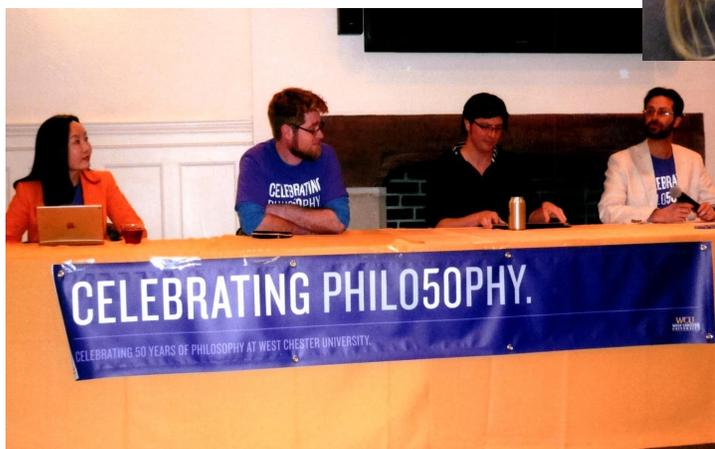
PHILO5OPHY Future

On April 13, we concluded our anniversary celebration by directing our attention to the future! The keynote speaker was Dr. Sally J. Scholz, Professor of Philosophy at Villanova University, who has written extensively on violence against women, oppression, solidarity, and related issues in ethics and political theory. Her books include *On de Beauvoir* (2000), *On Rousseau* (2001), *Political Solidarity* (2008), and *Feminism: A Beginner's Guide* (2010). She is currently working on issues related to global feminisms and human rights. She is a former editor of the *APA Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy* and is currently Editor of *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. She is also current president of the North American Society for Social Philosophy. Her talk focused on "Future Directions in/for Philosophy." She was then joined by a panel including our newest faculty members, Dr. Steven James, Dr. Rob Main, Dr. Josh Mason and Dr. Jea Sophia Oh who discussed new directions in their own areas of expertise.



Dr. Sally Scholz

Editor of prestigious feminist philosophy journal Hypatia is guest speaker at our Philosophy Future event!



From left, Drs. Jea Sophia Oh, Rob Main, Steven James and Joshua Mason

Other Major Events!!

Peace & Conflict Studies Sponsored Conversation

On November 2, Peace and Conflict Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and African American Studies co-sponsored: "*Finding a Better Way to Racial, Gender and Queer Justice—A conversation with Civil Rights Elder and Human Rights Activist, Ruby Nell Sales.*" Dr. Dean Johnson moderated the event, which included student leaders bringing questions to the conversation.



10th Independent Hannah Arendt Circle Hosted by WCU Philosophy Department

Brought to campus by our own Dr. Cassie Striblen (pictured, far right), the **10th annual Arendt Circle** is an international conference dedicated to the work of Hannah Arendt. It encouraged interdisciplinarity and is committed egalitarianism, such that the circle really is a circle. Participants present to each other around a table. No podiums, no authoritarian positions. Several of our graduate students got to participate and observe.



Spirituality and Sustainability



How faith communities are working toward a sustainable future



featuring keynote lecture by Drew University scholar and editor of
Ecospirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth:

Dr. Laurel Kearns

“The demand from the future:
The religious and spiritual
contours of sustainability”



On February 25, the Philosophy Department and the University Sustainability Advisory council sponsored “**Spirituality and Sustainability: How faith communities are working toward a sustainable future.**” The keynote speaker was Dr. Laurel Kearns (third from left below) of Drew University, editor of *Ecospirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth*. The lecture was followed by a panel discussion involving experts representing Islam (Dr. Yarekh Hernandez), Judaism (Rabbi Lawrence Troster), Buddhism (Patricia Kolbe), Hinduism (Tom Berendt), and Daoism (Dr. Jea Sophia Oh) (surrounding Dr. Kearns, in order, below).



Student Events

Phi Sigma Tau Induction



On October 29, Drs. Cassie Striblen and Larry Udell presided over the induction of new students into Phi Sigma Tau, the Philosophy Honors Society. Students inducted pictured above are, from left, Jessica Firestone, Robert Duvall, Brian Fink, Jessica Crum, Erik Starn, Vanessa Thiel. Congratulations to these amazing students!

Graduate Student Philosophy Conference

The 11th annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference was held on March 4 and featured keynote speaker Dr. Paul Taylor of Penn State. His talk was entitled Facing Ferguson: Reflecting on racial innocence. While he ended up having to Skype in, his virtual presence at the grad conference was much applauded.



Conference organizers and M.A. students Phil Taylor and Matt Rupert

Adjacent photos: Ashley Labonde of Wide Eyed Studios



Attentive philosophy undergrads



WCU M.A. student Brian Fink presenting



Image: Penn State

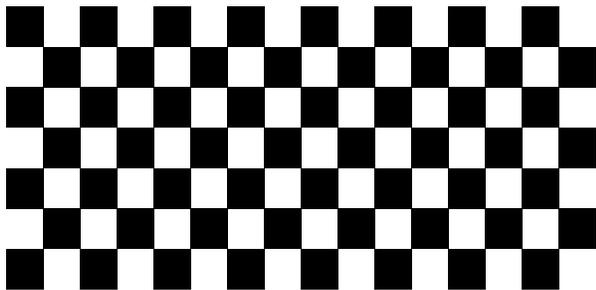
Dr. Paul Taylor: Associate Professor of Philosophy and African American Studies; Head of the Department of African American Studies

New Faculty!



Ronke Oké joins the faculty at West Chester University this fall as Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Dr. Oké received her BA from Spelman College (2005), MA from the University of Memphis (2009), and Ph.D. from Penn State University (2015). Her research and teaching interests include Critical Philosophy of Race, Africana Philosophy, Existentialism, and Social & Political Philosophy (as construed through the 20th Century French Continental tradition). Specializing in race and identity formation with a particular emphasis on intersubjectivity, transnational conceptions of Blackness, the intersection of race and gender, and multicultural social justice, Dr. Oké is fundamentally interested in interrogating Western-centered appropriations of racial identity in an attempt to explore the conditions for transnational claims of race and identity, especially as they are framed by the language of race (and racism) and affected by an increasingly “cosmopolitan” world. In the past, her work sought to reconstruct a philosophical account of lived experience that does justice to the experience of race. She is currently pursuing projects that merge her interest in questions of race, citizenship, and identity with her love of Africana literature. Dr. Oké’s research has allowed her to participate in and facilitate cross-cultural and interdisciplinary dialogues in Johannesburg and Capetown, South Africa; Ibadan and Lagos, Nigeria, Kigali, Rwanda; Liberta, Antigua; Paris, France; San Juan, Puerto Rico and various Diasporic communities across the United States.

Welcome To
THE TEAM



News from current department members

Ruth Porritt

This year I served on the newly formed WCU Faculty Advisory Committee for the Poetry Center, which includes Luanne Smith in English, Kristin Ervin in English, Leonard Kelly in Theater, Gabrielle Halko in English and Van Stiefel in Music. The Advisory Committee works on the annual WCU Poetry Conference even as it offers campus events that integrate poetry with the visual and performing arts. When several academic departments made the transition into the College of Arts and Humanities, the filmmaker Jesse Piersol, in Communication Studies, and I collaborated on a grant proposal to produce a short documentary film honoring Patricia Grasty Gaines, the co-founder, with James Trotman, of the Frederick Douglass Institute.

(Continued on page 11)

Dan Forbes

Dr. Forbes continues to regularly teach Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics, and History of Modern Philosophy. Dr. Forbes will be teaching the Graduate Proseminar in Philosophy this Fall 2016, and has selected as an overarching course topic the philosophical theme of opposition and identity. The class will study some pivotal philosophers and texts from ancient philosophy through the present, including works from Plato, Leibniz, and Judith Butler. Dr. Forbes hopes students in the course will enjoy grappling with the metaphysical aspects of thinking about difference.

Dr. Forbes is currently reviewing a book by Peter J. Lewis entitled *Quantum Ontology: A Guide to the Metaphysics of Quantum Mechanics*. If you want to have a better sense of how theories from contemporary science should impact our philosophical discussions about the nature of reality, causality, and the self, this is an interesting and noteworthy book.

Joan Woolfrey

Here I am back in the chair's seat temporarily. It's a busy summer. I'm more and more involved with my main professional organization, the North American Society for Social Philosophy. I'm Program Committee Chair this year, and had lots of details to attend to before the conference in July. I just had an article come out in the *Journal for Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, entitled "The Infectiousness of Hope," and another currently being readied for publication called "The Primacy of Hope" for *Social Philosophy Today*. Are we seeing a theme here?

I am also working on a book chapter for an interdisciplinary anthology on *Maternal Ambivalence* edited by Sarah LaChance Adams, Susan Hogan and Tanya Cassidy (philosophy, humanities, and health faculty, respectively). I will be taking a virtue ethics approach to the question of the desire for maternity.

(Continued on page 11)

Cassie Striblen

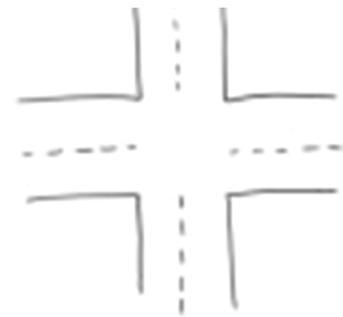
This past year was eventful for Dr. Striblen. She taught her usual array of courses and continued to work on assessment. She brought the international Hannah Arendt Circle conference to our campus in March, and served as a reviewer for the journal *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*. A paper she wrote on 'collective akrasia' was accepted to the "17th International Conference on Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology" in Frutillar, Chile held in October; however, Dr. Striblen was unable to attend because she was pregnant with her first child. Valerie Josephine Stangl was born in April and both mom and baby are doing fine. Dr. Striblen expects to introduce Valerie to everyone in the fall.

Matt Pierlott

Dr. Matthew Pierlott is proud to be celebrating his tenth year as a regular faculty member in the department. Looking back, he has seen the department grow dramatically in both students and faculty since he began with us. He continues to enjoy teaching PHI180: Introduction to Ethics courses, and PHI/PHY 125: Theology and Science (a course developed by Dr. Struckmeyer, which Pierlott now team-teaches with Dr. Tony Nicastrò of WCU Physics). He is looking forward to teaching the PHI 640: Seminar on Kant this coming fall term. They will examine large portions of the Critique of Pure Reason and the Critique of Practical Reason.

Dr. Pierlott continues in his role as Assistant Director of the Honors College, and oversees several of the Honors Capstone projects. The Honors College is growing, and he is glad that the Philosophy Department has maintained such a strong connection with their programs.

This past spring, Dr. Pierlott presented a paper, "Miracles," for the Wesleyan Philosophical Society's annual conference, this year held at Point Loma Nazarene University. The paper explored how differing definitions of 'miracle' are used in debates both for and against religious belief, challenging the idea that wondrous events should be seen as evidence to compel belief and that naturalistic explanations should be used to deflate religious wonder.



Dean Johnson

Dean Johnson's continues to grow the Peace and Conflict Studies program. In the fall Johnson hosted the inaugural Circle of Revolutionary Nonviolence, a group of intellectuals and activists who engaged in the theory and practice of nonviolent social change. The group includes about 25 people with decades of experience reaching back as far as the US Civil Rights Movement and the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement as well as contemporary movements such as Black Lives Matter and the Israel/Palestine Conflict. As a result of the gathering, Johnson is editing a reader/primer that will become available later this fall. Johnson, as a part of the Peace and Conflict Studies program, also worked with the Women's and Gender Studies program and WCU Social Equity to host Black-led freedom struggle elder Ruby

(Continued on page 11)

Steven James

Steven James spent the past year continuing to settle into the community at WCU. In the fall, he integrated response devices [clickers for in-class feedback] into three sections of Introduction to Philosophy and reprised an undergraduate level critical thinking class that mixed informal logic with psychological work on cognitive biases. In the spring, he taught a graduate epistemology course with a special emphasis on contemporary analytic epistemology for the second time and published a paper titled 'Epistemic and Non-Epistemic Theories of Remembering' in the *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*.

Over the last year, Dr. James was also privileged to present a novel theory of remembering to audiences in Miami and

(Continued on page 11)

Rob Main

This past year was Dr. Main's first as a tenure-track faculty member, after six years with the department as an adjunct instructor. Dr. Main continued to teach and develop Creating Meaning, an introductory course on existentialism in philosophy, art and popular culture. Students in this class are given the option to submit artworks which engage existentialist philosophy instead of final papers. This year yielded some of the best art projects ever submitted to the class, and Dr. Main has begun work on developing similar alternative assignments for other classes. He also taught sections of Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to Meaning, an interdisciplinary course in the philosophy of language and semiotics (which was a popular topic among the students). In the fall term, Dr. Main

(Continued on page 11)

Josh Mason

I was welcomed to West Chester by a tornado that toppled huge trees and knocked out the electricity. Everything seemed relatively smooth after that.

In my first year here, I got to know many students in my introductory classes, and got to know a handful of students quite well in my classes on Asian philosophy. I'm still not entirely sure who is or is not a philosophy major or graduate student walking past me in the hall, but slowly I'm getting to know the personalities and stories that make up our community here. I appreciate how welcoming everybody has been.

In my writing and scholarship, I've been working on the themes of harmony, pathways, and embodied metaphors. I was pleased to see my chapter on "Chaos and Vagueness: Extremes that Threaten the Harmonious Society" finally hit the bookshelf in an edited volume

(Continued on page 11)

Jea Sophia Oh

This past year was Dr. Jea Sophia Oh's first year at West Chester University. She taught sections of Introduction to Religious Studies, Philosophy and Religions of India, and Asian Philosophy. She is particularly proud of the fact that she helped three of her students to present their papers from her Asian Philosophy class at East-West Philosophers' Conference in Hawaii in May. Her newly developed course, "Religion and Ecology," will be offered this Fall (2016) for undergraduate and graduate students. In February, as already an active member of Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC) at WCU, she organized a remarkable event, "Spirituality and Sustainability," *How Faith Communities Are Working Toward a Sustainable Future*, and served as a panelist of East Asian traditions. Additionally, she served as a panelist at "The 50th Anni-

(Continued on page 10)

Larry Udell

In addition to his usual teaching, which this year included courses in the Philosophy of Human Rights and the Philosophy of Law, Dr. Udell kept busy with four projects. In the fall, he initiated and has been developing WCU's first entry in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, a national competition where teams of students meet to discuss timely and controversial public affairs issues, and presented a paper on Karl Popper and John Rawls on the problem of change at a conference on Popper's philosophy in Ankara, Turkey. In the spring, he took his second trip to Cuba, a project that he hopes will result in an exchange program with a Cuban university. And this summer, he presented "Rawls and the Limits of Practicable Political Possibility" at the North American Society for Social Philosophy annual conference.



Meet our Excellent Adjunct Team!

Ethics / Philosophy Instructors:

Margaret Betz, PhD Temple University.

Patrick Denehy, PhD Temple University

Kate Eltringham, PhD (ABD) Villanova.

Jina Fast, PhD Temple University

Ed Pollitt, MA WCU. Ed also developed a course for us on Animal Ethics.

Barb Tournier, MBe (Bioethics) University of Pennsylvania. Barb is our expert in Medical Ethics.

Paul Harris, MA University of Essex (UK). Paul teaches Creating Meaning and Introduction to Philosophy

Charlotte Moore, MA WCU, currently enrolled in Temple University's PhD in Religion program. Charlotte teaches Introduction to Ethics, Religion in the U.S., Religions of the West, and developed a course for us on New Religious Movements.

John Zak, PhD (ABD) Catholic University of America. John teaches Introduction to Philosophy.

Peace and Conflict Studies Instructors:

David Headman, MTS Harvard Divinity School

Rebecca Subar, MPA Harvard Uni-

Religious Studies Instructors:

Kipp Gilmore-Clough, PhD Temple University

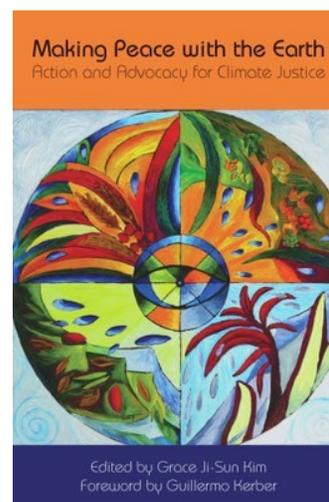
Eduardo Hernandez, PhD Temple University.

Faculty News, con't

(Oh, continued from page 9)

versary Celebration of the Department of Philosophy," *Future Direction in/for Philosophy* in April. She attended the "Brandywine Project Workshop" by SAC in February and the "Religion and Ecology Workshop" at American Academy of Religion in Atlanta, GA in November 2015. Beyond WCU, Dr. Oh serves as Chair for the "Religion, Gender, and Sexuality" Section and Co-Chair for the "Global Religion and Pluralism" Section of the Mid-Atlantic Region division of the American Academy of Religion (MAR-AAR). In April, she moderated three sessions at the annual conference of the MAR-AAR. As a scholar she published a book chapter, "Salim, Ever-Recycling Energy: Korean Postcolonial Ecofeminist Theology of Life," in *Making Peace with the Earth: Action and Activism for Climate Justice* (Geneva: Oikoumene, WCC Publications, 2016) and a journal article, "Lament over Frankenstein, Nature De-natured: A Deep Ecology with Sacred Seeds," in *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy* (AJTP), Vol. 37, No. 1, The University of Illinois Press, Champaign, IL (January 2016). She was invited as a

guest speaker for MSU Interdisciplinary Seminar Series at the Center for Environmental and Life Sciences and gave her talk, "Ever Recycling Power of Life: A Postcolonial Ecotheology of Energy," at Montclair State University (October, 2015). In January, she was a commentator on "The Laozi in Light of Contemporary Metaphor Theory," Panel II: How to Do Chinese and Comparative Philosophy, for the The Association of Chinese Philosophers in North America Group (ACPA), at the 2016 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (APA), in Washington, D.C. She presented her paper, "A Bear Who Became A Woman: A Korean Ecofeminist Theology," in Asian Religions Section at MAR-AAR. In May, she presented, "In the Beginning was the Place...: An East-West Dialogue of *Creatio ex Profundis*," at The 11th East-West Philosophers' Conference in Hawaii. Her significant achievement as a scholar is that her presentation paper, "Vulnerable Transcendence of Nature: A Transhuman Understanding of Hybridity," won "The Ralph Waldo Emerson Prize" for the Best Paper at the Sixth International Congress on Ecstatic Naturalism in April.



Faculty News, con't

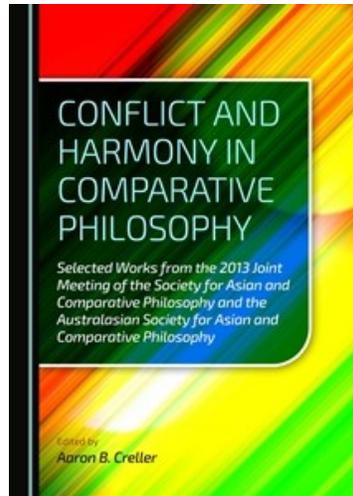
(Mason, continued from page 9)

entitled *Conflict and Harmony in Comparative Philosophy*. I also had my article "Harmoneutics" accepted by the journal *Comparative and Continental Philosophy*. I was honored to present my work at the Colombia Comparative Philosophy Seminar, at the Northeast Conference on Chinese Thought, and at the Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle in Taiwan. Since a class I taught on East Asian philosophy is part of the Contemplative Studies minor, I have gotten to know the crew running the Center for Contemplative Studies, and I was invited to talk about "Daoism and Contemplative Artistry" at their seminar series.

At the 11th East-West Philosopher's conference I presented my work on "The Right Road and the Proper Path: Metaphors of Navigating the Moral Landscape." This was a once in a lifetime opportunity because the conference doubled as a retirement party for my dissertation advisor, and many of my friends, classmates, and colleagues came together for the occasion. As I start my career here at West Chester, this event encouraged me to reflect on what is possible and what is worthwhile in pursuing my life's work.

(Porritt, continued from page 8)

Thankfully we were awarded an Equity, Access, Inclusion and Diversity Initiatives Grant to fund our project. We are fortunate to interview people who knew and admired Pat, a visionary colleague in the College of Education. And one final note: All of us serving on the Art Ability Committee at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital happily celebrated its 20th anniversary with the largest exhibition to date.



(Johnson, continued from page 9)

Sales. Sales discussed "Finding a Better Way to Racial, Gender, and Queer Justice."

In the spring Johnson worked to host a series of scholar-activists on campus including Eugene Puryear, Simona Sharoni, and Ewuare Osayanda who addressed issues such as the current state of US politics, campus sexual assault, and the relationship between art and activism. The year ended with Johnson and a host of other faculty and students preparing for nonviolent civic engagement as the campus hosted presidential candidate Donald Trump.

(James, continued from page 9)

Tampa. At the latter conference he also offered comments on a paper about the "best systems analysis" of laws of nature. At the Eastern Division meeting of the APA, he provided comments for a paper about the "extended mind thesis". Finally, Dr. James joined WCU's Research and Creative Activities (RACA) review committee and continues to represent WCU on the board of directors for the Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium (GPPC). Over the summer he wrote a book review and has slowly made some progress on his own book proposal. He is excited for year number three here at

(Woolfrey, continued from page 8)

Besides shepherding my *History of Western Ethics* on-line course through the second summer session and eagerly awaiting the arrival of fall term and my chance to teach for the newly-minted Women's & Gender Studies **Department** (!) as I do every fall (The Intellectual Roots of Western Feminism), I will be eagerly awaiting the arrival of our newest colleague, Dr. Òké, and settling in with the rest of my charming colleagues to do good work for our students and the university as a whole!

(Main, continued from page 9)

led a graduate seminar on C.S. Peirce and was very pleased to present a paper alongside some of these students at the Graduate Student Conference in March. Dr. Main also became the faculty advisor to the undergraduate philosophy club and has been (gradually) working to update the department website.

In his research, Dr. Main is still focusing on unpublished work by the American Pragmatists. He recently transcribed portions of Josiah Royce's dissertation at Johns Hopkins, *On the Interdependence of the Principles of Knowledge* (1878). Currently, he is working on a paper tracing the influence of Henry James Sr. Swedenborgian theology on C.S. Peirce's philosophy, and another on the semiotics of Giordano Bruno. Both of these are part of his larger project on the philosophy of culture.

Highlights in his personal life include celebrating his one-year anniversary with partner, Cas, and a trip "home" to Washington state (for the first time in four years) with his family.

Alumni News

Henry (Rick) Poce, MA 2001 is currently completing an Interdisciplinary EdD in Leadership at Creighton University. He is just about to begin his dissertation research which focuses on developing empathy in relation to community service.

He has been an administrator and teacher at Malvern Prep for 10 years and has taught as an adjunct at several local colleges since graduating from WCU.

Dr. Donovan Irvén, MA 2009 has recently completed his PhD in Philosophy and Literature at Purdue University and will graduate in August. His dissertation, "Being and Literature: The Disclosure of Place in Modernity," seeks Heidegger's "other beginning" in the intersection of Modern philosophy and Modernist fiction where "place" is disclosed as an alternative starting point for ontology and epistemology, thereby superseding the Cartesian cogito that still dominates both the continental and Anglo-American traditions. In April 2016, Donovan was awarded the Eric L. Clitheroe Award in Philosophy for his paper "Kant and the Trace of the Self in the Shadow of Hume," and was invited by John Sallis to attend the 41st Annual Collegium Phaenomenologicum this July in Citta di Castello, Italy. At the Collegium, Donovan will present his work "How Deep in the Valley of Time: The Chronotology of Selves." His travel to the Collegium has been funded by a generous Promise Award from Purdue University.

Dr. Michael S. Jones, MA 1995. I've had a reasonably good year academically, with several minor publications and a

presentation at the Society for Philosophy of Religion. More interesting for me has been the development of a new online ethics class for my university. I've taught ethics residually and Intro to Philosophy online, but actually creating an online class is new territory for me. Even more important this year was that Laura finished her EdD, graduating with "highest distinction." Yes, it's been a good year.

I'm sorry that I couldn't join you for any of the 50th anniversary activities, but I wish you many more years of success!

Dr. Tom Sparrow, MA 2004 will be Assistant Prof. of Philosophy at SRU beginning in the fall. I am also co-editing, with Jacob Graham (Bridgewater College), *True Detective and Philosophy*, which will appear later this year in Wiley's Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture series.

Paul Sanborn, MA 1972 (Third MA grad) They brought me back as Director of Curriculum at Devon Prep School in Devon, PA this present school year. We have been very busy in an active reformation of the school from top to bottom. In all of this chaos, I was able to list on the program a full year Philosophy seminar for juniors and seniors. We have enough signed up to run the course and I will be teaching it, if I last another year. I intend to call the students "Claghorn's Universals" in honor of our first and now former leader.

Mike Duff, BA 1991. My updates are that I served for 2015-16 as Associate Dean of Student Programs and External Relations at the University of Wyoming

College of Law. I'll be returning to the faculty beginning fall 2016 as Centennial Distinguished Professor of Law. In March I was named Fellow of the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers, a national honor society for twenty-year contributors to the field. I was also named Vice Chair of the Workers' Compensation Committee of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section. I have also become a nationally recognized expert on the intersection of ERISA Law and workers' compensation systems and was consulted by, and appeared before, Congressional staffers last January to discuss policy issues in this area. It has been a very busy year.

Dr. Christina Rawls, MA 2004 has accepted a full time position in the philosophy department at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (Congratulations, Christina!).

Michael Ardoline, MA 2012 is heading to the University of Memphis to start working on a Ph.D. in philosophy this fall. (Good work, and good luck, Mike!)

Tony White, MA 2009 has been an adjunct at Misericordia University since graduating in 2009 and at Penn College of Technology since the following year. In addition to philosophy, he teaches some math at Misericordia.

Tony is amping up his intentions to apply to PhD programs, so he can continue his pursuit of philosophy, and has special interests in ethics, philosophy of religion, and Asian philosophy.

New Alumni!

Minors

13 in Philosophy
1 in Religious Studies
7 in Peace & Conflict Studies
10 in Applied Ethics

B.A. in Philosophy

Andrew Blassingame
Brian LaRose
Jonathan Perry
Will Godman
Carla Agbiro
Mackenzie Holmes
P. Andrew Kaye
Patrick Pinawin
William Cudd
Jessica Firestone
Jeffrey Holmes
Kimberly Spiegel
Vanessa Thiel
John R. Murray

M.A. in Philosophy

Robert Devall
Beverly Littlewood
Mellissa (Spradley) Henry
Christopher Raab
Alex Osburn



He's also qualified as a facilitator for the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), non-violence, conflict resolution, leadership training workshop. He was trained in Philadelphia, apprenticed in Elmira prison in New York, and has now started the Northcentral PA chapter where he lives in Williamsport. They had their first successful basic workshop last May, with advanced and additional basic workshops scheduled for the coming term. Very rewarding work!

Samantha Noll, BA 2008 After taking a year off, Samantha entered the graduate program at Michigan State University (MSU) in philosophy, specifically focusing in environmental philosophy and agriculture and food ethics. In 2016, she graduated with a doctorate and is currently the Visiting Assistant Professor of Peace, Justice, and Human Rights at Haverford College. Samantha published several papers in her areas of specialization, won grants to conduct research, was a co-recipient of the Vonne Lund Junior Researcher Prize for interdisciplinary work on global food systems, and is a James Madison Teaching Fellow.

Jonathan Udell, BA 2013 I went on to attend law school at Arizona State University. In my time there, my studies have focused on class actions, international law, and the regulation of emerging technologies.

Last summer, I worked at a personal injury firm in Phoenix, and I've spent the summer of 2016 at Rose Law Group, a mid-sized law firm in Scottsdale, Arizona. While there, I worked in the class action department, helping the Co-Chair of the American Bar Association's Class Actions and Derivative Suits Committee prepare arguments for consumer protection lawsuits.

For the past two years at school, I have also participated in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, where schools present legal arguments in a simulated dispute before the International Court of Justice. In 2015, the dispute was modeled after Russia's invasion of Crimea, and my team earned a place in the international rounds. Last year, I was named the top speaker at the Rocky Mountain Super-Regionals for my argument about national security detention and one state's infiltration of another's computer network.

REINTRODUCING *PHILOSOPHY FORUM!!*

Coming this Fall Semester

If you're in the area and would like to be on the distribution list for our afternoon philosophizing events, please send your email address to Joan (jwoolfrey@wcupa.edu).

Stay tuned for dates and times.

Over the next year, I will be graduating law school, taking the bar exam, and starting my first job. I'm looking forward to finishing my last year of school and beginning my career as an attorney in Arizona.

Adam Pave, MA 2004 It's hard to believe that I graduated over 12 years ago from WCU. Just two months after I graduated, my wife, Kimie, (also a WCU grad!) and I were married in West Chester's Everhart Park. After my wife completed a Master's degree at Westminster Theological Seminary in Glenside, PA, we moved in 2005 to Hawaii and stayed for two years, where I completed an MA in Asian Religions at UH Manoa. In 2007, we moved to Claremont, California where, after quite a few years, I completed a PhD at Claremont Graduate University in December 2015 with a focus on the Philosophy of Religion and Theology. My dissertation, *Hope Matters: Kant's Moral Progress through the Lens of Hope*, is primarily about Kant's Philosophy of Hope and its place within Kant's moral philosophy. I hope to continue research and perhaps publish in this area. During our time in Claremont, some interesting things happened – most importantly we had a son, Jack, in 2013. He is a source of great joy in our lives. I was working in college administration, primarily as a Registrar, while still a student and I was able to also teach this past Spring semester at Whittier College in California. I

am now looking for full-time work teaching, and we are willing to relocate!

Very recently in July 2016, some WCU folks, including the president, visited Los Angeles and our family was able to attend and reminisce about our time at WCU. My studies at WCU prepared me well for the road ahead and I wish the Philosophy program, and especially its graduates, continued success.

Matthew Owen, MA 2014. It is funny how things align sometimes. Just a few days before taking my last comprehensive exam at WCU, I interviewed for an open Spiritual Counselor/Chaplain position at Caron Treatment Centers in Wernersville, PA where I had previously worked in a more traditional addiction counselor's role. Since moving into the chaplain position, I've gone on to seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, IL where I am pursuing a second MA in Leadership Studies. While I haven't met too many other spiritual care professionals with a formal background in philosophy, having studied Buddhism, existentialism and applied ethics at the graduate level was for me the perfect preparation for my day-to-day life as a chaplain and I am forever grateful for the ways in which seminars on Plato, Kant, Spinoza and Maimonides have prepared me for the careful reading and reflection asked of me by my current theological studies.

2016 Award Winners

Claghorn Prize:

Sarah MacIntosh



Last year, in May 2015, I received my Bachelor's Degree in both Philosophy and English from Cabrini College. Throughout my undergraduate career, I worked in many tutoring positions, and also leadership positions. In particular, my work with the Academic and Career Exploration Living and Learning Community, mainly for incoming freshmen with undecided majors, as a live in mentor and tutor in those dormitories was some of the work I enjoyed most. I myself was originally rather undecided! I greatly enjoyed my English Lit. studies, but I eventually also found a home at Cabrini's Philosophy Department— which spurred and encouraged me to explore my love of learning and self-reflection as a whole and to hopefully spread such things to others. All of my work in Philosophy comes from that desire, as I truly believe the subject can be a great force for encouraging individuals to more fully come into themselves and finding more fulfillment (and success!) in their lives.

As I was finishing my undergraduate career, I found more and more I wished to continue forward in the discipline, and ended up accepting the gracious offer of a graduate assistantship from the Philosophy Department here at WCU. Since coming here in the fall of 2015, I have been lucky enough to aid the department in coordinating various events, and also aiding various conference setups— I've also been greatly enjoying that various courses I've been exposed to here, which expand beyond what I was offered in my undergraduate career. My own personal interests in the field relate to aesthetics and ethics. Even more personally, I've had great fun studying mythological pieces and fantastic works, aiming at understanding the ever present archetypes and themes that seem to endure over the ages in humanity's stories and tales. I like finding the intersections where these types of topics cross over into our everyday lives in meaningful ways. Philosophy gives me a great platform to look at these types of ideas in the context of much larger frames of mind— and also gives me many avenues to look down in analyzing these types of topics.

Streveler Research Award

Prize: Jessica Firestone

Abstract of the winning paper:

Exchanging Places of Yin and Yang: A Feminist Reiteration of Junzi

In recent years, Western philosophy has been repeatedly subject to the postmodern critique of its age-old foundational assumptions of rationalism, dualism, and absolutism. While these Ancient Greek legacies gave birth to the genius works of Descartes and Kant, they are also arguably to blame for the modern Western mindset, defined by misogyny, anthropocentrism, and racism. Post-modern philosophers have only begun to analyze the implications of and alternatives to the West's philosophical presuppositions, but to many it is obvious that a new foundation is necessary in this rapidly-expanding world faced with global patriarchy, widespread poverty, and rapid climate change. Many in the West are beginning to look to East Asian philosophies as potential remedies to the rigid analytic tradition that has allowed perpetual male domination of both women and Mother Earth. In this essay, I outline Aristotle's highly-influential and misogynist conception of human ideality and contrast this with the East-Asian yin-yang paradigm and the Neo-Confucian idea of creativity. While Aristotelian excellence requires strict adherence to masculine principles, I attempt to present a novel ethic that praises situational responsiveness and harmonization with the cosmic flow of qi, or psychophysical energy, to usher in a new era of resonance and love among humans and all the myriad things.

By Jessica Firestone

Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks go out to all those who have contributed over the years to these two funds. Our recognition of these individuals is made possible by your very generous support! To date, we have been able to award 20 excellent students with prizes from the Claghorn fund and the Streveler Research fund. If you would like to make a contribution to either of these, please contact Joan Woolfrey at 610-436-0731 (Fall '16) or Helen Schroepfer at 610-436-1004 (Spring '17).



The Hoffman Scholarship Award for Asian Philosophy

New scholarship award in Asian Philosophy available now.

Along with the awards mentioned above, we now offer another opportunity for our students. This award goes to an upper division or graduate student in Philosophy or Religious Studies here at West Chester University, who has written an essay focusing primarily on Asian philosophy. The essay may be comparative in nature, but should be predominantly focused on the philosophical traditions of South Asia, East Asia or Southeast Asia.

The current award to the recipient is \$500. If you are interested in contributing to this scholarship fund, please use the contacts listed above or connect with the **WCU Foundation** at <http://www.wcufoundation.org/>.



**Upcoming Events!! Mark
Your Calendars!**

Check our website for further information on the following annual events:

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

GPPC— The Greater Philadelphia 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. Papers by alumni are welcome at this conference! Please check our website for more information as we will post the call for papers.

Career Workshop—This coming spring we will again be conducting a career workshop for our current students. We would like to set up a panel of alumni to discuss their own varied career paths, tips for successful interviews, and other suggestions for our students as they look toward their future. If you would like to participate in this panel discussion, please contact Helen Schroepfer at hschroepfer@wcupa.edu or at 610-436-1004.



Philosophy Department
Anderson Hall, Room 108
West Chester, PA 19382

Phone: 610-436-2841

E-mail: PHILOS@wcupa.edu