

# LANGUAGE truth & GOSSIP



Faculty Notes &  
Deeds

New & Visiting  
Faculty

Graduates'  
News

Spring 2001

A newsletter for graduates of the  
MSU Philosophy Department

*Language, Truth & Gossip* is published  
by the MSU Department of Philosophy,  
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February, 2001

Dear Graduates,

It is the Philosophy Department's pleasure to send you this, the first issue of our newsletter, *Language, Truth, and Gossip*. Christine Kaye and Associate Professor Hilde Lindemann Nelson have been the driving forces behind this new venture, and we think you will enjoy it.

The Department is in good shape. Thanks in large part to the leadership of Professor Peter D. Asquith, Department chair for the past ten years and now an Assistant to the Dean, we have a growing number of undergraduate majors, an active undergraduate club, and well-regarded graduate emphases in philosophy and medicine and in social and political philosophy. In addition to the five new faculty who joined us this year and are listed in this issue of the newsletter, we also have been joined recently by Professor Bill Lawson and Assistant Professor Frederick Rauscher, specialists in African-American philosophy and Kant, respectively.

As the new chair this year, I am lucky to have Professor Marilyn Frye as associate chair direct the graduate program. Several of our emeritus faculty – Don Koch, Ron Suter, and Bruce Miller – are still in the neighborhood. Others such as Charles McCracken stay in contact through our monthly email newsletter. And we hope others who will be retiring soon will, like you, remain in regular contact with us. We welcome "news and happenings" from all of you, and I personally welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas for the newsletter and any other projects (such as the soon-to-be-inaugurated Charles J. McCracken Graduates' Distinguished Lecture Series).

Best regards,

Stephen L. Esquith  
Professor

**ANNOUNCING  
THE CHARLES J. McCracken  
GRADUATES' DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES**

**M**any of you know Charles J. McCracken, who joined the MSU faculty as an instructor in Philosophy in the Fall of 1965 and retired July 1, 1999. He achieved international renown as a thorough, careful, and eloquent scholar of 17th and 18th century philosophy. His book *Malebranche and British Philosophy*, published by Oxford University Press in 1983, is universally regarded as the definitive treatment of the topic. Known best for his teaching, he served as mentor to numerous graduate students. For his many contributions he received the University Distinguished Faculty award in 1998. Professor McCracken is a leading scholar in his area of philosophy, an extraordinary teacher, and an individual truly committed to the educational mission of the University.

To honor Professor McCracken, the Department has instituted the Charles J. McCracken Graduates' Distinguished Lecture Series. Each year, we hope to bring to campus one or two distinguished philosophers to give an address to Department faculty, graduate students, and graduates. The first lecturer in the series will be Iris Marion Young.

It is a Graduates' Distinguished Lecture Series because we are looking to our graduates for its support. Many faculty in the Department have already given seed money for it, and we are hoping you will wish to contribute on a yearly basis as well. We depend on you to keep the lecture series ongoing!

A suggestion: \$5 for every year since you left MSU?

Name as you would like it to appear in our mailings: \_\_\_\_\_

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Clip this form and return to: Philosophy - McCracken Lecture Series, College of Arts and Letters, 101 Linton Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1044. Many thanks.

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## Department News

### UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY CLUB

The Undergraduate Philosophy Club has been an important part of the life of the Department the past 4 years. The club meets every other week (give or take a week here and there) during the school year. This has been a time for undergraduates to gather and discuss topics that interest them, meet and talk to faculty on an informal basis, prepare and present papers, lead discussions, and get to know each other better. They have also sold Philosophy Department T-shirts and sponsored department outings to Lansing Lugnuts baseball games. This semester there will be 3 faculty presenters and 5 student presenter/discussion leaders. If you are in the area, you may want to lead a discussion of the Undergraduate Philosophy Club.

### PHI SIGMA TAU

The MI-Theta chapter of Phi Sigma Tau (philosophy honorary) was established at MSU in the Spring of 1989. Eighteen undergraduates have been initiated to date. One of the purposes of Phi Sigma Tau is to serve as a means of awarding distinction to students who are excellent scholars and who have a personal interest in philosophy. We congratulate those that have been initiated. Serving as president this year is Lindsay Roland, a senior with a double major in philosophy and English.

### GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCES

The graduate students have organized two conferences and are planning for their 3rd next October. The first, in October 1999, featured Jaegwon Kim as the plenary speaker and the second, in October 2000, was keynoted by Chris Cuomo.

### NEWS FROM THE STUDENTS

**ROBERT BRICE** presented a paper at the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies (GEMCS) conference in New Orleans in November. The title of the paper is "American Nationalism." More information can be found on the website <http://www.frontier-net.net/~gemcs/>

**TIM CARMODY**, an undergraduate, published a paper, "Consent and Membership in Locke's Second Treatise," in *Reveries*, an online journal dedicated to publishing philosophical reflections of undergraduate students. His paper was also awarded a cash prize. Tim's interest in the topic was sparked by discussions of John Locke in Dr. Lawson's Philosophy 450 course, Social and Political Philosophy.

**BARRY DeCOSTER** moderated a panel session titled "Should Office Medical Records Be Altered to Exclude the Patient's Sexuality?" at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Salt Lake City, October 29, 2000. Panelists discussed the relevance of sexual orientation in making medical decisions, as well as appropriate means to record this information. Tom Tomlinson, Howard Brody, Clayton Thomason, and Libby Bogdan-Lovis participated in this panel also, discussing other related issues.

**ALLISON WOLF** presented a paper entitled "It's Not A Question of Color" to the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Boston, June 2000. She also gave "Beyond Distribution: A New Paradigm of Justice in Medical Ethics," at the International Association of Women Philosophers Symposium in Zurich in October, and on her return, she gave a talk entitled "Walk in the 'Neighborhood' of WOMEN OF COLOR" at the Midwest SWIP meeting at Antioch College on October 22.

To send us news about you: E-mail: [kaye@msu.edu](mailto:kaye@msu.edu) or Fax: (517) 432-1320 or write:  
Christine Kaye, Department of Philosophy, 503 South Kedzie, Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1032



## News from the Faculty

**BARBARA ABBOTT** has published:

- "Fodor and Lepore on Meaning, Similarity, and Compositionality," *Journal of Philosophy* 97 (August 2000): pp. 454ff.
- "Presuppositions as Nonassertions," *Journal of Pragmatics* 32 (2000): 1419-37.

She presented a paper, "Donkey Demonstratives" at the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in Washington DC, January 5.

**JUDY ANDRE** has published:

- "On Being Genetically 'Irresponsible'," *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 10 (June 2000): 129-46 (with Leonard Fleck and Tom Tomlinson).
- "Humility Reconsidered," in *Margin of Error*, ed. Laurie Zoloth and Sue Rubin (Hagerstown, Md.: University Publishing Group, 2000).

Her "Research Ethics and the 'Wild Child'," originally published in 1992 in MERN's *Ethics-In-Formation*, has been included in the Georgetown University Web-based High School Bioethics Curriculum.

She did a Grand Rounds on "Ethics and Placebo Use" at Providence Hospital, Southfield.

**MARTIN BENJAMIN'S** "Alcoholics and Liver Transplantation," an article he co-authored, has been reprinted in Thomas Mappes and David DeGrazia, eds., *Biomedical Ethics*, 5th edition (McGraw-Hill, 2001).

His "Pragmatism and the Determination of Death," originally published in *Pragmatic Bioethics*, ed. Glen McGee (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1999), has been reprinted in

*Healthcare Ethics in a Diverse Society*, ed. Michael C. Brannigan and Judith Boss (Mountain View, Calif.: Mayfield, 2000).

He conducted a four-day intensive seminar, sponsored by the APA and the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT), on teaching philosophy for advanced graduate students, August 2-6. The seminar was held in conjunction with AAPT's 13th International Workshop/Conference on Teaching Philosophy at Alverno College in Milwaukee. Seminar participants were from such graduate programs as Duke, University of Southern California, Florida State, Columbia, Wayne State, University of Illinois-Chicago, and the University of Rochester. Sitting in on the seminar was Richard Bett, Acting Executive Director of the APA. Among the presenters at the AAPT Workshop/Conference were **Joe Hanna** and recent MSU Ph.D.s **Skott Brill**, **Rodger Jackson**, and **Bruce Omondson**.

He made three presentations and participated in one panel at a three-day Faculty Workshop on Ethics Across the Honors Curriculum at Miami University, Oxford Ohio, August 13-16, and on November 9th he made two presentations at Western Michigan University: a Philosophy Department colloquium on "Pragmatic Free Will" and a public lecture, "A Bedside Compromise on Physician-Assisted Suicide," sponsored by WMU's Center for the Study of Ethics in Society.

**STEPHEN ESQUITH** has published:

- "War, Political Violence, and Service Learning,"

*Teaching Philosophy* 233 (September 2000): 241-54.

- "Coming to Terms with Political Violence through Service-Learning," in *Trying the Ties That Bind*, ed. David Cooper (Fetzer Institute, 2000).
- "Power, Poise, and Place: Toward an Emersonian Theory of Democratic Citizenship," in *The Emerson Dilemma: Essays on Emerson and Social Reform*, ed. T. Gregory Garvey (University of Georgia Press, 2000).

Papers he's given this fall include "Genocide, Justice, and Reconciliation," delivered at the American Political Science Association meeting, Sept. 2, 2000, Washington, D.C.; "Genocide and Intentionality," delivered at the 13th Annual Conference of Concerned Philosophers for Peace, October 26-29, 2000, McMasters University, Hamilton, Ontario; "What Do Bystanders Do?" delivered October 28, 2000, to the Department of Philosophy, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario; and "Restorative Justice, Restitution, and the Responsibilities of Bystanders," at the Albion College Conference on "Morality and Its Other(s)," November 9-11, 2000.

He also participated with Bill Lawson in a symposium on reparations at Howard University, Washington, D.C., November 16, 2000, and received a Michigan Campus Compact Community Engagement Grant for 2000-2001 for continuing K-12 collaboration project, "Service-Learning, Justice, and Reconciliation."

**LEONARD FLECK** has published:

- "On Being Genetically 'Irresponsible'," *Kennedy*

## Graduate News & Happenings

**Cynthia Bolton**, Ph.D. 1992, is an instructor at Arizona State University. She teaches 3 sections of introductory logic (which is called "Principles of Sound Reasoning" at Arizona State).

**Mike Jankoviak**, Ph.D. 1993, is working at Mid Michigan Community College as the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The major project he's currently engaged in is moving the college to NCA's new AQIP alternative for accreditation. Other than that, he's awaiting the arrival of his PT Cruiser, which was ordered back in May.

**Patricia Motycka**, B.A. 1984, was Patricia Aird when she majored in philosophy at MSU. She then went to LCC, where she earned an associate degree in data processing. After working for nine years as a systems analyst, Patricia is now back at MSU as a third year osteopathic medical student. She has one husband, Robert Motycka, two dogs, and two llamas.

**Ben Mulvey**, Ph.D. 1993, has been a full-time faculty member at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, since 1988. He is now an Associate Professor of Philosophy and has been Director of Liberal Arts at NSU since 1997. Ben oversees a department of 20 full-time faculty members in philosophy, arts, history, and literature. He has specialized in biomedical ethics and teaches that at NSU. He is a member of Broward General Medical Center's bioethics committee, Hospice Care of Broward County's ethics committee, and Florida Department of Corrections Health Services Bioethics Committee, and sits on the board of advisors of the Florida Bioethics Network. Ben has lectured quite a bit around Florida on topics in bioethics.

**Les Schick**, M.A. 1992, is now in his 23rd year with MSU Extension. He's currently serving as County Extension Director in Jackson County, and is writing his dissertation on community collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Extension



## Faculty News

*Institute of Ethics Journal 10* (June, 2000): 129-46 (with Judith Andre and Tom Tomlinson).

- "Ethical Issues in Gene Therapy," in *An Introduction to Molecular Genetics and Gene Therapy*, ed. Thomas Kresina (New York: John Wiley, 2000).

Talks he has given this fall include "Experiencing Public Dialogue: The Moral and Political Challenges of Genetic Responsibility in a Discriminatory World," for the Third National Conference on Genetics and Public Health, Ann Arbor, Sept. 18-20, 2000; "Informing Democratic Deliberation via the Visual Arts," at the Third Annual meeting of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities, Salt Lake City, Oct. 26-29, 2000; "Just Caring: What Should a Universal Basic Benefit Package Look Like?" for the Fourth Annual Bioethics Conference of the Michigan State Medical Society, Mackinac, Oct. 18-20, 2000; "A Critique of Pure Public Reason: In Defense of Gritty Public Reason," for a conference at Albion College Nov. 9-11, 2000; "Gene Dreams or Gene Nightmares: Ethical and Policy Issues Related to Emerging Genetic Technologies and Embryonic Stem Cell Research," for the American Cancer Society [Midwest] Conference in Angola, Indiana, Nov. 9, 2000; and "Ethics Education for the Brave New World of Cancer Control," for the national conference of the American and European Associations for Cancer Education, Washington D.C., Nov. 2-4, 2000.

**MARILYN FRYE** has published:

- "Ethnocentrism/Essentialism: The Failure of

(continued from page 4)

the Ontological Cure," in *Is Academic Feminism Dead? Theory in Practice*, edited by The Social Justice Group at The Center for Advanced Feminist Studies, University of Minnesota (NY: New York University Press, 2000.)

She gave a presentation with her co-editor Sarah Hoagland in Boston on November 4 on their new anthology, *Feminist Interpretations of Mary Daly*. This was part of an afternoon and evening event to recognize Daly, and to support her in relation to the upcoming trial of her suit against Boston College for denial of her tenure rights.

She also chaired the sessions of the Society for Women in Philosophy meeting at Antioch College, October 20-22. Several of the MSU faculty and graduate students attended, and two (Allison Wolf and Hilde Lindemann Nelson) were on the program. The local arranger, Suparna Bhaskaran, whose dissertation committee Marilyn co-chaired, took a number of philosophy seminars when she was an anthropology graduate student here.

**RICHARD HALL** gave a paper, "Phenomenal Properties and Perception as Representation," to the Eastern APA meetings in December. David Velleman, from the University of Michigan, was his commentator.

An earlier paper, "Are Pains Necessarily Unpleasant?" is discussed in an article by Stuart Rachels, "Is Unpleasantness Intrinsic to Unpleasant Experiences?" *Philosophical Studies* 99 (2000): 187-210.

SPRING 2001

Language, Truth & Gossip

**RHODA KOTZIN** presented a paper on October 12, 2000, at the Ninth Symposium of the IAPH (International Association of Women Philosophers), entitled "Re-Reading the Canon: Moral Education in Plato and Aristotle." She also chaired a session devoted to feminist epistemology.

She attended the meetings of the Midwest Study Group of the North American Kant Society in Chicago on November 4-5.

On November 6 she left for Sweden, where she was invited to give two presentations at the University of Umea—one on Kant for a faculty/graduate student venue and one on feminist philosophy for a broader audience, sponsored by their undergraduate philosophy club.

**BILL LAWSON** gave four talks recently: "The Distorting Mirror of Truth: Slavery, History and Reparations," to the Philosophy Born of Struggle Seventh Annual Conference at The New School, New York City, October 21, 2000; "Liberal Theory and Environmental Justice," to the International Conference in Environmental Ethics, San Jose, Costa Rica, June 24, 2000; "Jazzin the Critic: Evaluating and Appreciating Jazz," Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., April 13, 2000; and "Liberal Theory and Urban Environmental Justice," Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N.Y., March 29, 2000.

**CHARLES McCracken** has published:

- *Berkeley's Principles and Dialogues: Background Source Materials* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2000), which he edited with Ian Tipton. It is the second volume in a new series, Cambridge Philosophical Texts in Context.

He recently finished a chapter on Berkeley for *Blackwell's Companion to Early Modern*

Continued on page 6

## Graduate News & Happenings

Education at MSU. His e-mail address is [schick@msue.msu.edu](mailto:schick@msue.msu.edu).

**Carol Slater**, Ph.D., 1990, continues to be a member of the Department of Psychology at Alma College and to teach (among other things) courses in the Cognitive Science Program that are cross-listed in Philosophy. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology and enjoys participating in the East Lansing Language Discussion Group.

**Jim Spiegel**, Ph.D. 1993, is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, where he has taught since he received his doctorate. He has publications in ethics, aesthetics, and philosophy of religion, and last fall he published his first book, *Hypocrisy: Moral Fraud and Other Vices* (Baker, 1999). He is currently working on a follow-up book which will deal with the virtues. Ben, his wife Amy, and one-year-old son Bailey live in Upland.

**Patrick Stonehouse**, B.A. 1975,

continues to be a science consultant for the *Dialogos*, a journal dedicated to the philosophy of science and religion. He discovered Comet C/1998/H1 visually through the 44 meter Discovery Telescope at Stonehouse Observatories on April 22, 1998—the last visual discovery of a comet in the northern hemisphere. Subsequent to that discovery he was invited to the IWCA II conference at the University of Cambridge in England, which he and his 2 children Meg and Kyle attended in August of 1999. He continues his research in cometary astronomy with his 2 children. Patrick is also an avid skater. He carries a senior rating through the Professional Skater's Association and is the Head Pro for 3 different figure skating clubs in Michigan. He still competes in figure skating competitions in singles freestyle and in pairs skating with his daughter Meg.

To send us news about you:

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*Philosophy*, ed. Steven Nadler, scheduled for publication in 2001.

Last fall he was Visiting Professor at Claremont Graduate University, teaching a Research Seminar in the History of Philosophy. In October he gave two invited papers, "Demons that Deceive, Gods that Perceive, and the Limits of Skepticism," at a conference on Early Modern Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley; and "Was Berkeley a Common-Sense Realist?" at the annual Southern California Philosophy Conference at California State University at Long Beach.

**DEBRA NAILS'S** *Agora, Academy, and the Conduct of Philosophy* (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1995) was reviewed by Steven Harvey in *Iyyun* 49 (October 2000): 451-456—but the review is in Hebrew, so translation help is sorely needed.

Her 1999 article, "Mouthpiece Schmouthe," in *Who Speaks for Plato?* ed. Gerald A. Press, was reviewed by G. R. F. Ferrari in the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 00.11.10.

She presented "Seduced by Prodicus" at the 62nd annual meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society in Austin, Texas, on 11 November. She was appointed to the national Membership Committee of the American Association of University Professors and attended meetings in Kent, Ohio (July), Washington, D.C. (October), and Kansas City, Missouri (February).

**HILDE NELSON** has published:

- "Feminist Bioethics: Where We've Been, Where We're Going," *Metaphilosophy* 31, no. 5 (October 2000): 492-508.
- "Stories Within the Moral Life," *New Zealand Bioethics Journal* 1, no. 2 (October 2000): 10-21.

"Ethische und gesundheitspolitische Aspekte künstlicher Herzen und kardiologischer Hilfsmittel: die aktuelle Diskussion in den USA" (with James Lindemann Nelson), in *Medizinische Servonen*, ed. Gebhardt Allert and Horst Kächele (Stuttgart and New York: Schattauer, 2000).

Her book, *Damaged Identities, Narrative Repair*, will be published any day now by Cornell University Press. One of her articles, "Dethroning Choice: Analogy, Personhood, and the New Reproductive Technologies," which originally appeared in the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* in 1995, was reprinted in Wanda Teays and Laura Purdy, eds., *Bioethics, Justice, and Health Care* (Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth, 2001). And another article, "Knowledge at the Bedside: A Feminist View of What's Happening with This Patient," which was published in the *Journal of Clinical Ethics* in 1996, was reprinted in Michael C. Brannigan and Judith A. Boss, eds., *Healthcare Ethics in a Diverse Society* (Mountain View, Calif.: Mayfield, 2001).

She and Jim Nelson spent the summer before their arrival at MSU co-directing a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers; they worked with

15 faculty members drawn from around the country for five very satisfying, albeit very intense weeks.

In September she gave a plenary address, "Feminist Bioethics Reconsiders Justice," at the Third World Congress of the International Network on Feminist Approaches to Bioethics in London. She presented a paper, "Feminist Therapies for Low-Birthweight Babies," at the Midwest SWIP conference at Antioch in October, gave a talk entitled "The Narrative Construction of Transsexual Identities" at Calvin College in November, and moderated two sessions at the Eastern Division APA meetings. She continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and has also been hard at work on Feminist Constructions, the series in feminist ethics she co-edits with Sara Ruddick for Rowman and Littlefield.

**JIM NELSON** has published:

"Prenatal Diagnosis, Personal Identity and Disability," *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 10, no. 3 (2000): 213-28.

- "Principles, Persons, and Pediatrics," a review of *Children, Families, and Health Care Decision Making* by Lainie Friedman Ross, *Medical Humanities Review* 14, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 56-60.

He gave a talk, "Justice, Organ Procurement, and the 'Pregnant Body,'" in London at the International Association for Feminist Approaches to Bioethics meeting in September, gave an invited address, "Cloning, Families and the Reproduction of Persons," at the Symposium on Human Cloning held at Oak Ridge, Tenn., October 14, and gave other talks at the Albany Medical College and Northwestern University Medical School. He also attended a meeting of the Hastings Center working group on ethical issues involved in the care and prevention of traumatic brain injury held in Chicago at the end of September.

He was named to the program committee for the 2001 Conference of the Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory.

Three of his articles were reprinted in anthologies that appeared in October: "Taking Families Seriously," originally in the *Hastings Center Report* in 1992, was reprinted in *Ethics at the End of Life*, ed. Ralph Baergen (Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth 2000). "Transplantation Through a Glass Darkly," also originally in the *Hastings Center Report* in 1992, was republished in Wanda Teays and Laura Purdy, eds., *Bioethics, Justice and Health Care* (Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth 2000), as was a piece he jointly authored with Susan Wolf and several others, "Sources of Concern about the Patient Self-Determination Act," originally in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 1991.

And, although he went to the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities meeting in Salt Lake in late October with the pleasant sense of not being on the program, he ended up

giving an impromptu talk on grants-getting in bioethics to one of the ASBH affinity groups, and was persuaded to take part in a readers' theater presentation.

**RICHARD PETERSON** has published:

"Race and Recognition," in *Race, Class, and Community Identity*, ed. Light and Nagel (New York: Humanity Books, 2000).

- Papers he gave this fall include "Race, Media, Politics," at Marxism 2000, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, September 21-24; "The Possibility of Human Rights" at a conference on Justice and Justification sponsored by Concerned Philosophers for Peace, at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, October 28; and "Media Politics and Human Rights," at the Radical Philosophy Association conference at Loyola University in Chicago on November 5.

The undergraduate specialization he helped develop in Peace and Justice Studies has received preliminary approval and is listing courses for spring semester 2001. This permits undergraduates to develop an interdisciplinary specialization in questions of the forms, causes, and alternatives to violence. Presently around 20 units from 6 colleges are participating in this specialization.

**FREDERICK RAUSCHER** gave a paper, "Moral Realism and the Divine Essence in Hutcheson and Hume," at the 27th annual Hume Conference. The paper is currently being rewritten for invited re-submission to a journal.

He has done further work on his translation of Kant's notes and fragments, having recently drafted translations of Kant's notes on political philosophy. He also organized the Midwest Study Group of the North American Kant Society, which met November 4-5 in Chicago. Those interested can see the program at <http://www.msu.edu/user/rauscher/Kant-Group.htm>

In addition, he is editing an anthology on evolutionary psychology, and is in the process of receiving and reviewing the contributions.

**JAMES ROPER**

The Debate Team he started at MSU did very well and, over the last seven years, has been the most successful major team in MSU's history, with two national championships, four second-in-the-nation's, and a final four appearance. The team has been honored by the President of the U.S. and, on several occasions, by the Board of Trustees. Last year the Debate Team's top two-person team of Steve Donald (philosophy) and Aaron Monick (Madison) reached the final round in both of the major national championship tournaments—something never before achieved. Roper was especially pleased with this accomplishment since he had chosen last spring to step down as the Director of the Debate



Team. In addition to his work with the team, Roper started and directed, for eight years, the Spartan Debate Institutes—now regarded as among the finest high school summer debate institutes in the U.S.

**LISA SCHWARTZMAN** gave four talks recently: "The Dismissal of 'Moral Critique' and the Discourse of 'Rights': Implications for Feminist Social Criticism," to the Morality and Its Other(s) Conference, Albion College, Albion, Michigan, November 2000; "Feminist Analyses of Oppression and the Reformulation of Rights: A Response to Wendy Brown," to the Radical Philosophy Association Conference, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois, November 2000; "Inequality, Speech, and Harm," to the North American Society for Social Philosophy Seventeenth International Conference, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, July 22, 2000; and "Hate Speech, Illocution, and Social Context: A Critique of Judith Butler," to the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meetings, Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 6, 2000.

**PJ YOON** has published:

"Genealogical Aphorism on Ethics and History: Nietzsche and Foucault," in *One Hundred Years of Philosophy Nietzsche Shook* (Seoul, Korea: Minumsa, August 2000).

"Practical Philosophy of 'Science Wars'," in *Critique*, no. 3 (Seoul, Korea: Association for Critique and Theory, September 2000).

• His "Political Philosophy of Intersubjectivity and the Logic of Discourse" is forthcoming in *Human Studies* 24, nos. 1-2 (Dordrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, March/April 2001).

## VISITING PROFESSORS FOR 2000-2001

**P.J. Yoon**, from Hanshin University in Korea, is visiting for the academic year. His research project, entitled "Radical Democracy and the Cyber Public Sphere," aims at elucidating the necessary formal and material resource bases for democratic political imagination. He is working with **Dick Peterson**.

**Peter Kampits**, of the University of Vienna, was a visitor in the Fall. His work has been focused especially on problems of intensive care, euthanasia, and death with dignity. He worked with **James Nelson**.

**Luis Camacho**, a professor at the University of Costa Rica, where he finished his appointment as Vice-Rector last May, is a visitor for Spring Semester. Professor Camacho is a logician and philosopher of science by training, but his main current interest and work is in philosophical issues in development. He is working with **Peter Asquith**.

## STAFF NEWS

**Christine Kaye** (whom many of you remember as Christine Rosenberg) has been in the Department for 20 years (10 of those working with Peter Asquith and the Philosophy of Science Association). Her position in the department is to make sure everything runs smoothly. She helped resurrect the Undergraduate Philosophy Club, and serves as the resident computer expert and web master. She keeps active in the life of campus, serving on the Foundations of Effective Leadership: Succeeding at Supervision Advisory Committee, MSU Business Women's Association, and Faculty Professional Women's Association, and she recently completed four years on the Women's Advisory Committee to the Vice-President for Finance, Personnel and Operations. In 1999 she received the Outstanding University Woman Professional Award.

**Sarah Ward** has been the student records secretary for 3 years. She came to MSU from Motor Wheel, where she worked in Human Resources for many years. Sarah enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, playing bingo, and is looking forward to retirement.

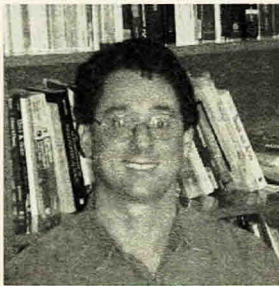
## Other news and information

Five members of the Philosophy Department went to the SWIP meeting in October, at Antioch College. **Hilde Nelson** and **Allison Wolf** were on the program. Two of our alumnae, **Amber Katherine** and **Crista Lebens**, also attended. Our department, therefore, had an impressive presence. The next SWIP meeting will be here at MSU, March 16-18, 2001. Hilde Nelson will captain the arrangements with Chris Cuomo, of the University of Cincinnati, and many of the rest of us, too, will be involved.

The Department participated in two University-wide events on Martin Luther King Day. **Richard Peterson** was one of the co-presenters for the new Peace and Justice Studies Specialization. Peterson then joined **Bill Lawson**, **Marilyn Frye**, and **Stephen Esquith** in a symposium on Reparations for Slavery. Lawson, Frye, and Esquith then gave a recruitment symposium in Atlanta, Georgia on the subject of Black Reparations for students from Spelman College, Morehouse College, and Clark Atlanta University on January 18, 2001.

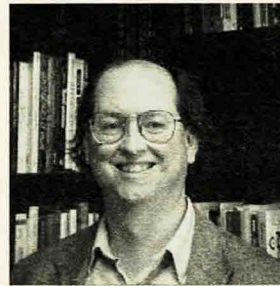


# New Philosophy Faculty



**Matthew W. McKeon**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Connecticut (Philosophy of Logic, Symbolic Logic, Metaphysics, Epistemology), does research primarily in philosophical logic. Three related areas of interest are the concept of logical consequence, the relationship between metaphysics and logic, and the epistemic status of the determination of

the logical consequence relation. McKeon's current work is on the conceptual underpinnings of the model-theoretic characterization of logical consequence in classical first-order logic and in modal first-order logic. He is particularly interested in the nature and extent of the metaphysical assumptions required in order to characterize these two logical consequence relations.



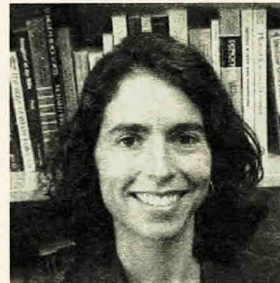
**James Lindemann Nelson**, Professor, Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo (Ethical Theory, Practical Ethics [esp. bioethics]), works primarily in bioethics, but is interested in a number of areas—particularly moral theory (concentrating currently on the realism/antirealism controversy) and the more speculative reaches of the philosophy of language. He

attempts to bring to bioethical questions resources from areas of philosophy that the current discussion tends to overlook. This has been rewarding in thinking through questions in reproductive ethics, pondering the just allocation of medical resources, and considering moral issues involved in caring for demented people. He is also interested in philosophical issues that arise from thinking about intimate relationships—particularly families and family-like contexts.



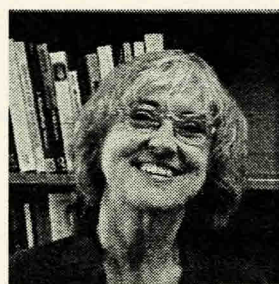
**Debra Nails**, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits) (Ancient Greek Philosophy, Early Modern Philosophy, History of Ethics, Feminist Ethics), is the author of *Agora*, *Academy*, and *the Conduct of Philosophy*, and articles on ancient Greek philosophy, especially Plato, feminist philosophy, and Spinoza. She is co-editor of

*Naturalistic Epistemology: A Symposium of Two Decades* as well as co-editor of *Spinoza and the Sciences*, both in the Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science Series.



**Lisa H. Schwartzman**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., State University of New York at Stony Brook (Feminist Theory, Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics), recently completed her dissertation, entitled *Normative Theory in the Context of Gender Inequality: A Feminist Critique of Liberalism*. She is interested in developing feminist analyses of equality, justice, and rights, and in

understanding how these ideals function in the context of social hierarchies of power. She has published articles in *Social Philosophy Today* and *Hypatia* and presented papers at several Society for Women in Philosophy meetings.



**Hilde Lindemann Nelson**, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Fordham University (Practical Ethics [esp. bioethics], Feminist Philosophy, Moral Philosophy), is the author of *Damaged Identities*, *Narrative Repair*, and with James Lindemann Nelson, has coauthored both *Alzheimer's: Answers to Hard Questions for Families* and *The Patient in the Family*. She

has also edited two collections: *Feminism and Families* and *Stories and Their Limits: Narrative Approaches to Bioethics*. Her ongoing research interests are in feminist bioethics, the ethics of families, and narrative approaches to ethics. She is coeditor of a Rowman and Littlefield series, *Feminist Constructions*, and a Routledge series, *Reflective Bioethics*.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING RETIREMENTS

Craig Staudenbaur (1992)  
 Ronald Suter (1996)  
 Hal Walsh (1997)  
 Charles McCracken (1999)  
 Herbert Garelick (2000)  
 Donald Koch (2000)  
 Bruce Miller (2000)  
 Rhoda Kotzin will retire July 1, 2001  
 Albert Cafagna will retire July 1, 2002  
 Joseph Hanna will retire July 1, 2002

