

LANGUAGE truth & GOSSIP

**A newsletter for alumni, alumnae,
and friends of the
MSU Department of Philosophy**

Language, Truth & Gossip is published annually by the Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University, 368 Farm Lane, 503 South Kedzie Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824

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FACULTY NOTES
& ACTIVITIES

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE NEWS
UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

SPRING 2015

Greetings from the Chairperson

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings! Welcome to another edition of *Language, Truth, and Gossip*. The 2014-15 academic year was quite eventful.

On the personnel front, we welcome four new tenure-stream faculty members: Robyn Bluhm, Matt Ferkany, David Godden, and Chris Long. Their areas of specialty are Philosophy of Neuroscience, Metaethics, Argumentation Theory, and Ancient Philosophy, respectively. Robyn and David come to us from Old Dominion; Robyn's appointment is 51% in Philosophy and 49% in Lyman Briggs College, and 75% of Matt's appointment was transferred to Philosophy from MSU's School of Education. Chris accepted MSU's offer to be the next Dean of the College of Arts and Letters. Previously, he was an associate dean at Penn State. We are very happy to have all of them on board. Also, Dan Steel has accepted an offer from the University of British Columbia. He will be missed. We expect to search for a replacement in Philosophy of Science next academic year. Finally, Debra Nails and Hilde Lindemann will retire, effective May 2016. I am happy for them, sad for us.



Matt McKeon
Department Chair

Once again we brought in major philosophers (Stephen Gardiner, Daniele Moyale-Sharrock, and Michelle Moody-Adams) through the Benjamin, McCracken, and Suter Endowed Lectures, so generously supported by Steve Holtzman. The McCracken lecture was special: Daniele Moyale-Sharrock delivered "The Impact of Wittgenstein's Certainty" with responses by Martin Benjamin and Ron Suter. The ensuing discussion was lively and stimulating. Did Wittgenstein defeat skepticism in, *On Certainty*, or legitimize it? Probably, both. The audience included a who's who from MSU's Philosophy's storied past. Former professors in attendance included Rich Hall, Bruce Miller, Dick Peterson, and Judy Andre. Many former students were there including Tom Tomlinson, Robert Brice, Scot Yoder, and Steve Holtzman. It was great to see everyone.

We continue to develop our research and curricular emphasis on Engaged Philosophy, which is the application of philosophical methods to real world issues, such as healthcare justice, animal welfare, and climate change. Our environmental philosophy group has taken the lead in grant applications and this past academic year has generated over a million dollars of new and continuing grants. These grants fund graduate students and have significant outreach components. Grant agencies such as NSF aren't awarding grants to philosophers to advance philosophy. Rather, they are convinced that philosophy has something to give to non-philosophical inquiry and practice. This jives with the Department's theme of "Philosophy Engaged," which is instantiated by its research and doctoral concentrations in bioethics and philosophy of healthcare, environmental philosophy and ethics, and social and political philosophy. As Michael O'Rourke describes below, the Toolbox project received funds from the Provost Office and College of Arts and Letters to develop into a financially self-sustaining enterprise with its own staff and graduate-assistant line. The Toolbox is here to stay! Next year, we will propose an interdisciplinary graduate specialization in Engaged Philosophy with three tracks in bioethics, ethics and development, and environmental philosophy. We aim to have this in the books for fall 2016.

As Lisa Schwartzman reports below, three graduate students will begin their programs

Continued on page 8

2014-2015 Philosophy Events on Campus



Todd Hedrick addresses the Undergraduate Philosophy Club.

SPEAKERS

Christopher Cherniak (University of Maryland) "Evolution and Brain Optimization" (Oct. 10). **Rachel Ankeny** (University of Adelaide) "Are You What You Eat? An Exploration of Decisions about 'Ethical Food Consumption'" (Oct. 31). **David O'Connor** (Notre Dame) "Love and Narcissism in Plato" (Nov. 7). **Arnold Farr** (University of Kentucky) "Marcuse's Early Theoretical Struggles and the Formation of the Concept of One-dimensional Man" (Nov. 21). **Stephanie Vasko** (Penn State) [in conjunction with Lyman Briggs College] "Crafting and STEM in Dialogue" (Jan. 14). **Rebecca Martusewicz** (Eastern Michigan University) [in conjunction with the College of Education] "Unsettling Settler Colonialism: Wendell Berry on the Crisis of Culture, Ecology and Education" (Jan. 23). John Grey (MSU) "'That Exceptional Order of Things': Ann Conway's Objection to Cartesian Ontology" (Apr. 17). **Richard T. Peterson** (MSU) "Islam, Violence, and Politics: A Philosophical Problem" (Apr. 24).

ENDOWED LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES

Friday
Jan. 16 **Stephen Gardiner**
(University of Washington)
"If a Climate Emergency
is Possible, Is Everything
Permitted? Reflections
on Some Ethically
Slippery Arguments for
Geoengineering"



Stephen Gardiner

Martin Benjamin
Distinguished Guest Lecture

Monday
January 19 **ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING PROGRAM.**
John H. McClendon III,
Moderator

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi: Critical Reflections on the Philosophy of Nonviolence"



John H. McClendon III

Feb./Mar. 27 **Graduate Student Workshops.**
Christian Lotz, Coordinator

Fri./Sat.
Mar. 20-21 **GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE.**
Shay Welch (Spelman College)
Keynote: "Desperate Rationality"



Mar. 27-28 **Socially Relevant Philosophy off/in Science and Engineering Conference, Second Annual – Photo Above** (at MSU's Detroit Center)



Thursday
April 12 **WITTGENSTEIN SYMPOSIUM.**
Danielle Moyal-Sharrock (University of Hertfordshire)

"The Impact of Wittgenstein's Certainty"
Responses: **Martin Benjamin** and **Ronald Suter**
(MSU Emeriti)

Charles McCracken Distinguished Guest Lecture

Fri./Sat.
April 10-11 **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE.**
Ian Gold (McGill University)
Keynote: "Strange Beliefs"

Wednesday
May 13 **PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT RETREAT**
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy's Bengal Wildlife Center (*See photos below.*)



Fred Rauscher /Matt McKeon



Kyle Powys Whyte/Kristie Dobson



Jamie Lindemann Nelson



Paul Thompson

NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR

Lisa Schwartzman, *Director of the Graduate Program*



Lisa Schwartzman

Congratulations are in order for a number of our graduate students who have completed their doctorates in the past year:

- **Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht** (September 2014), "The Significance of Stories We Tell: A Feminist Approach to Ethics and Development"
- **Elizabeth Mauritz** (October 2014), "Moral Economy: Claims for the Common Good"
- **Anna Malavisi** (October 2014), "Global Development and Its Discontents: Rethinking the Theory and Practice"
- **Joseph Stramondo** (August 2014), "Disabling Bioethics: The Case for Disability Moral Psychology and Epistemology for Bioethics"
- **Matthew (Johnson) Ashman** (April 2015), "Resoluteness and the Political: From Heidegger's *Being and Time* to Early Marcuse and Arendt's *Vita Activa*"
- **Ivan Guajardo** (April 2015), "Imagination Redux: A Phenomenological Investigation Virginia Western Community College of Arts and Letters"

Three additional doctoral students defended their dissertations in May, 2015:

- **Mark Balawender**, "Ethics, Power and the Possibility of Nonviolence"
- **Meredith Verrochi**, "Uncooperative Engagement: An Active Response to Hate Speech"
- **Lauren Woomer**, "A Unified Account of Motivated Ignorance"

Our recruitment efforts were a success, and we are excited to welcome three students into the doctoral program beginning in Fall 2015:

- **Kwabena Kenneth Edusei**—B.A. in Philosophy from Brooklyn College, CUNY and B.S. in Business Administration and Finance. He is interested in applied ethics and political philosophy, social justice, race, epistemology, and environmental justice.
- **Ayanna Spencer**—B.A. in Philosophy at Spelman College. She is interested in social and political philosophy, feminist theory, epistemology, ethics, and critical race theory.
- **Lauren Zahn**—M.A. in Philosophy and Social Policy from American University and B.A. in Philosophy from SUNY College at Purchase. She is interested in animal ethics, rights, and epistemology; 19th and 20th century continental philosophy; and bioethics.

Activities of the MSU Undergraduates in Philosophy

Debra Nails, *Director of Undergraduate Program*



Debra Nails

OUR AWARD WINNERS:

Willy Penn, senior, won the 2015 Zerby Prize for the best philosophy essay with his "The Functional PII." Willy was a triple major in philosophy (with physics and advanced mathematics) and will start the graduate program in the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall with full support.



Prateek Ramchandani, sophomore, won the 2015 Martin Benjamin-Bruce L. Miller Award, which goes to the most promising student at an early stage in the philosophy major; a gifted photographer, he will spend the summer in a study-abroad program in the art of photography, traveling to London, Paris, and Arles. Last year's Benjamin-Miller award winner, Olivia Jamrog, was selected for the 2015 University of Colorado, Boulder, Summer Seminar in Philosophy, which carries graduate credit.

Chair in Philosophy & Psychiatry, McGill University, who presented the conference keynote, "Strange Beliefs." Professor John Grey and Dan Catterall conducted a reading group during spring semester on Ian and Joel Gold's *Suspicious Minds*. Aided by Jenny Carmichael, the class of graduating seniors refereed submissions, provided feedback, and served as commentators; Josh Schroeder and Elly Fisher chaired the sessions.

ACTIVITIES: Weekly meetings of the Philosophy Club were arranged by Elly Fisher with help from Jess Sietsema. Especially popular were talks by undergraduates writing senior theses or conducting independent research. Tutors, Jess Sietsema and Willy Penn, joined by Timmy Matsamakis in the spring semester, were in high demand, particularly for logic classes. Lab instructors for Ancient Greek Philosophy were Jenny Carmichael and Willy Penn; for Modern Philosophy, Willy Penn and Timmy Matsamakis. Representing the undergraduates to the Advisory Policy Committee was Nathan Wikman; to the Committee of the Whole, Reem Amine; and to the Academic Advisory Committee, Willy Penn.

THE 2015 UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY

CONFERENCE: Funded by the department and individual donations, this year's conference featured Ian Gold, Canada Research

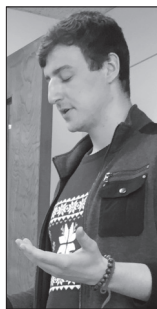
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WHERE THEY'RE GOING: Kelly Su

Christopherson, a senior majoring in philosophy and economics, will be spending a year as a mission worker with Kairos-EME (Europe and the Middle East), an organization that is developing a summer program for college students to perform service in Glasgow. Kelly Su will be helping to forge relationships between Kairos-EME, churches, soup-kitchens, schools, etc. to build this program. During the year she will also be leading a group of women who are taking a year to volunteer in Glasgow, serving with homeless shelters, substance-abuse programs, a Christian college outreach, and various youth programs.



Dan Catterall, senior, was selected for a highly competitive summer position at the 200 acre Plaw Hatch Biodynamic Farm on the edge of the Ashdown Forest in rural southern England. Owned by a charitable trust, Plaw Hatch has been a biodynamic farm for over thirty years. According to its website, it is "a self-contained farm, in harmony with the world around us. We take advantage of the planetary rhythms for the planting and harvesting of all crops to enhance their vitality. Compost, biodynamic preparations and the use of green manures ensure that fertility of the land is maintained."



Dan Steel By the time you read this my family and I will have moved from East Lansing to Vancouver, British Columbia, to start new jobs and a new life. More than a decade has passed since I arrived fresh out of grad school in 2002. I'm very grateful to the Department of Philosophy for giving me a job, and for the support I've received since then. And this will always be the place where I met my partner in life, Guofang, and where my three children, Francis, Patrick, and Qiqi, were born. Best wishes to everyone and a heartfelt goodbye!



On Tuesday, May 26th, Department Chair **Matt McKeon** hosted a party for Dan and his family at his home. The event was well attended.

Dan Steel and his son

Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences

Tom Tomlinson, *Director*

The big news this year is our successful recruitment for two new tenure-system positions, one in clinical ethics and the other in neuroethics. Two outstanding candidates have accepted offers of appointments beginning in August.

Devan Stahl will be receiving her PhD in Health Care Ethics from St. Louis University, has an M.Div. from Vanderbilt, and has practiced as a hospital chaplain. Dr. Stahl will be helping the Center provide clinical ethics consultation training programs for ethics committees, and provide ethics consultation services to hospitals and health systems in Michigan.

Laura Cabrera has a Ph.D. in Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics from Charles Stuart University, Australia, as well as two MA's from Linköping Universitet, Sweden. Dr. Cabrera will be collaborating with neuroscientists and clinicians in East

Lansing and Grand Rapids to address ethical and social challenges arising from advances in our ability to manipulate brain processes.

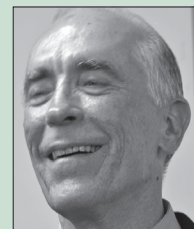
The Center for Ethics is hosting a Visiting Professor from Southeast University, Nanjing, PRC. **Dr. Guobin Cheng** has a medical degree and practiced for a while as a surgeon, but went on to get a Ph.D. in Bioethics from Southeast University, and publish a book on ethical challenges raised by advances in genetic science and treatment. He arrived in late March, and will be in residence for a year.

Tom Tomlinson: I am in the second year of an NIH-funded project to better understand people's concerns about research



that might be done with their deidentified biological specimens and associated information, conducted with colleagues in the Center for Bioethics and Social Science in Medicine at the University of Michigan. In the first phase of the project we conducted a national survey, reported in JAMA: Tomlinson T, De Vries R, Ryan K, Kim HM, Lehpamer N, Kim SY. 2015. Moral concerns and the willingness to donate to a research biobank. JAMA 313(4):417-9.

In late June I will be traveling to Southeast University in Nanjing to present a paper at an international bioethics conference organized by the university.



Tom Tomlinson
Director

Some Faculty (Including Emeriti/Emeritae) News *(random order)* ■■■■■■■■■■



ROBYN BLUHM: I'm looking forward to joining the MSU faculty this fall, when I will take up a joint position in the Philosophy Department and Lyman Briggs College. My main area of research and teaching is in the philosophy of neuroscience and my background spans both of these disciplines. I have an undergraduate degree in behavioral neuroscience, as well as in philosophy, and I worked as a research assistant in a neuroimaging lab while I was doing my PhD in philosophy at the University of Western Ontario. I then spent three years, still at Western, doing a postdoctoral fellowship in psychiatric neuroimaging. Since then, much of my research has focused on philosophical questions raised by neuroimaging, especially in areas where epistemological and ethical questions are intertwined. For example, I've critiqued research on sex/gender differences in emotion processing and, more recently, examined research on the neurobiology of moral decision-making. I also have a strong interest in philosophy of psychiatry, and will be hosting the annual meeting of the Executive Council of the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry this fall – one of my first projects when I arrive at MSU. Other plans for the near future include developing courses related to philosophy of neuroscience and establishing connections with other MSU faculty that will give students the opportunity to engage deeply with philosophical questions raised by neuroscience.



DAVID GODDEN: I am delighted to be joining the Philosophy Department at Michigan State this fall. I come to MSU from Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, Virginia, where I have, since 2008, taught courses in Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Modern, Analytic, and Introductory Philosophy. My dissertational studies, completed at McMaster University in 2004 and supervised by Nicholas Griffin, involved a historical and conceptual study of psychologism. My post-doctoral research, at the University of Windsor, focused on the intersection of theories of justification and accounts of rationality and doxastic change. This work examined how our theories of rational argument connect with human reasoning and the actual factors that influence individuals to adopt, hold, or change a view, especially in cases where there is an apparent break down in the rational structure of those beliefs. Broadly speaking, my areas of research interest include epistemology, theories of rationality, reasoning and argument, the theory of evidence, logic (formal and informal), and the history and philosophy of logic. I have published on a wide variety of topics including visual argument, corroborative evidence, virtue argumentation, teaching rational responsibility, deep disagreement, psychologism in Russell's account of propositions, Mill's logic, Quine's holism, common knowledge, presumption, and argumentation schemes. My articles have appeared in journals such as *Argumentation*, *Synthese*, *Logos and Episteme*, *History and Philosophy of Logic*, *Topoi*, *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, *Argumentation and Advocacy*, and *Informal Logic*. My present projects include two co-edited special

journal issues: one of *Topoi* on "The practice/s of giving reasons," and a second of *Argumentation and Advocacy* on "Twenty years of visual argument."



KYLE POWES WHYTE: I have enjoyed my responsibilities as AEC chair and it has further convinced me of the great combination of colleagues we have in this department — especially hearing guests' reactions to the collegiality and dynamics in our unit. So my interactions this year, once again, solidified my excitement about working with everyone here. I really appreciate the ways in which each individual in the department approaches their teaching, research and service with dedication and openness — makes it easy and meaningful to come to work! As most of you have followed, I've had some major transitions this year, **from being named to the Timnick Chair to being appointed by Sally Jewel to the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science for the Department of Interior.** I've also been fortunate that some of the groups I work to convene to address ethics and justice issues, such as the Climate and Traditional Knowledges Work Group, have made great progress in publicizing our concerns and reforming policies. Based on these and other experiences, I've recently been revisiting and refining many of the earlier ideas I published on, and am working toward a book proposal this year, tentatively titled "Climate Justice and Indigenous Peoples."



MICHAEL O'ROURKE: Better Science through Philosophy: The Toolbox Project: In 2012, Professor Michael O'Rourke relocated to MSU from the University of Idaho, bringing the Toolbox Project with him (<http://toolbox-project.org/>). The Toolbox Project is a NSF-sponsored effort that aims to enhance communication in collaborative, cross-disciplinary science through mutual consideration of research assumptions. The Toolbox approach uses philosophical concepts drawn primarily from the philosophy of science and epistemology to structure a dialogue among collaborators in which they articulate and share their scientific research worldviews. The concepts are presented in the "Toolbox", a survey instrument comprising multiple modules that address fundamental issues in collaborative, cross-disciplinary science, such as methodology, confirmation, and values. The Toolbox is deployed in a workshop setting in which participants discuss their disciplinary perspectives with one another. The goal is to contribute to growth in self-understanding and mutual understanding that can conduce to improvements in team cohesion and scientific communication. The Toolbox Project has conducted over 160 workshops on four continents.

Since arriving at MSU, O'Rourke has been working to expand the footprint of the Toolbox Project. This work has included collaborating with colleagues Kyle Whyte and Sean Valles on a NSF-sponsored Ethics Education in Science and Engineering project, collaborating with the Sustainable Climate Risk Management

Network and the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum to support climate adaptation planning in west Michigan, and facilitating the work of a multi-national consortium that seeks to understand and manage woody invasive plants in east Africa. In support of these efforts, the College of Arts & Letters, together with the MSU Provost Office, have agreed to underwrite the project for two years so that it can establish itself as a financially sustainable, MSU-based research and outreach initiative.



SEAN VALLES: Since last summer, Sean has been working with Kyle and Michael on the SRPoiSE group and on an NSF Ethics Education grant, and also published three articles. The first is a call for bioethicists to get more involved in climate change deliberations, and the other two (coauthored with UK public health researchers) are on ethical and epistemic challenges in the collection and analysis of public health data.

- Valles SA, Bhopal RS, Aspinall PJ (2015) Census Categories for Mixed Race and Mixed Ethnicity: Impacts on Data Collection and Analysis in the US, UK and NZ. *Public Health*, 129 (3), 266-270.
- Katikireddi SV and Valles SA (2015) Coupled Ethical–Epistemic Analysis of Public Health Research and Practice: Categorizing Variables to Improve Population Health and Equity, *American Journal of Public Health*, 105 (1), e36-e42 [Open Access]
- Valles SA (2014) Bioethics and the Framing of Climate Change's Health Risks. *Bioethics*, [Available Online Ahead of Publication]



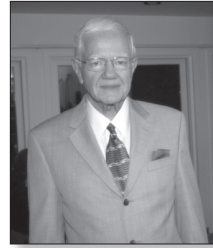
MATT FERKANY: The past half-year has been a busy one. I have continued to work on a long-term project on ethics in environmental (and science) education. That project led to a second Spencer grant that is just wrapping up now. But it's also led me to think more deeply about moral education and the ethics of virtue more generally. On moral education, I worked

on a project outlining and assessing an Aristotelian ideal of character education which is gaining popularity among scholars and in schools. I presented on this topic to the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham, UK and that has led to a research fellowship I'll be taking up there for fall semester 2015. Once there I will help plan and coordinate research on character education to be conducted at 3 middle schools. On the ethics of virtue, I am embarking on a study of recent work on well-being in virtue with the intention of seeing just how far good centered thinking about practical reasoning can go.



BARBARA ABBOTT: A paper of mine, "The indefiniteness of definiteness", was published in a Springer volume (*Frames and concept types: Applications in language and philosophy*) at some point in 2014. In September of 2015 I presented a paper ("An information packaging approach to presuppositions and conventional implicatures") to the Philosophy Department

at U. Texas, Austin. This paper will appear in special issue of the journal *Topoi*, devoted to presuppositions. Another paper of mine, "Speaker's reference: Smith's murderer" (not my choice of title) is supposed to appear later this year in the *Wiley Companion to Semantics*. I continue to work with Jeanette Gundel (U. of Minn. linguist) on the *Oxford Handbook of Reference*. When that is done I think I will retire completely from academia.



JAMES E. ROPER: On July 16th, I'll be presenting a paper at the 32nd International Social Philosophy Conference, at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO. The Conference's theme is Education and Social Justice. The title of my paper is "The Corporatized University as a 'Hostile Educational Environment.'" I'll chair a session

called "Community and Disparity," where our graduate student, Ian Werkheiser, will deliver a paper; I'm also chairing a session on "Indigenous Justice." This summer, I am writing the Second Edition of my book *The Covenant of Democracy*, incorporating revisions and new chapters. I am, with David Zin, revising three refereed articles we wrote for *The Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society* (Sage), the first edition of which won two prestigious awards. I will begin work on two new articles for the second edition: "Risk" and "Robots and Automation," which are due next year. My son, Dan (Director of Emergency Medicine at St. Mary's Hospital in G.R.), and I have had our proposal "The Doctor's Dilemma: Special Ethical Problems Encountered by the Managers of Hospital Emergency Departments and the Broader Implications of these Problems" accepted for the 22nd Annual International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference, in Manhattan, this October.

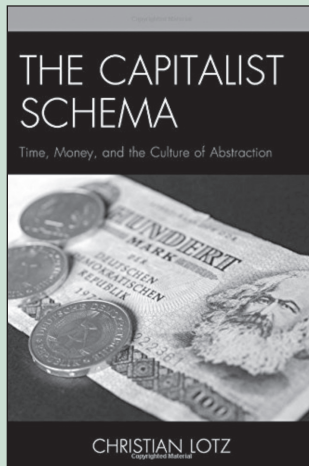


CHRISTIAN LOTZ published two books: *The Capitalist Schema. Time, Money, and the Culture of Abstraction* (Lanham: Lexington Books 2014) and *Christian Lotz zu Karl Marx: Das Maschinenfragment* (Hamburg: Laika Verlag 2014). He published the following papers: "Is Capital a Thing? Remarks on Piketty's Concept of Capital," *Critical Sociology*, 41:2, 2015; „Klasse und Gewalt. Kritische

Anmerkungen aus Marxistischer Sicht zum Verschwinden des Klassenbegriffs in Kritischer Theorie und Post-Marxismus," *Prokla. Zeitschrift für kritische Sozialwissenschaft*, 176, 2014, 383-403; and "The Transcendental Force of Money. Social Synthesis in Marx," *Rethinking Marxism*, 26/1, 2014, 130-140. Two of his students successfully defended their PhD theses: Matthew Johnson (*Freedom as Resoluteness. The Political in Heidegger's Being and Time. From the Early Marcuse to Arendt's Vita Activa*) and Ivan Guajardo (*Imagination Redux. A Phenomenological Investigation*).

BOOKS BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

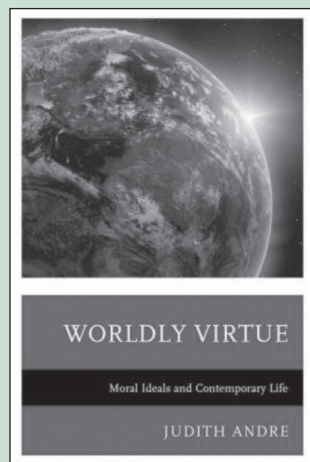
(Since the last *Language, Truth, and Gossip*)



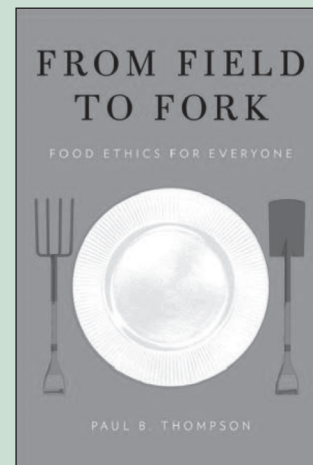
Christian Lotz



Christian Lotz



Judith Andre



Paul B. Thompson

*Greetings from
the Office Staff*



Trish Miller



Joy Franks

Trish Miller is the Department Secretary, anchoring the Graduate and Undergraduate programs. This was a return for Trish. As an undergraduate at MSU, she had studied philosophy under former chair Richard Peterson. Joy Franks continues her excellent work as Office Manager.

Greetings from the Chairperson *continued from page 1*

this fall. Two of them received University fellowships, which are quite competitive (the College of Arts and Letters received 5). There were seven oral defenses this year. This has to be a record.

We made awards from the Hall-Hanna Scholarship fund totaling \$2,000 to support three students to travel to conferences in order to present their work, and to support one student to attend a summer seminar at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The Hall-Hanna fund, as well as the Win Wilkinson fund, continues to be vital in enhancing both the professionalization of our graduate students and the co-curricular dimension of our undergraduate program. This year once again the Department awarded two fellowships to graduate students, funded by a generous donation from Joe Slaughter, in order to work closely with a faculty member over the summer to revise and polish a paper for publication. Past recipients have published papers, which has enhanced their placement prospects. Given current budget realities, generous support from alumni and friends is critical to placing our graduate students, thereby diversifying the profession and promoting Engaged Philosophy.

It is worth repeating from last year's newsletter that there is increased pressure on the Department to seek outside revenue to support its operations and the promotion of philosophy among students and the public-at-large. We continue to generate income from our summer online courses, but this is not enough to support the research activity of our students. Development funds will continue be crucial to our efforts to enhance both the graduate and undergraduate student experiences, and sustain the intellectual life of the department. In order to streamline the process of making a gift to the Department, we have developed an alumni page on our web site at <http://www.philosophy.msu.edu/alumni/>. There you'll find links that make possible direct contributions to our various development funds.

I wish you a healthy and productive new year, and I hope that you enjoy the rest of this issue of LTG.

Sincerely,

Matt McKeon, Chair

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

As the Department continues to face budget cuts, fundraising remains priority. We thank those who have contributed in the past, whether to special scholarship funds like the Hall-Hannah or Win Wilkinson funds or to the Department in general. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Bridget Paff, Director of Development for the College, at 517-353-4725 or via email at paff@msu.edu. To make a gift, please write your check to Michigan State University and mail it to Philosophy, 368 Farm Lane, 503 South Kedzie Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1032 and indicate AE07 Dept. of Philosophy. If you would like to donate to the Win Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship Fund, just specify that. To donate to the Hall Hannah Endowment, write AE076 on the memo line.

A newsletter for alumni(ae) and friends
of the MSU Department of Philosophy
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LANGUAGE
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