

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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Please visit the Department of Philosophy online at www.philosophy.msu.edu. Send your news to Joy Franks at franksj@msu.edu.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Greetings from the Chair.	1
Philosophy Events on Campus	2
Undergraduate Program (and Awards).	3
A Brief Note from the Editor	3
News from the Graduate Director	4
Hilde Lindemann Retires	4
Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences	5
New Journal	5
New Hires	6
Books Written by Faculty	7
Greetings from the Office Staff	7
Chair Letter (continued)	8
Scholarships and Support	8

FACULTY NOTES
& ACTIVITIES

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE NEWS
UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

SPRING 2016

Greetings from the Chairperson

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings! Welcome to another edition of *Language, Truth, and Gossip*. The 2015-16 season was another eventful academic year.

We welcome five new tenure-stream faculty members: **Emily Katz**, **Catherine Kendig**, **Xhercis Mendez** (75% Philosophy, 25% African-American and African Studies), **Tacuma Peters** (75% James Madison, 25% Philosophy) and **Elena Ruiz** (75% Philosophy, 25% Global Studies). See bios below. Also, we welcome **Amy Lampe**, our new dedicated undergraduate advisor, who we share with Theater. **Debra Nails** and **Hilde Lindemann** retired, effective May 2016. As Debra and Hilde were part of the life-blood of the Department, 5th floor SKH won't be the same without them. Emily will replace Debra in Ancient Philosophy, and we hope to search for Hilde's replacement in Feminist Bioethics next academic year.



Matt McKeon
Department Chair

The Department's continues to pursue initiatives that expand our distinctive brand, "Engaged Philosophy," which is a practice of philosophy that uses philosophical methods, resources, and elements of traditional areas of philosophy to help address practical issues of concern to society at large and to disciplines outside of philosophy. Here I highlight three initiatives. First, we look forward to housing the *International Journal for Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* for five years, starting in August 2016. Second, the Department will host a two-day workshop (September 30th and October 1st) built around the theme, "Practice Enriching Theory." **Paul Schuele** and **Steve Holtzman** have graciously agreed to help fund the workshop, which aims to consider and contribute to the ways in which philosophy's involvement with complex and urgent social problems contributes not only to understanding and resolving those problems, but also furthers much of philosophy's traditional agenda, both methodologically and substantially. The invited speakers are **Chris Cuomo**, **Rebecca Kukla**, and **Serene Khader**. The workshop is an important opportunity for MSU faculty and students to reflect on our practice of Engaged Philosophy towards the goal of updating our vision and articulation of what makes our work important both within and outside the national and international philosophical community. Finally, Provost Youatt and Chris Long, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters (CAL), have approved the Department's proposal for creating a Center for Interdisciplinarity in CAL that will be an academic center of excellence for interdisciplinary research and teaching. Leveraging existing strengths the Philosophy Department has in interdisciplinary theory and practice and in engaged philosophy, the Center will seek to maximize college and university strengths in interdisciplinary research and teaching, serving as a hub for interdisciplinary activity on campus and as a locus for national and international conversations about the philosophical dimensions of interdisciplinarity.

We made awards from the Hall-Hanna Scholarship fund totaling \$2,000 to support students to travel to conferences in order to present their work. 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

Continued on page 8

2015-2016 Philosophy Events on Campus

SPEAKERS



Colin Allen (Indiana)

SPEAKERS: **David Concepcion** (Ball State) "Some Learning Theory for Philosophers" (Sept. 14). **Robert Audi** (Notre Dame) "Moral Perception and the Objectivity of Ethics" (Sept. 25). **Colin Allen** (Indiana) "Mental Continuity and the Measurement of Meaning" (Oct. 23). **Brian Robinson** (MSU) "Ambiguity, Univocality, and Semantic Luck" (Nov. 6). **David Ebrey** (Northwestern) "The Value of Knowledge and the Form of the Good" (Nov. 13). **Talia Bettcher** (California State University, Los Angeles) "From Embodiment to Empersonment" (Nov. 20). **Josh Wilburn** (Wayne State) "Gorgias and the Orators on the Powerlessness of Speech" (Ancient Circle: Jan. 24). **Catherine Kendig** (Exeter/ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society) "Multidimensional homology thinking: a practice-based metaphysics of biological kind-making" (Feb. 8). **Eric Weber** (Mississippi) "A Culture of Support and Merit: Promoting Independence without Stigmatizing Dependency" (Feb. 12). **Tacuma Peters** (MSU) "Edmund Burke and Chattel Slavery: Abolition, Anti-Imperialism, and Conservatism in the Age of Revolution" (Feb. 17). **Sharyn Clough** (Oregon State) "Dogmatism, Science, and Politics: Or how I learned to stop worrying and love induction" (Feb. 19). **David Crane** (Grand Valley State) "The Anti-Peripatetic of Anterastes" (Ancient Circle: Feb. 21). **Ariel Helfer** (MSU) "Searching for Socrates: Xenophon's Socratic Characters in Hellenica I and II" (Mar. 20). **Elena Ruiz** (Florida Gulf Coast) "Hermeneutic Violence in Latin America: A Decolonial Feminist Approach" (Feb. 29). **Xhercis Mendez** (California State, Fullerton) "Tales from the Dark Side: A Decolonial Feminist Approach to Gender" (March 15). **Emily Katz** (MSU) "Ontological Separation in Aristotle's Metaphysics" (Apr. 15). **Agnes Callard** (Chicago) "On Aristotle" (Apr. 17).

ENDOWED LECTURES*, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES



Erinn Gilson



Steve Nadler

Fri./Sat.
Mar. 18-19 **GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE: Starting from the Actual: Working Against Oppression and Marginalization. Keynote: Erinn Gilson** (North Florida) (photo above) "Challenges and Possibilities for Theorizing Oppression and Vulnerability"
Featured Participants: **Sam Sumpter** (Washington),

Amelia Martin (MSU), **Stacey Goguen** (Boston), **Sophia Pavlos** (MSU), **Beth Hupfer** (Rice), **Alex Neitzke** (MSU), **Kyle Whyte** (MSU Faculty Keynote), **Dana Grabelsky** (Wisconsin-Milwaukee), **Heather Stewart** (Louisville), **Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner** (MSU)

Friday
April 1

Steven Nadler (Wisconsin) "Spinoza on Good and Evil" (photo preceding column)

McCracken Distinguished Lecture* inaugurating the 6th annual undergraduate MSU philosophy conference (See below)

Fri./Sat.
April 1-2

FIFTH MSU UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE

Featured Participants: **Joshua Schroeder** (MSU), **Gage Guswiler** (MSU), **Paul Howatt** (MSU), **Soujoud Hamade** (MSU), **Stephanie Brown** (Toronto), **Jamayl Martin** (MSU), **Evelyn Wagarman** (Oberlin), **Jessica Sietsema** (MSU), **Amir El-Aswad** (Cornell), **Joseph MacMaster** (MSU), **Cory J. Smith** (Slippery Rock), **Shawk Masboob** (MSU)

Friday
April 8

Clare Palmer (Texas A&M) "Should We Modify Genes to Keep Nature in Place?"

Benjamin Distinguished Lecture*

Sat./Sun.
Apr. 16-17

FIFTH WORKSHOP IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT AT MSU

Christian Lotz (MSU)

Towards a Red and Green Future? Marxism, Critical Theory, and Environmental Philosophy

Lectures by **Paul Burkett** (Indiana State), **Brett Clark** (Utah), **Debora Cook** (Windsor), **Chaone Mallory** (Villanova), **John Sanbonmatsu** (Worcester Polytechnic)

Fri.-Sun.
Apr. 29-
May 1

SPINOZA-LEIBNITZ WORKSHOP

Featured Participants: **Michael Della Rocca** (Yale), **Martha Brandt Bolton** (Rutgers), **Emily Grosholz** (Penn State), **Galen Barry** (Old Dominion), **Sabastian Bender** (Rice), **Kyle Driggers** (UNC Chapel Hill), **Christopher Fruge** (Houston), **Austen Haynes** (Boston), **Julia Jorati** (Ohio State), **Justin Steinberg** (CUNY Brooklyn)

Wednesday
May 11

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT RETREAT

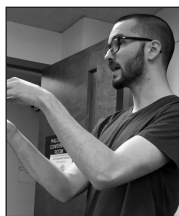
Michigan Wildlife Conservancy's Bengal Wildlife Center

* **Endowed lectures** are supported by the generous contribution of Steve Holtzman.

Activities of the MSU Undergraduates in Philosophy

Debra Nails, *Director of Undergraduate Program until May 2016*

Outstanding Students and Award Winners: **Joshua Schroeder** won the Lewis K. Zerby Prize as well as a Hall-Hanna Research Travel Scholarship for “The Time-Dependent Principle of the Identity of Indiscernibles,” presented at the 4th annual Calvin College-Grand Valley State University Undergraduate Conference. He is shown here presenting his paper to the annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at MSU. Josh served as Master of Coin for the Philosophy Club and Undergraduate Representative to the department’s Academic Environment Committee. He will study abroad in Japan this summer.



Paul Howatt (left) won the Martin Benjamin and Bruce L. Miller Award, presented to an undergraduate at an early stage in the major. Active in the Philosophy Club, Paul served as a tutor 2015–16 in which role he was especially helpful to English second-language speakers. Next year,

Paul will serve as a lab instructor for the ancient philosophy lab. **Soujoud Hamade** (right), who also tutored successfully for the department this year, will be attending the MSU School of Law next year on a Trustees’ Scholarship.



Gage Guswiler won a Hall-Hanna Research Travel Scholarship for a paper he gave at the 9th annual DePauw Ethics Symposium, “Bodily Rights and the Business of Baby Brokering”; that and his senior research project, “The Problem of Posthumous Harm,” show where his interests lie. Gage will be conducting health-systems research with the non-profit Altarum Institute, and getting married this summer.



THE 2016 UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE:

Funded by the department and individual donations, this year’s conference featured Steven Nadler, William H. Hay Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin and former president of the American Philosophical Association, who presented “Spinoza on Good and Evil.” The class of graduating seniors refereed submissions, provided feedback, and served as commentators. **Olivia Jamrog**, who will attend law school at the University of Cambridge next year, chaired



the sessions. Her senior project was “Abortion: Ethical Theories and Reducing Harm.”

PHILOSOPHY CLUB: Weekly meetings of the Philosophy Club were arranged by **Jenny Carmichael**, now completing her second major in mechanical engineering, and **Rafa Martinez**, out-going Grand Chancellor of the Conference, poised for a grand tour of Central and South America before settling down to work in a non-profit in Grand Rapids. Rafa’s senior project was “Effects of Identity and Justice on Institutions”; and Jenny’s was “Substance and Anomalous Monism.”



Zack Thornton, Philosopher-Ruler (right), and **Robert Scheuer**, in-coming Grand Chancellor of the Conference



(bearded), are shown having lunch at the annual undergraduate conference, prior to their election. **Nicole Schilling** will serve as Praetor of Public Relations.



STUDENTS IN GOVERNANCE: **Jamayl Martin** (left), who recently returned from South Korea and Israel, is a former officer of ASMSU. He will join Teach for America in Cleveland in the fall, offering instruction in high school mathematics. His senior project was “The Moral Dilemma of Leadership in Democracy.” **Shelby Engelbrecht** (right) served as the undergraduates’ representative to the Advisory Policy Committee.



Jessica Sietsema (left), whose senior project was “Medusa Syndrome and Queer/Trans Life: Liberal Identity Politics and Its Critique,” and **Prratek Ramchandani** (right), who served briefly as Philosopher Ruler in the spring of 2016, were the undergraduates’ representatives to the Committee of the Whole.



A BRIEF HISTORICAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: JAMES ROPER

Debra Nails recently sent me a memoir that harks back to the beginnings of the modern MSU Philosophy Department. **HENRY S. LEONARD** was a very well-known philosopher when he came to East Lansing to build a modern philosophy department. This account was written by Bill Callaghan, who had been Leonard’s student at Harvard and who hired me to start in the Fall of 1964. At that time, MSU’s Department was ranked 20th in the country, reflecting the success of Leonard’s “architectural” endeavors. We added a number of new faculty during the mid ’60s to early ’70s, considerably strengthening the unit. Leonard, who was by then a Distinguished Professor, believed that “the business of philosophy was to be generally reasonable, [and] to be concerned with the rationality of the methods and results of inquiry in the fields of chief human importance.” Finally, Leonard



James Roper

argued that philosophy must balance its teaching mission with research that advances the historical and internal dimensions of the subject as well as its application and engagement with the broader spectrum of social, political, and intellectual problems. (Quotes are from William J. Callaghan’s Postscript “Henry Leonard at MSU,” in Carrell Lambert’s *The Logical Way of Doing Things* [Yale, 1969].)

NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR

Lisa Schwartzman, *Director of the Graduate Program*



Lisa Schwartzman

Congratulations to the ten graduate students who have received their PhD's in the last year:

- **Mark Balawender**, "Ethics, Power and the Possibility of Nonviolence"
- **Dan Beck**, "Naturalizing Moral Reasoning in Bioethics"
- **Hannah Giunta**, "Reconceptualizing the Ethics of Phase I Pediatric Clinical Trials in Oncology"
- **Ali Kashani**, "The Question of Radical Generosity: Ethics and Politics of Cosmopolitanism"
- **Jason Mask**, "Plato's Confrontation with Parmenides"
- **Samantha Noll**, "Outline for a Metaphysics of Care: An Analysis of Theoretical Work on Animal Minds"
- **Steven Schoonover**, "Political Liberalism and Capability Entitlements"
- **Meredith Verrochi**, "Uncooperative Engagement: An Active Response to Hate Speech"
- **Ian Werkheiser**, "Community Epistemic Capacities for Epistemic Self-Determination in Environmental Justice and Food Sovereignty"
- **Lauren Woomer**, "A Unified Account of Motivated Ignorance"

Recent Placements:

- **Mladjo Ivanovic**, Grand Valley State University, Visiting Assistant Professor
- **Esme Murdock**, Morehouse College, Visiting Assistant Professor
- **Samantha Noll**, Haverford College, Visiting Assistant Professor, Program in Peace, Justice and Human Rights
- **Joseph Stramondo**, San Diego State University, Assistant Professor, Tenure Track
- **Ian Werkheiser**, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Assistant Professor, Tenure Track

Current graduate students have won a number of awards and fellowships, including:

- **Youjin Kong** received the Joseph J. Blau Prize from the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP) for her paper "Feminist and Historicist Universalism: A Critical Analysis of Richard Rorty's Anti-Universalism."
- **Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner** has been selected as a Graduate Assistant for PIKSI (Philosophy in an Inclusive Key) at the Rock Ethics Institute.
- **Sophia Pavlos** has been named a Humanities Without Walls (HWW) 2016 Pre-Doctoral Workshop Fellow.
- **Ayanna Spencer** has been awarded the 2016 Ford Pre-Doctoral Fellowship

Our recruitment efforts were a success, and we are excited to welcome four students into the doctoral program beginning in Fall 2016:

- **Suzanne Neefus**: MA in Philosophy from Georgia State University; BA in Philosophy and Political Science from Taylor University. She is interested in social and political philosophy, applied ethics, global justice, and feminist philosophy.
- **Jessica Richardson**: BA in Philosophy and in Biology, Society, and Environment from University of Minnesota. She is interested in environmental philosophy, feminist philosophy, and in the relationship between identity, participation, and the environment.
- **Jared Talley**: MPA (Master of Public Administration) in Natural Resource Management and Environmental Policy and BA in Philosophy from Boise State University. He is interested in environmental ethics, interdisciplinary communication, and in questions about distributive justice, democracy, and community engagement in natural resource management.
- **Lauren Zahn**: MA in Philosophy and Social Policy from American University; BA in Philosophy from SUNY College at Purchase. She is interested in animal ethics, rights, and epistemology; 19th and 20th century continental philosophy; and bioethics.

HILDE LINDEMANN RETIRES *Submitted by Jamie Nelson*

Some 16 years ago, Hilde came to MSU having been director of the Center for Applied and Professional Ethics at the University of Tennessee, and before that a Research Associate at The Hastings Center, and associate editor of *The Hastings Center Report*. While at MSU, Hilde published three of her five books—*Damaged Identity, Narrative Repair* (Cornell, 2001), *An Introduction to Feminist Ethics* (McGraw Hill, 2005), and *Holding and Letting Go* (Oxford, 2014)—co-edited three collections of essays, and published well over fifty articles and chapters, along with numerous reviews and occasional pieces. Co-editor of two book series, and editor of *Hypatia* from 2003-2008, she has lectured widely across North America and Europe, and in Australia. An enthusiastic teacher of both undergraduates and graduate students, Hilde directed five dissertations at Michigan State.

Hilde held visiting Professorships at Duke and the Universities of Vienna, Groningen, and Otago; in Spring 2017, she will hold

the Fagothey Professorship at Santa Clara University for a record third time. She was President of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Co-coordinator of the International Network for Feminist Approaches to Bioethics, Chair of FEAST, and of the APA's Committee on the Status of Women.

A Fellow of The Hastings Center since 2004, Hilde is quite pleased with her new title too.

As Professor Emerita, Hilde will be based in Knoxville, continuing her leadership role with the International Research Consortium on the Ethics of Families, co-editing a volume of essays from the consortium forthcoming from Oxford in 2017, working on a second edition of her first co-authored book, *The Patient in the Family*, and delighting in her grandson, Jack-Jack.



Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences

Tom Tomlinson, *Director*

Faculty in the Center have been very busy this year developing a radically new curriculum in the College of Human Medicine. This Shared Discovery Curriculum (<http://curriculum.chm.msu.edu/>) will eliminate traditional courses in favor of competency-based learning objectives and put students in clinical settings in their first year. The Center for Ethics is responsible for developing materials and teaching methods in four domains: clinical ethics, health policy, shared decision-making and social determinants of health. In addition, the Center will be developing elective intensive “intersession” courses in advanced bioethics (led by Tom Tomlinson) and the medical humanities (led by Devan Stahl).

The Center has also expanded its clinical ethics services. The Center conducted a well-received day-long workshop in clinical ethics consultation at a number of Michigan hospitals, and is also offering video-conferenced ethics consultation assistance to institutions around the state. The arrival of clinical ethicist Devan Stahl allows the Center to expand the assistance it provides to Sparrow Health System in Lansing.

Tom Tomlinson continues his collaboration with colleagues at the University of Michigan, looking at the significance of donors’ moral concerns over future possible research uses of their de-identified biological specimens and medical information. This

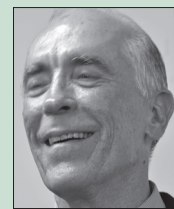
work has so far resulted in two publications, in JAMA (doi: 10.1001/jama.2014.16363) and in Life Sciences and Social Policy (doi: 10.1186/s40504-016-0036-4). The work remaining will focus on the results of several democratic deliberations on the subject, supported by NIH funding.

Devan Stahl has been working on a number of articles in medical humanities including the use of fine art in patient care (10.1136/medhum-2015-010838), religious evaluations of genetic technologies (I: 10.5840/ncbq201515346), as well as articles on clinical ethics issues such as patient rights, novel technologies, and clinical ethics certification. She has presented at a number of national conferences including the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, the American Academy of Religion, and the Conference on Medicine and Religion. Dr. Stahl is also working with physicians and researchers at Helen DeVos Children’s hospital to explore issues surrounding the ethics of withholding and withdrawing care at the end of life.

Laura Cabrera has been awarded an S3 grant together with Dr. Robyn Bluhm and Dr. Mark Reimers on “Psychiatric Interventions: Values and Public Attitudes”. She is also part of a European consortium grant (ERA-NET Neuron), which has led her to the subproject “Media Coverage of Psychiatric Neurosurgery: Cross-National Investigations of Public Reactions and

Attitudes.” Dr. Cabrera is also exploring environmental neuroethics, resulting in a publication on Environmental Health and a book chapter in an edited volume on neuroethics. Other neuroethics work from Dr. Cabrera during this past year includes publications on *AJOB Neuroscience*, *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* and *SAGE Open Medicine*.

Len Fleck is developing a course for the College of Arts and Letters aimed at developing students as Citizen Scholars, built around deliberative democracy and the civic responsibility to use arts and humanities resources to address social and policy challenges. The course may interest some folks in the local community. Len Fleck will also develop, for the College of Human Medicine, a required Intersession for the Shared Discovery Curriculum with the working title “Understanding the Health Care System and Health Policy.” **Diane Wagner MD** will be the lead CHM faculty member helping with the construction of that intersession. This summer, Len is working diligently on a book with the working title *Precision Medicine/Ethical Ambiguity? Rough Justice, Ragged Edges, and Wicked Problems*. He expects to complete the manuscript by the late fall.

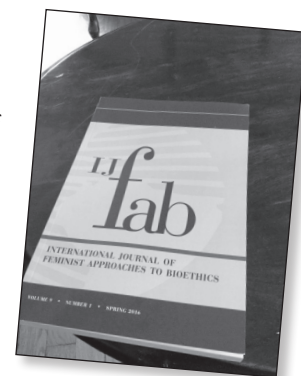


Tom Tomlinson
Director

THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT’S NEW JOURNAL

After spending its first decade at Stony Brook University, the *International Journal for Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* is moving to the Philosophy Department at MSU. Two department faculty members—**Robyn Bluhm** and **Jamie Nelson**—will serve as co-editors along with Jackie Leach Scully, co-director of the Centre for Policy, Ethics, and the Life Sciences at Newcastle University in the U.K. With support from the College of Arts and Letters as well as Philosophy, *IJFAB*’s first issue to appear under the aegis of its new team will be issue 2 of volume ten, which will be available in 2017.

IJFAB will be the first journal to base its editorial office in the Department since the end of *Hypatia*’s stay at MSU in 2008. Its presence will help heighten further our profile in both bioethics and in feminism, two areas that have been central to the department for many years.



New Tenure Stream Faculty Members (Starting Fall, 2016)



EMILY KATZ specializes in ancient Greek philosophy, and has published several articles on Aristotle's *Metaphysics*. Her research focuses on Aristotle's treatment of his predecessors' views about mathematical objects and substance, his notions of ontological priority and separation, and his own mathematical views. Emily grew up in Montreal, and lived in the Canadian

Maritimes, Pittsburgh, and Boulder, Colorado, before coming to East Lansing. She has been a visiting assistant professor with the philosophy department here at MSU since 2010; she is very much looking forward to starting on the tenure track in the fall. Her husband, Eric, is an assistant (soon to be associate) professor in MSU's department of political science. They have a daughter and son: Alice, age 7, and Charlie, age 4.



CATHERINE KENDIG completed her PhD at the University of Exeter/ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society and her MSc in Philosophy and History of Science at King's College, London. She joins the department from Missouri Western State University. Kendig has research interests in philosophy of scientific classification, natural kinds, philosophy of science in practice,

synthetic biology and emerging technologies, and philosophy of race. In 2013 Kendig was awarded a Research Fellowship at the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology to work on the project: "Homology, Redux: Revisiting Richard Owen's Analogy/Homology Distinction." Her work in synthetic biology directly engages with scientific research, collaborating with mathematicians and geneticists from 2010-2016 on projects funded by the NSF Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. She has just completed an edited collection of new essays, *Natural Kinds and Classification in Scientific Practice* (Routledge, 2016). Kendig's research-based, integrated HPS approach also frames her teaching. In 2014 she was honored as recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Education from the State of Missouri. This summer she was Visiting Researcher at Leibniz Universität Hannover. She likes running distances in multiples of π and iterative collections.



XHERCIS MÉNDEZ is Assistant Professor in Philosophy and African American and African Studies. She received her doctorate from the Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture Program at Binghamton University, along with certificates in Feminist Theory and Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies. She is the author of "Notes Toward a Decolonial

Feminist Methodology: The Race/Gender Matrix Revisited" (2015) and "Transcending Dimorphism: Afro-Cuban Ritual Praxis and the Rematerialization of the Body" (2014). She is currently working on her manuscript entitled, "An Other Humanity: Decolonizing Feminism through Methodological Interventions from the Dark Side." As a scholar-activist her research brings together Women of Color and Decolonial Feminisms, Sexuality Studies, and Afro-Latinx/diasporic Religion and Philosophies in an effort to explore alternative grounds

for the (re)making of social relations, histories, intimacies, and resistant possibilities.



TACUMA PETERS (Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley; Political Science) is Assistant Professor in the Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy major at James Madison College and in the Department of Philosophy. His current book project, *Maroonage, Confederacy, and Resistance*, examines eighteenth century anti-imperialism in the Americas and is focused on the intersection

of social and political philosophy with chattel slavery, European empire, and decolonization. He teaches courses on the history of political thought, Africana philosophy, Caribbean Philosophy, and contemporary social and political theory. He has served on the secretariat for the Caribbean Philosophical Association since 2013. A native New Yorker, Tacuma is a lifelong jazz aficionado and has taught courses on the subject. In his spare time you can find him walking his dog on the River Trail or at the local movie theater watching the latest blockbuster (to his wife's dismay).



ELENA RUIZ is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Global Studies at Michigan State University. Born and raised in Mexico City, Elena's research interests are informed by social justice and liberation movements in the Global South. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy and M.A. in Social and Political Theory from the University of South Florida, with previous

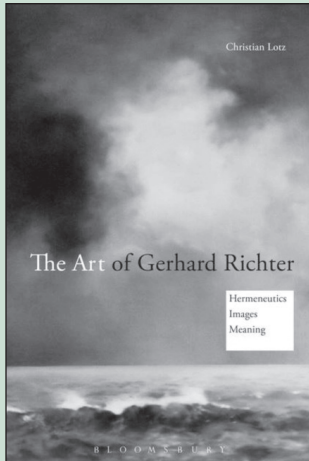
studies at Cornell University. Prior to joining MSU, Elena was an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she headed the Philosophy and Religion programs from 2012-2015. Subsequently, she joined the Graduate Institute in Geneva's Center on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) as a research fellow. Elena takes an interdisciplinary and engaged approach to philosophic practice, and has worked internationally with a number of humanitarian organizations, policy centers, and human trafficking resource centers. Her current research focuses on identifying the historical and epistemological biases that occlude the social visibility of gender-based harms. Outside the classroom, Elena is an avid foodie and has a passion for cooking; if missing she is sure to be found at the cheese stand of the local farmer's market.



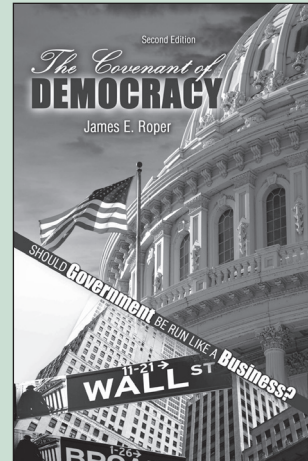
Prof. John H. McClendon III with Muhammad Ali, "The Greatest"

BOOKS WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

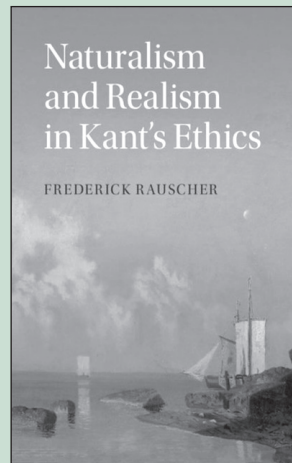
(Since the last *Language, Truth, and Gossip*)



Christian Lotz



James Roper



Frederick Rauscher

*Greetings from
the Office Staff*



Trish Miller



Joy Franks

Trish Miller is the Department Secretary, anchoring the Graduate and Undergraduate programs. 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*

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 to be crucial to our efforts to enhance both the graduate and undergraduate student experiences, and sustain the intellectual life of the department. The alumni page on our web site, <http://www.philosophy.msu.edu/alumni/>, has 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

PAUL M. HURRELL, MSU Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Humanities, died November 16, at age 93. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Paul joined the MSU Philosophy Department in 1957. In the mid-nineteen-sixties, when MSU created Justin Morrill College, Paul moved from the Philosophy Department to Justin Morrill as its sole philosophy professor. With the demise of Justin Morrill College in the early nineteen-eighties, Paul was appointed jointly to the Philosophy Department and the Humanities Department. Paul's specialty was philosophy of religion (he was an ordained Presbyterian minister) and for many years he taught the Department's Philosophy of Religion course. He retired in 1987. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara, and is survived by his children Steven and Andrea.

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.

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