

# 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 2012

## Greetings from the Chairperson

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings! It is my pleasure to provide you with a snapshot of the state of the Department and of what we have been up to during another busy year. There have been changes in the front office: Lisa Schwartzman has replaced Fred Gifford as director of the graduate program, and I have succeeded Dick Peterson as Chair. Dick will retire immediately after spring semester in 2013.



Matt McKeon  
Department Chair

Faculty continue to be research productive: 3 books, 30 peer-reviewed articles, 16 book chapters. Highly productive research goes on in traditional disciplinary areas of philosophy: epistemology, the philosophy of science, several areas of continental thought, logical theory, and the history of philosophy, with special richness in ancient, early modern, and 18th and 19th century philosophy. Research efforts in the areas of graduate specialization and concentrations use philosophical methods, resources, and elements of traditional areas of philosophy to help address urgent social and political issues. Successful research efforts are evidence of the Department's drive to hold a leadership role in movements within the profession and to expand philosophy's agenda, making the field more richly responsive to the multitude of voices and values in human communities, engaging philosophical reflection with the problems and resources of other disciplines, and grappling with pressing problems, both theoretical and practical, in social life.

In 2010 we instituted a new graduate concentration in environmental philosophy, and this year our request for a senior position in environmental philosophy was approved. I am happy to report that Michael O'Rourke has accepted our offer and will start this fall. Michael comes to us from the University of Idaho and does fascinating grant-sponsored work in interdisciplinary philosophy that promises to bring a fresh perspective to issues in epistemology, philosophy of language, and philosophy of science. The addition of Michael to our faculty enhances the distinction of an already distinguished department. Unfortunately for us, this gain is accompanied by a faculty loss: Michael Nelson accepted an offer to become the Ruth H. Spaniol Chair of Natural Resources in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University.

Five graduate students began their programs in fall of 2011, and we have admitted four people with funding for this fall. We have 78 majors and 113 minors. This year we made awards from the Hall-Hanna Scholarship fund to graduate and undergraduate students to support their travel to conferences in order to present their work. The Hall-Hanna fund is an important element in our efforts to enhance the undergraduate experience for our majors and professionalize our graduate students. Indeed, given current budget realities, these goals are not attainable without the generous support from alumni and friends. 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 are able to point to impressive grant activity (particularly among our environmental philosophers), our summer online courses, and our participation in a reverse study-abroad program for Chinese students as ways Philosophy has made headway in generating revenue. Also, we continue to develop an online certificate program in ethical issues facing professionals engaged in international development. A pilot online module is being offered this summer. Given the prospect of further budget cuts, it is unclear how much of our losses can be recovered by these departmental initiatives.

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# Philosophy Events on Campus

MSU philosophers hosted an unusual array of events that brought important scholars to campus and involved colleagues and students from other departments and the region.

## PRESENTATIONS BY PHILOSOPHERS ON CAMPUS

### 2011-2012 SPEAKERS

**Neil Sinhababu** (National U of Singapore), "Unequal Vividness and Double Effect" (Sept. 9). **Heather Douglas** (U of Tenn.) "Defining Scientific Integrity" (Sept. 16). **Kevin Elliott** (So. Carolina) "The Nature and Significance of Selective Ignorance in Scientific Research" (Jan. 19). **Patricia Glazebrook** (U of No. TX) "Why Environmental Philosophy Needs Gender" (Jan. 24). **Michael O'Rourke** (U of Idaho) "Engagement, Experimentation, and Environment: The Toolbox Project and the Epistemology of Complex Problems" (Feb. 10). **Raymond Anthony** (U of Alaska Anchorage) "Taming Unruly Discourses: Meeting the Challenges of Food Security and Climate Change, Lessons from the Arctic" (Feb. 14). **Gerald J. Massey** (Pittsburgh, Emeritus) "Was Russell really right? Did Aquinas lack 'true philosophic spirit'?" (Feb. 27). **Robert Figueroa** (U of No. TX) "Extending Environmental Justice: From Equality and Identity to Nonhuman Agency" (Mar. 14). **Darren Ranco** (Anthropology, Coordinator of Native American Research, University of Maine) "Sustainability Science in Protecting Maine from the Emerald Ash Borer: Wabanaki Basket-Makers and Research Partnership" (Mar. 30).

### ENDOWED LECTURES

(Generously funded by **Steve Holzman**, these lectures allow us to continue bringing outstanding contemporary philosophers to campus.)

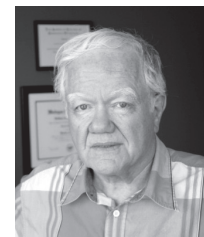
- 9/23/11** *Charles J. McCracken Distinguished Guest Lecture: Tommie Shelby* (Harvard), "Justice, Self-Respect, and the Culture of Poverty"
- 10/7/11** *Ronald Suter Distinguished Guest Lecture: David Velleman* (NYU), "A Reasonable Relativism"
- 11/4/11** *Martin Benjamin Distinguished Lecture: Jeremy Waldron* (NYU Law), "The Myth of Mrs. Jellyby"

### AFFILIATED DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR SANDRA HARDING (UCLA)

- 11/11/11** "Objectivity for Sciences From Below"
- 11/15/11** "Do Micronesian Navigators Practice Science? Postcolonial Perspectives on Science and Technology"
- 3/26/12** "Philosophies of Science: Agendas for the 21st Century"
- 3/28/12** Graduate Student Workshop: "How to Get a Dissertation Topic from a Literature Review, and then Turn a Dissertation Chapter (or Seminar Paper) into a Journal Article"
- 3/29/12** "Feminist and Postcolonial Science and Technology Issues: Convergences and Dissonances"
- 3/30/12** "Master Class for Graduate Students"

## WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- 10/28-29/11** **John McClendon**, Philosophy Born of Struggle [National] Conference
- 1/20/12** **Sean Valles**, Grant Workshop
- 1/27/12** **Lisa Schwartzman**, Comprehensive Exam Workshop
- 2/10-11/12** **Jason Read** Keynote Speaker  
**John McClendon** Faculty Speaker
- 3/16/12** **Lisa Schwartzman**, Advising and Mentoring of Graduate Students Workshop
- 3/31/12** **2nd Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference.** This conference featured outside undergraduate speakers, as well as MSU undergraduate philosophers. The keynote speaker was **Debra Nails** (MSU).
- 4/13/12** **James Roper**, Workshop on the "Citizens United" Supreme Court Case. Speakers: Marvin Ammori (Legal Fellow at the New America Foundation Open Technology Initiative), Josh Silver (CEO of United Republic), James Roper (MSU Philosophy), and Adam Candeub (MSU College of Law); moderated by Ms. Samantha Goulet (MSU Undergraduate Philosophy Major). This Workshop was funded by the College of Arts and Letters, the College of Law, and the Philosophy Department.
- 4/14/12** **Jim Nelson and Hilde Lindemann**, Third Biennial Workshop on Philosophy of Health Care and Bioethics, "Medicine's Suspect Stories." Speakers: Kathryn Montgomery (Northwestern University), Catherine Belling (Northwestern University). Commentators: Judy Andre and Hilde Lindemann (both of MSU).
- 4/26-27/12** **Jim Nelson and Hilde Lindemann**, International Workshop on Health Care, Ethics, and Families: "The Patient in the Family/the Family in the Patient." Bioethicists from Sweden, Singapore, and the United Kingdom came to MSU to continue a multi-year joint research project on ethical issues that emerge from the interactions among professional health care givers, health policy makers, and family caregivers. The meeting was made possible with generous funding from MSU philosophy alumnus Steve Holzman, the College of Arts and Letters, the Department of Philosophy, and the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences.campus.)



James Roper

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13 EVENTS

- 10/5/12** **Nick Smith**, Win Wilkinson Guest Lecture
- 10/15-24/12** **Sandra Harding Visit**
- 2/10-11/13** **11th Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference**
- 3/22/13** **Don Garrett**, *Charles J. McCracken Distinguished Guest Lecture*
- 4/6/13** **Dotson Conference:** Guest Speakers: Patricia Hill-Collins, Kimberly Crewshaw, and Nira Yuval-Davis

## Developments in the Undergraduate Program

Fred Rauscher, *Director of Undergraduate Studies*

The number of undergraduates in our major and minor programs is near 200. Our philosophy and law minor continues to draw the greatest number of students, but the number of majors is increasing. Students overall are becoming more aware of the value of a philosophy major as a pre-professional degree and basis for flexibility in a career on the one hand, and as the best time in one's life for reflection on one's life and the human place in society and in the world.

The highlight of the spring semester was the second annual Philosophy Undergraduate Conference at MSU. This year our ambitious conference organizers arranged for an invited speaker — MSU's own

Debra Nails — and expanded the call for papers to other colleges and universities. Half of the papers accepted were from non-MSU students. Next year the students are planning further expansion of the conference.

Students are also very active in the weekly meetings of the Philosophy Club. A highlight of this year's series of discussions with professors and graduate students was Sandra Harding's two appearances at the club.



Fred Rauscher

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS

(Submitted by Fred Rauscher)

### Lewis Zerby Prize for Best Philosophical Essay: Two Winners

**EVAN WEST:** Evan is a senior by credits who will graduate in spring 2013. He boasts a perfect 4.0 average in his philosophy courses. Evan is an active member of the Philosophy Club and will serve as one of its officers next year. He has served as a Philosophy Tutor. He helped to organize the Second Annual Philosophy Undergraduate Conference at MSU in March. His essay that won the Zerby award, "Negative Nominals and Would-Be Counterfactual Dependence: A Defense of Binary Causation," argues that the existence of causal relations that depend on *lack* of events, such as "the gardener *not* watering my flowers caused the flowers to wilt", does not imperil the traditional understanding of causation. He has presented his paper at the undergraduate philosophy conferences here at MSU, at SUNY Oneonta (New York), and at the Pacific University in Oregon, and won the Hall-Hanna Research Travel Scholarship to support his attendance there.

**JORDAN UEBERROTH:** Jordan is a senior by credits who will graduate in spring 2013. He is just one 3.5 short of a perfect 4.0 in his philosophy courses and carries a 3.9 GPA overall. He has served as a philosophy tutor and has been active in the philosophy club. He helped to organize the Second Annual Philosophy Undergraduate Conference at MSU in March. The paper that won

him the Zerby Prize, "Plato Against Nominalism: An Examination of Anti-Nominalistic Arguments" argues against an interpretation by a well-known Plato scholar supposedly showing why Plato is a realist, meaning that there are some universals such as "health" in addition to just the healthy people we see around us. Jordan shows that under this interpretation Plato does not give sufficient arguments to prove realism. He presented his paper at the MSU undergraduate philosophy conference and at an undergraduate conference at Ohio State University.

### Benjamin-Miller Award for the Most Promising Sophomore in Philosophy

**JENNIFER CARMICHAEL:** Jennifer is a sophomore philosophy major with an additional major in Engineering and a minor in Economics. She has earned a 4.0 in all five philosophy courses she has taken and, we are confident, will continue that impressive run this semester and into the future. She will serve as a philosophy tutor next year. Jennifer has a quick mind and is active in class discussions. She plans to either attend graduate school in philosophy or law school or pursue a career as an engineer. You would think that she would be exhausted with all this academic work but somehow she has the energy to participate in triathlons through the MSU triathlon club.

## Highlights from the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences

Tom Tomlinson, *Director*

The Center continues to support the clinical ethics program at Sparrow Hospital. The initiative includes clinical ethics training, the provision of quarterly ethics grand rounds, and unit briefings on difficult ethical issues. Spring 2012 activities include an introduction to clinical ethics consultation; an ethics grand rounds addressing communication failures with seriously ill patients and their families, and a half-day workshop in clinical ethics consultation training offered to ethics committee members from both Sparrow and McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital. Ann Mongoven continues to serve on the Sparrow

Ethics Committee, and Tom Tomlinson on the McLaren Committee.



Ann Mongoven

2012. The Board provides community oversight to a state public health "biobank" which archives blood leftover from newborn

**Ann Mongoven**, together with citizens engaged in fall 2011 deliberative processes she conducted with NIH support, testified to the State of Michigan Biotrust Community Values Advisory Board in March,

screening for research purposes. The testimony presented the hopes, concerns, and preferred ethical policies identified by citizen deliberators. Philosophy graduate students Danielle Lake and Ayesha Bhavsar participated as co-facilitators in the deliberative processes, and Lake also participated in the preparation and delivery of testimony. **Tom Tomlinson**



Tom Tomlinson  
*Director*

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Lisa Schwartzman

## NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR

Lisa Schwartzman, *Associate Chair*

It has been a busy but rewarding year for me moving into the role of Graduate Program Director. Our program continues to thrive, with graduate students playing an active role in the life of the department as well as in the university at large. In addition to presenting work at national and international conferences, graduate students planned and ran the 13th Annual Philosophy Graduate Conference, on the very timely theme "Occupy Philosophy." Graduate students also played an important role in planning the interdisciplinary EDGES conference (in the College of Arts & Letters at MSU), where several also presented papers.

Congratulations are in order for a number of our graduate students: Michael Reno completed his Ph.D. in June, with a dissertation on "Adorno and the Possibility of Practical Reason." In November, Samuel Williams finished his Ph.D. with a dissertation entitled "From Oppression to Democracy." More recently, Ian Werkheiser (a first year doctoral student) was awarded the *Somers Excellence in Teaching Award* for outstanding performance as an instructor of IAH courses at Michigan State University.

Our recruitment efforts were a success, and we are excited to welcome five students into the doctoral program beginning in Fall 2012:

- Erik Jensen – M.A. in Philosophy (University of Texas-Dallas), B.A. in Philosophy and Classics (Ohio Wesleyan)
- Zach Piso – B.A. in Philosophy and Environmental Studies (Allegheny College)
- Ezgi Sertler – M.A. in Philosophy (Loyola University-Chicago), B.S. in Chemical and Biological Engineering (Koc University, Turkey)
- Aidan Sprague-Rice – M.A. in Philosophy (Loyola University-Chicago), B.A. in Philosophy (Siena Heights University)
- Andrew Woodson – M.A. in Philosophy (Michigan State University), B.A. in Sociology (Michigan State University)

**Additional Note by Kyle Whyte:** Four of our philosophy graduate students attended and did VERY well at the Inaugural Symposium in Land Use and Ethics, SUNY ESF's Northern Forest Institute (Huntington Wildlife Forest, June 1-3, 2012).

## MICHAEL NELSON ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

**Michael Nelson** has accepted a position as the Ruth H. Spaniol Endowed Chair of Natural Resources, Professor of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy, and the Lead Principle Investigator for the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest Long-Term Ecological Research Program in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. He will, therefore, be leaving MSU at the end of this school year. Congratulations, Professor Michael Nelson, on this prestigious and responsible position. Your productivity and energy level are remarkable; you have honored us with your gifts and talent. It is Michigan State University's loss and Oregon State University's gain. We wish you the best in your new influential work. You will be missed.



Michael Nelson

## WIN WILKINSON

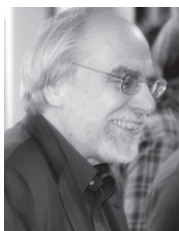
~ *In Memoriam* ~

Professor Winston A. "Win" Wilkinson passed away on October 31, 2011, at the age of 70. Originally hired by the MSU Philosophy Department specifically to teach existentialism, Win taught many other courses, including epistemology, continental rationalism, graduate seminars, logic, history of philosophy, introduction to philosophy, modern philosophy, and some IAH courses, as well as a range of independent studies. Win's unassuming but razor sharp analysis was treasured by the Department. What most characterized Win, though, was his profound commitment to finding and fearlessly protecting the truth. Win once told me that, had he not been a philosopher, he might have been a military officer. That comment startled me; but, as I thought about it, I realized that Win would probably be the person I would choose to have with me in a difficult situation. I believe his thoughtful philosophical musings would, when life and death were at issue, morph into the cool, clearheaded judgment of someone who has met his own worst

fears and mastered them. Win was never literally a military officer, but he was always a fighter against any and all who assaulted the truth. I honor him for that lifetime commitment. He never wavered, never compromised his principles, never allowed fear to overcome his best judgment about what should be done. Win WAS a soldier for philosophy in its best sense, and we should honor that commitment. It is all too easy to think of it as something we all equally share. I disagree. Win's commitment to this ideal was the most profound I have ever seen. I know of no one who has shown more courage in pursuing and defending the truth than Win Wilkinson. He is an exemplar for all of us to cherish—and, to the best of our ability, emulate. — James Roper, *Editor*

Professor  
Winston A. Wilkinson

## Faculty News by James E. Roper (names in random order)



Richard Peterson

**Richard Peterson** delivered, in 2011, "Technology, Reification, and Violence," at Internationale Tagung, June 30-July 2, at the Brandenburgische Universitaet, Cottbus, Germany. He presented "Contrasting Peace and Nonviolence," to the African Studies Forum on World Peace Day, September 21, 2011. He presented three papers at national meetings, including "Economic Violence and Racism" at the Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference, MSU, Oct. 29. He published a book chapter, "Social Learning and Nonviolence: Thinking Beyond Nationality," in *Beyond National Boundaries: Building a World Without Walls*, Center for International Affairs, Seoul, So. Korea, 2011.



John McClendon

**John H. McClendon III** organized and presented a paper at the 18th Annual Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference, MSU, on October 28-29. Other than the many publications that were reported in last years' *LTG*, he had an invited book chapter in an anthology: "On the Politics of Professional Philosophy: The Plight of the African American Philosopher" in George Yancy, ed., *Re-framing the Practice of Philosophy: Bodies of Color, Bodies of Knowledge* (SUNY Press, 2011). John also gave seven presentations at professional conferences and invited lectures across the United States. He was on the 2011-2012 University Tenure and Promotion Committee, The College of Arts

and Letters Faculty Research Awards Selection Committee, and the Department Graduate Committee.



Paul Thompson

**Paul B. Thompson** had, in 2011, four multiple authored refereed journal articles—three in *Poultry Science* and one in *Metaphilosophy*. He had three book chapters, one-coauthored, one book review, three newsletter/magazine articles, and one scientific/technical report. He had five presentations at international meetings, ten at national professional meetings, and three at state/regional meetings. He was the session organizer and chair of two meeting/workshops and presented at nine faculty seminars—eight in the United States and one at Halle, Germany. He had three presentations at other professional meetings, eleven to lay audiences and six on campus. In 2011, Paul taught PHL 860, Metaphysics and Epistemology.



Kristie Dotson

**Kristie Dotson** published two articles in *Hypatia*, "Tracking Epistemic Violence" and "Concrete Flowers," in 2011. She had seven presentations in 2011. Kristie participated in several events at the Pacific Division APA, April 4-7, 2012. On April 4, she presented "Towards Identifying a Proto-Black Feminist Insurrectionist Ethics" for the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy on

*Continued on page 6*

## NEW FACULTY MEMBER • Michael O'Rourke



Michael O'Rourke

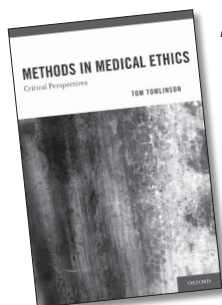
After earning a Ph.D. at Stanford in 1995, O'Rourke was visiting assistant professor at Kansas State before joining the philosophy department at the University of Idaho in 1996, where he has most recently been Professor of Philosophy and faculty member in Neuroscience and Environmental Science.

Research interests include the nature of epistemic integration and communication in collaborative, cross-disciplinary research and the nature of linguistic communication involving natural language. Since 2007, he has directed the Toolbox Project, which focuses on the development and application of a piece of philosophical technology to improve communication and understanding among members of cross-disciplinary research

teams. He is principal investigator on the NSF-funded project "Improving Communication in Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration," examining philosophical approaches to facilitating interdisciplinary research. He has published extensively on communication, both in philosophy and in robotic agent design. He was a collaborator and co-principal investigator on several funded projects involving autonomous underwater vehicles. O'Rourke has had substantial administrative experience at both the departmental and college levels. From 1998 to 2010, he has served as co-director of the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, an interdisciplinary conference on philosophical themes held annually at UI and WSU, and since 2000, as co-editor of the *Topics in Contemporary Philosophy* series (The MIT Press).

## Single-Authored Books by Members of the Philosophy Department

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



**Tom Tomlinson**,  
*Methods in Medical Ethics: Critical Perspectives*  
(To appear in July 2012)

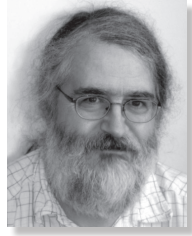


**James E. Roper**,  
*The Covenant of Democracy: Should Government Be Run Like a Business?*  
(January 2012)



## Faculty News *continued from page 5*

the topic: Insurrectionist Philosophy. On April 5 she chaired the colloquium, "Feminism and the History of Philosophy." On April 6, she was a critic at the Radical Philosophy Association, Author-Meets-Critics, for Naomi Zack's *The Ethics and Mores of Race: Equality after the History of Philosophy*.



Fred Gifford

**Fred Gifford** was the editor of *Philosophy of Medicine: Handbook of the Philosophy of Science*, (Elsevier, 2011), for which he wrote the "Introduction." His "Bioethics in Costa Rica: Origins and Challenges," (with Ana Rodriguez) appeared in *The Social Functions of Bioethics Around the Globe*, Catherine Myser, editor (Oxford, 2011). Fred was on the organizing committee of the International Philosophy of Medicine Roundtable, San Sebastian, Spain,

Nov. 2-3, 2011, where he chaired a session for invited speaker Brian Hurwitz (King's College, London). He also gave presentations at two universities—one in the United States, the other in Europe. Fred teaches a large number of students for the Department.

**Todd Hedrick** has "Reification, Law, and Democracy" under review. "Democratic Constitutionalism as Mediation: The Decline and Recovery of an Idea in Critical Social Theory" is a forthcoming publication, as are "Liberalism: Comprehensive," "Reconciliation," and "The Supreme Court and Judicial Review." He had the following presentations in 2011: "Latent Class Structures and Democratic Theory" and "Justification through Legislation versus Adjudication: Critical Legal Theory and Deliberative Democracy."



Todd Hedrick

**Fred Rauscher** is the Philosophy Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. In this capacity, he is the faculty advisor to the Philosophy Club and gave a talk on Buddhist Philosophy to Club members in 2011. He also helped organize the club's second annual Undergraduate Conference this spring. He was a commentator at the Central APA, in 2011, on Jens Timmermann's "Kantian Dilemmas? Moral Conflict in Kantian Ethics," the Mary Gregor Memorial Lecture, North American Kant Society group session. Fred was a commentator at an invited Symposium: Kant's Doctrine of Right, April 5, 2012, at the Pacific Division APA, in Seattle. Fred is enjoying his stay in Brazil and, by June 14th, has given four presentations in various parts of the country. Fred is popular with his students and teaches many large enrollment courses for the Department.



Christian Lotz

**Christian Lotz** was a visiting professor in Cottbus, Germany from 4/1-10/31/2011. His publication project, begun in the summer of 2011, in Cottbus, was accepted by Fink. This 250 page coedited book entitled *Ding und Verdinglichung. Technik- und Sozialphilosophie nach Heidegger und der kritischen Theorie* will appear in 2012. It deals with the concept of reification in Marx and the critical theory tradition. For this book, Christian wrote a

substantial 25 page paper entitled [in English] "Commodity exchange and technology as schematization of objecthood in Adorno and Heidegger." This work continues the shift in Christian's research interests toward social and political philosophy. He believes the work he did on this book will lead to new courses at MSU. Altogether, for 2011, Christian had six publications and seven presentations. His "Poetry as Anti-Discourse, Formalism, Hermeneutics and the Poetics

of Paul Celan," appeared in *Continental Philosophy Review*, 4/2011, 491-510.



Kyle Whyte

**Kyle Powys Whyte** had 14 journal articles published since the last *Language truth and Gossip*. He presented 17 professional papers at conferences, etc. One was titled "Science, Values and Environmental Justice" (with Daniel Steel) at the Three Rivers Philosophy Conference, April 2011, at the Univ. of South Carolina. Another was titled "Education, Participatory Environmental Politics, and Virtue (with M. Ferkany) Philosophy of Education Society

Annual Meeting, March 2011, St. Louis, MO. He applied for four grants. He helped sponsor Lansing's Third Annual Food System Conference ("Everybody Eats: Cultivating Food Democracy") at Pattengill Middle School, February 10-11. More than three hundred attended. At the 2012 APA, Pacific Division, Kyle was a speaker at the International Society for Environmental Ethics. His speech was "What Reading Leopold Tells Us about Sustainability Ethics and Indigenous Peoples."

**Lisa H. Schwartzman** had the following four presentations in 2011: "Female Oppression, Choice, and Autonomy," Undergraduate Philosophy Club, March 1. She commented on "Dis-Locating Moral Authority: Justifying Moral Claims in a Diverse and Unequal World," by Alison Jaggar and Theresa Tobin, APA, Pacific Division Meetings, San Diego, April 22; She participated in a panel discussion of Peggy Orenstein's *Cinderella Age My Daughter* and the Rise of "Girly Girl Culture" at Schuler's, East Lansing, May 26; "Intuition, Thought Experiments, and Philosophical Method: Feminism and Experimental Philosophy," was delivered at the North American Society for Social Philosophy at the 28th International Conference, Marquette University, Milwaukee, July 23.

**Jim Lindemann Nelson** published "Memory, Estrangement, and Nostalgia in *Mansfield Park*" in *Soundings* (94. nos. 1-2, Spring/Summer 2011), "Internal Organs, Integral Selves, and Good Communities" in *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, 32, no. 5, 289-300, and two other very short pieces. He did a book review of Jonathan Moreno et al. eds. *Progress in Bioethics* in the *I.J. Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* 4, no. 1; a co-authored book review with Tamra Frei of *Mirrors to One Another: Emotion and Value in Jane Austen and David Hume* (E. M. Dadlez), *Soundings*, (94, nos. 3-4 Fall/Winter 2011), and a review of the Miramax film *Iris*. He had three presentations in 2011, one co-presented with Hilde Lindemann.

**Daniel P. Steel** published two journal articles in 2011: 1. "On not Changing the Problem: A Reply to Howson," *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* 225: 285-291. 2. "Extrapolation, Uncertainty Factors, and the Precautionary Principle," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 42: 356-364. He also published three book chapters: 1. "Causal Inference and Medical Experiments," *Handbook of the Philosophy of Science, Volume 16: Philosophy of Medicine*, Elsevier, pp.159-186. 2. "Testability and Statistical Learning Theory," *Handbook of the Philosophy of Science, Volume 7: Philosophy of Statistics*, Elsevier, pp. 849-861. 3. "Causality, Causal Models, and Mechanism," *The Sage Handbook on the Philosophy of Social Science*, London, UK:



Daniel Steel

## Faculty News *continued from page 6*

Sage Publications, pp. 288-304. Dan had three presentations of his research (one in person, one by Skype, and one prepared presentation written with and delivered by Kyle Whyte.

**Barbara Abbott** and Larry (Hauser) attended the Central APA meeting in Chicago, February 16-18, 2012. Friday afternoon she chaired a session on conversational implicatures. Later she ran into Judy Andre in the elevator, and arranged to meet her for breakfast where they had fun catching up. Saturday afternoon she attended an invited symposium on indicative conditionals, and was flattered to hear the third speaker (Angelika Kratzer) devote attention to “Abbott’s puzzle”—the Byram Snodgrass example from her 2004 SALT paper. (It’s available at her website: <https://www.msu.edu/~abbottb/vita.htm>.)

**Hilde Lindemann** has recently had two book chapters published—one in 2012 and the other in 2011. She spent winter/spring semester 2011 as a visiting professor at the Univ. of Santa Clara. In 2011 Hilde gave many talks—two were presented at the University of Upsalla in Sweden: “Relationships, Identity, and Self,” on October 6 and “Nonconsensual Ties: Why Practical Reasons in Families are so Odd,” on Oct. 7, co-presented with James Lindemann Nelson. She is a member of the program committee of the International Network on Feminist Approaches to Bioethics, 2011-2012.



Sean Valles

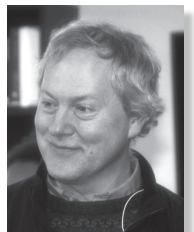
**Sean Valles** has recently had “Evolutionary Medicine at Twenty: Rethinking Adaptationism and Disease,” published in *Biology and Philosophy* and another paper accepted (tentative title, “Should Direct to Consumer Personalized Genomic Medicine Remain Unregulated?”) for publication in *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*. He had a presentation in Dallas at a science, policy and values conference where he presented his ongoing research on ethical issues in the use of

racial categories in public health programs, focusing on the problems raised by the imprecision of such categories. In non-research news, he is continuing his duties as funding officer for the department—helping members of the Department apply for grants.

**James E. Roper’s** *The Covenant of Democracy: Should Government Be Run Like a Business?* appeared in Jan. 2012. He delivered “Justice

in International Development” in Cincinnati at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual APPE Conference on March 3. On April 13, “Citizens United: Present Impact/Future Prospects” had over 70 people in attendance at a colloquium/workshop that he organized. The panel had four speakers who delivered papers and then entered into a dialogue among themselves and the audience. James presented “Citizens United or Corporations United?” Three encyclopedia chapters in the *Encyclopedia of Global Justice* (“Coercion,” “Economic Rights,” and “Individual Responsibility”), Springer 2011, all broke new ground. He presented two papers at national conferences: “The Business Model of Development and the Matter of ‘Neo-Slavery’” at the 18th Annual Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference, MSU, on Oct. 28, and “Privatizing Taxes: The Ethics of the New Approach to Wealth Redistribution” at the MPSA 69th Annual National Conference, on April 3, 2011, in Chicago. His revised and expanded second edition of *Dimensions of Informal Logic* was published in 2011. He taught 298 students in 2011.

**Rob Pennock** was invited early in 2012 to speak on a panel about “The Role of the Public Intellectual” at one of the MSU Workshops for Faculty on Leadership and Academic Life (Feb. 28). In the middle of April he was honored to receive the MSU Phi Kappa Phi *Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship* (\$1000) for his Avida-ED Project which develops educational software and curricular materials to help teach about evolution and the nature of science using digital evolution. Avida-ED was presented at Darwin Discovery Day (Feb. 12) and at the Michigan Science Teachers Association conference (March 8-10) and was one of the hands-on exhibits at the Society for the Study of Evolution booth that Rob organized for the USA Science & Engineering Festival in Washington DC (Apr. 27-29). Rob has received a \$96K planning grant from the John Templeton Foundation to develop a survey of the ethical perceptions of scientific leaders on the scientific character. This proposal was an off-shoot of his long-standing work on the relationship of epistemic and ethical virtue in science and will allow him to begin to test how well his arm-chair philosophizing about what scientists should do matches up with what scientists actually think they should do.



Rob Pennock

## Greetings from the Chairperson *continued from page 1*

Once again we’ve brought in major philosophers (Tommie Shelby, David Velleman, and Jeremy Waldron) through the Benjamin, McCracken, and Suter Endowed Lectures, so generously supported by our former graduate, Steve Holtzman. We hosted several conferences this year including “Philosophy Born of Struggle: Economic Crises, Education and the Role of Philosophy for the African American Public”, “Democracy and the Supreme Court’s ‘Citizens United’ Case”, and the Biennial Workshop on Philosophy of Health Care: “Medicine’s Suspect Stories.” Sandra Harding made two week-long visits to campus as part of our multi-year arrangement with her through the College’s Distinguished Affiliated Faculty program. Sandra (UCLA), a distinguished feminist philosopher of science and technology, added to department life (she gave several talks and visited with several classes), created student and faculty opportunities (she is involved with student and faculty research projects), enhanced connections among us and others on campus (Lyman Briggs and the Center for Gender in Global Context), and increased our visibility (e.g., her visit brought scholars from other campuses to MSU).

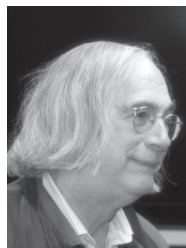
Sandra mentioned again and again how impressed she was with our department. Per our arrangement, she continues to interact with folks in our department while she is back at UCLA. Sandra is excited about continuing her biannual visits for at least the next two years.

I end on a sad note. Win Wilkinson died on October 31, 2011 after complications set in from a recent surgery. On October 5th, Nick Smith will visit campus to give what we are calling the Win Wilkinson Memorial Lecture, which is financially supported by donations from Nick and current MSU faculty. Due to the generosity of Carolyn White and Betina Henig, we have created a Win Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship fund to support graduate and undergraduate students. Please see page 8 for information on how to make a contribution in memory of Win.

Sincerely,  
Matt McKeon, Chair

## Highlights from the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences *continued from page 3*

is completing an R21 grant project supported by the National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH. The subject is what he calls people's "non-welfare" interests in what might later get done with their de-identified donation to a research biobank. Conducted together with Stan Kaplowitz (Sociology), the project involved an online factorial survey probing the extent to which people's decisions to donate under a blanket consent would be affected by the possibility that their tissue might be used in ways some would find morally objectionable. Several manuscripts reporting the survey results are being prepared for publication, and Tom has an article exploring the normative significance of these sorts of concern out in submission under the title "Respecting Donors to Research Biobanks." Tom's book, *Methods in Medical Ethics: Critical Perspectives*, will be published in July by Oxford. The book critically surveys the wide variety of philosophical methods advocated for use in medical ethics. The aim is to develop an informed eclecticism to help us better understand both the strengths and the weaknesses of the various approaches, and so make better judgments of when and how to employ them. Tom's chapter "The Irreversibility of Death: Metaphysical, Physiological, Medical or Ethical?" is forthcoming (Hopkins, 2012) in the



Len Fleck

anthology *Potentiality: Metaphysical and Bioethical Dimensions* (John Lizza, Editor). **Len Fleck:** *Fair Rationing at the Bedside*, edited by himself and four others will appear in early 2013 (Oxford). He wrote a chapter in the book titled "Just Caring: The Ethical Challenges of Bedside Rationing." He also has two journal articles and one chapter in Sage Publications' *Sage Debates on Health Care*, forthcoming. He has recently published five journal articles, one book review and two book chapters. He is working on essays for the 4th edition of the *Encyclopedia of Bioethics* as well as an essay for the third edition of the *Encyclopedia of Human Biology*. He has well over ten recent outreach presentations at conferences, churches, etc. He recently did two presentations for a conference on medical ethics and medical education. "Mind the Ethical Gaps: What do Our Medical Students Learn?" and "The Social Context of Clinical Decision Making: The Integrative Exercise," were presented at the Second Cambridge Consortium for Bioethics Education, (Paris, France), April 2012. He will again be teaching the London course for Study Abroad from June 28th until August 5th.

### SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

We thank those who have made contributions to the Hall-Hanna Scholarship Fund. Given the cuts we continue to absorb, we hope to enhance our fundraising and welcome your support. As mentioned previously, it is now possible to make a donation in memory of Win Wilkinson by contributing to the Win Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship fund. 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](mailto: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 **Win Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship fund** (AE07 Dept. of Philosophy), or AE076 Hall Hannah Endowment on the memo line.

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