

# LANGUAGE truth & GOSSIP



Faculty Notes &  
Deeds

New & Visiting  
Faculty

Graduates'  
News

Spring 2001

A newsletter for graduates of the  
MSU Philosophy Department

*Language, Truth & Gossip* is published  
by the MSU Department of Philosophy,  
503 S. Kedzie Hall,  
East Lansing, MI 48824

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February, 2001

Dear Graduates,

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

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

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

Best regards,

Stephen L. Esquith  
Professor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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