

# LANGUAGE truth & GOSSIP

A newsletter for graduates of the  
MSU Philosophy Department

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MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty Notes &  
Activities

Graduate News

Fall 2003

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Dear Graduates,

This is the third issue of LTG, and as you'll see, there is much to report.

Last spring Rich Hall and Joe Hanna retired after long and distinguished careers at MSU. In character with their lifetime devotion to the Department, they decided to pool their retirement gifts, and then some, to launch a new fundraising initiative for the Department. The **Hall-Hanna Young Scholars Fund in Philosophy** is now accepting donations. Our target is a \$30,000 endowed fund that will provide undergraduate and graduate students planning a career in philosophy with support in the form of scholarships, travel grants, teaching awards, and special project grants. Contributions to the campus-wide MSU Capital Campaign that is now underway can be directed specifically to the Philosophy Department, and, if you choose, more specifically to the Hall-Hanna Fund.

Another long-time member of the Department, Christine Kaye, also bade her colleagues in Philosophy a fond farewell this past summer. Chris has returned to the School of Music where she earned a master's degree to serve as operations manager and academic advisor. The Department is grateful for Chris's many years of service. If you have a chance, I'm sure she'd enjoy staying in contact with the many former philosophy students she worked so closely with over the years.

It is our great pleasure to welcome to the Department this year Professor Paul Thompson, who comes to us from Purdue University, and holds the new W. K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food, and Community Ethics. In addition to his work with faculty and graduate students in Philosophy, Paul also has joint appointments in the Department of Agricultural Economics and the Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies. We are also pleased that Assistant Professor Jennifer Susse is joining us this year. Jennifer has just completed her Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where her area of specialization has been philosophy of mind. She has an interest in cognitive science, and will represent the department in the interdisciplinary graduate Program in Cognitive Science. Finally, join me in welcoming Jackie Campbell to the Department as our new office supervisor. Jackie has worked in the Dean's Office of the College of Arts & Letters for several years on graduate programs, and will be a great asset to the Department.

Quickly, then, let me simply say this has been a year of solid accomplishment for the Department. We completed our own internal Self-Study and received a very laudatory review by an External Review Committee made up of colleagues from the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the National Institutes of Health. Several faculty and students won individual awards and honors, our distinguished lecture series is bringing in some of the very best philosophers in the land, and a prestigious philosophy journal has made its home here for the next five years. All in all, despite the serious budget problems that public higher education is facing across the country, the Department seems to be doing relatively well. More good students are coming our way, faculty are energetically crafting new courses and programs, and in general, other programs on and off campus are seeking us out to do collaborative work with them.

Best regards,

Stephen L. Esquith, Chair

