Awards
The Philosophy Department had another excellent year with many graduate students being awarded grants and fellowships. Martin Krahn and Paul Zipfel both received Fulbright Scholarships and will be studying in Germany. Bethany Somma is the recipient of a three year research fellowship from the Munich School of Ancient Philosophy. She will be doing her research at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. Tristana Martin-Rubio received the 2015 DAAD intensive language grant and will be studying at the Goethe Institute in Berlin over the summer. Alessio Rotundo was awarded the Chateaubriand Spring Fellowship for Spring 2016. Matthew Lovett was awarded the 2014-15 Charles Dougherty Graduate Philosophy Teaching Award. Furthermore, the 2015 Philosophy Essay Prize was awarded to Matthew Yaw, for his paper, “Nietzsche's Paean to War”.

Our undergraduates also showed their distinction, with Anthony Costantino being awarded the Philosophy Undergraduate General Excellence Award.

For more information on graduate student accomplishments over the last year, please refer to the Graduate News section.

Summer Language Grants
Recipients for the 2015 Ronald M. Polansky Graduate Student Scholarship award include:
Roland Carspechen (Germany)
Tyler Cunningham (Germany)
Peter Libbey (France)
Tristana Martin-Rubio (Germany)
Benjamin Maynard (France)
Sila Ozkara (France)
Anna Shevchenko (Germany)
Paul Zipfel (France)

Events
JOHN SALLIS (Boston College), “Return to Nature,” Sept. 5.
CLAIRE COLEBROOK (Penn State), TOM SPARROW (Slippery Rock University), ERIK GARRETT (Duquesne University), “Approaching The Liminal: Pushing The Boundaries of Continental Philosophy,” Sept. 26-27.

PAUL S. LOEB (University of Puget Sound), “Live in such a way that you want to live again,” Dec. 5.
JENNIFER BATES (Duquesne University), “Absolute Knowing: Consternation and Preservation in Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit and Shakespeare’s Troilus and Cressida,” March 27.
Kelly Arenson presented a paper entitled “Plato on the Science of Destruction” at the 9th Annual London Ancient Society Conference, in England, in February. The event was co-sponsored by the Institute of Classical Studies, the Department of Science and Technology Studies at University College London, and the British Society for the History of Science. She also organized a panel on “Death, Illness, Pain, and Destruction” and presented a paper entitled “What a Pain: Plato on Philosophy as an Impure Pleasure” at the annual Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy meeting at Fordham University in October.

Jennifer Bates recently completed editing a collection of 15 essays by celebrated authors in Shakespeare studies and in continental philosophy that develops different aspects of the interface between continental thinking and Shakespeare’s plays. The authors draw from current continental philosophy (e.g. Lacan, Foucault, Derrida) as well as from the 19th century continental tradition (e.g. Hegel, Kierkegaard) and from the early roots of continental tradition (e.g. Aristotle, Ibn Sina). The chapters address the span of the tragedies, comedies and history play in the light of thinkers as diverse as Aristotle, Ibn Sina and Jean-Luc Marion, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, Schmitt, Arendt, Lacan, Levinas, Foucault and Derrida. Jennifer Bates is also the recipient of the 2015 Presidential Scholarship Award.


Tom Eyers recently presented invited papers at the annual conferences of SPEP and the Modern Languages Association. He received Duquesne’s Severino A. Russo Endowed Faculty Development Award for 2015. He will be an invited speaker at Princeton’s English Department in April 2015. Articles on Wallace Stevens, Althusser, Badiou and other topics are forthcoming in 2015 in Textual Practice, Diacritics, boundary 2 and elsewhere. He organized a 3-day seminar that took place at the American Comparative Literature Association conference in Seattle in March on the theme “Form As/Against History,” involving philosophical and literary scholars from Berkeley, Yale, Cornell, Wisconsin-Madison, Cambridge and elsewhere; the seminar will result in an edited collection in 2016. His third book, Speculative Formalism: Literature, Theory, and the Critical Present, will be published at the end of the year. He has book chapters in edited collections forthcoming in 2015 and 2016 on Althusser, Lacan, Deleuze and Language poetry.


Jeff McCurry will present two papers in the coming months: “A Phenomenology of Light and Miracle: The Religious in the Poetry of Adam Zagajewski and the Fiction of W.G. Sebald” at the Nordic Society of Phenomenology in Stockholm, Sweden, in April, and “Wonder and Enchantment: A Phenomenology of the Good in Philosophical and Poetic Modernism” at the Power of the Word IV conference in Rome on the topic of wonder in philosophy, theology and poetry in June. Also, we in the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center prepared for the annual symposium on “Experiencing Disaster” which was held March 30 and 31 on campus in the Africa Room.

Patrick Miller has just published the second edition of his co-edited text, Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy (Hackett). His choices for additional readings this time reflect his recent teaching in the department (especially Heraclitus, Seneca, Lucretius, Sextus Empiricus and Plotinus). As part of his long-term project incorporating psychoanalysis into Platonism, he read his latest paper, “Avatars of Oneself,” to the department. A recording of this lecture is available on Youtube.
Daniel Selcer is working on a manuscript with the preliminary title *Philosophy, Print, and Image of Thought* (a sequel to his 2010 *Philosophy and the Book: Early Modern Figures of Material Inscription*), as well as several journal articles on Spinoza, Hobbes and Deleuze. With the support of a College NEH Endowment grant, last summer he traveled to the University of Virginia to participate in a week-long Rare Books School seminar on “The Illustrated Scientific Book to 1800,” organized by rare book dealer and Cambridge University lecturer Roger Gaskell and involving a small group of specialists in intellectual history, history of science and literary history as well as curators and other rare books librarians. Following the seminar, he spent a week working with rare materials held in the collections of the Folger and Dibner libraries in Washington, DC. Last spring he organized a successful two-panel session on “Renaissance Axiomatics: Euclid in Thought, Print, and Practice” at the New York City meeting of the Renaissance Society of America and for this spring’s conference at Humboldt University in Berlin he has co-organized another panel series on early modern matter-theory. Last December, he spoke at Princeton University, delivering “What is Textual Materialism? An Early Modern Perspective” through the Department of Comparative Literature visiting speaker series.

George Yancy is a Full Professor in the Philosophy Department, and is currently working on two edited books and a newly authored book. He has recently edited two new books entitled *White Self-Criticality beyond Anti-Racism: How Does It Feel to Be a White Problem?* and *Exploring Race in Predominantly White Classrooms: Scholars of Color Reflect*. He has also authored 12 articles, six of which are interviews that were conducted for *The Stone* and *New York Times*. Yancy has spent the past academic year authoring six chapters in the following texts: *I Don’t See Color: Personal and Critical Perspectives on White Privilege, Unveiling Whiteness in the 21st Century: Global Manifestations, Transdisciplinary Interventions, White Self-Criticality beyond Anti-Racism: How Does It Feel to Be a White Problem?, Pursuing Trayvon Martin: Historical Contexts and Contemporary Manifestations of Racial Dynamics, Exploring Race in Predominantly White Classrooms: Scholars of Color Reflect* (Critical Social Thought Series), and *Living Alterities: Phenomenology, Embodiment and Race*. Yancy also won the 2014 American Philosophical Association Committee on Public Philosophy’s Op-Ed Contest. Among various other talks, Yancy has spoken at the Annual WEB DuBois Lecture at George Mason University, The American Association for the Philosophic Study of Society at the APA Eastern, and served as the keynote speaker for the English Graduate Organization’s Annual Interdisciplinary Conference. For more detailed information on Yancy’s work, please visit his webpage found on the Duquesne University department website.
Graduate News

Conferences

The Graduate Students in Philosophy (GSiP) collaborate with the department to support faculty-organized conferences and activities. GSiP organizes an annual conference, hosts a Colloquium Series, in which current graduate students are encouraged to present their work, and assists the faculty and department administration in coordinating department-wide social events.

This year, the Graduate Students in Philosophy organization hosted its 9th annual graduate conference on Saturday, Feb. 21. The conference theme was "Ideology, Imaginary, Illusion: The Reality of the Unreal" and our keynote speaker was Dr. Rebecca Comay from the University of Toronto.

Duquesne Women in Philosophy hosted their 2015 conference on Saturday, March 21, in the Thomas J. Murrin Room. The theme of this year’s conference was “Violence and Embodiment” and our keynote speaker was Dr. Ann Murphy from the University of New Mexico.


Joseph Bertino – Joseph recently presented his paper: Wise Endurance: Does Socrates Fear? At the 2015 Pennsylvania Circle of Ancient Philosophy. Next year he will begin a Doctoral degree at Duquesne University’s Center for Health Care Ethics.

Alex Gorman – In Summer 2014 Alex participated in the Pittsburgh Summer School in Contemporary Philosophy (Aug. 2014). He also presented at the participant’s conference, “Jean Cavaillès and the Legacy of Phenomenology,” In the spring of 2015 Alex was awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship: College of Arts Graduate Scholarship. Further, he will be presenting his paper, “Structure and Drive: Agency in Lacan’s Four Discourses,” at the Villanova Graduate Conference, “No Present: New Encounters in French and Italian Thought.” Additionally, his paper “Phenomenology, Epistemology, Deconstruction: Derrida and Cavaillès Responses to Husserl,” has been accepted to University of Liege Research Symposium, “Phenomenology and Grammar.”

Rebecca Warshofsky – Rebecca is presenting her paper, “Language, Limit, and Identity,” at the University of Southern Florida, March 13-14. The conference is entitled, “Delimiting Limits.” She is also presenting the same paper at “Marginal Perspectives” at Michigan State University, March 20-21.

James Taylor – James will be presenting at the 2015 Annual Emory Graduate Philosophy Conference on March 20 and 21, at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. His paper is entitled “Power Tools - A Phenomenology of Race as Technology.”

Sila Ozkara – Sila presented at a conference in Vercelli, Italy, at Universita del Piemonte Orientale, organized by Hegelab, entitled “Hegel and Effectual Reality” on December 15-16, 2014. Her paper was titled “Hegel’s Logic of ‘Identity and Difference’ as Manifest in ‘Self-Consciousness’: An Evaluation of Pippin’s Argument.” She will be presenting a paper in Cincinnati, Ohio, at Xavier University, at the “Contemporary Debates in German Idealism” conference during April 17-19, 2015. Her paper title is “‘Identity and Difference’ in ‘Self-Consciousness’: A Critique of Pippin’s Reading of Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit.”

Tristana Martin Rubio – Tristana presented a paper entitled, “Language, Limit, and Identity.” Which will be presented at the following conferences: “Delimiting Limits” at the University of Southern Florida, March 13-14 and “Marginal Perspectives” at Michigan State University, March 20-21.

Among others, a full list can be found on our department website.

2015 Masters Student Placement

Taylor Baker - MFA Creative Writing, Purdue University

Joseph Bertino - Ph.D. Health Care Ethics, Duquesne University

Alexander Gorman - Ph.D. Philosophy, Duquesne University

Mathew Yaw - Ph.D. Philosophy, Loyola University of Chicago

Publications


Dissertation Defenses

George W. Shea IV, May 2015

“Inheriting Nietzsche: The Frankfurt School and Foucault on the Foundation of Critique”

Director: Dr. James Swindal

Dana M. Trusso, March 2015

“The Erotic Charms of Platonic Discourse: Mythmaking, Love Potions, and Role Reversals”

Director: Dr. Patrick Miller

continued
Q&A with University President Charles Dougherty

Q: Did you know you wanted to study philosophy upon first beginning your undergraduate education at St. Bonaventure?

No, in fact I was a history major first and planned on attending law school after graduation. After consulting with my advisors, I realized I had more room for course electives if I switched my major to philosophy. The philosophy major allowed me to take upper level history and philosophy courses. Prior to attending St. Bonaventure, I had no exposure to philosophy. After taking several courses, I inevitably became fascinated with philosophy and decided not to pursue a law degree.

Q: What area or areas of philosophy did you take an interest in?

Initially, I took a keen interest in Marxism and Neomarxism. Keep in mind, I graduated high school in 1967. The Vietnam War sparked large academic interests in the critique of American capitalism. However, I became even more fascinated with American pragmatism during my graduate work at Notre Dame. Thinkers like Charles Santiago Sanders Peirce, William James and John Dewey all influenced my research and ultimately contributed to my dissertation topic. Although my research was heavily based in American pragmatism, I also took courses on Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Hume and Kant.

Q: What prompted you to receive a Ph.D. in philosophy after having completed your Master’s degree?

I was fortunate enough to attend a graduate program with a non-terminal masters. Essentially, Notre Dame allowed me to continue with my Ph.D. after my Master’s degree in philosophy. Although I did not need to continue, my interest in philosophy had grown tremendously at that point. Continuing with philosophy was not only a good career move for me, but it was also something I enjoyed.

Q: You have held faculty appointments in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, and served as the first director of the Creighton Center for Health Policy and Ethics. While studying philosophy, did you foresee becoming an ethicist or foresee a career in professional administration?

No. I knew philosophy was an area of study that had the potential to open several doors for me, but I could not have anticipated the tremendous opportunities that the study of philosophy would present me. My dissertation compared Charles Peirce’s use of the term “phenomenology” with Edmund Husserl’s understanding of the term. Through my research, I found that both thinkers rejected empiricism. This idea helped me get a job teaching philosophy at Creighton University. Although Creighton University was small, it still had a medical school, dental school, nursing school and pharmacy school. I was asked to teach philosophy and ethics to students from each school. After agreeing to this appointment and with the help of a grant, I was able to establish a center for health policy and ethics.

Q: Do you have advice or insight for students who are considering a major in philosophy?

Philosophy enhanced my thinking in four ways: Philosophy made me a better analytical thinker; a better synthetic thinker; helped me realize the dynamic nature of all things; and finally, provided me with a refined sense of spirituality. Philosophy allows us to question life and discover its meaning. If you are able to understand life and how it works, you get better with the various obstacles life may throw at you. A philosophy major makes sense for those interested in it, and even for those not seeking an academic career because philosophy aids in shaping the whole person. This is precisely why Duquesne University’s liberal arts program is structured the way it is. Whether you are a nursing major or a communications major, philosophy is an area that you will inevitably be exposed to at Duquesne.
Graduate News continued

Benjamin Hampshire, December 2014
“Is Wrong Life All That Is Possible? Adorno and Aquinas on Ethics”
Director: Dr. James Swindal

Stanton Marlan, November 2014
“The Philosophers’ Stone: The Alchemical Imagination and the Logical Life of the Soul”
Director: Dr. Tom Rockmore

Patrick Craig, October 2014
“The A Priori Nature of the Political or Democracy and Scientific Method in Thomas Hobbes”
Director: Dr. Daniel Selcer

Nathan Eckstrand, September 2014
“The Event of Revolution”
Director: Dr. Fred Evans