

# News from the Chair

As you will see, it has been another busy year for us as our department continues to grow and to prove itself a vital part of the university community. While many philosophy departments are facing uncertain futures, we are fortunate indeed to be looking forward with confidence, due to the support we receive from the College of Arts and Sciences and the University at large, and due to the excellent work my colleagues do in and out of the classroom. I encourage you to read over the faculty notes to get a flavor for all of the wonderful things current faculty are involved with.

We are also delighted to welcome Dr. Dean Johnson who will begin

his tenure with us this coming fall. Inside you will find a brief introduction to him, and I'm sure you'll be as excited as we are about what he brings to our department and to the growing Peace and Conflict Studies program.

I would also like to once again acknowledge the support that we receive from former department members. As you will see, Dr. Fred Struckmeyer celebrated his 75th birthday this past year and hosted a party attended by many friends and colleagues, including former Chair Dr. Tom Platt and Dr. Paul Streveler. You will see that we continue to award excellent students with prizes in honor of both Dr. Streveler and Dr. George Claghorn. Dr. Claghorn

also continues to support the department by maintaining his contacts with alumni, some of them featured in this newsletter.

On a personal note, I will be wrapping up my three year term as department chair this coming May. My tasks were made easier by congenial and supportive colleagues, and by the excellent work of our department secretary, Rose Sykes. Finally—and most importantly—our work in the department is enriched by the quality of the students in our programs, past and present. It is a truly a pleasure sharing all of their accomplishments with you. Enjoy!

## Philosophy Department

### Faculty and Staff

Anderson Hall, First and Third Floors

610-436-2841

Dr. Dan Forbes 332 A

Dr. Tim Golden 106

Dr. Frank Hoffman 108 E

Dr. Dean Johnson 332 A

Dr. Matthew Pierlott 332 D

Dr. Ruth Porritt 108B

Dr. Simon Ruchti 108 D

Dr. Helen Schroepfer, Chair 108 A

Dr. Cassie Sriblen 332 B

Ms. Rose Sykes, Department Secretary 108

Dr. Larry Udell 332 C

Dr. Joan Woolfrey 108 C

### Inside this issue:

Events & News Items	2-3
Faculty	4-5, 9, 11
Alumni News & New Alumni	6-8
Award Winners	10
Upcoming Events	12

## News Items!

### Dr. Dean Johnson Joins Philosophy Department!

Dean Johnson joined the faculty of West Chester University as Assistant Professor of Philosophy in the fall of 2013 focusing on courses in Peace and Conflict Studies as well as Religious Studies.

Johnson was previously Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of International and Global Studies at Defiance College. An interdisciplinary scholar Johnson teaches courses in Religious Studies, International and Global Studies, and general education courses in Arts and Humanities.

Prior to working at Defiance College, Johnson was assistant Professor of Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies at Goshen College (Ind.). He also served as Assistant



(Continued on page 11)

### Frederick Douglass Scholar Summer 2013



**Nicholas C. DiDonato (WCU BA in Computer Science, 2007)** is a Ph.D candidate in Boston University's "Science, Philosophy, and Religion" program, and is specializing in the metaphysics of early modern science. His areas

of interest include Neoplatonism, Scholasticism, process philosophy, philosophy of science, metaphysics, ontology, and semiotics. He hopes to bring these interests together in his dissertation. This summer he is teaching PHI 102 Introduction to Religious Studies here at West Chester under the auspices of the Frederick Douglass Summer Scholar Program.

## Dr. Fred Struckmeyer Celebrates #75

This past spring, colleagues from the department and university, friends, and family gathered to celebrate with Professor Emeritus and former department chair Dr. Fred Struckmeyer as he turned 75.



*Dr. Paul Streveler hosts annual fall department party*



Dr. Cassie Striblen (l.) and Adjunct Instructor Dr. Robert Main (r.) with friend Cas.



Emeritus Professor Paul Streveler (l.) and Dr. Larry Udell



Adjunct instructors David Headman (l.) and Paul Harris (r.) and spouses.

*8th Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference Held in April*

The annual Graduate Student Philosophy conference was held on Saturday, April 20 in Phillips Memorial Hall. The keynote speaker was Dr. Gordon Marino from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Dr. Marino, who is the curator of the Hong Kierkegaard Library, spoke on “Studying Kierkegaard; Or, How to Make Your Life More Difficult.” Conference presenters included a number of students from West Chester, students from Penn State University, DePaul University and the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

*Philosophy Faculty Visit Bayard Rustin High School Philosophy Club*

On April 10, 2013, Dr. Ruth Porritt was invited to visit the philosophy club at Bayard Rustin High School to discuss some of Sissela Bok’s primary arguments in Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life (1989).

Dr. Dan Forbes visited with the club on April 30 to discuss logic and various forms of argumentation.

We hope to continue this type of outreach to local high school students, and thank Dr. Porritt for making the initial contact with this club!

## News from current department members

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### Ruth Porritt

In November Ruth Porritt presented “Adrienne Rich: Aesthetics and Resistance” at the Midwest Division of the Society for Women in Philosophy. In April she attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala of the Global Fund for Women as one of the original volunteers for the organization. The Global Fund--founded by Anne Firth Murray, Frances Kissling and Laura Lederer--is a non-profit foundation that advances women’s rights by funding over 4,500 women-led organizations in 174 countries. During May Dr. Porritt worked on the mural painting team for the Booker T. Washington Community Center in Staunton, Virginia. She continues to serve as the faculty advisor for Students of AMF (Actively Moving Forward)

(Continued on page 9)

### Frank Hoffman

In 2012-13 academic year Dr. Hoffman published one book chapter and three book reviews, peer reviewed professors’ papers for the journal *Asian Philosophy* and peer reviewed undergraduate essays for the PASSHE IAPRS journal, *Janua Sophia*. Hoffman worked as Chair of the Asia consortium (GPASC) and the Philosophy consortium (GPPC) presiding over events at several area colleges. He gave three lectures in the Philadelphia area, co-organized a two day conference in Philips Library on April 25-26, and set up twelve Ethnic Studies Seminars throughout the year. Hoffman organized a GPPC book discussion on Asian and African Phi-

(Continued on page 9)

### Joan Woolfrey

Joan Woolfrey has been busy with the Peace & Conflict Studies program, which has grown with the help of our fantastic adjuncts, to a cadre of over 30 minors in the last few years. She is especially pleased with the successful new P&C hire (Dr. Dean Johnson) the department procured this past academic year, and the enthusiasm on campus for the Help Increase the Peace Workshops (conflict resolution/ leadership training) that she shepherded again this past year. She’s enjoying teaching and experimenting pedagogically, and she had fun with an independent study for three graduating seniors in ethics last spring, and the second go-round with a graduate level distance ed course: *A History of Western Eth-*

(Continued on page 9)

### Matt Pierlott

Dr. Pierlott continued to serve as the Graduate Coordinator this past year, teaching the inaugural new core graduate Proseminar, which involved an in-depth look at Plato’s *Republic* and an examination of Frantz Fanon’s *The Wretched of the Earth*. He continued teaching introduction to ethics courses, and his team-taught Theology and Science course with Dr. Tony Nicastro (Physics). For the Honors college, he developed a new seminar course on the Concept of God and began teaching the Honors Capstone course. The course examines leadership styles and principles, reflects on the student’s development in the program, and focuses efforts on each student’s independent community-service project. He was very happy to join our colleague, Ruth Porritt, on the Honors Council and has enjoyed learning more about

(Continued on page 9)

### Dan Forbes

This past year Dr. Dan Forbes taught his usual but always exciting slate of undergraduate courses in Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics, History of Ancient Philosophy, and History of Modern Philosophy. During one memorable lecture in History of Modern Philosophy this past spring, Dr. Forbes rescued the class from a marauding bumblebee. In the spring graduate course in Epistemology he and the students tackled a challenging book in contemporary analytic epistemology, *The Nature and Value of Knowledge* by Duncan Pritchard, Alan Millar, and Adrian Haddock.

Dr. Forbes also served as chair of the faculty search committee that led to the hire of Dr. Dean Johnson, who will be teaching courses in Peace and Conflict Studies for the Philosophy Department starting

(Continued on page 9)

### Cassie Striblen

This past academic year Dr. Striblen successfully taught a hybrid version of PHI 190 Logic and will continue to do so each fall semester. She also prepared to teach a new course for majors, PHI 355 Political Philosophy, a topic that she particularly enjoys. In the area of service, Dr. Striblen is improving our undergraduate assessment process to ensure that students finish our program with the appropriate skills and content. As for research, Dr. Striblen organized and attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Independent Hannah Arendt Circle Conference in Antwerp, Belgium, and published an article titled “Collective Responsibility and the Narrative Self” with the journal *Social Theory and Practice*. She also obtained a book contract with the publisher Palgrave Macmillan for her monograph titled *Group Responsibility: A Narrative Account*. Dr. Striblen will be

(Continued on page 11)

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## Larry Udell

Dr. Udell has had a busy summer. In June, he traveled to Cuba as a member of a delegation of American philosophers who participated in a week-long conference at the University of Havana. While there, he presented a new paper, "Rawls, Marx, and Neoclassical Economics."

Dr. Udell will give a presentation on his Cuban experience as part of the Philosophy Forum in the fall (watch for announcements on the department website). He will also read a paper, "Rawls for Radicals," at the Re-thinking Marxism conference at the University of Massachusetts in September.

He is also working to develop a new program on philosophy, politics, and economics at West Chester University.

## Tim Golden

Dr. Golden's areas of specialization are 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy, African-American Philosophy/Critical Race Theory, and Philosophy of Religion/Philosophical Theology. Dr. Golden's most recent publication, "From Logos to *Sarx*: Black Philosophy and the Philosophy of Religion," is forthcoming in *The Black Scholar*. In this essay, he explores the relationship between David Walker's *Appeal* and the writings of Frederick Douglass on one hand, and the philosophy of religion on the other. He argues that black thinkers such as Walker and Douglass add a much needed moral and political dimension to a certain sort of the philosophy of religion that he claims occludes moral and political concerns. Dr. Golden presented papers at academic con-

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Simon Ruchti

Dr. Ruchti has received several awards this past academic year. She was honored as Faculty Advisor of the Year in April by WCU's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. She was also awarded a University Forum Grant to produce a program on alcohol safety on campus with Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Her work this year has also included a number of presentations. She collaborated with Dr. Woolfrey and Dr. Golden on a panel presentation at the Diversity in Philosophy Conference at the University of Dayton. In addition, she presented with a number of students at the Conference on College Men at Miami University. Finally, she also attended the national convention

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Meet our Excellent Adjunct Team!

### Ethics Instructors:

**Margaret Betz**, PhD Temple University.

**Kate Eltringham**, PhD (ABD) Villanova. Kate also taught a section of Ancient Philosophy for us in the spring.

**Jina Fast**, currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Philosophy, Temple University

**Devon Johnson**, PhD (ABD) Temple University

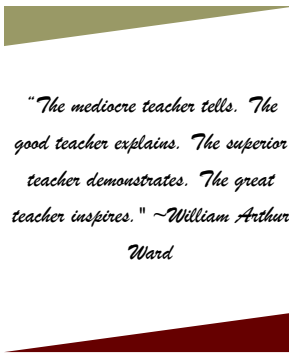
**Ed Pollitt**, MA WCU. Ed also developed a course for us on Animal Ethics.

**Barb Tournier**, MBe (Bioethics) University of Pennsylvania. Barb is our expert in Medical Ethics.

### Peace and Conflict Studies Instructors:

**David Headman**, MTS Harvard Divinity School

**Rebecca Subar**, MPA Harvard University



*"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." ~William Arthur Ward*

**Paul Harris**, MA University of Essex (UK). Paul teaches Creating Meaning and Introduction to Philosophy

**Rob Main**, PhD Temple University. Rob teaches a range of courses: Introduction to Philosophy, Creating Meaning, Introduction to Meaning, and American Philosophies.

**Charlotte Moore**, MA WCU, currently enrolled in Temple University's PhD in Religion Program. Charlotte teaches Introduction to Ethics, Religion in the U.S., Religions of the West, and developed a course for us on New Religious Movements.

**John Zak**, PhD (ABD) Catholic University of America. John teaches Introduction to Philosophy.

## Alumni News

**Rev. Beverly Wenrich (BA, 1979)** celebrated her twentieth anniversary as Pastor of the St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church in Geigertown, PA. Dr. George Claghorn attended the celebration held on November 25, 2012.

**Leroy Whitman (BA, 1983)** resides with his family in southern Mexico, where he has served for decades with Wycliffe Bible Translators. He has now completed translating the entire New Testament into an indigenous language for the first time. He also led in a relief effort in Mitlatongo, providing new houses for those who lost theirs in a devastating landslide.



Emeritus Professor George Claghorn with Rev. Beverly Wenrich

**Stephen Lahey (BA, 1986)** I am Associate Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. I have just published a translation of John Wycliff's *Triologus* with Cambridge University Press, and have co-edited a volume for Paulist Press Classics in Western Spirituality on Wycliffite Spirituality. Also, I am learning Czech to be able to do research on Hussite theology, and will spend six weeks in Prague this summer as visiting professor in the Philosophy Faculty at Charles University.

**Beverly Hawkins (BA, 1988 and MA, 1992)** of Wallingford, PA is going strong. She has taught college and graduate school, and had a number of other accomplishments, such as being on the PA State Dental Board. Her master musical instrument service has morphed into a dealership in flutes. She is editor-in-chief of two international professional journals. She was the chief researcher and collaborator on the recently released book *Overlooked: 20/20 is Not Enough*, by Arthur S. Seiderman. In the acknowledgments, she recognizes **Dr. George Claghorn** who "gave the example of writing a book to completion and the knowledge that writing empowers everyone." She also acknowledges **Dr. Paul Streveler** who "more than anyone else, gave me scholarly skills, and taught me confidence in writing."

**Michael Jones (MA, 1995)** I'm still doing what I've been doing for most of this decade: teaching philosophy and religion at Liberty University, where I also serve on various committees and am active in various student organizations, etc. I made a few conference presentations this year but didn't have any publications. It was an off year from that perspective. I did get to teach a grad class, which was a nice change of pace, and last summer I was the keynote speaker at a "Faith and Reason" seminar for college students in Sacramento, California. I've been very active in our church, where I'm serving as deacon and playing in the praise band; my oldest son got married; and Laura and I got chased off the Appalachian Trail by a bear while backpacking. Life hasn't been boring!

**Stephen J. Nichols (MA, 1998)** is research professor of Christianity and culture at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He's also an adjunct professor for Reformed Theological Seminary, and adjunct professor for Reformation Bible College in Orlando, and a visiting lecturer at London Theological Seminary in the UK. He has written fifteen books on topics from church history to blues music. His most recent book is *Bonhoeffer on the Christian Life: From the Cross, for the World*, published by Crossway in June, 2013.

**Christina Rawls (MA, 2004)** I am currently teaching in a one year position at John Carroll University. I hope to defend my dissertation on Spinoza's dynamic epistemology next Spring. I have published poetry, photography in the interdisciplinary anthology *Spinoza Beyond Philosophy*, a book review in the New School journal *Critical Horizons* on another interdisciplinary anthology on Spinoza about to appear in August, and am working to publish several journal articles this coming year, including on Hegel's *Science of Logic*, and on the importance and often over-looked significance of Spinoza's theory on the imagination. I am working with Samantha Noll (WCU, 2008) as co-coordinator of the Feminist Philosophy Archive Project. It's all new and its short term goal is to collect and permanently house the SWIP (Society for Women in Philosophy) archives, among other things.



**Samantha Noll (BA, 2008)** Samantha is currently pursuing a PhD at Michigan State University. She is enrolled in both the Gender, Justice and Environmental Change program in the Department of Agriculture and the Ethics and Development program in the Department of Philosophy. She is on track to begin working on her Dissertation in 2014.



**Larry Tamaccio (BA, 2008)** Since leaving West Chester I have moved to Hamden, Connecticut, where I currently reside. I graduated, with honors, from Quinnipiac University School of Law in May of 2012, while pursuing the Criminal Law and Trial Advocacy concentration. During my tenure at QUSL I competed nationally for the Mock Trial Society, I was elected to the Student Bar Association,

and served as the law school's representative to the American Bar Association. I was honored to receive the Arnold J. Bai Award, an annual award presented to one graduating student who demonstrates the greatest potential to be an outstanding litigator. I am admitted to practice in Connecticut, and I intend to take both the New York and Pennsylvania bars within the next year. After graduation I clerked for the state Superior Court and in July of this year I accepted an appointment as a Special Deputy Assistant State's Attorney with the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice. I prosecute primarily motor vehicle, drug, and low-level criminal offenses in the New Haven, Hartford, and Tolland Judicial Districts. It's not all fun and games, though. When I'm not representing the state in court, I tend to be hiking, watching or playing baseball, or knitting, which, as it turns out, is a great way to meet women. Unrelated, I am dating a wonderful woman who will soon be a tenure-track professor at a prestigious university in New York. Of all the teams in my softball league named after a Walter Matthau movie, mine is probably the best-looking. Sometimes we even win.



**Donovan Martin (MA, 2009)** Donovan's second novel, *Things in Brown Paper* (978-0984815920), was released in November 2012, followed by a very limited series of speaking engagements in support of the work. It has been described as "American Gothic literature at its finest" and "literature at its most expressive." He has successfully completed his first year in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Philosophy and Literature at Purdue University, focusing his studies on literature as the staging or scene of ontology with a focus on Modernism, particularly William Faulkner. In addition to his studies, Donovan

has been hired by the Purdue Library Archives and Special Collections as the Graduate Assistant for the Barron Hilton Archives for Flight and Space Exploration, where he has the honor of archiving the personal papers of astronaut Neil Armstrong, who was a graduate of Purdue's Mechanical Engineering program. Over the summer, Donovan has been developing his blog, [inthetimeofethics.blogspot.com](http://inthetimeofethics.blogspot.com), in conjunction with a study conducted under Dr. Daniel W. Smith focusing on the later work of Martin Heidegger.



**Hilary Nunes (MA, 2011)** I'm currently working full time as a worker's compensation paralegal in Wilmington, and I love it. I am also producing a Doctor Who Themed Burlesque Show with Ocelot on a Leash Theater Company, for Fringe Festival this year. I've taken a break from Crisis Counseling and Suicide Intervention work but plan to return to it once theater season is complete. I do that work through Contact Lifeline, here in Delaware. I am also a peer educator with the Clery Act for Security on Campus, and speak to high school students about sexual violence awareness and prevention. Finally, I am a new member of the Alliance LARP (Live Action Role Play) at the Gettysburg and Montrose sites. I'm applying to be teaching Philosophy at several schools, and I'm in a loving, healthy, and supportive romantic relationship.



**Dan Herr (MA, 2011)** Since I graduated I have been teaching as an adjunct at Neumann and Rosemont. I have taught Intro to Philosophy and Intro to Ethics at Neumann a couple of times. At Rosemont I've taught Intro to Philosophy, Asian Philosophies, and am scheduled to teach Philosophy of Religion this fall. My full-time job is as an Administrative Coordinator at an outpatient office of Gaudenzia Inc., they provide substance abuse recovery services. People often ask me why I chose philosophy as a degree and I tell them the same thing, many degrees will lead people straight into a career, but studying philosophy is for life itself. I am a curious human being before whatever my job title says I am. That being said, there is not a day that goes by where I'm not utilizing the skills I learned in the Master's program in my life or my job.



**Michael Ardoline (MA, 2012)** was accepted to Kingston University London's Contemporary European Philosophy program where he will be studying under Catherine Malabou and Peter Hallward.

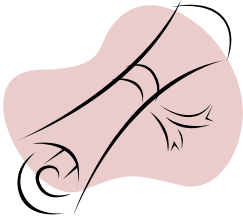


**Rei Horst (BA, 2012)** I did a year of service as an Americorps VISTA at the Chester County Department of Community Development in West Chester. VISTA has been huge post-college for me because it has given me so much direction in my career goals and in narrowing down ways I want to use my passions and skills. The philosophy department helped me discover all those skills, and VISTA took it to the next level by helping me apply them to real situations, people, and work (especially in critical and creative thinking and grant writing). I constantly reference what I learned at WCU.



*“People often ask me why I chose philosophy as a degree and I tell them the same thing, many degrees will lead people straight into a career, but studying philosophy is for life itself.”*

*Dan Herr (MA 2011)*



**B.A. in Philosophy**  
 Ji-Young Ahn  
 Austin Brauns  
 Roman Chiokadze  
 William Davis  
 Stephen Fiorelli  
 Alexis Gurman  
 John Nacey  
 Joseph Myers  
 Michel Shemory  
 Michael Stein  
 Marc Torres  
 Jonathan Udell

**B.A. in Religious Studies**  
 Chad Barone

**M.A. in Philosophy**  
 Mike Ardoline  
 Zachary Brown  
 Dan DalMonte  
 Alex Hambleton  
 Jason Keyser  
 Jeffrey Merritt  
 Mike Weaver



## Faculty News (cont'd)

(Porritt, Continued from page 4)

and on the Art Ability Committee for Bryn Mawr Rehab.

(Hoffman, Continued from page 4)

losophy with Tim Golden in the Fall, and a GPASC book discussion on Asian Philosophy with student leaders in the Spring.

He worked as Recording Secretary of WCU APSCUF and was a representative on local and state APSCUF committees. Hoffman was appointed full Professor of Philosophy at West Chester University effective in the Fall Semester of 2013.

(Woolfrey, cont'd from p. 4)

ics this summer. The course is meant for new or potential M.A. students who have had limited exposure to philosophy in their undergraduate careers. She's winding down the NSF STEM/Ethics grant that is about to generate one—and hopefully, two—publications in the coming year, and is looking forward to resubmitting another major NSF grant proposal this winter with her colleagues from the previous grant.

She's got a couple of pending publications you'll hear about next year. She attended the North American Association for Social Philosophy conference again in July, and the paper she presented was entitled "An Examination of Implicit Bias through an Aristotelian Lens." She's going to be interim director of the Women's and Gender Studies program this coming year, and her work on the Sustainability Advisory Council/Campus Climate Action Planning Committee is bearing fruit which she can also report on next year!

(Forbes, Continued from page 4)

this fall. Drs. Forbes and Johnson will be sharing an office, which means that Dr. Johnson will have many opportunities to put his conflict resolution skills to good use. But seriously, Dr. Forbes is looking forward to working with him!

This summer Dr. Forbes collaborated with Dr. Matthew Pierlott on two projects. First, they are developing a textbook for the department's Introduction to Ethics course that incorporates material on theories of oppression into the traditional introductory ethical theory and applied ethics curriculum. Second, they are working on a paper that argues divine command theories of moral obligation are misunderstood to serve as normative ethical theories when in fact they are best seen as meta-ethical in nature. This shift in interpretation of these theories avoids the powerful critiques that have their roots in Plato's *Euthyphro*, while at the same time upholding a significant metaphysical relationship between the divine will and the moral good. Drs. Pierlott and Forbes hope to present the paper at a conference taking place this fall.

Dr. Forbes continues to review books for the academic library periodical CHOICE; he recently reviewed a book by Joseph Margolis on the continuing relevance of American pragmatism and a survey of philosophies of death and dying.

This coming fall Dr. Forbes will be teaching a new course for graduate and advanced undergraduates on Philosophies of the Infinite. Some would say that the infinite is a big topic with endless permutations, but Dr. Forbes will point out that the infinite is present in the very small as well, so the topic should be manageable. Dr. Forbes plans for the class to explore a broad range of views ranging from Anaximander and Aristotle, to Galileo and Spinoza, to Cantor and Levinas.

(Pierlott, Continued from page 4)

the Honors Program and its wonderful students.

Dr. Pierlott advised two MA Theses this past year, both focusing on accounts of freedom. Dan Dalmonete successfully defended "The Relationship Between Free Will and Accounts of Causation" this June, in which he argued that the question of compatibility is as much of a problem for indeterminists and determinists alike. Holly Meneses Smith is finishing revisions of her thesis on the inability of standard analytic accounts to capture the personal and relational aspects of free choice to have any relevance to the real issues of human freedom.

Dr. Pierlott has continued collaborating with Dr. Woolfrey and her NSF grant team, both in the launch of their first completed virtual reality module and in writing a proposal for a new grant to develop an informal gaming application for SciEthics. This past March, he presented a paper for the Wesleyan Philosophical Society at Seattle Pacific University. The paper, "Believing in Belief," defended a non-deflationary account of beliefs against eliminativist attacks. That paper is related to another project Matt is working on, a chapter contribution for an upcoming *Terry Pratchett and Philosophy* book, analyzing the quite spiritual nature of Pratchett's satire of religion, *Small Gods*. This summer he has been working closely with Dr. Forbes on a few projects, including preparing an introduction to ethics text for proposal, and a paper on merits and demerits of Divine Command Theory. Besides that, he has enjoyed spending time with his kids.

# 2013 Award Winners

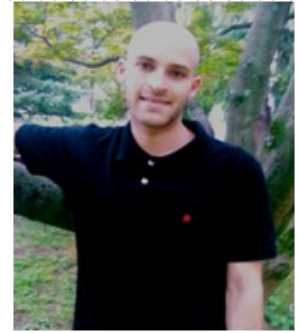


**Claghorn Award:** Mike Weaver



Studying philosophy at WCU has truly been a wonderful experience. For me, the best part of this program is the amazing faculty. The professors have made me feel worthy of such a noble subject by treating me as an equal in dialogue and providing me with thoughtful, critical feedback on all of my work. Without their confidence in me and guidance in the classroom, I would still be lost in my own vague questions and have no idea what I'm talking about. But now, I have more refined questions and know what I'm talking about roughly 50% of the time. And, if I don't, I can at least argue my way out of it using the tricks of the trade. Special thanks to Dr. Golden, Dr. Schroepfer, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Udell, and Dr. Striblen for offering amazing seminars that I had the opportunity to take and that have benefited me immeasurably. Thanks for teaching me how to think, how to properly convey my thinking to others, and how to change my thinking based on the thoughts of others; three skills which are vastly underrated and make for a rich, fulfilling life. Cheers!

**Streveler Research Prize:** Jonathan Udell



"The Moral Visions of David Hume and Friedrich Nietzsche"

**Paper summary:**

Philosophers have long maintained that deep and pervasive differences in David Hume and Friedrich Nietzsche's respective moral theories inevitably render them irreconcilable, since Hume's moral theory is rooted in the importance of sympathy, and Nietzsche sought to rid the world of moralities based on, you guessed it, sympathy. However, a closer examination of these men and the influential moral theories they developed reveals that they have more in common than one might think.

In this paper, I show how both Nietzsche's and Hume's encounters with Christian dogmatism motivated them to contest the philosophical theories that were created to justify what Hume would refer to as the "monkish virtues" and what Nietzsche would decry as self-sacrifice. Both philosophers' moral critiques assign a prominent position to the relevance of determinism; thus Nietzsche observed that "a thought comes when 'it' wishes, and not when 'I' wish," and Hume famously proposed that "reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions." As a result of their shared belief in determinism, Hume and Nietzsche committed themselves to unique, near iden-

*(Continued on page 11)*

## *Thank you!*

*Heartfelt thanks go out to all those who have contributed over the years to these two funds. Our recognition of the above individuals is made possible by your very generous support! To date, we have been able to award 16 excellent students with prizes from the Claghorn fund and the Streveler Research fund. If you would like to make a contribution to either of these, please contact Helen Schroepfer at 610-436-1004.*

(Johnson, Continued from page 2)

to the Academic Dean and Special Assistant to the Provost. Johnson was director of the Goshen College Plowshares Peace Studies Project.

Johnson grew up in LaGrange, Ind. After graduating from Manchester College, he earned a master's degree in theology with an emphasis in peace studies from Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind. Johnson is a graduate of the religious and theological studies program where he focused in religion and social change at the Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver. Johnson's dissertation is titled, "Critiquing the Soul of White Supremacy and the Spiritualities of Whiteness: Narrative and Everyday Praxis."

He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, International Studies Association, and the Peace and Justice Studies Association. Johnson is a board member of SpiritHouse Project of Atlanta, GA as well as a former board member for the Peace and Justice Studies Association and the Brethren Menonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Interests.

He enjoys spending time with his partner Melissa Bennett and their sons, Jude and Oliver.

(Striblen, Continued from page 4)

completing the book project this summer and fall 2013, so do forgive her if she seems especially busy and distracted! She did get a second dog, Henry, and is currently enjoying transforming her front yard into a "no-mow" woodland garden.

(Golden, Continued from page 5)

ferences in May, June, and July. In May, he presented "Making the Crooked Places Straight: Liberation Theology in Luke 3 and in the *Defensor Pacis*," at Saint Ambrose University's Conference on "The Bible and Justice." In June, he presented a paper on Kierkegaard's critique of liberalism in *Two Ages* at The International Kierkegaard Conference at Saint Olaf College, and in July, he presented a paper on art as a means for inter-religious dialogue in Levinas and Kierkegaard at the annual meeting of the North American Levinas Society at Duquesne University. Also in May, Dr. Golden, along with WCU philosophy's own Dr. Ruchti and Dr. Woolfrey, was a panelist at the American Philosophical Association's Diversity conference at the University of Dayton.

In addition to conference presentations, Dr. Golden has been busy developing his scholarship. This summer, he submitted 3 book proposals to academic publishers, and has written two essays that are now under review with academic journals.

Dr. Golden, who is also a practicing attorney, did some legal work this summer. In June, he filed a petition for a writ of certiorari in the Supreme Court of the United States in *United States of America v. Jermaine McClain*.

In the spring of 2013, Dr. Golden taught Phenomenology (PHI 350), Nineteenth Century Philosophy (PHI 273), and PHI 100 (Creating Meaning). He was also the 2013 Anna Julia Cooper Research Fellow at The Rock Ethics Institute at The Pennsylvania State University, where he presented a paper on Levinas and Kant, and also led Dr. Robert Bernasconi's class on Critical Philosophy of Race. The spring of 2013 was also Dr. Golden's first semester as Director of the Frederick Douglass Institute.

This fall (2013), Dr. Golden will be teaching 2 sections of PHI 100 (Creating Meaning), an independ-

ent study on J. Kameron Carter's landmark book, *Race: A Theological Account*, and a graduate seminar on Emmanuel Levinas. He looks forward to the annual Frederick Douglass Philosophy Conference this fall, and to the inaugural Frederick Douglass Institute Supreme Court Preview, both in October.

(Ruchti, Continued from page 5)

for Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity where the chapter for which she is the Faculty Fellow received a coveted award for excelling in areas of academics, service, and physical development.

Dr. Ruchti collaborated with several other colleagues this past April in producing a queer and feminist film festival that was well received and attended. She is currently working on a co-authored women's and gender studies anthology for Oxford University Press.

(Udell, Continued from page 9)

tical descriptive accounts of moral reasoning, which accept that radically different people can have equally valid, yet conflicting moral beliefs.

I also note that although Hume professes a deeply seated respect for the natural compassionate impulse, and Nietzsche rages at length against the blight of sympathy, when the appropriate disclaimers are attached it is clear that both men ultimately take the same view on the subject, which is certainly natural for two men who hold a shared descriptive account of morality. Hume preaches compassion, albeit only for those perceived to be like him (e.g. white Europeans), and Nietzsche's normative morality scorns the concept of sympathy, but only as a means of furthering the greatest men among us, that is, men such as himself.



**Upcoming Events!! Mark  
Your Calendars!**

**Phi Sigma Tau**—We will induct new members into this Philosophy Honors Society on October 31, 3:00 PM, in Phillips Autograph Library. The speaker will be our own Samantha Noll (see page 7). We would love to have alumni attend to help welcome these new members!

Check our website for further information on the following:

**Graduate Student Philosophy Conference**— An annual spring conference hosted by our graduate philosophy students.

**GPPC**— The Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium offers a wide array of lectures and conferences each year.

**IAPRS**— The Interdisciplinary Association for Philosophy and Religious Studies hosts an annual spring conference, *which will be held here at West Chester this year*. Papers by alumni are welcome at this conference!

**Career Workshop**—This coming spring we will be conducting a career workshop for our current students. We would like to set up a panel of alumni to discuss their own varied career paths, tips for successful interviews, and other suggestions for our students as they look toward their future. If you would like to participate in this panel discussion, please contact Helen Schroepfer at [hschroepfer@wcupa.edu](mailto:hschroepfer@wcupa.edu) or at 610-436-1004.



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