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FROM THE CHAIR

The 2007-08 academic year has been challenging and interesting. The budgetary constraints felt throughout academe filter down to the departmental level in a variety of ways and, as a result, continuing to mount the right kind of curriculum, have outside speakers, and supporting research by students and faculty alike become an intricate puzzle. I think we have been successful again thanks to the creativity and resourcefulness of everyone in the department.

One example that stands out is the beginning of the highly selective Pell Honors program, which is a joint philosophy and philosophy, politics and law honors program. Students are invited to join in the spring semester of their junior year and in the following fall take a course devoted to the development of an honors paper. The work is intensive for everyone involved and culminates in an adjudicated symposium in which students present their work. The students with the best papers are awarded prizes (the Dillon Prize for philosophy and the Pell Prize for PPL.)

The quality of the Philosophy Department faculty has been recognized with research leaves for the upcoming academic year (2008-09). In fall 2008, Professor Eric Dietrich will be on sabbatical and Professor Robert Guay will be on a Dean's leave. In spring 2009, Professor Max Pensky will be on a Dean's leave.

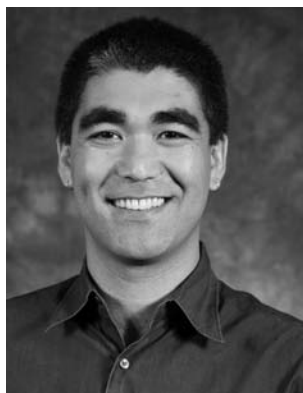
The fall 2008 semester will see PPL in England, led by Professor Steve Scalet.

We also are planning our first Homecoming event for this fall and hope that many of our alumni will come back to campus to visit with us.

Our newsletter includes space dedicated to news from philosophy alumni. We look forward to hearing from you.

For more information about the department, go to <http://philosophy.binghamton.edu>.

Bat-Ami Bar On



FEATURED FACULTY

Robert Guay

Robert Guay joined the department in 2006 after earning his PhD from the University of Chicago. He spent several years on the Northeast Corridor, frequently disembarking to teach philosophy at Temple University and Barnard College, Columbia University, before coming to Binghamton. He works primarily in ethics from a historical approach, that is, he specializes in 19th century continental philosophy, because in 19th-century Europe they had trouble distinguishing between ethics and the history of ethics.

He has in progress two book projects and several articles on

Nietzsche's thought, some of which are under contract and thus have firm deadlines to miss. Although most of his publications are focused on Nietzsche, Professor Guay maintains teaching and research interests in value theory and the history of philosophy, and in almost everything else. When not philosophizing, Professor Guay tries to meet the gardening demands of his three sons, of whom one demands vegetables but never eats them, one wants to eat flowers (or wants others to think he wants to eat flowers), and one thinks that grass is hilarious.



CONGRATULATIONS

Lisa Tessman

Lisa Tessman is associate professor of philosophy and women's studies and the Department of Philosophy's director of graduate studies in social, political, ethical, and legal philosophy (SPEL). She is the recipient of this year's Graduate School Outstanding Graduate Director Award, which recognizes exemplary service by a graduate director. Professor Tessman's service has been exemplary, indeed.

Check out the SPEL website at <http://www.spel.binghamton.edu>.

SPEL GRADUATE STUDENTS

Selin Gürsozlu and **Sean Johnston**, fourth year SPEL students, were awarded a dissertation assistantship for 2008-09.

Shay Welsh, second year SPEL student, was awarded the Creighton Club (New York Philosophical Association) Graduate Student Award during the association's 153rd meeting this past November. Ms. Welsh was presented with the award for her paper "The Ambigendered Übermensch."

5-YEAR BA/MA COMBINED-DEGREE STUDENTS

Spencer Lo, **Blaise McNamee** and **Simon Ouderkirk** completed their MA studies.

PELL HONORS PROGRAM

Maggie Ambrose (recipient of the Pell Prize), **Carrie Gerber**, **Nicole Hauptman**, **Josh Julian** (recipient of the Dillon Prize), **Sam Metcalf** (recipient of the Dillon Prize), **Kimia Mousavi** and **Andrea Passantino** completed the honors program.

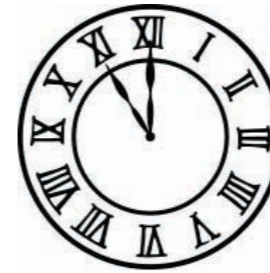
INTERESTING TIDBITS

Greek Reading Group: During summer 2007, Lew Cassity and Chris Kays read Plato's *Ion* and *Theages* with Tony Preus. The plan for summer 2008 is to start with Plato's *Laws*, Book X. Faculty members from other departments may join us. For many years there was a Greek reading group composed of faculty members only (most of the time), although the group has not been meeting recently following the retirement of professors Levin and Mittelstadt, who were especially active in keeping it going. But, with the encouragement of philosophy graduate students, we now see the development of a Greek reading group for the summer at least, and perhaps it will continue during the 2008-09 academic year as well, depending on interest from participants.

The Binghamton Philosophy Club (BPC) is a budding group of young wisdom enthusiasts who discuss and expand on ideas in any subject indirectly applicable to our lives. Learn more about the BPC at Facebook or <http://philosophy.binghamton.edu/club.html>.

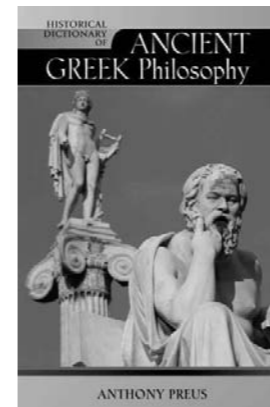


SPEL MA student Simon Ouderkirk was featured in InsideBU in November 2007. He was interviewed about his participation in the department's five-year combined BA/MA program. According to the interview, "Ouderkirk, who turns 23 this week, was a philosophy and philosophy, politics and law double major as an undergraduate. He's now working on a master's in philosophy. "I recognize that this is a unique environment," he said, "and I'm trying to get everything I can from it." Ouderkirk, who grew up in rural Oneida County, applied to the master's program in part because he's not sure he's ready to pursue a doctorate in philosophy. He's working on a thesis about social capital theory and whether it's all positive, a subject he believes will be a good foundation if he decides to do a doctoral dissertation.



THE BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CAREER NETWORK

The Alumni Career Network is a searchable database of Binghamton alumni who have volunteered to be contacted by current students and alumni regarding career information. Participants now include 47 philosophy majors and 48 philosophy, politics and law (PPL) majors (or law and society, which is what PPL used to be called). If you are a current philosophy or PPL major, consider using the network to identify alumni who have volunteered to be sources of information for you. They can be identified by profession, employer, location, major or graduate institution. If you are a philosophy or PPL graduate, consider becoming part of the Alumni Career Network (<https://www.bconnectalumni.binghamton.edu>). If you want to contact the alumni office directly, send e-mail to alumni@binghamton.edu or call 607-777-2431.



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

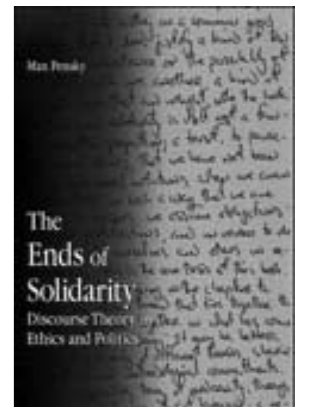
Anthony Preus.

Historical Dictionary of Ancient Greek Philosophy.
Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
September 2007.



Bat-Ami Bar On. Ed.
Special Issue on Just War
Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy. 23/2.
April-June 2008.

Max Pensky.
The Ends of Solidarity:
Discourse Theory in Ethics and Politics.
Albany, N.Y.: SUNY Press.



Professor Jeffner Allen

Professor Allen was on sabbatical during the 2007-08 academic year, during which time she served as fellow at the Helen Riaboff Whiteley Center, Friday Harbor Laboratories, and conducted research in eastern Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Presentations

“Diving Planetary: Narratives of Reef,” First International NarrativEncounters Conference, University College, Cork, Ireland, February 2008.

“Air dipotong tidak putus | Cut water is not severed,” 8th ASEAN Inter-University Conference, Asean as a Community — Solidarity in a Globalizing World,” Manila, May 2008.

Professor Bat-Ami Bar On**Publications**

Edited volume: “Just War” a Special Issue of *Hypatia* (Spring 2008).

“The Opposition of Politics and War.” *Hypatia* 23/2 (Spring 2008).

Presentations

“Military Interventions in 2 Registers.” The Spindel Conference, November 2007.

“Philosophical Effects.” American Philosophical Association, December 2007.

“Accountability, Relationality and Terrorism.” American Philosophical Association, December 2007.

“Normativity, Feminism and Politics.” Villanova University, April 2008.

Professor Eric Dietrich**Publications forthcoming****Professor Randy Friedman****Presentations**

Forthcoming: “Phenomenological Eschatology and Ethical Messianism,” Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Pittsburgh, Pa., October 2008.

“Messianic Faith: On Martin Kavka’s Jewish Messianism and the History of Philosophy,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto, December 2007.

“Buber’s Phenomenological Spirit,” Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2007.

“Approaching Levinas,” Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies. Sponsored by the American Academy for Jewish Research and the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, May 2007.

Professor Charles Goodman**Publications**

Consequences of Compassion: An Interpretation and Defense of Buddhist Ethics, was accepted for publication by Oxford University Press.

Presentations

“Ethics without Autonomy,” invited presentation at the Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University, May 2008.

“Tibetan Buddhism and Its Encounter with Modernity,” in *Buddhism and Science: Tensions and Opportunities*, a symposium organized by Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ithaca, N.Y., November 2007.

Professor Anna Gotlib**Presentations**

“Taking Serious Illness Seriously: Suffering as a Public Act,” FEAST (Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Conference), Clearwater Beach, Fla., September 2007.

Invited talk on philosophy PhD placement, Michigan State University, Department of Philosophy, September 2007.

Professor Robert Guay**Publications**

“Our Virtues,” *Philosophical Topics* 33:2 (2008), 71–87.

“Transcendental Elitism,” in *International Studies in Philosophy*. Review of Martin Seel, the “Aesthetics of Appearing,” in *British Journal of Aesthetics* 47:4 (December 2007), 449–51.

Presentations

“Genealogy and Irony,” at CUNY (Nietzsche in New York Conference), May 2008.

Comment on “An Impossible Object: Embodied Meaning and Hegel’s Crooked Teeth,” ASA National Meeting, Los Angeles, November 2007.

“Nietzsche, Contingency, and the Vacuity of Politics,” APSA National Meeting, Chicago, August 2007.

Professor Christopher Knapp**Publications**

“Equality and Proportionality,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (2007), pp. 179-201.

“Trading Quality for Quantity,” *Journal of Philosophical Research*, Vol. 32, No.1 (2007), pp. 211-233.

Presentations

“Rule-Consequentialism and Human Rights,” at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, December 2007.

Professor Max Pensky

Professor Pensky joined a team of German and American researchers in a five-year cooperative project between Cornell and the Humboldt University in Berlin studying the philosophical origins of American and German neo-conservative political thought since 1945.

Publications

The Ends of Solidarity: Discourse Theory in Ethics and Politics, with SUNY Press, March 2008.

“Amnesty on Trial: Impunity, Accountability, and the Norms of International Law,” for the inaugural issue of the online journal *Ethics and Global Politics*.

Presentations

Presentations at the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Cornell University, Brown University and the University of Central Florida.

Professor Anthony Preus

Professor Preus was co-organizer of the 25th annual joint meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (of which he is secretary) with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science, held October 2007, at Fordham University. About 150 scholars from all over the United States and Canada, and several from other countries as well, participated in over 40 panels covering a wide range of subjects in the history of ancient and medieval philosophy, and in Asian philosophy. Preus’ role was organizing the program — forming and scheduling panels from the submitted papers. He also chaired several panels and presented his paper, “Aristotle on Oligarchy.”

Publications

Preus’ *Historical Dictionary of Ancient Greek Philosophy* was published in August 2007 by Rowman and Littlefield. This volume has two major aspects: short articles on a great many ancient Greek philosophers, and a great many dictionary-type entries for technical terms used by ancient Greek philosophers.

Presentations

Professor Preus spoke at the Northeast Political Science Association meeting in Philadelphia November 2007. He presented “Aristotle on Oligarchy” as part of a panel organized by John Anton, on “Aristotle’s Critique of Deviant Constitutions.”

Professor Steve Scalet**Publications**

Co-editor, with Chris Griffin, of the American Philosophical Association Newsletter in Philosophy and Law.

Presentations

“Believing in Philosophy,” Moravian College, February 2008.

Session chair for “Philia and Visions of Liberation,” *Voices and Visions: Humanities in the Third World*. Virginia Humanities Conference, Radford University, April 2008.

“Political Respect” Workshop on Equal Respect for Persons, Genova University, Italy, December 2007.

“Corporate Responsibility,” Wellsville Public Library, as part of New York Council for the Humanities’ Speakers in the Humanities Program, Wellsville, N.Y., October 2007.

“Living in a Democracy” Long Island University, as part of New York Council for the Humanities Speakers in the Humanities Program, Brookville, N.Y., September 19, 2007.

Professor Lisa Tessman**Presentations**

“Moral Disrepair,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meetings (main program), Pasadena, Calif., March 2008.

“Feminist Eudaimonism: Eudaimonism as Non-Ideal Theory,” Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Conference, Clearwater, Fla., September 2007.

Professor Melissa Zinkin**Publications**

“Kant’s Concept of Force: Empiricist or Rationalist?” *National Taiwan University Philosophical Review*, October 2007.

Presentations

“Kant on Secrets and Lies,” Pacific APA.

“Force and Feeling: Kant’s Argument in the Amphiboly,” Eastern APA.





THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT FIRST HOMECOMING EVENT

The Philosophy Department will be hosting a reception and symposium about Philosophy after Philosophy during the Alumni Association's annual Homecoming Weekend. Philosophy alumni will be speaking; please join us for conversations of the kind that made philosophy the major for you. This event will take place on Friday, October 17.

Please plan to visit us in the department office as well, Bartle Library, 12th floor.

SAVE THE DATE!

ALUMNI

Marty Ringle (BA '70, PhD in philosophy and computer technology '76): It's gratifying to see the Philosophy Department thriving. I have warm memories of the '60s and '70s when, as an undergraduate and later a graduate student, I had the privilege of working with inspiring teachers like Emilio Roma, Mike Dillon, Bill Pizante, Tony Preus and many others. My doctoral studies, jointly sponsored by the Philosophy Department and the School of Advanced Technology (now the Watson School) opened up countless doors for me. It's good to be able to contribute to the department and help a new generation of students pursue studies in philosophy at Binghamton."

Elizabeth Ten Dyke (BA '87; PhD in cultural anthropology '97, CUNY Graduate School): Major publication: Dresden: Paradoxes of Memory in History (Routledge, 2001). Present occupation: vice principal, J. Watson Bailey Middle School, Kingston, N.Y. Married to Daniel Gartenstein, BA '85, philosophy; JD '92, Brooklyn Law School. "I hope Binghamton's present undergraduate and graduate students pause occasionally to be grateful for the opportunity to read and relish literature, thought and dialogue. Once you get out into the big, bad world, marry, have kids, and work, time becomes so extraordinarily precious."

Joseph Thompson (BA '91; PhD '02, philosophy, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: "I was a philosophy major with High Honors; Jack Wilcox was my adviser. I'm currently a tenure-track assistant professor of philosophy and humanities at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. My undergrad experiences at Binghamton continue to inform my teaching and curriculum development now, all these years later. Best regards from up north!"

Desiree Melton (PhD '06): "In October I attended the inaugural meeting of the Collegium of Black Women Philosophers at Vanderbilt University. According to the most recent data from the American Philosophical Association, there are about 30 black women in philosophy departments across the nation. There were about that many of us at the conference so one could say, only half jokingly, that we were all there! Highlights of the meeting included Joyce Mitchell Cook, the first black woman to get a PhD in philosophy in the country (from Yale in 1965), and Anita Allen, law and philosophy professor at The University of Pennsylvania. In her keynote address, Allen spoke about privacy in relation to the six black teenagers in Jena, La., who were charged with attempted murder after a schoolyard fight days after nooses were hung from a so-called "white only shade tree" on the school grounds. Cook, who was honored at the conference, spoke about her experiences as a black woman studying philosophy at segregated Yale (she was forbidden to use some of the rooms in the library) and teaching in an all-male department at Howard University early in her career. I'm confident that I'm not only speaking for myself when I say that one of the most poignant moments of the conference was when Cook, in explaining why she left the field fairly early in her career, described herself as a 'casualty' of philosophy.



"The program was diverse, with papers on epistemology, Hegel, Nietzsche, Plato and others. There were workshops on promotion and tenure and publishing with Jose Medina and Kelly Oliver facilitating. The collegium offered a place for black women philosophers to share their work, seek and offer advice, and network in a supportive environment. Many of us remarked to one another that we have never experienced such genuine camaraderie as at the collegium. Indeed, some of the senior members openly shared horror stories of their experiences with racism and sexism as graduate students and as faculty. Fortunately for me, because of SPEL, I had no awful stories of humiliation to share — only fond memories. Looking back on my very recent career as a graduate student in SPEL, I suppose I took for granted my advisers, Lisa Tessman and Ami Bar On. I did not know that the kind of dedicated mentoring graduate students get from SPEL professors is the exception for minorities in philosophy, not the rule. I know for certain that I would not have made it through without Lisa, Ami, Melissa Zinkin's and Max Pensky's sincere confidence in me and I was sure to share that with my sisters at the collegium."

Richard (Dick) Sherman (BA '64; MA '68, political science, University of Toronto; JD '74, Golden Gate University): "It was with great pleasure, followed by great interest, that I recently received an e-mail about the Philosophy Department at Binghamton University, or as I like to remember it, Harpur College. Although I have not been back since graduation, I have always had a warm place in my heart for the school. I was a double major — philosophy and social science. The two professors I most remember, who I assume are long retired or went to teach elsewhere, were Howard Isham and William Pizante. I went on to graduate work in philosophy at the University of Toronto, where I was influenced by many great people, such as David Savin, David Gallop and Emil Fackenheim. I obtained my MA and was working on my PhD thesis in political philosophy when I moved to Berkeley, California, and in 1971 I decided to go to law school instead of continuing on in philosophy. I was therefore very pleased to see that (Harpur) has a program in philosophy, politics and law. Were I younger and on the East coast, I would love to enroll! With my wife of 30 years, who is also a lawyer, I have devoted my legal career to civil appellate law, handling cases in the Court of Appeal all over California. I have been fortunate enough to argue several cases in the California Supreme Court and even one in the United States Supreme Court. Even though I was fortunate enough to get cert. granted, I ultimately lost in a very fractured opinion that is in many law books. My philosophy training was, and continues to be, a great benefit to me both professionally and personally. If I ever make it back to Binghamton I would love to visit the department, and please keep me on the e-mail list."

MONEY MATTERS

I would like to begin by thanking those of you who have sent us donations for the Philosophy Department General Fund and for the Martin Dillon Memorial Fund. Donations are always a wonderful surprise. What is not surprising is our continued need of support from our alumni and friends.

The Martin Dillon Memorial Fund has been growing steadily and reached the initial goal of \$15,000. It produces enough income for two prizes that are given to the best honors students. We can also use money from the fund to support philosophy undergraduate student travel to conferences. The bigger the fund grows, the more we can do with it in support of our undergraduate students.

The Leon J. Goldstein Scholarship Fund in Philosophy is growing slowly but steadily. We have yet to use it; when built up some more, we will start using it for the support of some graduate students.

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(continued)

What we need to build in addition to the Martin Dillon Memorial Fund and the Leon J. Goldstein Scholarship Fund in Philosophy are other dedicated funds or the department's General Fund. It will be wonderful to have a Philosophy Department Speakers Series, supported by our alumni, and there are other — both less and more ambitious projects — that I will be happy to discuss with anyone interested in exploring donations to the department.

I am aware that I provide a wish list. The department depends on your generosity. Your contributions matter. Please continue to help our wish list come true. All donations small and large are welcomed. You can make your gift online by going to

<http://www.bconnectalumni.binghamton.edu/Giving/index.asp>. In the section for "Gift Information," first choose Harpur College as the school or unit. Then select "other account," complete the amount and type either Philosophy General Fund, Account # 10794; the Martin Dillon Memorial Fund, Account # 20232, or the Leon Goldstein Scholarship Fund in Philosophy, Account # 20361. Harpur College and Binghamton University also appreciate your generosity. If you prefer sending a check, please make it payable to the Binghamton University Foundation using the printable form downloadable at **<http://www.bconnectalumni.binghamton.edu/Giving/PrintableGiftPage.pdf>**.

Feel free to get in touch with me to discuss contributions by calling 607.777.6198 or sending an e-mail to me at ami@binghamton.edu. You can also contact the Harpur College development officer, Lisa Court, at 607-777-4277 or lcourt@binghamton.edu. She will be happy to discuss gift opportunities with you.

Bat-Ami Bar On

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