2018 Newsletter

EMU Philosophy Program
Department of History and Philosophy
701 Pray-Harrold
Eastern Michigan University

Section Chair: Professor Jill Dieterle
Undergraduate Advisor: Professor Michael Scoville
Graduate Advisor: Professor Laura McMahon

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Graduate Program News:

Danielle Clevenger and Kevin Mager successfully defended their M.A. capstone projects in Winter Semester 2018. Both were accepted to Ph.D. programs with full funding. Danielle will continue her study of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Kevin will attend the University of Loyola-Chicago. Congratulations Danielle and Kevin!

For details, and lots of other exciting news about Philosophy at EMU, our students, and our alumni, see below.

Please join us for the 2018 Fall Welcome Reception on Wednesday, September 26, 4:30 - 6:30, at the EMU Lakehouse. Students, alumni, friends – all are welcome!!
Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy

EMU Philosophy hosted its eighth Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy in March 2018. Students from 18 colleges and universities presented at the conference. EMU students Eric Garant, Blake Trinske, Timothy Petzold, Natalia Anderson, Lauren Williams, Joseph Longo, and Katelyn Pyles presented their own original papers; Avinash Vivekanandan, Vanessa Thornburn, Michael Neal, Samuel Curran, Caleb Bragg, Greg Woodring, and Marisa Kennedy provided critical commentary. The conference is organized by a team of faculty and students. This year’s student leadership included Dani Clevenger, Sarah Bruckler, and Leah McQuone. Dr. Shannon Hoff (Memorial University of Newfoundland) was the keynote speaker. For the second year in a row, EMU faculty and graduate students organized a graduate student panel, where graduate students provided perspective on continued study in philosophy and the value of philosophy beyond the academy. We encourage you to join us for the 2019 conference in March! For more information, see the UCiP webpage: http://www.emuucip.com
Our undergraduate philosophy journal Acta Cogitata features creative work from undergraduate students across the globe. The 5th edition was published in 2017-18, and features papers from former EMU philosophy majors Áine Keefer and Dylan Delikta. The journal is available at http://commons.emich.edu/ac/vol5/iss1/

Over the last year, the Philosophy Club at EMU has provided a forum for philosophical inquiry and supported student success through weekly, discussion-based meetings and peer review events. Members met bi-weekly to discuss a wide range of contemporary philosophical topics relevant to member’s lives and research interests. At the end of the Fall and Winter semesters, the Philosophy Club hosted Peer Review & Pizza Night events in which students offered each other philosophical critique on final papers or papers students had submitted to conferences. Pizza and beverages were provided by the Department of History and Philosophy. In addition to the regular meetings and peer review events, the Philosophy Club lent its support to the annual Undergraduate Conference in Philosophy by securing additional funding from Student Government, by staffing the UCiP, and by hosting the annual UCiP Meet & Greet event.

Looking forward, the Philosophy Club will be partnering with the University Writing Center to offer monthly, targeted writing workshops for undergraduate and graduate students in the Philosophy Program. In addition to these workshops, the Philosophy Club will continue the tradition of discussion-based meetings, and support the UCiP.
Student Accomplishments

Undergraduates

Vanessa Thornburn spent 6 weeks in an intensive Spanish program in Spain.

Natalia Anderson presented “Is Discovery Necessarily Linguistic?” at the 2018 EMU Undergraduate Symposium.

Eric Garant presented “While the Grass Grows: Adjudicating the Debate Between Food Security and Food Sovereignty” at the 2018 EMU Undergraduate Symposium.

Lauren Williams presented “The Ethical Order of Antigone” at the 2018 EMU Undergraduate Symposium.

Graduate Students

Dani Clevenger successfully completed and presented her M.A. Capstone Project, “The Sophia Project: Philosophy Outside the Ivory Tower” on March 2, 2018. She will begin a fully-funded Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Fall 2018.

Kevin Mager successfully defended his thesis, “Merleau-Ponty and the Phenomenology of Scientific Discovery” on March 2, 2018. He will begin a fully-funded Ph.D. program at Loyola-Chicago in Fall 2018.

Áine Keefer presented “Presenting the General Welfare: Creating Urban Food Oases in the US” at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society in June, 2018.

Áine also takes over the position of Student Editor of Acta Cogitata for the 2018-19 academic year.

Sarah Bruckler’s paper, “Non-Anthropocentric Food Justice,” was accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society.


Congratulations to all of you on your accomplishments!
Philosophy Scholarships and the Philosophy Prize

Each year, the Philosophy Program awards scholarships and the Philosophy Prize at the April Departmental Honors Reception.

The Philosophy Prize is given annually to an outstanding graduating senior; the Graduate Philosophy Prize is awarded to an outstanding graduating MA student.

The Philosophy Program awards three undergraduate scholarships annually and one bi-annually:

- The George Rhodes Endowed Scholarship was created in memory of a philosophy major who died while he was an EMU student.
- The Sophia Endowed Scholarship was established by Kate Mehuron, Jill Dieterle, and Margaret Crouch.
- The Esther Walker Barnard Philosophy Scholarship was endowed by a supporter of the Department of History and Philosophy.
- The Friends of History and Philosophy Scholarship was created by the faculty and friends of the Department. The recipient alternates between the History Program and the Philosophy Program.

We also award one graduate scholarship annually:
- The Stephen G. Cassar Memorial Endowed Scholarship was created by Professor George Cassar, in honor of his brother.

2018 Recipients:

PHILOSOPHY PRIZE:
Nathan Cox

GEORGE RHODES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP:
Natalia Anderson

SOPHIA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP:
Eric Garant

ESTHER WALKER BARNARD SCHOLARSHIP:
Blake Trinske

GRADUATE PHILOSOPHY PRIZE
Danielle Clevenger

STEPHEN G. CASSAR MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP:
Eva Chrysochoou and Brian Bellinger
Mike Doan organized the Philosophy Speaker Series for the third year in a row. He invited a pluralistic group of philosophers from across the state of Michigan, and also highlighted the current research of three of EMU’s own: Prof’s Koolage, Higgins, and Bruya. This gave our students an opportunity to see works in progress, and to learn more about the process of sharing, revising, and polishing papers through sustained interaction with peers.

Our Distinguished Speaker for this year was Prof. Leonard Lawlor of Penn State University. Prof. Lawlor earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Eastern Michigan University, where he was on the Dean’s List. After graduating from EMU, he went
on to earn an M.A. and Ph.D in Philosophy at State University of New York at Stony Brook. While on his homecoming visit to EMU, Prof. Lawlor very generously took some time to converse with our graduate students about their projects and aspirations before sharing his recent research on the phenomenology of violence.

Here is an overview of the 2017-18 edition of the Series:

- Elena Ruíz, Michigan State University, "Decolonizing the Ethics of Knowing,” co-sponsored by WGST.
- Peter Higgins, Eastern Michigan University, "Three Hypotheses for Explaining the Alleged Oppression of Men.”
- Brian Bruya, Eastern Michigan University, "Fostering Wisdom in the Classroom.”
- Distinguished Speaker, Leonard Lawlor, Penn State University, "The Poverty of the Remainder: on Reactions to Violence.”

We would like thank the good people at the Eastern Echo for their excellent coverage of Prof. Higgins’ talk! Be on the lookout for future coverage of the Series in our student newspaper.

Be sure to visit our Philosophy Speaker Series page for information on upcoming talks, all of which are free and open to the public.

We hope you’ll join us for the 2018-19 edition of the Philosophy Speaker Series!
Alumni News

Andrew Dyl (2016) recently departed for a year-long English-teaching stint in China.

Mandy Mak (2015) attended San Francisco State University in pursuit of an M.A. in philosophy. She taught classes there for three semesters (Critical Thinking and Introduction to Philosophy). She moved back to New York to study software engineering, and she is now a full-stack software engineer. Mandy writes, “I owe much of my success in my studies to the Logic courses I took [at EMU].” Mandy also sends warm regards to the Philosophy Section.


Bradley Wakefield (2010) received tenure in the Philosophy Department at Macomb Community College. Bradley writes, “The most rewarding part of my job is being able to introduce students to philosophy at the ground floor. Most of these students have no idea about philosophy. It’s really nice to be their first exposure.”

Mohammed Abouzahr (2005) is working at JSTOR in Ann Arbor and, as a side project, developing open access logic software.

EMU PHILOSOPHY ALUMNI:
We always love hearing from you. Tell us what you are doing! Send us your news! We’ll include it in the next edition of the newsletter.
Send news/updates to jdieterle@emich.edu
Professor Brian Bruya published three articles:


He also published two translations:


Professor Bruya made three presentations on four occasions:

- "Wisdom in the Classroom: A Short-Term Longitudinal Study of Fostering Wisdom in a Traditional Higher Education Setting." Co-authored with Monika Ardelt. Society for the Study of Human Development Biennial Meeting, Providence, RI.
- "Confucius and a Scientific Pedagogy of Wisdom." Eighth Confucian World Congress, Qufu, China.

Professor Bruya serves as the Chair of the American Philosophical Association Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies and is a
member of the American Philosophical Association Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession.

Brian Coffey
Professor Brian Coffey presented "Using an Ethics Bowl Style Competition to Teach Ethics Students How to Do Philosophy" at the 19th International Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum, hosted by Grand Valley State University. October 2017.

He also served as a judge for the Michigan High School Ethics Bowl Semi-Finals, held in February 2018 in Ann Arbor, and served as a judge for the Ethics Slam event hosted by A2 Ethics in March of 2018, in Ann Arbor. The Ethics Slam was an event where teams of people from the community (non-professional philosophers) took turns defending stances on controversial ethical dilemmas that were submitted by other members of the community.

Jill Dieterle
Professor Jill Dieterle published “Cooptation or Solidarity: Food Sovereignty in the Developed World,” co-authored with Mark Navin (Oakland University) in Agriculture and Human Values 35 (2): 319 – 29.

Professor Dieterle presented “Disability and Food Insecurity” at Oakland University, as part of the Oakland Philosophy Speaker Series, on Oct. 26, 2017. She also presented “Authentic Food Choice” at the Perugia Food and Sustainability Studies Conference: Exploring Ethics Through Food Choice, in Perugia, Italy, June 9, 2018.

Michael Doan
Professor Michael Doan published four papers:


Professor Doan presented his work on 9 occasions:

- “Building a Freedom Schools Movement in Detroit,” 20th Allied Media Conference, hosted by Allied Media Projects (AMP), Wayne State University, Detroit, MI (June 2018).
- “Freedom Schools: Interrupting Slow Violence through Community-Based Education,” 7th Annual Ecojustice and Activism Conference, hosted by the College of Education at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI (March 2018).
- “Collectivizing the Ethics of Impurity,” Central Division APA Meeting, hosted by the American Philosophical Association (APA), Chicago, IL (February 2018).
- “Resisting Structural Epistemic Injustice,” Dalhousie Philosophy Department Colloquium Series, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS (November 2017).
- “For an Impure, Anti-Authoritarian Ethics,” Feminism, Philosophy, and Engaging the Public: Theory, Policy, and Practice, hosted by the Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy (CSWIP), Western University, London, ON (October 2017).
- “Resisting Structural Epistemic Injustice,” 34th International Social Philosophy Conference, hosted by the North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP), Loyola University, Chicago, IL (July 2017).

Professor Doan serves as a Board Member of the James & Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership; as a Coordinating Committee Member for the Detroit Independent Freedom Schools Movement (DIFS); and as a member of Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management (D-REM).

Peter Higgins
Professor Peter Higgins published “The Rights and Duties of Immigrants in Liberal Societies,” in Philosophy Compass (forthcoming). He served as the Chair of an invited symposium (The Ethics of Migration) at the American Philosophical Association (Central Division) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, February 22, 2018 and as a referee for Global Policy and The European Journal of Political Theory. Since August 2017, he has served as the interim Department Head of Women’s and Gender Studies.

John Koolage

He also presented his work on seven different occasions:
• “Cognition, College, and Guns,” McComb Community College sponsored by Macomb Multicultural International Initiative, 2018 (Invited Talk)
• “The Sophia Project: An Experimental Co-Curriculum,” (with Dani Clevenger, Taylor Chase, Lauren Williams, and Catrina Whitton) Great Lakes Regional Student Success Conference, 2018
• “Who put the Students in Charge!?! The Sophia Project,” (with Dani Clevenger) AAPT’s Teaching Hub at the Eastern American Philosophy Association Conference, 2018
• “Selective Realism: The Agreement of Independent Measurements,” Eastern Michigan University’s Philosophy Speakers Series, 2017
• “Is a Scientific Worldview at Odds with a Religious One?” (with Steven Backues, Clay Carlson, Phil Schmitz, and Michael Scoville, Eastern Michigan University, 2017
• “Can Computers Think?” Zion Lutheran Church, 2017 (Invited Talk)
• “Teaching Through Culminating Events,” (with Dani Clevenger), National Association for Developmental Education, 2017

Laura McMahon
Professor Laura McMahon published one book chapter and two journal articles:


She presented the following papers at conferences:

• “Vulnerability, Destiny, and Responsibility in Oedipus Rex.” Seminar in Greek Tragedy, Windsor, ON: January 20, 2018,


**Kate Mehuron**


Professor Mehuron serves as an Alternate Representative of the Huron River Watershed Council, to the Dexter Township Commission.

**Jeremy Proulx**


**Michael Scoville**
Professor Michael Scoville served as a commentator on “Constitutive Moral Luck and Strawson’s Argument for the Impossibility of Moral Responsibility,” a paper presented by Robert J. Hartman (University of Gothenburg), Colloquium on Moral Luck, Deliberation, and Disagreement, American Philosophical Association (Central division), Chicago, IL, February 2018.
He also served as a panelist for the panel discussion “Is a scientific worldview at odds with a religious one?” twice; once sponsored by the Departments of Chemistry and History and Philosophy, Eastern Michigan University, October 2017; and once sponsored by the Philosophy Club, Eastern Michigan University, November 2017.