From the Chair

It is an honor to be writing you in my new capacity as the chair of our department. I feel quite the rookie, but I have Juli and the entire department to lean on while I learn. I hope you are well and find this newsletter informative and even a little entertaining. By the way, that is a bat stencil on a window behind me in the picture, which was taken while I was with a class studying Sustainability in Costa Rica.

We have lots to celebrate, including many national and international recognitions. In keeping with Ball State’s commitment to immersive learning, our students lead the production of Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal (see stance.iweb.bsu.edu). In Dec. 2010, Stance received the prestigious American Philosophy Association Prize for Innovation and Excellence. If you would like a complimentary copy please let us know. Dr. Jeff Brackett leads pedagogy workshops for the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. The Wabash Center also awarded Dr. Joseph Marchal significant funding to support his research. Dr. Jeff Fry is on the editorial board of two Philosophy of Sport journals and Dr. Kalumba serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Philosophia Africana. Dr. Eflin is the 2011 recipient of Ball State’s highest teaching honor: The Outstanding Teaching Award. Religious Studies major, Tayln Cox earned the “Best in Show” award for his presentation at the College of Communications Information & Media Diversity Symposium. Many students, including philosophy major Brian Schimpf, have recently presented papers at national conferences. In academic year 2010-2011 alone our faculty published 14 journal articles or book chapters, delivered 28 academic presentations, and earned 6 grants, while teaching 50 classes/2500 students and serving 60 majors and 55 minors. We are a productive & impressive bunch.

We aim to continue offering our majors and minors “one of the best values” (Princeton Review) in higher education. The evidence of our effectiveness is you; we are impressed by our students’ achievements in graduate/law school, the honors you earned while students and, most importantly, by the lives of achievement and service you live. As funding for the Humanities tightens, we need your help to continue supporting our students and faculty. I hope you will consider a gift to the department to support our award-winning faculty as they offer distinctive, immersive and experiential learning experiences such as Stance, ethnographic Religious Studies fieldwork, and a study abroad trip to Uganda. Your donation also funds travel for current students to present their work at conferences around the country. Please see the back panel for further information. We appreciate and will carefully use any gift of any size.

There is always something changing in the department. Departmental stalwart Dr. George Barker retired in 2007 after more than 40 years of service. He continues to teach online courses and remains a model of fitness. In 2011, Virgil Barker finished his last year of full-time service in Ball State’s Correctional Education Program. Also in 2011, Drs. Daphne Rolle and Michael Roemer moved on. In 2009, long time Administrator Linda (Bilbrey) West finished her degree and took a new job in Anderson, IN. New to us are Drs. Kevin Harrelson and Joseph Marchal (see profiles on page 5), as is Ann Adams, Departmental Administrator (see page 4).

For more information visit our website, bsu.edu/philosophy or bsu.edu/religiousstudies, “like” us on Facebook, http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ball-State-Department-of-Philosophy-and-Religious-Studies/121172524571421, or contact any of us individually via email - our addresses are provided with our highlights.
Ball State Philosophy & Religious Studies

Faculty Highlights

Elizabeth Agnew (eagnew@bsu.edu) extended her work on Nobel Peace Laureate Jane Addams while on sabbatical in 2011, focusing on Addams’ engagement with Gandhian nonviolence. In 2009 she presented a paper on Addams at the International Philosophers for Peace Conference in Nainital, India, and in 2008 gave an invited address on Addams at Harvard. A highlight of 2011 was her keynote address “Civic Professionalism, Religion, and Rights: Mary E. Richmond’s Social Work Legacy in the 21st Century,” given at the Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon, in honor of the 150th birth anniversary of Mary Richmond (the subject of Agnew’s 2005 Choice award book From Charity to Social Work). She also is revising a paper for Teaching Theology entitled: “Needs and Nonviolent Communication.” In fall 2010, students in Agnew’s Religion and Philanthropy course undertook service projects with several local non-profit agencies and with Indiana Public Radio.

Jeff Brackett (jmbrackett@bsu.edu) joined Ball State’s College of Architecture and Planning trip to India for a few weeks (Spring 2011) to help Architecture and Urban Planning students “map sacred spaces.” He has participated in ongoing pedagogy workshops through the Wabash Center and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Teaching Religion Section of the American Academy of Religion. He continues to teach about Hindu tradition and ethnographic method. In spring 2009 he taught ethnography of religion as part of a special Honors College Colloquium. His “regular” ethnography course is part of the graduate certificate in interpretive ethnography offered through the Anthropology Department. Recent publications focused on pedagogy and ethnography include “Sending Students into the Field,” in Undergraduate Research in Religious Studies (Oxford U.P., 2011) and “Hanumān Jayanti in Maharashtra, in Studying Hinduism in Practice (Routledge, 2011). He still loves cycling, both on and off-road.

David Concepción (dwconcepcion@bsu.edu) spent a month during the summer of 2011 studying sustainability at a National Endowment for the Humanities research seminar. His research has been funded by sources such as The Luminia Foundation, Phi Kappa Phi, Indiana Compact, and the Lilly Foundation. In 2008 he received a national teaching award for “Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology” as well as Ball State’s top teaching honor, the “Outstanding Teaching” award, making him the first professor in BSU history to garner all three of the top teaching awards. He serves as President-Elect of the American Assoc. of Philosophy Teachers. Recent publications include: “Enabling Change: Transformative and Transgressive Learning in Feminist Ethics and Epistemology,” Teaching Philosophy 32:2 (June 2009), 177-198 (w/ Juli Elfin) and “Overcoming Oppressive Self-Blame: Gray Agency in Underground Railroads,” Hypatia Vol. 24, No. 1 (Winter 2009), 81-99.

PLEASE SEND US AN UPDATE
Where are you? Job, Children, Spouse, Interesting Experience, Funny Thought… whatever. We want to hear from you and we will post some responses on our Facebook page and/or in our next newsletter. Send a response to:

aeadams@bsu.edu

Religious Studies Alumni News

The first Religious Studies major at Ball State, Calvin Harman Jr., (70) works for a major airline; Dr. Michael Hall (75) teaches in the in the public schools of Houston TX; Peggy Harvey-Marose (80) is a religious leader in Idaho; Rev. Karen Welling (90) serves the United Methodist Church; Rolling for United Skates of America in Indianapolis, IN is Michael Montgomery (98); Ashley (Weddle) Crow (05) is an Academic Advisor at Indiana State University; Justin Miller (05) completed a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the Arizona State University and is now pursing a Doctorate in Higher Education at Ball State while working as a Proposal Manager in Ball State’s Sponsered Programs Office; Shon Byron (06) teaches Social Studies at Burris in Muncie and reports “I like talking to strangers about the quality of vegetables” during the summer when he sells produce; Christopher Allen (07) served in the Peace Corps in Thailand for two years and is completing a Master’s degree in Ball State’s Historic Preservation program; In 2011 Loren (Metz) Bumbalough (08) graduated with a Masters of Social Work from Aurora University in Illinois and Heidi Morrow (08) completed a Master’s degree in Cultural Anthropology at Ball State; Nevada Drollinger (09) was married in May 2010 and, after working at a migrant and seasonal Head Start program, begins study for a Master’s degree in Religious Studies at University of Colorado in the fall of 2011.

bsu.edu/philosophy or bsu.edu/religiousstudies
Faculty Highlights

Juli Eflin (jeflin2@bsu.edu) will spend fall 2011 teaching at Ball State’s Virginia Ball Center [VBC], where students earn a full semester’s worth of academic credit for intensive study of one subject. Students in Dr. Eflin’s class will study philosophy and art, concluding the semester with a showcase of the philosophically inspired art they produce. In the summer of 2011 she presented a paper entitled “Epistemic Communities: Virtue, Vice and Epistemic Disability” in Slovenia. While on sabbatical in fall 2009 she presented many papers, including two at a Conference celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hypatia (a prestigious feminist philosophy journal) in Seattle, WA. Recent publications include: “Enabling Change: Transformative and Transgressive Learning in Feminist Ethics and Epistemology,” Teaching Philosophy 32:2 (June 2009), 177-198 (with David Concepcion) and “Women and Cognitive Authority in the Knowledge Economy,” in Knowledge Policy: Challenges for the 21st Century, Greg Hearn and David Rooney (eds.), Edward Elgar Pub., (2008), 45-58. She serves as the Co-Chair of the Speaker and Awards Committee of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers.


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Philosophy Alumni News

Many recent graduates are completing post-baccalaureate degrees: Andrew Ketrow (08) completed a Master’s of Library Science program at IU in spring 2011; Kristen Ruhl (08) has a Master’s degree in Counseling Psychology from Northwestern University; Daniel “D” Cole (08) completed a Masters degree in Philosophy at the University of Miami (OH) and while taking a year off before entering a PhD program spends his time explaining Hegel to Zack Medford (09) who is a manager at a grocery store in his hometown of Newcastle, IN, and may not care about Hegel; Gina Schouten (06) is at the University of Wisconsin completing a PhD in Philosophy as is Adam Thompson (03) at the University of Nebraska; Lisa Yount (95) earned a PhD at the University of Oregon and is currently an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Savannah State University.

In other news: Jerry Jacobs (67) works for a Capital Management corporation in Fort Wayne, IN; Diane Ludington (70) is an Advertising and Marketing professional in the Atlanta, GA area; Cynthia Sharp Myers (76) leads a law firm in Lawrenceville, NJ; Kenton Hall (84) is an Art Professor at Ball State; Darren Peterson (89) practices Architecture in Noblesville, IN; Rev Christopher Moellering (93) serves in the U.S. Army; Joseph Melton (00) directs Marketing at an independent software testing lab in Indianapolis, IN; John Herr (03) has taught Math and Philosophy in private high schools for years; The pun here is irresistible, and it’s true: Dylan Jolly (06) works at Morty’s Comedy Joint in Indianapolis, IN; Chris Coy (07), who will be married in Sept. 2011 works for a solar engineering firm, and Tim Pierz (07), who is a manager in an elder care company, are doubles champs in some sort of foosball league; Ryan Gessler (06) has a security clearance for his work in the military (and that’s all we know about that).
Faculty Highlights

Kevin Harrelson (kjharrelson@bsu.edu) See new faculty spotlight.

Kalumba (kkalumba@bsu.edu) has recently returned from his third African Philosophy Field Trip to Uganda. In this experiential learning course Ball State students talk with and interview philosophy professors and students, cultural leaders, religious leaders as well as ordinary Ugandans. Kalumba’s recent publications include: “English, Mbiti and a Traditional African Concept of Time: A Rejoinder,” *Philosophia Africana*, Vol 11, #2 (August, 2008) and “Kagame and Mbiti on the Traditional Bantu View of Time,” in F. Ochieng’-Odhiambo et. al. (eds), *Conversations in Philosophy: Crossing Boundaries* (Cambridge Scholars Publishers), 2008. Recent presentations include: “Western Terminology and Violent Distortions of an African Culture: The Case of Edward Wamala’s Portrayal of Buganda’s Political System,” The 17th Annual Conference of the International Society for African Philosophy and Studies at The Ohio State University, April, 2011 and “Is Anarchism Inevitable? A Critique of A. John Simmons’ Treatment of Natural Duty Accounts of Political Obligations,” Joint meeting of the Illinois and Indiana Philosophical Associations, Eastern Illinois University, November 2010. After serving as *Philosophia Africana*’s Acting Editor for over two years, Kalumba is now Editor-in-Chief. This award-winning journal is dedicated to analyzing philosophical issues in Africa and the Black Diaspora.

Joseph Marchal (jamarchal@bsu.edu) See new faculty spotlight.

Peg Shaffer (pjshaffer@bsu.edu) serves as Assistant Director of BSU’s Freshman Connections Program. In February 2011 she was co-presenter on “Increasing Student Participation in Common Reader Programs” at the annual First Year Experience conference in Atlanta, Georgia. She teaches “The Sociology of Religion” for the Sociology Department as well as “Introduction to Religion and Culture” and “Religion and Ecology” for our department.

New Administrator Profile

Ann Adams
Ann graduated from Ball State in 2004 with a degree in Sociology. After a few years working in the financial planning industry, she came to her senses and returned to us in 2009. With help from former department chair Dr. Juli Eflin, Ann quickly learned all the ins and outs of the Administrative Coordinator role. In November 2010, she and her husband Brent, also a BSU alumnus, became the proud new parents of a baby boy named Evan. She’s likely to be the first person you talk to if you call or email, and then you’ll find out for yourself why she’s so important to us.

Recent Departmental Student Awards Winners

**Outstanding Senior, Philosophy**
- Chris Hoover (2011)

Past Recipients: Rosamae Swoape (10), Jeffrey Neff (09), Kristen Ruhl (08), Tim Pierz & Bob Miller (07), Gina Schouten (06), Travis Stephens (05), Sarah Voyles (04), Cristian Bartholomew (03), Jeff Bynum (02).

**Outstanding Senior, Religious Studies**
- Audrey Frazer (2011)

Past Recipients: Rosamae Swoape (10), Nevada Drollinger (09), Jennifer Nelson (08), Heidi Morrow (07), Joshua Claytor (06), Adam Downey (05), Lauren Behme (04), Julie Scott (03), Cynthia Downham (02).

**Essay Prize, Religious Studies**
- Kelsi Morrison (2011)

Past Recipients: Rosamae Swoape, Nevada Drollinger

**Essay Prize, Philosophy**
- Kentory “Kai” Bennett (2011)


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New Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Kevin Harrelson

Dr. Harrelson received his PhD from the University of Kentucky in 2004 and then taught in their Humanities Honors program for three years. He joined us in the fall of 2008 after one year at the University of North Dakota. His expertise is in early modern philosophy, German Idealism, philosophical historiography, and the philosophy of religion. His book *The Ontological Argument from Descartes to Hegel* appeared in 2008 in the *Journal of the History of Philosophy Book Series*, and has been extensively reviewed in such presses as *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*, *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*, and the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*. His current work focuses on history and storytelling, and most recently (summer 2011) he participated in a faculty workshop at the University of Bonn, Germany studying contemporary applications of Hegelian logic.

During his first year at BSU Dr. Harrelson was a finalist for Ball State’s Excellence in Teaching Award. He teaches Ancient Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, the Philosophy of Religion, and Introduction to Philosophy. In the spring he will teach a colloquium in BSU’s Honors College addressing narrative identity. He serves as the beloved advisor to the Philosophy Club, and as a coach of the BSU Men’s club soccer team. Dr. Harrelson values our department’s emphasis on innovative teaching and our commitment to service.

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Dr. Joseph Marchal

Dr. Joseph Marchal received his Ph.D. in biblical studies from the Graduate Theological Union of Berkeley (California), after graduating from Harvard with a Master's degree in New Testament/early Christianity and women's studies in religion. Dr. Marchal's teaching and research interests include feminist, queer, race-critical, and postcolonial studies, as well as religious education and secularism. In the past five years Dr. Marchal has published eleven articles and two books. His first book, *Hierarchy, Unity, and Imitation: A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Power Dynamics in Paul's Letter to the Philippians*, was published by the Society of Biblical Literature in 2006. Also in 2006 he was honored with the “Best New Scholar” award from the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion. His second, *The Politics of Heaven: Women, Gender, and Empire in the Study of Paul*, by Fortress Press in 2008. In part because of this prolific publishing, Dr. Marchal was a finalist for Ball State’s 2011 Outstanding Junior Faculty award.

Dr. Marchal serves as Chair of the Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible group of the Society of Biblical Literature and on several international editorial boards and steering committees. In the last couple of years, he has been invited to lecture at the University of Oslo, Emory University, the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Butler University, and Marian University. He has just completed a year of study with faculty colleagues around North America, focusing on teaching and learning in religious studies. Dr. Marchal really likes working with the excellent teaching assistants for the large sections of Religious Studies 160. He especially values the willingness of our students to grapple with difficult, uncomfortable, but important issues and their patience with his sometimes obscure (or only partially complete) pop culture references.

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Recent Events

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, Midwest Meeting, March 2011
Beginning what we hope will be a long tradition, we convened the first Midwest meeting of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers at Ball State in March. Among the presentations were Minh Nguyen of Eastern Kentucky University, “The Challenges of Teaching Chinese Philosophy;” Tim Murphy of Fort Hays State University, “Cultural Differences in Cognition & Their Relevance to Teaching Critical Thinking;” John Rudisill of the College of Wooster, “Assessment Guided Pedagogy;” and our own Kevin Harrelson, “Teaching Historiography in History Surveys.” It was a stimulating day of discussions where we learned from each other about how to become even better philosophy teachers.

Departmental Student Recognition Day, April 2011
Each April we celebrate our current students. We invite students to give presentations. Usually these presentations describe research they have conducted. However, since we give seniors preference for the limited presentations spaces available, sometimes we hear reflections on their experiences as undergraduates in our department. They have brought tears to our eyes. Heck, students have even presented skits, poems, and songs. Among the 2011 presentations were: Mindy Ward’s, "Drinking with Buddha, Dancing for Kami: Qualitative Research on Japanese Religiosity"; Caleb Mosier’s, “A Defense of Moral Error Theory”; and Kiley Neal’s “Locating Psychological Attributes.”

In addition to student presentations we have a guest speaker. This year’s special lecture, “The Road From Damascus: A Fictional Critique of Alain Badiou” was delivered by Dr. Jay Twomey of the University of Cincinnati. In 2010 we invited back Gina Schouten (06) as our speaker. She delivered a paper derived from her graduate study entitled “In Opposition to Moral Luck.”

Finally, we honor our very best students with two awards: The “Outstanding Senior” award and the “Best Essay” award. In 2011 Kelsi Morrison won the Best Essay in Religious Studies award, while Kai Bennett earned the Best Essay in Philosophy prize for “Where Did I Put My Mind.” The 2011 Outstanding Senior in Religious Studies was Audrey Frazier. Chris Hoover, who graduated magna cum laude, was the Outstanding Senior in Philosophy. Also honored were majors or minors who had a 4.0 GPA during the past year, including Kelsi Morrison and Nina Monstwillo. Finally, new members were inducted into the Philosophy Honor Society, Phi Sigma Tau (see below). We are extremely proud of our students.

Indiana Philosophical Association Meeting, April 2011
The spring 2011 meeting of the Indiana Philosophical Association was held on the Ball State Campus in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center on April 29 and 30. Briana Toole from the University of Sheffield, England gave a talk at the intersection of metaphysics and the philosophy of literature entitled “Fictional Entities,” Matthew Braddock of Duke University delivered “From No Explanation of Reliability to Moral Skepticism,” and Michael Koss of Indiana University spoke about “Wittgenstein on Meaning and Dummett’s Antirealism.” The day was capped off by University of Michigan’s Alex Silk, the winner of the Graduate Student Paper Award, who discussed “Why ‘Ought’ Detaches.” In all, there were sixteen speakers from eleven states and two countries. A few of our philosophy majors attended (with the free admissions we granted them, why not?), and students and faculty alike enjoyed two days of rich discussion and fellowship with scholars from around the country. Abstracts for the papers can be found at the IPA’s website: http://sites.hanover.edu/ipa/docs/2011SpringProgram.pdf

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Student Activities

Religious Studies Club
The Religious Studies Club provides a welcoming place for anyone interested in the academic study of religion. Students screen films with religiously significant themes, and arrange guest speakers and group discussions often in conjunction with other groups on campus such as the Muslim Student Association, Hillel, and the Society for Earth Based Religions. Other activities include informal Finals’ Week Buddhist meditation, a tour of the BSU Art Museum’s collection of religious art, a field trip to Fort Wayne’s Festival of Lights, and more. Current member Kayln Sprague reports: “The value of the Religious Studies Club to Ball State’s campus lies in its purpose: to gain exposure to and encourage respect for all religions. This organization provides an open and academic exploration of the historical, cultural, and social dynamics of the world religions.”

Philosophy Club
Activities of the Philosophy Club include student led discussions, trips to professional philosophical meetings, guest speakers, student presentations, fund-raising activities, picnics, games, and perhaps most importantly camaraderie, intellectual and otherwise. Discussion topics are selected by the members of the club, and have ranged across a variety of intellectual, political, ethical, and spiritual topics over the years. Dr. Kevin Harrelson is the advisor.

Currently led by Senior Philosophy major Derrick Gosman, the BSU Philosophy Club meets weekly, where as many as thirty participants engage in intellectual discussions in a familial atmosphere. Usually the discussions continue well past the scheduled ninety minutes. While most sessions treat a topic introduced by one of our regular participants, the Club has also invited more than a dozen guest speakers in the last two academic years.

Phi Sigma Tau
(Philosophy Honor Society)

Phi Sigma Tau remains busy honoring talented students.

2011 Inductees:
Stephanie Atkins,
Veronica Buckler,
Trevor Krogman,
Dominic Martyne,
Kiley Neal, Jacob
Taylor, Robert Wilbur,
Josh Wooden

Other Recent Inductees: Melissa Booth,
Lorrie Caskey, “D” Cole,
Katie Dittelberger, Chris
Hoover, Troy Harmon, Aaron
Hoch, Tarryn Jones, Kalli
McBride, Ryan McCready,
Jen Milks, Cassandra Reed,
Mike Reynolds, James
Robinson, Kristen Ruhl, Josh
Savage, Erin Walton.

Graduation, May 2011

(Left to Right): (Back) Dr. Concepcion, Audrey Frazer, Austin Bontrager,
Brian Schimpf, Will Grinstead, Dr. Eflin, Chris Hoover, Trevor
Krogman, Dr. Marchal; (Front) Rosamae Swoape, Becky Stypka.
Make a Gift

Now is a critical time for funding in the humanities. For the department to continue to offer the very best in undergraduate education, it is essential that we are able to support innovative teaching, research, and special events. In short, we need your help. Please consider a gift to the Ball State Dept. of Philosophy & Religious Studies.

To donate, mail checks to:
Ball State University Foundation
P.O. Box 762
Muncie, IN 47308
foundation@bsu.edu

Enter the fund number on the memo line of the check (see below)

* Make an online gift by visiting: www.bsue.edu/giving *

For more information contact Kelly Shrock, University Development at kkshrock@bsu.edu, 765-285-8261, or toll-free 1-866-953-2653

6501 - Philosophy and Religious Studies General Fund. Donations to this account allow us the greatest flexibility to meet the diverse needs of the department.

6551 - Philosophy and Religious Studies Student Awards and Activities Fund. Initiated by former chair Dr. David Annis, money in this account may be used only to support student activities and achievements.

6503 – Stance Fund. Provides funds to support the welfare, operations, advancement, and production of Stance.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH THE ALUMNI OFFICE: alumni1@bsu.edu