From the Chair
It's been another exciting and productive year in our department, but also a year tempered by loss. The sad news is that Tom Foster passed away in May. Among the good news is that student evaluations of our courses remain among the highest at Ball State. Collectively our faculty published eleven articles, gave nine presentations at national and international conferences, and received four grants. Dr. Joseph Marchal published another book. 2012 Philosophy Graduate Derek Gosman delivered a paper on happiness at a conference at George Mason University. Our majors enjoy success in their pursuit of graduate study: Among others, 2012 Religious Studies graduate Kelsi Morrison-Atkins is off to Harvard and 2012 Philosophy graduate Caleb Mosier has matriculated at NYU. We continue to serve our academic communities by editing journals and leading significant ventures, such as leading other faculty through teaching innovations at the Wabash Center. This fall we will welcome two new contract faculty to our ranks. I hope you enjoy learning more about what we, and you, have been up to, as you read on.

Check out what Rachel Maddow said about taking Philosophy & Ethics at Ball State in Dec. 2011:
http://bsu.edu/web/news/maddow/education/

Tom Foster – In Memoriam
Dr. Thomas R. Foster, Emeritus Professor, 69, passed away Monday, May 28, 2012 at Ball Memorial Hospital following a courageous battle with lung cancer.

Tom joined the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies in 1971. After earning an undergraduate degree from Oberlin College, Tom received his PhD from Ohio State University. His graduate advisor described Tom as “the most promising student in philosophy I have seen.” Tom was promoted to Associate Professor in 1979 and to Full Professor in 1984. During his 41-year career, Foster’s research and teaching were supported by grants from such agencies as the Exxon Foundation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the National Endowment for Humanities.

Tom’s passions were logic and metaphysics, especially the work of Bertrand Russell and identity theory. To paraphrase, the famous American philosopher Hecto-Heri Castaneda said that one couldn’t do serious research in identity theory without mastering the work of Tom Foster.

Tom taught a variety of courses, including some at Burris Laboratory School & BSU’s Honors College. He also trained and supervised a number of talented philosophy to serve as peer mentors of students taking logic.

Tom chaired many sessions of the Philosophy of Time Association meetings, served on the executive committee of the American Association of University Professors, and did two stints as the President of the Indiana Philosophical Association.

Tom is survived by his loving wife Deborah Foster; two children, Joseph Foster and Meredith Foster; three step-children, Carl E. Smith III, Craig Smith, and Danielle Phelps; two brothers, William Foster and Rick Foster; three grandchildren, Taylor Prugh, Jayden Phelps, and Jackson Phelps; former spouse, Suzanne Walker; and two valued friends, David Annis and Michael Slorarz.

For more information about our department, visit our website, bsu.edu/philosophy or bsu.edu/religiousstudies, “like” us on Facebook, or contact any of us individually via email - our addresses are provided with our highlights.
Fall 2011. Our students taught the artists about philosophy and sustainability, and for As guest director of Ball State’s Ball, Stance. Juli Eflin (jeflin2@bsu.edu) led a team of Philosophy and Art students in a Virginia Ball Center Immersive Learning Course in University/Faculty.aspx.

Religious Studies Program Director Jeff Brackett (imbrackett@bsu.edu) led two independent studies this past year: one addressing Yoga Traditions & Globalized “Hinduism” and the other on Hindu Tradition & Ecology: Rivers, Pollution, and Urban Planning. Students in his ethnography course continue to work with Buddhist, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Quaker, Pentecostal and other communities in the Muncie area. His entry “Rāmdās,” appears in Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism, Vol. 4. Jeff plans to spend part of his 2012-2013 sabbatical leading the Wabash Center’s Pre-Tenure Workshop for University Faculty.

Fall 2011 again saw students in Dave Concepción’s (dwconcepcion@bsu.edu) Environmental Ethics class killing invasive species for the Redtail Conservancy in East Central Indiana’s Munsee Woods. His “Increasing Inclusive Pedagogy: A Case Study” was published in the International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. He received grants supporting his work as Director of the American Philosophical Association’s Teaching and Learning Seminar, his work in sustainability, and for Stance. As guest director of Ball State’s Diversity Associates Program, Dave led a team of BSU faculty in a yearlong research project on Inclusive Pedagogy and Diversity. Videos of this research may be viewed at http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/InstitutionalDiversity/Faculty.aspx.

Juli Eflin (jeflin2@bsu.edu) led a team of Philosophy and Art students in a Virginia Ball Center Immersive Learning Course in fall 2011. Our students taught the artists about philosophy and the artists did their best to teach our students how to paint. The class produced a beautiful book of art and philosophic experiences are one of the hallmarks of our department.”

Jeff Fry (jfry@bsu.edu) has implemented three new courses: “Happiness, Ethics, and the Meaning of Life”; “Mind, Brain, and Ethics”; and “Moral Psychology, the Hidden Brain,” and the Pursuit of Happiness” (for Fall 2011). Recent publications include “Making a Comeback,” Sport, Ethics and Philosophy: 5, 1 (February 2011) and “How Coaches Do Things With Words,” in Philosophy of Sport: International Perspectives. He intends to combine his interests in philosophy of mind, ethics, and neuroscience with his long-standing research in philosophy of sport. He serves on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of the Philosophy of Sport and Sport, Ethics and Philosophy: Official Journal of the British Philosophy of Sport Association.

Having led Outstanding Philosophy Senior Derek Gosman in an independent study concerning neurophilosophy, Dr. Fry gives Derek a special gift at the 2012 Student Recognition Day.

This year’s Student Recognition Day was again enriching. Among the presentations were Kayln Sprague, “After the Islamic State: Sources of Authority and New Structures,” Devon Chapman, “The Rationality of Animals,” and Katie Parish, “Contemporary Terms in an Ancient Context: What Does the Bible Really Say about Sex?” The day was capped off by a very engaging talk from Dr. Sandra Shapshay of Indiana University, “Puzzles in the Philosophy of Art: The Case of Tragedy.”

2012 Award Recipients
Outstanding Senior: Philosophy – Derek Gosman
Outstanding Senior: Religious Studies – Kelsi Morrison-Atkins
Essay Prize Winner: Philosophy
Michael Felton, “Can I Be A Stoic-Intuitionist”
Essay Prize Winner: Religious Studies
Kelsi Morrison-Atkins, “A Better Place: Revelation’s Dys/Utopia”
New members of Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy Honor Society):
Derek Barnes, Kayla Crandall, Ashli Godfrey, Katie Higginbotham, Waled Ma’rouf, Harrison Null

Dr. Marchal’s New Book
Studying Paul’s Letters: Contemporary Perspectives and Methods

“... the essays in Studying Paul’s Letters ... demonstrate cutting-edge Pauline scholarship in ways that remain highly accessible for beginning students.”

Robert Paul Seeengood Albright College

“A course on Paul today, whether for the undergraduate or seminary level, would be woefully lacking without this text.”

Jennifer Bird Greensboro College
Graduation, May 2012

(Left to Right): (Back) Alex Bradshaw, Jacob Taylor, Dr. Concepcion, Caleb Mosier, Dr. Marchal; (Front) Veronica Buckler, Belkisa Hrustanovic, Kelsi Morrison-Atkins, Derek Gosman, Dominic Martyn, Dr. Eflin.

Religious Studies Alumni News

George Taylor ('07) works for the Forestry Department in Elkhart, IN; Benjamin Coyle ('99) teaches special education in Chicago, IL; Steven Gray ('93) is a pastor in Warsaw, IN; Jane Stanley ('89) is executive director of Life Care Centers in Mt. Vernon, WA; Peggy Harvey-Marose ('80) is a park ranger in Lewiston, ID; Leslie Decker ('78) owns Hickory Creek Consulting in Wisconsin.

Philosophy Alumni News

Paul Greiner ('07) is assistant director of wholesale operations for a gardening company in Indianapolis, IN; Timothy Osborn ('93) is a captain in the Muncie Police Department in Muncie, IN; Matthew Carr ('92) is an artist representative in New York, NY; Beth Strickland ('86) is editor-at-Large for Rodale Inc, in Emmaus, PA; Randy Brooks ('75) is dean of teaching and learning at Millikin University in Decatur, IL; Geoffrey Gephart ('74) is president of Arts Unlimited in Fort Wayne, IN; Charles Riddle ('67) is a Sales and Marketing Director in Oregon.

Stance (http://stance.iweb.bsu.edu/)

Immersive learning, the heart of a Ball State education, melds content, skills, societal need, and students’ interests into an intense, transformative experience. The result is a final product that enhances the community with a lasting impact.

The Immersive Learning course in the philosophy program is Stance: An International Undergraduate Philosophy Journal. 2012 Editor-in-Chief Caleb Mosier and other Ball State students train and lead an international team of undergraduates in all aspects of editing and production. To date we have trained external reviewers or worked with authors from countries including South Korea, the U.K., Ireland, Slovenia, Australia, Canada, Iran, & Hungary.

Stance is national award-winning, having earned the American Philosophical Association Prize for Excellence and Innovation in Philosophy Programs.

Other marks of distinction include:

- Only undergraduate journal of sufficient quality to be listed in The Philosopher’s Index
- Highest quality, approximately 90% rejection rate
- International Standard Serial Number (print and electronic) with the U.S. Library of Congress
- Contract with major distributor, EBSCO Publishing Co.

If you would like a copy, just let us know.

Faculty Highlights

In addition to directing an independent study for senior Michael Felton, Kevin Harrelson (kharrelson@bsu.edu) taught a new course “Personal Identity and Public Narrative” in BSU’s Honors College in the spring 2012. Recent presentations include “Hegel’s Logic and Neo-Pragmatism” at Technische Universitaet Darmstadt, Germany and “Aenesidemus redivivus” at the Fichte Society Conference in Montreal, Canada. Kevin’s research is supported by the quite competitive grants he earns. Recent publications include “Theology, History, and Religious Identification” in Sophia: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion and “Narrative Pedagogy for Introduction to Philosophy,” in Teaching Philosophy. He remains beloved as the Advisor of the Philosophy Club.

Recent Grads: Send Kevin an email update.

Kalumba (kkalumba@bsu.edu) continues to take African Philosophy students to Uganda where they interview philosophy professors and students, cultural leaders, religious leaders and ordinary Ugandans. Recent publications include: “Is Anarchism Inevitable?” in Philosophy Study. Recent work includes “Obugagga Bw’Oluganda” (The Richness of Luganda) delivered at the Ttabamiruka Conference in Chicago. Kalumba continues as editor-in-Chief of Philosophia Africana, where he employs BSU philosophy major Kai Bennett as an assistant.


Philosophy Club
http://philclub.iweb.bsu.edu/default.html
President: Harrison Null - hrnull@bsu.edu

Religious Studies Club
http://www.facebook.com/groups/174647329283894/
President: Kayln Sprague - bsureligiousstudiesclub@gmail.com

NEW FACULTY

Justin Ritzinger earned his PhD from Harvard. His specialty is East Asian religions, particularly Chinese Buddhism. Regarding learning Justin says: “The study of the humanities is fundamentally reflexive. In studying human thought, practices, and societies ... we investigate ourselves as human beings. As such, learning should be not an additive but a transformative process.”

Ingrid Albrecht comes to us from the Univ. of Illinois. Her expertise is in ethics, especially Kant, and moral psychology. Regarding teaching Ingrid says: “The study of philosophy has to begin in confusion.... My goal...is to get students willing to express themselves and engage seriously with scholarship in the midst of that disorientation.”
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

Make a gift online by visiting:
www.bsu.edu/giving

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For more information contact Darleen Lugbenhul, University Development at
dmlugbenhul@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. Used 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 Association: alumni1@bsu.edu