

DEPARTMENT OF

PHILOSOPHY NEWS

FALL 2021

Faculty news

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends:

After more than a year and a half of fully online instruction, it's great to see students and faculty back in the classroom. As part of the University's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Philosophy moved all of its activities and courses online starting in March of 2020. We continued to teach all courses online during the 2020-2021 academic year. This fall semester marks the return to fully in-person instruction, although ISU will continue to require students and faculty to wear face coverings inside university buildings.

Because of the pandemic and the fact that we were all working remotely, the department did not publish an alumni newsletter during the 2019-2020 or the 2020-2021 academic years, so we have some catching up to do in this letter. In August 2019, we celebrated our 50th year as an official university department with the authority to offer a formal bachelor's degree in philosophy.

Several departmental members won extremely prestigious awards from the College of Arts and Science (CAS) and the University. **Dr. Daniel Breyer** was awarded both the University Outstanding Teaching award and the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award for 2019. These are the highest honors the college and university offer to recognize faculty for their work as instructors, both inside and outside the classroom. Breyer was also nominated for the very prestigious and competitive Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. The Cherry Award is an international prize awarded by Baylor University to honor the best teachers from any university in the English-speaking world.

Dr. Eric Godoy was nominated by the department and CAS for the University Outstanding Teaching Initiative Award. CAS also recognized the outstanding work of **Emeritus Professor Dr. Kenton Machina** by naming him to the college's Emeriti Hall of Fame.



Dr. Daniel Breyer



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Dr. Eric Godoy



Dr. Kenton Machina

Crystal Scheiman, the department's truly outstanding and indispensable administrative aide, was recognized with the University Civil Service Distinguished Service Award.



Dr. Crystal Scheiman



Dr. Cassie Herbert

The department is very pleased to welcome our newest colleague, **Dr. Cassie Herbert**. She enjoys a joint appointment with the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. She earned her Ph.D. from Georgetown University and specializes in philosophy of language, feminist philosophy, and social philosophy.



Dr. Lana Kühle



Dr. Alison Bailey



In other faculty news, **Dr. Lana Kühle** was promoted to associate professor and awarded tenure in August of 2020. **Dr. Alison Bailey's** highly anticipated book, *The Weight of Whiteness: Feminist Meditations on Privilege, Race, and Ignorance*, was published in the spring of 2021. **Breyer** completed his third major project as part of the award-winning *The Great Courses* series of online lectures.



Dr. David Sanson

Two members of the faculty were awarded publishing contracts for forthcoming books: **Dr. David Sanson** with Oxford University Press and **Breyer** with Routledge Press. Over the last two years, philosophy faculty members have produced a total of 25 scholarly publications, presented their work at 12 international conferences held outside the U.S., and another 15 conferences held in the U.S.

While the pandemic has certainly presented us with significant challenges, the ISU philosophy faculty and students continue to do outstanding work in the classroom and in their scholarship. I'm looking forward to another very successful and productive academic year.

Cheers,
Christopher Horvath, Department Chair

Recent graduates

Summer 2018

Krystal Dean
Katie Foree
Alyssa Kaiser

Fall 2018

Mathew Clark
Doel Diaz
Isaac Walker

Spring 2019

Jack Baratka
Jason Belzer
Sara Berndt
Kevin Dasbach
Jacob Pawlowski
Scott Pringle
Calvin Wiegand
Lupe Zenon

Summer 2019

Michael Kelley
Jordan Wilken

Fall 2019

Adi Bukkapatnam
Frankie Costabile
Connor Flanders
Amanda Peters

Spring 2020

Chad Bishop
Grant Goldman
Laura Herrera
Megan Kalafut
Patrick King
Mitchell Lingenfelter
Mackenna Marozas
Charlie Michka
Hanna Richter
Kyli Selburg
Alexis Swanson

Summer 2020

Norman Clark

Fall 2020

Dante Caruso
Dania Floroiu
Kristin Gardner
Maggie Jackson
Brandi Lee
Kevin Mickelson
Benjamin Senffner

Spring 2021

Micah Giavaras
Ben Kordek
Holden Marshall
Alec Panici
Tyler Spisak

Student Awards

In spring 2019, the department decided it was time to take a fresh look at the awards given to outstanding philosophy students. With a large portion of students transferring from other institutions or majors into philosophy, a better way to recognize student progression in the program was needed. With the costs of higher education always increasing, the department wanted to better support its most outstanding students.

Responding to these concerns, the Scholarship Committee met and devised a new structure for awards. Rather than divide them into yearly awards for freshman through senior years, they were divided into the following categories: New Philosophy Student recognizing freshman and new transfer students who show great potential; Outstanding Philosophy Student recognizing current students with experience in philosophy and still working toward their degree; and Outstanding Graduating Student Award, which remains the same as in the previous system. The Essay Prize remains unchanged. A new look at our available award funding allowed us to double the amount of every award offered. The first winners under the new system were recognized in 2020.

All these awards are supported by alumni endowments and private gifts. Donations to our award funds, as well as to our general excellence funds, are always welcome and encouraged. Your support helps our students succeed!

Student Award Winners

2019

Department of Philosophy Outstanding Senior:

Scott Pringle
Patrick King

The Scott Elliott Outstanding Junior Philosophy Student:

Alexis Swanson
Austin Gharst
Kyli Selburg

The Scott Elliott Outstanding Freshman Philosophy Student:

Kelly Innis

The Scott Elliott Essay Prize:

Kyli Selburg, "The Monstrous Paradox of Faith"

2020

The Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Outstanding Graduating Student Award:

Dante Caruso
Megan Kalafut

The Scott Elliott Outstanding Philosophy Student Award:

Holden Marshall
Anellia Pierce

The Scott Elliott Outstanding New Philosophy Student Award:

Samuel Wolski

2021

The Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Outstanding Graduating Student Award:

Holden Marshall

The Scott Elliott Outstanding Philosophy Student Award:

Anellia Pierce
Leila White

The Scott Elliott Award for Outstanding New Philosophy Student:

Payton Murillo-Huhn

The Scott Elliott Essay Prize:

Anellia Pierce, "Buddhism and the Moral Status of Animals"
Brooke Morenz, "Causal Overdetermination and its Role in the Existence of Ordinary Objects"

Undergraduate Philosophy Research

A number of philosophy students have made important contribution to philosophical scholarship by presenting their research at conferences and symposia. Most recently, **Patrick King** presented his paper, “Neurological Enhancement and the Problem of Authenticity,” at the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville 2020 Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. King’s participation in the SIU-E conference was funded by the Scott Elliott Endowment in Philosophy. The following research projects were presented at the ISU Research Symposium, held annually in April:

- Adityakiran Bukkapatnam – “Naturalizing Knowledge”
- Rendell Iguodala – “Epistemological Justification: How Do You Know?”
- Megan Kalafut – “Football Pool Problem”
- Patrick King – “Duty to Object”
- Ashley Salzman – “A Case Against Scientology as a Recognized Religion in The United States”
- Nicolette Sheffield – “Chicago’s Millenium Park: Finding Nature in The City”
- Maisam Yousef – “Wisdom”

Costs associated with the production of the posters for each of these presentations were covered by a Teaching Innovations Grant awarded to Dr. Daniel Breyer and by the Scott Elliott Endowment in Philosophy.

Alumni Updates

We would like to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of our alumni in upcoming newsletters. If you graduated from ISU and either majored or minored in philosophy and would like us to acknowledge a recent event in your life (e.g. finished a graduate degree, started a new job, received a promotion, won an award, etc.) send us an email at philosophy@ilstu.edu and let us know! Include a mention of the year you graduated in the message, and we’ll include it in our next newsletter.

Charles D. Edwards ’74 (a.k.a. Charlie Quaker)

After 30 years working in the music industry in Chicago followed by 15 years at Milner Library, I have finally retired. Currently my time is spent listening to the library of music I have acquired, absorbing the tentacles of life, and holding down the living room sofa.

Tyson Mohr ’06

Tyson Mohr lives in Bloomington and has started a podcast called “Pod BN,” which features interviews with people doing big things in Bloomington-Normal. He gets into some philosophical topics now and then, so be sure to give it a listen. Mohr was a Bone Scholar and received the Department of Philosophy Outstanding Senior Scholarship.

Sarah Kahn ’11

In 2018, I married my husband, whom I met in law school. In March 2021, I became assistant legal counsel for the Teachers’ Retirement System of the State of Illinois (TRS).

THANK YOU!

The Department of Philosophy faculty and staff would like to thank all the friends and alumni who have very generously offered their support the past year. We are fortunate to have three foundation funds that provide vital support to the department and students.

The **Scott Elliott Endowment in Philosophy** exists due to the generous donation of Scott Elliott, an alum of the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Economics. The endowment is used to support faculty and student scholarship. The Outstanding Philosophy Student Scholarship, the Outstanding New Philosophy Student, and the Scott Elliott Essay Prize are all supported by this endowment. This endowment also helps support the Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series.

The **Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Fund** began with a generous donation from Professor Kenneth Kennard, the first Philosophy Department chair. This fund supports the Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Outstanding Graduating Student Scholarship. The department also receives support from the **Department of Philosophy Excellence Fund**. Among other initiatives, this fund supports the department’s Textbook Award. It provides resources to students who need financial assistance in purchasing the books and materials required for their philosophy courses. It also provides funds to allow students to travel to undergraduate philosophy conferences.

If you are interested in supporting the department and our students, please consider making a donation to either the Kenneth and Marilyn Kennard Fund or the Philosophy Excellence Fund! You can do so using the form on the back or online at Giving.IllinoisState.edu.



For more information, visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu

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