

## Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2013

**Feature Emeritus: Dr. Tom Regan**

Tom Regan, PhD (Virginia), joined the NC State philosophy faculty in 1967. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1972 and to Professor in 1978. Tom served as Department Head in 1995-99. He retired in January 2002 after more than 34 years of distinguished service at NC State.

Tom taught introductory philosophy and a wide range of ethics courses in those decades. A dedicated and inspiring teacher, Tom soon developed a following among NC State students. He received Outstanding Teacher Awards in 1970 and 1975 and an Alumni Distinguished Professor Award in 1977.

A prolific scholar with a stellar international reputation, Tom published over twenty books and hundreds of articles while at NC State. He also gave numerous professional and public lectures, and served as a Visiting Distinguished Scholar at the University of Calgary in 1977, at Brooklyn College in 1982, and at Eastern Michigan University in 1996.

His influence extended far beyond the halls of academia, primarily through his work on animal rights. *The Case for Animal Rights*, Tom's most famous book, published in 1983 by the University of California Press, had an enormous impact, securing a place for the idea of animal rights on both the philosophical and the public agenda. It also put NC State philosophy on the world map, and persuaded many readers to change their moral attitudes toward animals.

Tom's outreach activities included public lectures to audiences of educators, policymakers, students and the general public across the state, the nation and the world. His topics included not only animal rights, but also other major moral issues from abortion and the death penalty to land-use policy and the rights of children.

Tom received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship in 1980/81 for work on *The Case for Animal Rights* and a National Humanities Center Fellowship in 1984/85 for his important contribution to

the history of philosophy: *Bloomsbury's Prophet: the Moral Philosophy of G. E. Moore* (Temple University Press, 1986). He received the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Research Award in 1987.

Among many other public honors, Tom received the Gandhi Award in 1986 for



*Tom Regan giving his keynote address, "The Seed Never Sees the Flower," on the 100th anniversary of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, June 2007.*

outstanding contributions to the animal rights movement, and the Joseph Crutch Memorial Medal from the Humane Society of the United States in 1987.

In 2000, Tom was awarded the Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence for his outstanding career contributions to NC State. This is the highest honor that the University can bestow on one of its faculty.

On his retirement in 2002, the NC State Libraries established the Tom Regan Animal Rights Archive, the first such archive in the world.

Tom still works in his office in the D. H. Hill Library. Since his retirement, he has published forty articles, eight new books, and a second edition of *The Case for Animal Rights*. He has also given public lectures both nationally and internationally, and received several honors and awards.

Tom also directs and advances the Culture and Animals Foundation, which he and his wife Nancy established to expand humankind's understanding and appreciation of other animals and improve the ways in which they are treated.

In December 2009, the Utne Reader named Tom as "one of the 50 visionaries who are changing your view of the world."

**BILL ADLER GETS UNIVERSITY CHAIR**

Dr. William Adler, Professor of Religious Studies, has been appointed as Distinguished University Professor in recognition of his outstanding scholarship and contributions to NC State.

An extraordinarily gifted scholar, Bill is a leading world expert in early Christian chronography. He is considered an original, painstaking, careful, and thorough researcher who is not afraid to explore difficult, overlooked, or unfashionable subjects. His monograph *Time Immemorial* has been described as "a field-changing work of scholarship."

Bill has received several scholarly

honors, fellowships, and awards. His many scholarly publications, which include several major books that are products of international collaborations, are widely admired and respected.

At NC State, Bill has served with distinction on many department, college, and university committees. He is a member of the Academy of Outstanding Teachers and an Alumni Outstanding Undergraduate Professor. He was awarded NC State's Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence in 2009.

Bill describes his current scholarship in an article on page 2 of this *Newsletter*.

# Department News

## WORK IN PROGRESS: ADLER ON BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION IN BYZANTINE CHRISTIANITY

In this article, the fourth in the series, Bill Adler describes his major new scholarly projects.

Two longstanding projects recently resulted in the publication of books: a new edition and translation of the *Cesti* of Julius Africanus (de Gruyter 2012), on which I collaborated with scholars from Basel, Lausanne, and Rome, and *The Cambridge History of Religions in the Ancient World*, Volume Two (Cambridge University Press, 2013), which I edited.

I found work on both books rewarding, but I am glad to have time for something else. Oxford University Press recently invited me to contribute a study on the reception history of the *Book of Jubilees* to a new monograph series. *Jubilees*, a Jewish elaboration of Genesis originally composed in Hebrew in the second century BCE, was later translated into Greek, Syriac, Ethiopic and Latin. My work will help satisfy a longstanding interest in how *Jubilees* became so popular in the Christian East.

When I recently prepared a new translation of the *Palaea Historica* for a forthcoming collection of Old Testament pseudepigrapha, I had no choice but to use an outdated Greek edition. So I decided to undertake a new edition of this important, but neglected, example of middle-Byzantine piety and biblical interpretation. I am now transcribing the thirteen Greek witnesses to the *Palaea Historica*. This is painstaking work, but my skill at deciphering Byzantine manuscripts is improving.

Phase two of the project will analyze and trace the history of textual variants. The work is partially quantitative, so I plan to do the kind of digital analysis that, at least in Greek philology, is still in its infancy. The project will take a few years, but Corpus Christianorum has expressed an interest in publishing the edition in *Series Graeca*.

Along with several smaller writing projects, I will have more than enough to keep me out of trouble until retirement.

## FACULTY PROMOTION

Timothy Hinton, PhD (MIT), Associate Professor of Philosophy, has been approved for promotion to Professor in August 2013. Tim joined the Department in 1996 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2002.

Tim works on political philosophy and the foundations of morality. He has published articles in a number of forums, including *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Analysis*, *The Review of Metaphysics*, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Philosophy and Theology*, and *The Journal of Social Philosophy*.

Tim is currently editing *The Original Position*, a new collection of critical essays on John Rawls's groundbreaking work that provides a model for the idea of impartial reasoning in moral and political philosophy. The book is scheduled for publication by Cambridge University Press in 2015.

## EXPERT IN JAPANESE RELIGIONS APPOINTED

NC State's faculty in Religious Studies has been strengthened by the appointment of a new tenure-track Assistant Professor who specializes in East Asian religions, with a focus on Japanese religions.

The new faculty member, Levi McLaughlin, joined the Department in Fall 2012. Levi has a BA in Japanese Studies and an MA in East Asian studies from the University of Toronto, and a PhD in Religious Studies from Princeton. He was Assistant Professor at Wofford College from 2009 until 2012 and a Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Iowa's Center for Asian and Pacific Studies in 2011/12.

Levi has done extensive research in Japan and has been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, University of Singapore.

An expert on the lay Buddhist group Sōka Gakkai, Japan's largest active religious organization, Levi is completing a book called *Sōka Gakkai: Buddhism and Romantic Heroism in Modern Japan*.

His future projects will include investigations of contributions by Japanese religious groups to the rise of global humanitarianism through disaster rescue and relief campaigns, political engagement, and other initiatives that challenge prevailing assumptions about what "religion" is and what religious people and organizations do.

This summer, Levi is spending several weeks in Japan, where he will continue fieldwork with grassroots-level Sōka Gakkai adherents in Tokyo and in communities along the northeast coast that are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disasters.

Levi has increased the number of internationals in the Department to six, which is slightly over 30% of the tenured and tenure-track faculty. He is not only a Canadian, but a Canadian with a mother of Russian-Jewish extraction and an Irish-Canadian father. Hence the name: Levi McLaughlin. It's great to have him on board.



Tim Hinton, who has been approved for promotion to Professor (see this page), Bill Adler, who has been named Distinguished University Professor (see page 1), and Levi McLaughlin, who was recently appointed to the Department (see this page).

## GIFT COMMEMORATES BOB HAMBOURGER

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Student Awards Fund has been boosted by a generous donation. The gift was made by the Hambourger family in memory of the late Dr. Robert M. ("Bob") Hambourger (1944–2009), a member of the philosophy faculty for 27 years.

The Department expressed its gratitude to the

Hambourger family at its Student Awards Reception on February 27.

Bob published articles on philosophy of mathematics, theory of knowledge and philosophy of religion, but in his professional life he saw himself first and foremost as a teacher of philosophy. At NC State, he taught over 7,700 students in 129 course sections.

Bob also served on important committees that give direction to the University's teaching mission, including the NC State Council on Undergraduate Education and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, which he chaired for three years.

Bob was a passionate and principled man, and a long-standing champion of general education and the interests and well-being of students. A donation aimed at students is a fitting tribute to his memory.

### PASS IT ON

We would like to include more news about alums in future newsletters. If you receive a major award or honor, or have a significant achievement (such as earning a higher degree, publishing a book, or getting appointed to a position of leadership), we would like to know. Please send your news to Ken Peters at [kepeters@ncsu.edu](mailto:kepeters@ncsu.edu).

## STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Two outstanding seniors received awards at the Department's third annual Student Awards Reception on February 27. The awards were presented by Professor W. Curtis Fitzgerald, an emeritus faculty member who retired in 1992 after 36 years of distinguished service. (See the "Feature Emeritus" article on Professor Fitzgerald in our June 2012 *Newsletter*.)

The winner of the Religious Studies Prize, which is named in honor of Professor Fitzgerald, was Amanda Margaret Jones. Amanda, who is President of the Academic Study of Religion Club, will graduate in December 2013 with a BA in Religious Studies, a BA in General Psychology, and a Minor in Linguistics. She is in the University Scholars Program, has a GPA of 4.0, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

After graduating, Amanda hopes to find a job connected with school psychology, work for a few years, and then apply for admission to a PhD program in school psychology with the aim of working professionally in a clinical setting.

The Philosophy Prize in Honor of Professor Robert S. Bryan was awarded to Kevin J. Blackwell. Kevin graduated *summa cum laude* with a BS in Philosophy with Honors and a BS in Physics in May 2013. He was a Goodnight Scholar, a University Valedictorian, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and a recipient of the Department's Highest Scholastic Achievement Award.

Kevin is moving on to the University of Michigan's prestigious PhD program in philosophy, where he plans to concentrate on the philosophy of physics. He will be the Department's third graduate to enter a top-ten PhD program in philosophy since 2009. It is a tribute to the quality of our major that each of these three students was admitted to several of the nation's leading graduate programs in philosophy.

### How Our Disciplines Made a Difference

Asked how they benefitted from their departmental majors, here's what our award winners said.

Amanda: "Many people think my Religious Studies degree will benefit me most by making me aware of different religious traditions around the world. While I agree that the program has given me a much broader and more informed understanding of the variety of different expressions of religiosity, it has also given me much more. The field is all about critical thinking and making connections between and among groups. By majoring in Religious Studies, I have been able to hone that skill so much so that I can apply it in nearly every aspect of my life. I now look at situations from many perspectives and try to understand how different groups work together in the ways they do. The ability to think critically and attend to details is the most important aspect of my degree that I will take into the future, regardless of where I end up."

Kevin: "Studying philosophy at NC State has been a tremendously enriching and enjoyable experience; adding the philosophy major to my

physics major was one of the best decisions I've made so far. Though the Department has many excellent professors, I especially want to thank Dr. Puryear and Dr. Carroll, who have had to put up with me the most and who have both been invaluable sources of help. I would also like to thank all the other philosophy professors I've taken courses with: Dr. Auerbach, Dr. Pendlebury, Dr. Austin, Dr. Mabrito, and Dr. Hafner.

"While the best reason to study philosophy is love of the subject, I would encourage anyone interested in philosophy who is committed to another major to consider also majoring (or minoring) in philosophy. You may discover that philosophy is what you most want to pursue. This was my experience: as much as I am interested in studying physics, I love doing philosophy. But if you decide to pursue something else, the skills you will develop in understanding, critically evaluating, and making arguments will alone prove the worth of your philosophy degree. I also think philosophy is a birthright. Almost everyone has been fascinated at some point by a philosophical question, but too many have had this intellectual curiosity crushed. Studying philosophy is one of the best ways to allow your curiosity and love of learning to flourish."



**Student Award Winners Amanda Jones (Religious Studies Prize in Honor of Professor W. Curtis Fitzgerald) and Kevin Blackwell (Philosophy Prize in Honor of Professor Robert S. Bryan).**

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of Robert S. ("Bob") Metzger (1925-2013) on January 15 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill at the age of 87.

Bob retired as Associate Professor of Philosophy in 1988 after 30 years at NC State. His teaching included courses in philosophy of science, early modern philosophy, logic, and practical reasoning. Bob was a casual cosmopolitan with an offhand, yet thorough, knowledge of literature, world history, French food, and the corpus of works for his beloved cello. He is survived by his wife Eva, six children, and ten grandchildren.

## NEWSBITES

**STUDENT WINS CREATIVE ARTIST AWARD:** Michael Seebold, now a senior in Philosophy and English, won the 2012 ARTS NC STATE Creative Artist Award in Theater for his original play *The Spyglass Seven*. The eerie and thoughtful play is about a single night when a deceased Edgar Allen Poe is given the chance to find his soul mate. The play was introduced to the community through a reading at Titmus Theater in Thompson Hall in April 2013.

**MAJOR ANNIVERSARIES:** This year two members of the faculty have completed thirty years of service in the Department: Dr. David F. Austin, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Associate Head of Department, and Dr. Mary Kathleen Cunningham, Associate Professor of Religious Studies.

**FACULTY MEMBER TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF NONPROFIT:** Dr. Karey A. Harwood, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, is taking unpaid leave from the Department in 2013/14 in order to serve as the first Executive Director of Public Schools First North Carolina.

**DEPARTMENT HISTORY:** A very brief history of the Department was posted on its website in March 2013. For a link to this history, see the bottom of the news column on the Department's homepage (<http://www.ncsu.edu/chass/philo/>).

**BOWLING SMACKDOWN:** The philosophy students and faculty regained the title from the religious studies students and faculty in the Department's annual Bowling Smackdown in April 2013. The Golden Bowling Pin was presented to Tim Prudhomme, President of the Philosophy Club, at the Department's graduation ceremony in May. The overall record in the Smackdown series is: Religious Studies 6, Philosophy 6.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Veronika "Oki" Leicht, BA in Philosophy '95**, moved back to Germany in '97. After a few years in different jobs, she continued her education in Social Management at the Lutheran University of Applied Sciences in Nuernberg, graduating with a Masters degree in 2005. She is currently enrolled in a PhD program at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuernberg. She has been working at the Federal Employment Agency, first as a counselor for young unemployment benefit recipients and currently in the BI-reporting department. Her PhD dissertation is based on her experiences in her first position at the agency: she is doing research on biographical learning processes of young unemployment benefit recipients. One of her three daughters is in school and lives at home; one works nearby as a geriatric nurse; and one is married, lives in the USA, and works in child care. Oki's husband, Juergen, is a software engineer.

**Charles Fulbright Holden, BA in Philosophy '95 and BA in Architecture '99**, founded Oxide Architecture and Oxide Structure in Raleigh, NC in 2006, where he leads an innovative architect-build team to "poetically and skillfully create modern single family custom homes and commercial projects that are sustainable, significant, and sensuous."

**Jeff Mathis, BA in Religious Studies and BA in Communication '97**, is the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sylva, NC. Upon graduating in 1997, Jeff studied at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he received a Master of Divinity in 2001. He served churches in western North Carolina before coming to First Baptist Church in Sylva in 2012. He and his wife, Rebecca, have two small children.

**Charles Kinnin, Jr., BS in Philosophy '03**, became deputy senior editor for Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers in Stuart, FL, in December 2012. Previously, he was a production editor at *The Post and Courier* of Charleston, SC. He helps manage the copy and design desk for *The Stuart News*, *Indian River Press Journal*, *St. Lucie News-Tribune*, and *Independent Mail* of Anderson, SC.

**Jake Gellar-Goad, BA in Philosophy '06 and Master of Public Administration '11**, is the Eastern NC Organizer with the nonprofit Democracy North Carolina, working on the promotion of good government, clean elections, nonpartisan voter registration, and civic engagement. He lives with his husband, Ted, a professor of classics and ancient languages at Wake Forest University.

**John Gonzalez, BA in Philosophy '09**, graduated in 2012 from Boston University School of Law, concentrating in corporate law. He passed the NY Bar exam in July 2012 and is pursuing an LLM in International Banking, Finance, and Restructuring at King's College London. He will be graduating from King's in January and hopes to move to Miami or back to Puerto Rico and maybe get into politics in the future. John says, "It would be nice to finally make Puerto Rico the 51st state. What I learned in philosophy guides me every day and has structured my thinking so that the challenges that have come about have become easier."

## THE WAY IT WAS

**Catherine (Mitchell) Fuentes, BA in Philosophy '94. MA and PhD in Anthropology (University of Connecticut 2005).** She is currently a Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. She reminisces here about her experiences as a philosophy student at NC State.

I first came to NC State in 1990 as a part-time student. I was not sure what I wanted to major in, but quickly settled on philosophy. For the first time as a student, I found coursework such as the philosophy of science with David Austin, logic with David Auerbach, and ontology with Randy Carter to be inviting, challenging, and relevant in daily life.

I was thrilled to find other students who shared my passion. We spent many hours at Bruegger's and Mitch's Tavern discussing assigned readings. I attended meetings of the philosophy club and, in my senior year, served as president. I also enjoyed my time as a teaching assistant to Dr. Auerbach. I discovered how much I really like the challenge of helping students understand tricky subjects.

The professors and staff (Ann was there!) were so supportive that I felt I had found a campus family. I learned invaluable skills that are essential in my current work as an anthropologist. My training in deductive logic put me ahead of my peers in graduate school. I was able to write strong grant proposals and research papers based on structured arguments. Perhaps the most valuable life-skill I obtained from my studies in philosophy was how to consider important issues from new and unique perspectives, the cornerstone of understanding cross-cultural differences in the way people think and behave.

Today, I advise anthropology majors to take courses in philosophy. I explain that philosophy is not just a subject, but a method of analysis that is useful for any occupation.

## LOOKING BACK

### Department News from the Past

**2002/03:** Harold Levin, Associate Professor of Philosophy, resigns as Interim Department Head in June 2003 and enters phased retirement. William Adler, Professor of Religious Studies, publishes *The Chronography of George Synkellos* (Oxford U.P.) with Paul Tuffin of the University of Adelaide; Gary Comstock, newly appointed to NC State as Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Research Ethics Program, publishes *Life Science Ethics* (Iowa State Press); Christine Pierce, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, publishes the third edition of *The Environmental Ethics and Policy Book* (Wadsworth) with Donald VanDeVeer, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy.

**1992/93:** One hundred six students are majoring in philosophy: sixty-nine in the BA in Philosophy, fourteen in the BS in Philosophy, thirteen in the BA in Philosophy with a Concentration in Religious Studies, and ten in the BA in Philosophy with a Concentration in Philosophy of Law. Twenty-five students graduate with philosophy degrees, three *summa cum laude*, one *magna cum laude*, and three *cum laude*. Twenty-one students graduate with a departmental minor: fourteen in Philosophy, six in Religious Studies, and one in Cognitive Science.

**1982/83:** Robert Hambourger, (PhD Rockefeller) is appointed as Associate Professor of Philosophy, Joseph Hoffman (DPhil Oxford) as Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, and Christine Pierce (PhD Syracuse) as Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy. Hambourger remains in the Department until his retirement in 2009; Hoffman moves on to another appointment; Pierce returns to SUNY College of Oswego for 1983/84 and is then appointed to our permanent faculty.

**1972/73:** The Department hosts a public conference on *The Liberation of Female Persons* funded by a grant from the Sperry and Hutchinson Foundation. Speakers include Elizabeth Beardsley of Temple, Hugo Bedau of Tufts, and Judith Jarvis Thomson of MIT. Approximately one thousand people attend.

**1962/63:** The Department becomes a constituent of the newly-minted School of Liberal Arts, which replaces the School of General Studies and is authorized to award degrees. The establishment of the School of Liberal Arts, which was to become the College of Humanities and Social Sciences ("CHASS"), plays a key part in Chancellor Caldwell's transformation of "State College" into NC State University.

## DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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