

PHILOSOPHY NEWSLETTER

March Events

19th - Dr. Jack Kwong will present his paper "Disagreement, Open-mindedness, and Philosophical Practice" in the Spring 2015 Lecture/Seminar Series. It will be held in the Belk Library and Information Commons Lecture Hall Room 114 at 5:30pm.

24th - Fall registration opens.

COFFEE HOUR REMINDER: Every Wednesday from 11am - 2pm in Greer 110A. Come meet fellow majors, minors and faculty over coffee and refreshments!

2015 Fall Course Offerings - A Quick Glance

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Logic I
- Mind, Knowledge and Reality
- Philosophy and Popular Culture
- Selves, Bodies and Cultural Diversity
- Philosophy, Society and Ethics
- Philosophy of Art
- Environmental Ethics
- Philosophy of Love & Sex
- Ancient Philosophy
- Social and Political Philosophy
- Insanity and Ethics
- Metaphysics
- Ethical Theory
- Philosophy of Music

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the philosophy newsletter! Here, you will find the latest news related to the program of philosophy at ASU, including upcoming events, profiles of philosophy majors and minors, faculty and student accomplishments, and ASU Philosophical Society announcements. Future issues will feature alumni news, faculty and student writings, a Q & A section called "Ask a Philosopher", and maybe even a comic strip. If you have any philosophy-related news to report or announcements to make, want to be profiled, or have a piece of writing you want to showcase, send me an email (kwongj@appstate.edu). Do the same, of course, if you are a non-major and are interested in becoming a philosophy major or minor!

Charles Erdman : Why I Study Philosophy

"When people ask me why I'm studying philosophy or what's the point to it, I respond by saying philosophy is in everything. As a Recreation Management major and Philosophy minor I see philosophy taking hold of my life that my other, unphilosophic peers do not experience. In Recreational Management we have a lot of "experiential learning." We study leadership, for instance, by leading. When I take a group of 15 students into the wilderness I do not only study the tangible fundamentals of the trip, such as routes and gear, but I try to implement a deeper experience, one that can be applied from the trail to societal living. For this I thank my studies in philosophy.



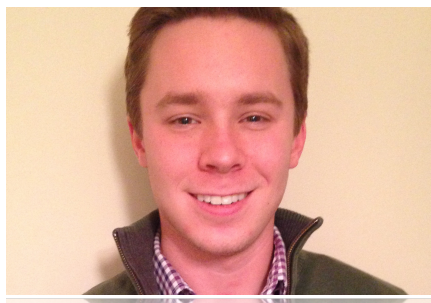
Studies in Stoicism and Aristotle have had a particular impact on my life as well. From Stoicism I've learned how one can live peacefully in the midsts of vast uncertainties, and from Aristotle I've seen how "the good life" becomes utilized when engaging philosophy. My hope, then, is to continue seeing philosophy in everything, especially in what I love- the outdoors."

MAJORS PROFILE



Larissa Cambel

"I'm interested in philosophy because growing up, I'd never been able to do philosophy. I'd ask questions about the world and about why things were the way they were, what constituted the soul, how I should live, what makes happiness, but none of the answers I received were ever very fulfilling. Once I found philosophy, I realized that I could finally at least begin to get at all of the questions I'd been trying to figure out for a long time, and get at them in a far more satisfactory way than I had been. The skills that I've gained from doing philosophy have done nothing but increase my confidence and make me a better speaker, writer, and thinker. I'd never realized how weak or flawed my arguments were before I'd started doing philosophy, or how confident I was in speaking my mind or voicing my reasons for my arguments. The time I've spent doing philosophy has changed all of that. I feel so much better about what I'm saying and what I'm writing and what I'm thinking than I ever have, and all of these skills are applicable to real life, outside of the education environment. Right now, my current philosophical interests are in medical ethics, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, stoicism, and philosophy of music."



Christopher Kerfoot

"My name is Christopher Kerfoot and I am a senior philosophy major here at App State with a minor in religious studies. My philosophical interests lie mainly in discussions of ethics, free will, and the nature of the mind. Currently, my senior research focuses on a teleological argument incorporating the work of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas. I plan to eventually go on to earn a higher degree in Catholic theology and work in some form of Catholic ministry."



Daniel Oakley Tyler

"In terms of my interests in Philosophy, my first loves were Nietzsche, Descartes and metaphysics. More recently my studies have encouraged an interest in existentialism, normative ethics and a lot of Kant. After school I am planning to pursue a career in the armed forces. A large part of my focus in philosophy has been aimed at improving my critical thinking, open mindedness and other general purpose tools that will be useful wherever I end up."



Britnie Smith

"Hello, my name is Britnie Smith. I am a Philosophy major here at Appalachian State University, as well as a photography minor. This path has really more chosen me, rather than the other way around. My original path was to become a U.S. Marine, however that did not work out as I had planned. So naturally I decide to study everything against it... just kidding. In all seriousness though what I hope to achieve with these two subjects of study is to be able to open the eyes of many people, to be able to help society. I hope to one day be running my own Global Magazine discussing issues around the world. After I finish my education here at Appalachian I would like to study abroad, in the UK, and be able to earn my Doctoral degree at Cambridge University. "

Recently Declared Majors

Ryann Greene

Nicholas Howell

Caleb McCroury

Britnie Smith

FACULTY RESEARCH

Patrick Rardin

Dr. Rardin presented his paper "A Defense of Nelson Goodman" at the North Carolina Philosophical Society conference in February. Here is the abstract: "Lars Leeten argues that Nelson Goodman's constructional epistemology leads to the incoherence of his irrealism. Leeten revises Goodman's constructionalism by equating it with Wittgenstein's critique of language games and recommends dropping Goodman's epistemology and irrealism. This paper defends Goodman's epistemology and his irrealism without revising his constructionalism."

Christopher Bartel

Dr. Bartel's paper "The Metaphysics of Mash-Ups" has been accepted for publication in *the Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. Here is the abstract: "Accounts of the ontology of musical works seek to uncover what metaphysically speaking a musical work is and how we should identify instances of musical works. In this paper I examine the curious case of the mash-up and seek to address two questions: are mash-ups musical works in their own right and what is the relationship between the mash-up and its source materials? As mash-ups are part of the broader tradition of rock, I situate this discussion within an ontology of rock as defended by Theodore Gracyk and Stephen Davies and offer some interpretation as to what their positions might be in regard to mash-ups. Finally, I argue that the account of mash-ups that best makes sense of our evaluative practices would hold that they are emergent musical works that are distinct in their own right, and yet also happen to be cases of musical works that instantiate parts of other musical works."

Jack Kwong

Dr. Kwong's paper "Open-Mindedness as a Critical Virtue" has been accepted for publication in *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy*. Here is the abstract: "This paper proposes to examine Daniel Cohen's recent attempt to apply virtues to argumentation theory, with special attention given to his explication of how open-mindedness can be regarded as an argumentational or critical virtue. It is argued that his analysis involves a contentious claim about open-mindedness as an epistemic virtue, which generates a tension for agents who are simultaneously both an arguer and a knower (or who strive to be both). I contend that this tension can be eased or resolved by clarifying the nature of open-mindedness and by construing open-mindedness in terms of its function. Specifically, a willingness to take a novel viewpoint seriously is sufficient for making open-mindedness both an epistemic and a critical virtue."

Rick Elmore

Dr. Elmore recently had two articles accepted for publication. See titles and abstracts below.

1) "Ecological Experience: Aesthetics, Life, and the Shudder in Adorno's Critical Theory" in *The Aesthetic Ground of Critical Theory*, edited by Nathan Ross, Rowman and Littlefield (Forthcoming).

Abstract: This paper explores the contributions of Adorno's critical theory to environmental ethics, with a particular focus on Adorno's analysis of aesthetic experiences of beauty.

2) "The bindings are there as a safeguard": Sovereignty and Political Decisions in *BioShock Infinite*. *BioShock and Philosophy*. Edited by Luke Cuddy. Routledge, 2015 (Forthcoming).

Abstract: This paper explores the the role of sovereignty and political founding in *BioShock Infinite* arguing that *BioShock* offers a critique of American political sovereignty understood in terms of Carl Schmitt's notion of the friend/enemy distinction as the foundation of political power.

Kim Hall



Dr. Hall recently guest edited the *Hypatia* special issue "New Conversations in Feminist Disability Studies". According to her, "[t]he essays in this special issue provide insight into how thinking critically about disability creates an opening for interrogation of the borders that define feminist theory, philosophy, and other fields of inquiry." The issue is featured on the front page of *The Philosopher's Eye*. [Click here](#) to access the table of contents and the essays.



Christina Falceto - Club President



"I'm a Philosophy and Psychology major, as well as the president of the App State Philosophical Society. For me, philosophy is all about the love of wisdom. As philosophers we want to ask what no one else thinks to question and hopefully discover something new about the world. When I'm not reading philosophy for class, I try to look for it in art and literature. The beautiful thing about philosophy is that it helps you realize just how small we are and how big we can be, if we want to. I am currently working for Dr. Emery on research on the relationship of emotion and memory and acting as an Instructional Assistant for Dr. Kwong."

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Philosophy Club

We meet every Thursday at 6:30 pm in room 219 of I. G. Greer. Open to all majors and no dues! We encourage anyone who is interested in learning about philosophical ideas and influential figures. Most of us are beginners, so don't afraid to come check us out! Past topics have included everything from Descartes and normative ethics to anarchy and Harry Potter. For March we will be discussing some theories on nihilism, freedom and John Locke.

Club Officers

President: Christina Falceto
Vice President: Jack Leff
Secretary: Patrick Beane
Marketing Director: Evan White
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jack Kwong