Greetings from the Philosophy Department Chair.

In case I haven’t had the chance to meet you yet, let me briefly introduce myself. I joined UNC Charlotte as Chair and Professor of Philosophy in July 2014, and my scholarship and teaching focus on critical philosophy of race, feminist philosophy, American philosophy, and continental philosophy. I’m very excited to be part of the UNC Charlotte’s philosophy department, and for us to be launching our first newsletter.

You’ll discover in the following pages a number of exciting developments and upcoming events: for example, we are offering in spring 2016 our first undergraduate course with a study abroad component, “Existentialism in Paris;” we have new internships, paid and for credit, for our undergraduate majors; and we have developed a new MA research paper in place of the MA thesis in our graduate program. Our Undergraduate Philosophy Club has been active, sponsoring the “7th Annual Student Philosophy Conference on Intersectionality” in spring 2015, and we have designed a new graduate recruitment event to bring more students into our MA program. Meanwhile, our faculty are busy engaging students in their classes, pursuing their research both nationally and internationally, and sharing the fun of doing philosophy with Charlotte community members via intellectual salons in people’s homes.

Feel free to drop me a line: ssullivan@uncc.edu.

We look forward to staying in touch with you!

Sincerely,
Shannon Sullivan
**SERPA**

The Southeast Roundtable on Philosophy of the Americas (SERPA) held its inaugural meeting at UNC Charlotte on October 2-3, 2015. SERPA will meet annually to provide an informal, helpful atmosphere for presenting work-in-progress in the areas of American/the Americas and pragmatist philosophy. The 2015 roundtable was a fully national and international event, with participants coming from as far as Colorado, New York, and even Bogotá, Colombia! It also included the research projects of four of own faculty: Phillip McReynolds, Trevor Pearce, Mark Sanders, and Andrea Pitts. SERPA roundtables are free and open to the public, so stay tuned for more information about our fall 2016 conference!

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**FACULTY PUBLISH NEW BOOKS**


Excerpt of the publisher’s review:

When most people think that “little girls should be seen and not heard,” a noisy, riotous scream can be revolutionary. But that’s not the case anymore. (Cis/Het/White) Girls aren’t supposed to be virginal, passive objects, but Poly-Styrene-like sirens who scream back in spectacularly noisy and transgressive ways as they “Lean In.” The book was named by the *Baltimore City Paper*, one of the 10 best books of 2015 by a non-Baltimore author.


Excerpt of Amazon’s review:

While gender and race often are considered socially constructed, this book argues that they are physiologically constituted through the biopsychosocial effects of sexism and racism. This means that to be fully successful, critical philosophy of race and feminist philosophy need to examine not only the financial, legal, political and other forms of racist and sexism oppression, but also their physiological operations. Examining a complex tangle of affects, emotions, knowledge, and privilege, *The Physiology of Sexist and Racist Oppression* develops an understanding of the human body whose unconscious habits are biological. On this account, affect and emotion are thoroughly somatic, not something “mental” or extra-biological layered on top of the body. They also are interpersonal, social, and can be transactionally transmitted between people.

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**FACULTY PRESENT AT CONFERENCES**

**Gordon Hull** has also been invited to SPEP to present on Foucault and Parrhesia.

**Robin James** has been recently invited to be a regular contributor to SoundingOut!, a digital sound studies journal, and to present her article “Noisy Feminists, Neoliberal Sophrosyne & Post-Identity Politics” at SPEP in Atlanta this October.

In October, **Lisa Rasmussen** spoke on “The ‘Dark Matter’ of Extra-Regulatory Human Subject Research” at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities was recently elected a member of the executive committee for the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (for 2 years).

**Eddy Souffrant** was invited and served as a Review Panelist for the NEH Humanities Initiatives at Community Colleges. He was also invited and is currently serving as North Carolina State University Park Scholarships Regional Selection Committee.

**2**
A Salon on Biomedical Ethics took place in March and April 2015. Lisa Rasmussen, who conducted the Salon, wrote: “The Salon is a new initiative from Dean Gutierrez and CLAS that pairs faculty members with people in the community, and takes place in the host’s home over the course of 4-5 weeks. The sponsor of the Salon and the faculty member get together and decide on the topics, and the host invites their friends. At the end, attendees are invited, if they are inclined, to make a contribution to some initiative in the faculty member’s department.”

The Center for Professional and Applied Ethics

The Center for Professional and Applied Ethics sponsored the Southeastern Ethics and Philosophy of Technology conference on Sept. 19, 2015 in Charlotte. It inaugurated the Collaboration and sponsored. The Center helped bring to campus in the Spring of 2015 the TIAA-CREF speaker, Frank Pasquale, who spoke on the ethical considerations in the use of big data. It contributed in the Fall of 2015 to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Annual Barnhardt Seminar. The Center will host a speaker series this year on violence against women online and on precision medicine.

I’ll be graduating in May and planning to get a job in D.C. for a year or two before I decide whether I should go to graduate school for public policy or law school with a focus in international law. Ideally, I would like to be working on Capitol Hill next year, but am interested in any policy, research, or politically oriented position. I believe that my philosophy degree has helped me think critically and improve my writing skills drastically.

— Emily Grassett (Class of 2016)
STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND RECOGNITION

Philosophy Club:

Join us every week when the UNC Charlotte Community of Philosophical Thinkers comes together in the Winningham Lounge to discuss current events and philosophy: The purpose of the club is to plan the Philosophy Conference and have regular meetings about topics of interest to students. A new topic is discussed at each meeting and non-majors are always welcome and encouraged to participate.

The Philosophy Club meets every Wednesday at 5 PM in the Winningham Lounge. For information e-mail or text Cody Maddox.

E-mail: cmaddox5@uncc.edu; text: 828-551-6327.

Student Award:

Graduate Student, Luciano A. Molina, was awarded the 2015 Dr. Cyrus M. Johnson Scholarship of $1,000 for tuition expenses. This award is given to students with an interest in topics of peace and social justice. Luciano, explains how as a child he witnessed brutal political oppression in Chile that has instilled in him a deep concern for justice that has motivated his interest in political philosophy.

Graduate Student Kathleen Lowenstein will present a paper: “Octavius Had No Exit Interview: Schizophrenia and the Racial Contract” at the North Carolina Philosophical Society in February 2016.

On the impact of Philosophy beyond the majors, a student who participate in one of the graduate seminars shared this:

“Hearing [the philosophy professor’s] and other PHIL students’ perspectives really challenged my thinking in a lot of ways.”

— Mallory F. Fiery, PhD Student, Health Psychology
ETHICS BOWL TEAM LEARNS THROUGH EXPERIENCES

Ethics Bowl is an academic discussion-panel competition in which undergraduate students apply ethical ideas and theories to specific situation 'cases' in an effort to explain or resolve them ethically. Being a sort of hybrid of debate and college bowl, Ethics Bowl competition emphasizes speaking and ‘doing’ ethics in the moment, in a timed setting that is more relaxed than traditional debate, and accessible to students studying a variety of majors.

Participating students benefit greatly from out-of-the-classroom and off-campus learning experiences that Ethics Bowl training offers. They learn and grow through practical experiences, such as studying and researching the requisite information which enables to speak knowledgeably about a variety of issues, and discerning which ethical tenets best fit each scenario. Team members gain useful skills in public speaking and working as part of a team, as well as in thinking and working through issues verbally, as they explain the issues and stake-holders in each case.

Each fall semester, usually the second weekend in November, students travel to the Southeast Regional Competition. The competition has been hosted by Clemson University for the past three years during the second weekend in November. Once there, the UNC Charlotte team competes against schools such as Duke, Wake Forest, Clemson, UNC, and Georgia Regents. The four top winning teams from all eight Regional level are invited to compete at the National Ethics Bowl Tournament, which is sponsored by and held at the National APPE (Association of Practical and Professional Ethics) Conference the following February.

Last fall, one team from UNC Charlotte finished second at the Regional Tournament and was invited to compete at Nationals, where they finished third out of a field of 32 teams. A member of that team, Ashley Williams, is now a current graduate student in philosophy. Another member from last year’s team, Michael Haag, is now a graduate philosophy student and a Graduate Assistant training the team and working with current team members four to five days per week, as they prepared for the upcoming competition at Clemson on November 14, 2015.
Robin James received the 2014-2015 CLAS Award for the Integration of Teaching & Research. She is an associate professor of Philosophy at UNC Charlotte and the author of two books.


OUR DEPARTMENT: 12 FULL-TIME FACULTY WITH A DYNAMIC RANGE OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS:

Daniel Boisvert: Philosophy of language and ethics, philosophy of mind, logic.

Gordon Hull: Moral and political philosophy, early modern philosophy, philosophy of law and technology, continental philosophy.

Robin James: Theories of gender/race/sexuality, feminist philosophy, continental philosophy, sound and music, sound art and digital media.

Michael Kelly: Aesthetics, ethics, contemporary European philosophy, Nietzsche.


Trevor Pearce: Philosophy of biology, history and philosophy of science, American philosophy.

Andrea Pitts: Social epistemology, philosophy of race & gender, Latin American philosophy, biomedical ethics, postcolonial and queer theory.

Lisa Marie Rasmussen: Research ethics, clinical ethics, bioethics, ethical theory.

Mark Sanders: American philosophy, social and political philosophy, phenomenology, ethics.

Eddy Souffrant: Ethics, social and political philosophy, Africana philosophies, collective responsibility, international affairs.


Olivia Love-Dembovsky, Administrative Support Associate/Office Manager
ON THE GO:
GUESTS AND CONFERENCES

Visiting Speaker: November 2, 2015:

Dr. Hasana Sharp, an Associate Professor of Philosophy at McGill University in Montreal, is a Latina philosopher trained in the United States and France, her research focuses on the history of political philosophy, feminist theory, and early modern philosophy. A gifted teacher who has published many scholarly articles and two books, including Spinoza and the Politics of Renaturalization (University of Chicago Press, 2011), she makes the dense theory of the 17th century philosopher Benedict de Spinoza come alive with implications for contemporary political institutions and issues, including those in feminist, critical race, and environmental philosophy.

7th Annual Student Philosophy Conference, 2015:

Dr. Myisha Cherry presented our keynote address on Anger, Social Justice and Audre Lorde.

Dr. Myisha Cherry enjoying herself at UNC Charlotte in the company of our students (from left to right): Tyler Copeland, Myisha Cherry, Ashley Williams, Noe Campos, and Cody Maddox.

7th Annual Student Philosophy Conference on Intersectionality:

Timothy Eyrich, MA Student in Philosophy and presenting at the “7th Annual Student Philosophy Conference on Intersectionality.”
Our faculty are busy in the classroom and beyond.

**Andrea Pitts**: “Gloria E. Anzaldúa’s Autohistoria-teoría as an Epistemology of Self-Knowledge/Ignorance” by Andrea Pitts. (Forthcoming in *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*.)


**Trevor Pearce**: “‘Science Organized’: Positivism and the Metaphysical Club, 1865-1875.” in *Journal of the History of Ideas* 76 (2015): 441-465. He is also the winner of the *Frances Lumsden Gwynn Award* (an award to fund research), which is awarded to someone in the humanities who has applied for the Junior Faculty Development Award.

**Mark Sanders** presented a paper at the 2016 Civic Engagement Institute held at Elon University on February 9th, entitled “Integrating Democratic Practice in the Classroom.”


**IN THE NEWS: WHY/WHERE PHILOSOPHY MATTERS**

**SNAPSHOTS OF THE YEAR’S CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, February 17**
GIAS Colloquium Presentation, co-sponsored by Philosophy
“The ’Islamic State,’ Religion, and Genocide”
Dr. Adam Jones, University of British Columbia
Rowe 130 | 3:30 - 4:45 PM

**Friday - Saturday, March 18-19**
“Religion and the Other,” Religious Studies Conference, co-sponsored by Philosophy
All Day | Location TBA

**Monday, March 21**
Philosophy Graduate Program Recruitment
2:00 - 3:30 Colloquium: Dr. Adriel Trott, Wabash College
Winningham 107
5:30 - 6:30 Buffet Dinner with recruits
Winningham Lounge

**Monday, April 4**
Philosophy Colloquium Presentation
Dr. Eric Thomas Weber, U. of Mississippi
Winningham 107 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM

**Friday, July 8 - Sunday, July 10**
The Work of Sylvia Wynter Workshop
For more information contact: Elisabeth Paquette at epaquet1@uncc.edu
Location: TBA

**GIVING TO THE UNC CHARLOTTE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

Make checks payable to the **UNC Charlotte Foundation** and mark **Philosophy Discretionary Fund** on the Memo line.

Send your check to:
**UNC Charlotte**
Office of University Development
9201 University City Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28223.

Donate online at *giving.uncc.edu*. Under “Gift Amount and Designations”, select “One or more colleges, schools or units”. In the pop-up box, scroll to bottom and select “Other Area Not Listed” and then click “Continue”. In the box to the right of “Other Designation Not Listed”, type in “Philosophy Discretionary fund #448067” and complete the form.

Feel free to email questions to Dr. Shannon Sullivan at SSullivan@uncc.edu.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**
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