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From the Department Chair

Hello, alumni! 2021-22 was very much a transitional year, as we tried to return to somewhat normal operations after the disruptions of the pandemic.

Most faculty returned to lecturing and leading discussion in classrooms in James Blair Hall, adjusting to teaching while they and their students were masked. Thanks to thoughtful, evidence-based masking and vaccine protocols on campus, W&M was able to avoid a major COVID outbreak.

I was pleased to take part in a W&M admissions event in December, "Fall Focus: Humanities," where I extolled the advantages of a philosophical education as a part of an academic panel with faculty representatives from the History and Modern Languages & Literatures departments. Among other things, I presented evidence that a degree in Philosophy is instrumentally and financially valuable, despite common stereotypes to the contrary.

Our colloquium series was not yet at full strength, but we were pleased to be able to offer two Zoom talks from Jin Park (American Univ.) and

Anand Vaidya (San Jose State) that Prof. Laura Guerrero organized in connection with her COLL300 course, Philosophy Across Cultures. These talks were also part of W&M's Asian Centennial celebration. We were also happy to welcome Myisha Cherry (UC Riverside) via Zoom in April 2022, who gave a very interesting talk, "On James Baldwin and Black Rage." We look forward to offering a more extensive schedule of events this academic year (see p.4).

The department graduated thirty-seven majors in either Fall 2021 or Spring or Summer 2022, and we were thrilled to be able to honor these graduates at an in-person diploma ceremony in Blow Hall on May 21.

As ever, sincere thanks for your generous financial contributions to the department in the past year! They help us continue to offer a first-rate philosophical education to our students while also conducting significant research (see p.3).

With best wishes for a healthy and productive year,

-Matt Haug

Diverse Philosophies Club

The Diverse Philosophies Club is open to all students at W&M and is dedicated to discussing valuable ideas in philosophy, with a special emphasis on underrepresented work, new perspectives, and diverse authorship. The Club allows students to pursue their philosophical interests wherever they may take them, including areas beyond the scope of classes typically offered at W&M.

The Club met regularly throughout the academic year and hosted its annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference on April 2nd-3rd, 2022. Nine students presented their work on a wide range of topics: from Kant's taxonomy of envy and Locke's and Montesquieu's views on human perfection to a critical examination of Rousseau on revolution and democracy and a critique of the use of intuitions in ethical theorizing.

The Club's student facilitators for 2022-23 will be elected later in the fall. The faculty advisor is Laura Guerrero.

Student News - Scholarship and Essay Award Winners

The **Jennifer Bosanko Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established by family and friends in memory of Jennifer, who was a philosophy major at William & Mary and a member of the class of 2009. The Bosanko Scholarships support students who, like Jen, demonstrate intellectual curiosity, industriousness, and a well-rounded approach to taking on the world.

In Fall 2021, the Bosanko Scholarships were awarded to **Yijun Huang** and **Grace Rust**. **Yijun** graduated *summa cum laude* in May 2022 with a double major in Philosophy and Art & Art History. Among other activities, she played violin for the W&M Symphony and was a research assistant for an art history professor. She is currently working toward an MS in Human Computer Interaction at Georgia Tech.

Grace graduated *magna cum laude* in May 2022 with a double major in Philosophy and Linguistics. She worked in a linguistics lab and was a trip leader and climbing wall attendant with the Tribe Adventure Program. She spent her summer hiking in Virginia and Vermont and thinking about what makes a happy, meaningful life. She hasn't finished her thinking, but she is currently networking with regional contacts about opportunities in legal and advocacy fields.



Yijun Huang



Grace Rust

The **Jerry Miller Essay Award** is awarded to a graduating senior philosophy major or majors who, in the judgment of the department faculty, presents the best essay in an annual competition. In Spring 2022, two students, **Jared Jones** and **Hengyun (Jacob) Yang**, were co-winners of the Miller Award.

Jared's winning essay was "Being Beyond Logic: Hegel's Transition to the *Realphilosophie*", He graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa with a double major in Philosophy and Mathematics and wrote an honors thesis under the direction of Prof. Tim Costelloe. Jared is currently working toward a PhD in philosophy at Columbia University, where he plans to pursue research interests in German Idealism, mainly Hegel's system, Spinoza and post-Kantian German philosophy in general (esp., Heidegger, Marxism).

Jacob's winning essay was "Naturalness is not a Constraint on Reference." He also graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa and wrote an honors thesis under the direction of Prof. Josh Gert. Jacob is enrolled in the Philosophy PhD program at Johns Hopkins University, where he plans to pursue his interests in philosophy of language, metaphysics, and philosophy of science.



Jared Jones



Jacob Yang

The Professor Alan Fuchs Memorial Scholarship

Thanks to generous founding donations from Daniel and Deborah Fuchs and Karen and Benjamin Block, and to an additional donation from John and Erica Randolph, the department will be able to offer an annual \$5,000 merit-based scholarship to a philosophy major for at least the next six years. Daniel and Karen established this scholarship in loving memory of their father, Alan Fuchs, who taught generations of students at William & Mary from 1969 until his retirement from full-time teaching in 2007. The faculty will solicit applications for the inaugural award from current philosophy majors in Spring 2023.



Alan Fuchs (1941-2020)

In Memorium: Henry Earl McLane, Jr.

Henry Earl McLane Jr., "Earl," passed away at home in Williamsburg, Virginia on March 11, 2022. Earl was born on August 18, 1932 in Statesboro, Georgia to mother, Lillie Ora Beasley McLane and father, Henry Earl McLane Sr. After graduating from Wagener Consolidated High School in 1950, he attended George Washington University. Here, he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society and was awarded the prestigious Danforth Fellowship for his graduate study at Johns Hopkins University. He then earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Yale University in 1962.

After teaching at Washburn University from 1960 to 1965, Earl joined the Philosophy department at William & Mary, where he also coached the diving team for twelve years.

Earl retired from William & Mary in 1996 after 31 years of inspiring students with his passion, curiosity, and never-ending search for truth. After retiring, he continued teaching for the Christopher Wren Adult Enrichment Program, including one of his most popular courses on St. Francis of Assisi.

Earl loved to read, was an accomplished violinist, and deeply loved animals.



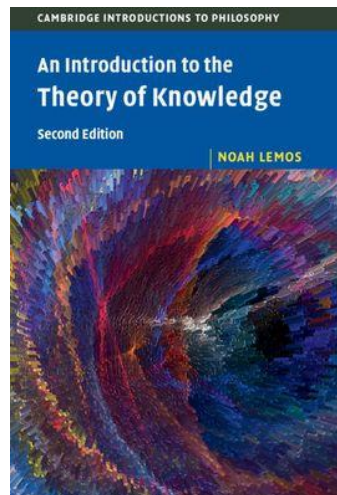
He was a member of Williamsburg Baptist Church where he enjoyed teaching Sunday school and singing in the choir. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Barbara "Bobbie" Gardner McLane; daughter, Debra Lynn Harvey; son, Dr. Shawn Creg McLane (Maryann); sister, Mary Frances Dawson; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Recent Faculty Books

Noah Lemos recently published the second edition of his book, ***An Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge*** (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

The book is intended to introduce readers to some of the main problems in epistemology and to some proposed solutions. Primarily aimed at students taking their first course in the theory of knowledge, it will likely also be of interest to a general audience who wants to learn something about epistemology.

The second edition contains new material reflecting some important developments since the publication of the first edition. For example, the first edition's single chapter on externalism, internalism, and the problem of epistemic circularity is now divided into two chapters: one devoted solely to the debate between externalism and internalism about justification and one on epistemic circularity. This allows for deeper examination of these important issues.



There is also an entirely new chapter on the epistemology of testimony and disagreement, which covers some recent developments in the growing field of social epistemology.

Much new material has been added to the other chapters, as well, such as a discussion of phenomenal conservatism in the chapter on foundationalism and updated discussions of Ernest Sosa's virtue epistemology and Tim Williamson's view that knowledge is an unanalyzable concept.

Recent Faculty Papers

- **M. Victoria Costa** "Neo-republicanism's Methodological Commitments and Individual Rights" *Theoria*
- **Timothy Costelloe** "Art, Ethics, and Value in the Modern Aesthetic Tradition" in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethics and Art*
- **Paul S. Davies** "The Diversity of Norm Psychologies: A Challenge For the Law" *William & Mary Law Review*
- **Joshua Gert** "Information-Theoretic Adverbialism" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- **Jonah Goldwater** "Uploads, Faxes, and You: Can Personal Identity Be Transmitted?" *American Philosophical Quarterly*
- **Aaron Griffith** "True by Default" *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*
- **Laura Guerrero** "Review of *Illuminating the Mind*" *Philosophy East & West*
- **Matthew Haug** "Silencing, Psychological Conflict, and the Distinction Between Virtue and Self-Control" *Journal of Ethics*
- **Noah Lemos** "Defeat, Pluralism, and Indispensable Goods" *Philosophical Studies*
- **Philip Swenson** "Incompatibilist (Nondeterministic) Theories of Free Will" (co-authored with Randolph Clarke and Justin Capes) in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- **Chris Tucker** "Weighing Reasons Against" *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*



Send us your updates!

We're always interested in the latest news from our alumni (from the Olde Guard to the Young). Submit your updates online via [this form](#), or send them to philosophy@wm.edu, and we'll post them on our website or include them in a future newsletter.

Support Philosophy

Contributions from alumni greatly enhance the intellectual life of the department. Click [here](#) to donate to the Philosophy Department's General Expendable Fund, which supports faculty research, student activities (like the Undergraduate Conference), and events like those listed at the right.

Alumni News

- **C. Daryl Cameron ('06)** received tenure in the Psychology Dept. at Penn State University (Univ. Park), where he is also a senior research associate at the Rock Ethics Institute.
- **Devin DeBacker ('08)** was appointed Chief of the Foreign Investment Review Section in the National Security Division at the US Department of Justice. He lives with his wife Rachel Florek DeBacker ('08) and their five children in Maryland.
- **James C. Klagge ('76)** published [Wittgenstein's Artillery: Philosophy as Poetry](#) (MIT Press) and [Tractatus in Context](#) (Routledge), the latter of which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the publication of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*.
- **Sabrina Little ('09)** completed her PhD in Philosophy at Baylor University in 2020 and is an assistant professor in the Department of Leadership and American Studies at Christopher Newport University.
- **Rubén Rosario Rodríguez ('91)** was named Steber Chair in the Department of Theological Studies at Saint Louis University.
- **Jason Smartwood ('06)** published [Doing Practical Ethics](#) (Oxford UP), co-authored with Ian Stoner, a skills-focused textbook suitable for a variety of ethics courses.



Department Events

- **7th Biennial Conference: Ethics and Theism, Sept. 1-3**, Kingsmill Resort
- **Student/faculty BBQ and volleyball game: Sept. 16**, 4:00 p.m., Outside James Blair Hall
- **Colloquium: Quayshawn Spencer** (Univ. of Pennsylvania), "A metaphysical mapping problem for race theorists and human population geneticists," **Sept. 23, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**, Zoom
- **Colloquium: Danielle Wenner** (Carnegie Mellon), title TBA, **Oct. 7, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**, James Blair Hall
- The Department will host an **alumni open house** on **Saturday, Oct. 8, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**, as part of Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. The open house will be in the department Common Room/Library in James Blair Hall. We hope to see you there!
- **Colloquium: Sarah Stroud** (UNC, Chapel Hill), "Is There Such a Thing as Disagreement in Attitude?" **Oct. 21, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**, James Blair Hall
- **Colloquium: Hrishikesh Joshi** (Bowling Green State), title TBA, **Mar. 24, 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

As always, we are grateful for all of your generous donations, especially those of Teresa Thompson ('67) and Michael Foradas ('78), which fund our conferences, workshops, and speakers.

Alumni Newsletter September 2022



W&M

Philosophy

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