

PennPhilosophy

Undergraduate Newsletter

March 2022

Letter from the Chair

Dear students,

Welcome back to a new semester! We hope that you all are healthy, thriving and enjoying the semester so far.

Philosophy is offering several new courses this semester, including PHIL 157 Repairing the Planet, a comprehensive introduction to the climate emergency and the tools with which we can fight it, PHIL 035 Self: Aspiration, which will critically examine the idea of aspiration and transformation, and PHIL 334 Ethics of Social Media, which looks at some of the key moral issues that are raised by our current social media landscape. We hope some of you have checked out the new courses and are enjoying the experience of these classes.

We look forward to having a great semester and seeing our senior class at an in-person Commencement this year!



Michael Weisberg
Bess W. Heyman President's Distinguished Professor and
Chair of Philosophy
Director of Post Graduate Programs, Perry World House

Important Dates

March 1-3 - Seybert Lectures

March 5-13 - Spring Break

March 18 - Grade Type Change Deadline

March 28 - Last day to withdraw from a course

April 18-May 1 - Advance Registration

April 27 - Last day of classes

April 28-May 1 - Reading Days

May 2-10 - Final Exams

May 10 - Spring Term Ends

May 16 - Commencement

Ross & Flower Prizes

Now Accepting Submissions

Please consider submitting an essay to the undergraduate competition for the Ross Prize or Flower Prize in Philosophy. The winners of each essay contest will receive a cash prize and have their win announced at Commencement.

Both prizes were established in memory of Philosophy faculty, Professor James F. Ross and Professor Elizabeth Flower respectively. James F. Ross, who worked in history of medieval philosophy, philosophy of religion, philosophy of law, and metaphysics, was a member of the department from 1962 until his death in 2010. Elizabeth F. Flower, who worked in value theory and in the history of philosophy in America, taught at Penn from 1937 to 1985, and was among the first few women to be tenured at a major university.

Email your entry as a PDF attachment to **Jess Kwasniak**: jkwas@sas.upenn.edu. The subject line must contain ROSS PRIZE or FLOWER PRIZE. The actual paper must be anonymous (no identifying information).

Submissions are due by **11:59PM Friday, March 18, 2022**

Faculty Spotlight

Prof. Quayshawn Spencer featured
in Origin Stories in OMNIA



Origin Stories is a feature of OMNIA, which explores the journeys of members of faculty from young students to world-class scholars at the cutting edge of their fields.

Prof. Spencer, drawn to science early on, and on his way to becoming a biochemist, ran into the question "Is race a real biological thing?" in a philosophy class. This question changed his career. Now, he uses his training in philosophy and biology to investigate the study of human genetics, and whether there exists any biological racial classification that is useful in medical research. Watch the video to learn more!

[Watch Video](#)



SEYBERT LECTURES

The Seybert Lectures will happen on March 1 and 2, with a Q&A held on March 3. Dr. Elizabeth Anderson, the Max Shaye Professor of Public Philosophy and John Dewey Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, will be giving two lectures from her series, *Recovering the Lost Legacy of the Pro-Worker Work Ethic for Workers Today*. Please click button below to learn more about the lectures. Photo credit: David Paterson

[Read More](#)



LISA MIRACCHI: NEH GRANT

Lisa Miracchi, an associate professor of philosophy in the School of Arts and Sciences, has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for her project, *New Foundations for the Study of Biological and Artificial Intelligence*. The grant will provide support during the research and writing of a forthcoming book exploring the distinction between artificial and human intelligence. Congratulations, Prof. Miracchi!



JESSE HAMILTON INTERVIEW

Last semester, over Veterans' Day Weekend, Jesse Hamilton, a Ph.D. student in the Philosophy department, was interviewed by Weekend Philler for their Salute to Veterans' episode. To learn more about Jesse's service, and the incredible veteran students here at Penn, click the link below. You can spot Jesse at 6 minutes, 15 seconds.

[Watch Video](#)



PENN ARTS & SCIENCES PATHWAYS: EMMA DAVIES, C'22

Watch Penn Philosophy student, Emma Davies, discuss her academic journey at Penn, her passion for immigrant and refugee rights, and her plans for the future in Pathways on OMNIA.

[Watch Video](#)



PENN PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

The Philosophy Society is the association of undergraduate philosophy students at Penn. Its purpose is to foster an intellectual and social community amongst majors, minors, and fellow travelers.

Click the button below to learn more!

[Read More](#)

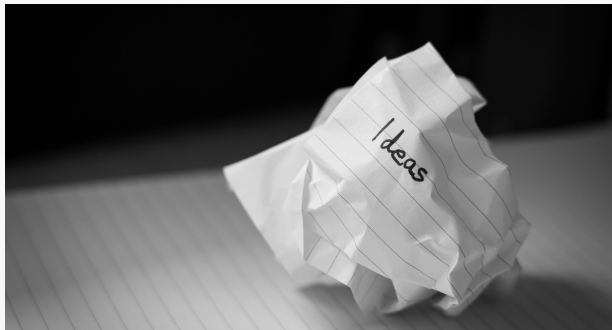


MAJOR ADVISING

As we continue the 21-22 academic year, we encourage you to reach out to our new undergraduate chair, Prof. Singer.

You can easily schedule a Zoom appointment to discuss a major or minor in Philosophy, or any other question, with the undergraduate chair via Calendly. Click below.

[Schedule an Appt.](#)



HAVE IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Contact Undergraduate Coordinator, Jess Kwasniak, with ideas for stories, what kind of content you would like to see in the newsletters, or other suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you!

[Reach Out](#)



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