

Montana Values, Bobcat Spirit — Mike Person

by Jessica Marks

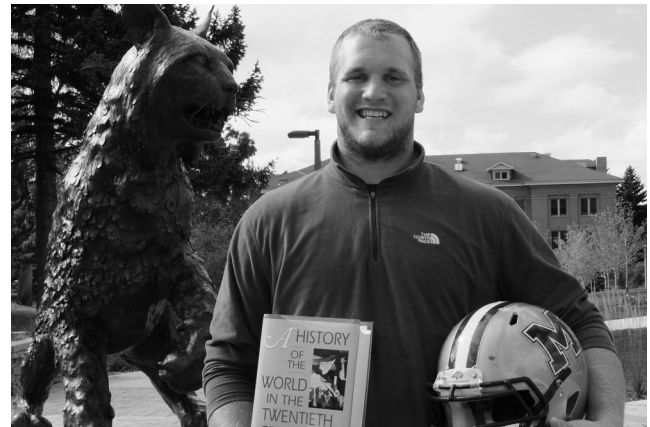


Photo by Jessica Marks

Mike Person remembers playing football with his older brother of six-years in the front yard of their home in Glendive, Montana. Speaking about the memory, Person said, “It made me tough,” breaking into a smile, “or, at least I thought it did.” A Montana native, Person is now a senior in United States history at Montana State University. When you first meet Person, it is hard to imagine him as a little boy. Born May 17, 1988, Person is six foot five inches, weighs in at 295 pounds and is the starting left tackle for the Montana State Bobcat football team as well as the team co-captain. It is not until you hear Mike speak that you can imagine him as a child. Mike’s eyes seem to light up at the mention of three words: football, history, and fishing.

Mike’s love for football and history both stem from the same source: his father. Mike’s father, Jim Person, worked for 30 years as a social studies teacher and football coach in Glendive. Growing up, Mike often went to football practice with his dad. His father was always passionate about history, and he remembers learning about American history from his father. Mike decided to study history at MSU because he figured he should choose a major based on what he enjoyed learning. Person said, “My dad always said, ‘Do whatever will make you happy.’” Although Mike found inspiration in his father, he said that he

never felt pressure from his father. Person started playing football in seventh grade but his Dad didn’t talk to him about football at home: “With my Dad, what happened on the field, stayed on the field.”

Mike was recruited to play football at MSU out of high school. When asked if he had found a balance between football and academics, Mike was very upfront. Person said, “I have now. I haven’t been a straight A student and honestly, as a freshmen, I didn’t always work hard in my classes.” Person said he wishes he had done better academically during his first year, but he also believes everything happens for a reason. Person said, “I think it was better to learn the lesson here – to learn time management and to work hard – than to learn it later, in the real world.”

Mike believes it is important to spend time doing the things you love in order to do well in school. For Mike, fishing is his way of “getting away from everything else.” Mike said, “Every day is a good day when you are fishing.” Mike seems to have found his balance: over the last year he has

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When asked what advice he would give to first year student-athletes, Mike said, “Don’t procrastinate. You have to use your time wisely, 20 minutes here, 20 minutes there... you have to find a way to get things done, to do your reading.”

Mike Person continued

maintained a 3.0 or better GPA while enrolled in all upper-division courses.

Mike said his favorite thing about the History and Philosophy Department at MSU is the wealth of knowledge of the professors. Mike has taken History courses ranging from Montana and the West to Gender in Asia. Mike said he appreciates that his history teachers are all “pretty tough, but also pretty forgiving.” Mike said, “If you talk to the history professors, they are willing to work with you.” That is a “huge plus” for any student who has a lot of responsibilities outside of the classroom, such as student-athletes or students with jobs. Mike said his senior capstone was his favorite course: “I learned a lot and had fun.” Mike hopes to share the knowledge he has gained from the department by teaching high school social studies. He is planning to spend a few years following a dream of playing NFL football. Afterwards, he would like to come back to MSU to earn a teaching certificate or to get a masters in education or history.

Mike has started for the Bobcats since he was a freshman. He earned the team’s Chuck Karnop Award for Toughness, 2010, and earned First-team All-Big Sky Honors in 2009. Mike is modest. When asked what it takes to be a leader, Mike said, “It is what you do every day, not just on game days. It is about what you do when no one is looking.”

Mike feels that playing football has given him an extended education. He said, football has taught him teamwork, leadership, and an ability to work with individuals from different backgrounds. Mike said the thing he loves most about organized sports is seeing so many dif-

ferent people coming together as one. Mike has applied many of the lessons he learned on the field to his academics and to his everyday life: “Keep at it; keep working hard; don’t get discouraged.”

Rob Ash, MSU’s head coach, said of Mike, “Mike Person has grown so much since he’s been in this program – physically, academically, personally. He’s gone through a lot and come out of it better.” Mike’s mother, Shelley Person, died in December, 2007 during Mike’s sophomore year. Mike said his mom was always his greatest fan: “She was at every game, always cheering for us in the stands.” Mike said, “In life, you have to choose how to respond to the things that happen to you, even the worst things. You can let an event like that dominate your life in a negative way or a positive way. I try to choose the positive way.” Mike said he received tremendous support from his family, his coaches, and his teachers, which encouraged him to keep going. Mike’s dad told him, “Your mom was always proud of you for playing football. She will be even more proud of you when you earn your degree.”

Mike’s goal for the team this year is to go to the National Championship game in Frisco, Texas. Since training began last summer, every time the team breaks, the team counts, “Frisco on three.” Mike is proud of the team and proud to be a part of the greater MSU community. With the team’s current record (8-2), Frisco seems like a real possibility. Yet, even with a National Conference within reach, when asked his greatest accomplishment, Mike did not hesitate: “My greatest accomplishment will be when I graduate, earn my degree in December.” “After all,” he said, “that is why we are called student-athletes, not athlete-students.”

New Faculty—History



Catherine Dunlop grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, where her first lessons in European history came from the family photographs, artwork, and books scattered across the shelves of her childhood home. Her mother's family was part of a group of refugees from the Russian Revolution who spent the turbulent 1930s and 1940s living in Paris. From a young age, Catherine became fascinated by the faraway cultures of Europe, and eventually went on to study European history at Stanford University, where she also participated in the Stanford in Paris program. In 2003,

she joined the History Department at Yale University as a graduate student, where she wrote her dissertation on the politics of mapping the French-German borderland of Alsace-Lorraine. Her research interests include cartography, the politics of space, and the relationship between borderlands and national identities in modern Europe. She is currently completing an article on language mapping along the French-German border.

Catherine's research has taken her to beautiful European cities including Paris, Berlin, and Strasbourg, but she enjoys making her home in the American West and is looking forward to her first year in Bozeman.

Catherine's e-mail is catherine.dunlop@montana.edu

New Faculty—Religious Studies



Barton Scott, a native Kentuckian, comes to Bozeman after completing his PhD at Duke University. Bart's studies straddle the fields of religion and critical theory and religion in modern India. His particular interest is in

how discourses about religion circulated throughout the cultural worlds brought together by British colonialism. For example, a recent journal article analyzes the 1884 scandal that erupted around Russian émigrée Madame Blavatsky when she plied her theosophical miracles in Bombay and Madras. The article grew out of Bart's dissertation research on sham gurus in colonial India.

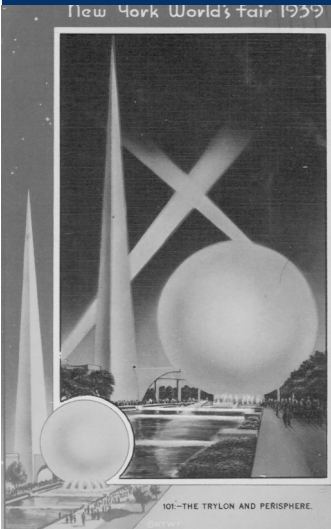
In addition to his work on the colonial period, Bart also maintains an active interest in the intersection of religion with contemporary media cultures. His forthcoming article, "Comic Book Karma," analyzes how a transnational comic book corporation has tried to retool Hindu mythology for the global entertainment market. He co-chairs the American Academy of Religion's annual Religion and Media Workshop.

After a research summer of searing Delhi heat, Bart is very happy to be in Bozeman, and thrilled to be joining MSU's Religious Studies program at such an exciting time. He looks forward to teaching courses on theories of religion, religion and culture, and Asian religions.

Bart's email is bscott@montana.edu

Faculty Books

Designing Tomorrow
America's Worlds Fairs of the 1930s
Edited by Robert W. Rydell



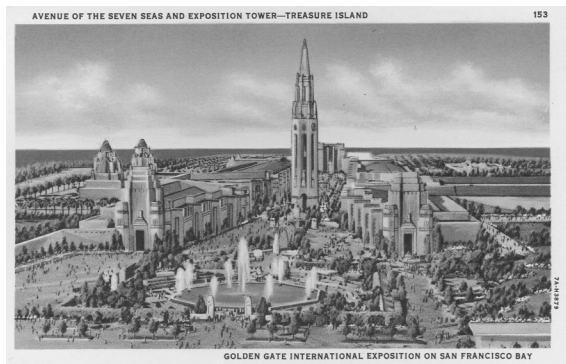
Robert Rydell, recently appointed as the Michael P. Malone Professor of History at Montana State University, is guest curator of a new exhibition at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. *Designing Tomorrow* tells the story of how America's Depression-era world's fairs shaped modern architecture and design. Expected to run at least eight months, the exhibit covers 5,000 square feet and contains "loads" of objects, including Electro, the Westinghouse robot from the 1939 New York World's Fair. Rydell worked with National Building Museum curators Laura Schiavo and Deborah Sorenson on the project. To complement the exhibition, Rydell and Schiavo have co-edited a volume of essays, also called *Designing Tomorrow*, just published by Yale University Press.

Rydell has devoted 35 years to studying world's fairs. He has served on the international jury that evaluated exhibits at Expo 2005 in Japan. He was in China three years ago to observe the construction of Shanghai Expo 2010 and has been interviewed on National Public Radio and in the *New York Times* about the future of world's fairs. Many Americans don't realize that world's fairs still occur, because the last world's fair in the United States was held in 1984 in New Orleans, Rydell said.

"But 70 million Chinese know otherwise. Expo 2010 in Shanghai was the biggest site for a world's fair any time, anywhere," according to Rydell. The next two world's fairs will be held in South Korea in 2012 and Italy in 2015. "It's an open question as to whether the US will ever host another world's fair," Rydell has told interviewers. And there is a great deal of controversy over the degree to which US representations at foreign expositions should be continued and, if so, whether these exhibits should be funded with public funds or rely exclusively on the private sector.

If nothing else, Rydell claims, the study of world's fairs is great fun and maybe even has an important thing or two to say about how past generations imagined the future in which we are now living.

--An earlier version of this story was written for the MSU News Service by Evelyn Boswell



Faculty Books continued

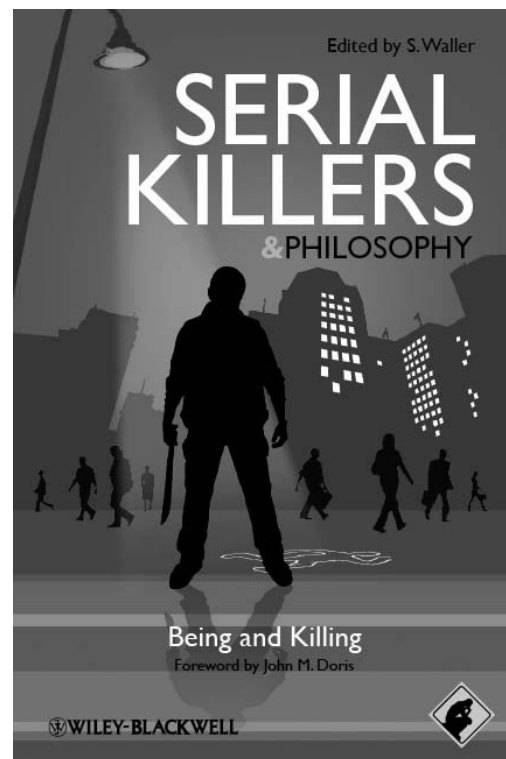
Serial Killers
Philosophy for Everyone
Edited by Sara Waller

Death has pursued philosophers across history, just as they have pursued it. Socrates (469-399 BCE) reassured his followers that doing philosophy *is* practicing death, and so the diligent philosopher will face death easily. Heidegger (1889-1976) described us as projecting ourselves forward toward death, and gave us the chilling reminder that we all die alone; one's death is one's own. *Existentialism* is an entire school of philosophical thought motivated by the eventual death of all human beings.

Questions of death haunt ethical discussions focused on medical care, human rights, and legal punishments. We are all interested in death, for it threatens all of us. But death, for philosophers, has usually been approached as something that happens to us, not as something that killers do. We reflect on the act of dying far more than we reflect on killing – and there is little philosophy that meditates on murder as an activity that might be repeated, or even practiced with care. There are many ways to live and die, and many ways to kill. But there is a gap in the literature of murder; few have examined the killers themselves from a philosophical point of view. Until now.

Here, then, is a philosophy book on practicing death from the perspective, not of dying, but of inflicting death on others. These essays contemplate

those who hasten the death of others in a systematic, premeditated fashion: serial killers. The book includes sections on: the philosophical musings of killers themselves (I think, therefore I kill); ethics, evil, and serial killing; the public infatuation with serial killers; the lack of empathy and the urge to kill; the cognitive science of serial killing; and the psychology of serial killers.



*To learn more about
History, Philosophy, & Religious Studies
faculty, degree options, courses,
and special events, please visit
our web site:*

<http://www.montana.edu/history/>

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and Philosophy*

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bob Rydell, MSU
History Professor
and Museum
Studies Program
Coordinator:

“Internships are valuable for students for two reasons. First, they help students learn about a profession they may want to enter and prepare them for that profession. Second, they help students learn about a profession that perhaps they imagined would be different. Sometimes, learning that a profession is not for them can be as useful as finding out that they really would love that particular career.”

Current MSU students interested in learning more about internships and applying should visit the History and Philosophy Website:

www.montana.edu/history/2010/internships.html

- Jessica Marks

The History and Philosophy Department offers internship opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students. Internships allow students to explore a variety of career options during their college experience. Internships are intended to enrich students’ academic experience by helping them understand how their knowledge can be applied in professional settings. While all majors in the Department are encouraged to apply for internships, students within the Museum Studies program are required to complete a one semester internship as part of their coursework.

Over the past several years, students in the department have interned at a variety of local, regional, and national organizations, including the Pioneer Museum in Bozeman, the Heritage Museum in Yellowstone National Park (YNP), and the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Among the many opportunities available to students, the Department has established a lasting partnership with the Museum of the Rockies (MOR). Internships at the MOR are always project based: students complete actual museum work and gain hands-on museum experience.

Michael J. Fox, the museum’s Curator of History, as well as a current History PhD Student in the department, said, “The museum’s roots really go back to the History department.” As the Curator of History, Fox serves as the “interpreter of the museum collections to the public.”

The relationship between the MOR and the History Department is mutually beneficial. Fox said, “Internships are a terrific way for students to learn a little about the way museums operate. As a visitor to a museum, you only see a tiny slice of what we do. An internship is really the only way to get an idea of what happens behind the scenes, to see the way things come together. At the same time, interns are critically important to the mission of the MOR and the day-to-day operations of the museum – their assistance is invaluable.”

The MOR also offers a class for students in the Museum Studies program. The class focuses on current museum practices and teaches students how the different components of a museum work together.

Carin Wolfe, a senior and double major in History and American Studies, is currently interning at the MOR while earning six credits towards her degree. Wolfe has worked with several different departments at the Museum during her internship, including the Registrar, the Development Department, and the Special Events Department. Currently, Wolfe is aiding Fox with his curator work on the future exhibition of the Hamilton-Povah Collection, an extensive exhibit which will highlight the cultural history of Yellowstone National Park.

Wolfe said she has learned from her internship “how each department is important for the entire museum to function and how many people that involves. The Museum of the Rockies internship opened doors to opportunities I would not have had otherwise.”

Internships, Continued

The Urban Coyote Project

-Sara Waller

How much does the urban environment change the way coyotes vocalize and communicate? This semester marks the beginning of collaboration between Montana State University and California State University, called “The Urban Coyote Project.” Students on both campuses will be out in the field, working with Sara Waller in tracking coyotes and recording their yips, yelps, and ululations. The students are looking for parallels, and differences, between coyote vocalizations in rural (Montana) sites and urban (Los Angeles) sites. The students are also learning about the philosophy of animal minds. The fall semester coyote recording students at MSU are: Alex Ames, Jordan Olson, Riley Halligan, and KT Ruff.

The Dolphin Connection

Do land based social predators make the same kinds of vocalizations as ocean based social predators? Montana State University students, KT Ruff and Dillon Maslach, will make a trip on a dolphin boat, located in Alamitos Bay, Long Beach, California. These students will be trained in the use of a hydrophone and other cetacean recording equipment, as well as have the experience of driving the boat offshore to sites where bottlenose dolphins are often observed. When we have a good sample of both coyote and dolphin vocalizations, their communicative sounds will be compared in an effort to discover more about how social predators vocally convey meaning to others within their species. Ultimately, this will contribute to a deeper philosophical understanding of meaning and language.

John Tyndall Correspondence Project

-Michael Reidy, PI

The MSU Department of History and Philosophy has been awarded a National Science Foundation Collaborative Research Grant (\$540,000) for the John Tyndall Correspondence Project (JTCP). The JTCP will enable the transcription of all the letters to and from the Irish physicist, John Tyndall, one of the most influential scientists of the nineteenth century. The completed transcriptions will be published as a manuscript, making this formerly inaccessible work available to scholars and graduate students to advance our knowledge of nineteenth century science.

This Tyndall Project places graduate students at the center of the transcription process. The Project includes twelve universities in four countries: Canada, New Zealand, United States, and the United Kingdom. Graduate students work closely with faculty members to undertake transcriptions while formulating MA or PhD theses related to nineteenth-century science. JTCP, through the History and Philosophy Department, has funded seven graduate students in the past two years, including two MA students who began this year. Alex Manigault, a native French speaker, will be helping to transcribe the letters between Tyndall and Louis Pasteur, while Estella Terrazas will be focusing on the life of Tyndall’s wife, Louisa. Both are working closely with the JTCP postdoctoral researcher, Joshua Howe, whose interests focus on the history of climate change research. Howe will also be teaching a graduate seminar this spring. For more information on the Project, including a list of the graduate students and faculty participants, please go to www.yorku.ca/tyndall/.

Graduate Student News

Graduate Students New to Our Program, Fall 2010

MA Students:

Michael Bertasso

Tyler Campbell

Dallas Diehl

Kristopher Gayer

Alexandre Manigault

LaTrelle Sherffius

PhD Students:

Cheryl Hendry

Natalie Scheidler

The Department of History and Philosophy is pleased to announce the graduate student research award recipients for this academic year. Research funding enables our students to undertake primary archival research and to present their work at national conferences.

Alexandre Manigault will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to conduct research in a number of archives to complete his MA thesis, "Defining the Native American Identity: Cultural Landscape and National Territoriality in the Making of an Anthropological Science."

Cort Felts continues his research at the National Archives and Records Administration in Denver, Colorado, and the Bureau of Reclamations (BoR) research libraries in Denver and Washington, D.C. He is questioning the impact of and motivations for Cold War ideologies as one aspect of his MA professional paper.

Wendy Zirngibl is working on the completion of her dissertation, "*Comundrum of the Wildlife: Wolves, Elk, People, and the Cultural Ecology*

of Greater Yellowstone." Wendy will travel from her home in Alaska to Colorado to research at The Western History and Genealogy Department at the Denver Public Library, one of the country's premier repositories for materials related to the field of environmental history.

Daniel Zizzamia will attend the History of Science meeting in Montreal, attending panels on science in popular cultural, climate change, the Canadian geological survey, and environmental histories of science. He will also present his work at the American Society for Environmental History conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Both of these opportunities will engage the current trends in the field and as such, be extremely valuable to the development of his dissertation.

Bradley Snow and Daniel Zizzamia **Research the History of Idaho Phosphate Mining**

During the past summer, Bradley Snow and Daniel Zizzamia worked closely with Professor Timothy LeCain to investigate history of the mas-

sive phosphate mining operations of southeastern Idaho. Over the past half century, these big open-pit mines (some more than a mile in length) have provided much of the phosphate used to manufacture millions of pounds of fertilizers destined for the wheat and cornfields of the American Midwest and elsewhere. Ironically, phosphate is also a key ingredient in the popular Monsanto herbicide, Round-Up, which farmers and homeowners use to kill other plants. The federal government has designated several historic phosphate mines in the area as Superfund Sites due to contamination from selenium, which can be toxic to humans, livestock, wildlife, fish, and other organisms.

Zizzamia and Snow's research has been indispensable in helping Professor LeCain prepare a government report and several academic articles examining the history of these little-known but fascinating mining operations.

Student Conference Participation

Pacific Northwest Women's History Conference, November 2010

"On the Road with Women's History"

A group of six graduate students, all studying gender history, have gone above and beyond regular course work this year in pursuit of a deeper understanding of their subject. Estella Terrazas, Natalie Scheidler, Kelly Kirk, Jennifer Hill, Jennifer Blair, and Mary Biehl have been meeting with Professor Mary Murphy in extra seminars to read and discuss classics in feminist theory.



Kelly Kirk, Jennifer Blair, Natalie Scheidler, Mary Biehl, and Estella Terrazas



Left to Right, - Top Row: Estella Terrazas, Diane Sands; Middle Row: Jennifer Blair, Kelly Kirk, Natalie Scheidler, Elizabeth Jameson; Front Right: Sue Armitage, and Mary Murphy

It's been an exciting intellectual journey, fueled by good food and camaraderie, which culminated with five students attending the 63rd Annual Pacific Northwest History Conference in Spokane, Washington, November 3-5. This year's conference focused exclusively on Pacific Northwest women's history as part of the centennial celebration of Washington women's suffrage. Several of our students received scholarships for the conference and attended a full day workshop on oral history.

Neuroethics Society Meeting, November 2010

The Neuroethics Society Conference is a national meeting of scholars in philosophy and the cognitive and brain sciences in which interdisciplinary and collaborative work is done addressing ethical questions surrounding research on the human mind-brain connection. This year's event was held November 11th and 12th in San Diego, CA.

Students KT Ruff and Dillon Maslach presented a poster with Sara Waller entitled "How enmeshed are moral judgments with sociality?" Their original research explores the relationship between how many friends a person has, how much he or she enjoys social events, what academic interests he or she has, and what kinds of moral actions he or she finds to be praiseworthy or blameworthy, and why. The leading hunch for the study is that people with active social lives will respond more emotionally to moral situations, while those who are more solitary will be more rational in their moral decision making.

Student Organization News

Fall 2010 A-Z Lecturers and Topics:

Matt Smith
“A is for
Anarchism”

Nick Landeros
“D is for
Constitutional
Definition”

Eric Dietrich
“E is for Egoism
and Student
Leadership”

Madeleine Pike
“F is for Free
Willy: The
Ethics of
Marine Animal
Captivity”

**Shannon
Dykman and
Megan Malone**
“G is for
Garbage
Production in a
Consumer
Society”

Phi Sigma Tau, the international honor society in philosophy, is hosting the Student Philosophy Society’s A-Z Lecture Series and cosponsoring Filmosophy Nights. The A-Z Lecture Series is designed to bring proponents of different points of view together for civil discussion of controversial issues. Weekly lectures are given by students, followed by discussion. This is the second year for the A-Z Lecture Series. Started with the grants from Humanities Montana and the ASMSU Activities Office, it is also supported by Vargas Bookstore. Lectures are held at 3:10 Wednesdays either in or in front of the Procrastinator Theater in the Student Union. The first Filmosophy Night was October 27 and featured the film *Vanilla Sky*, followed by discussion and refreshments. The society’s planning additional movie and discussion nights. Filmosophy Nights are co-sponsored by the Department of History and Philosophy.

Phi Sigma Tau activities are open to any interested student. Official membership requires students to have completed two semesters, or the equivalent, at an accredited university, to rank in the upper 35% of their class and to have earned a mean average higher than a “B” in two philosophy courses. The initiation fee is \$25.00. Members receive the society journal, *Dialogue*, which contains papers, discussion notes, and book reviews written by students. Members also receive the society’s newsletter. Phi Sigma Tau’s officers are Shelby Rogala, Acting President, and Matt Smith, Acting vice-president. Profs. Jim Allard and Sara Waller are Chapter Advisors.

Phi Alpha Theta, the History honor society, is looking forward to an exciting academic year. Our chapter’s new president, Chance Reynolds (2011), is focusing upon the task of growing the organization and turnout has been strong at the two meetings held thus far this semester. In particular, the Montana State University chapter of Phi Alpha Theta is working to raise money in order to send undergraduate and graduate students to the Phi Alpha Theta northwest regional conference to be held in Seattle, April 2011. Fundraising activities will be held in the fall and spring in support of this endeavor, while the organization is also working to develop a speaker and film series over the course of this academic year. Several new members are currently being inducted into Phi Alpha Theta. Prof. James Meyer is Chapter Advisor.

MSU ETHICATS COMPETE IN NORTHWEST REGIONAL ETHICS COMPETITION, NOVEMBER 12—15, 2010, SEATTLE, WA

The following MSU students, under the direction of Prof. Kristen Intmann, represented MSU Philosophy at the annual Northwest Regional Ethics Bowl: Joseph Thiel, Matthew Smith, Shelby Rogala, Madeline Pike, Griffin Stevens, and Samuel Faulkes. Please go to: <http://www.montana.edu/history/> for competition results.

Student Designed Ashio-Anaconda Web Site

- Tim LeCain

During the past year, Professors Brett Walker and Tim LeCain worked in close collaboration with two talented undergraduates to create an exciting new historical research website. Eric Loya and Chris Conlon, seniors in the MSU Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, created the new Ashio-Anaconda website from the ground up, gaining invaluable experience in both web design and in working to make the ill-defined wishes of clients (in this case, Walker and LeCain) into a functioning reality on the web.

The National Science Foundation funded the website as part of the three-year Ashio-Anaconda project Walker and LeCain began in 2007. The project goal was to design a site that would permit both academic researchers and the general public to quickly compare the environmental histories of copper smelting at Anaconda, Montana, and Ashio, Japan. Through Loya and

Conlon's skillful work, the website is now up and running, offering a powerful spatial and historical research tool unlike any other. You can view the site at:

<http://ashioanaconda.com/>.

With Loya and Conlon's technological skills and hard work, the Ashio-Anaconda site has become much more than a mere "webpage." Rather, it is a radical new research tool and web-application, one designed to facilitate researchers and students interested in the comparative histories of technology, environmental pollution, and science and engineering. The site is also an ongoing project that represents a new manner of seeing historical information – evolution from the one dimensional page – a multidimensional researchers' and students' workshop built from interactive maps, texts and images, historical time-lines, and primary documents.



Digging Retirement

Prof. Michelle Maskiell trades instructing and coaxing fertile minds for planting and nourishing seedlings.

by Mary Murphy



“As Michelle prepares to retire, I want to tell her thank you. Michelle taught me how to think, she taught me how to write, she taught me how to take a break, she taught me how to believe in myself. But, most of all, Michelle gave me an opportunity. I am beyond grateful.”

Pete Faggen,
MA 2007



Michelle Maskiell has kept hidden the roots of her career as a distinguished historian of South Asia. However, diligent research has revealed her prizewinning 1960 essay, “Why I am Proud to be an American.” Not surprising to this audience, twelve-year-old Michelle informed her hometown readers in Woodstock, New York, that her pride lay in the fact that, “I can write this composition saying what I want. . . . I can disagree with anything and make my opinions known.” Our department will miss Michelle doing just that.

A portrait of the Indian mystic, Meher Baba, hanging in a home where she was babysitting, sparked Michelle’s fascination with India. A stay in India during college sent her home with a diamond in her nose and a career-shaping interest in the history and culture of South Asia. Michelle earned her M.A. in South Asia Regional Studies and her Ph.D. in History from the University of Pennsylvania, where she became an Assistant Dean. She began work at MSU in 1984, and served in a number of high-level administrative positions, including Affirmative Action Officer, Assistant Dean in the College of Letters and Science, and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. In 1988 Michelle became the first woman to chair the Department of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, and, perhaps, the first assistant professor ever to head a department at MSU.



**Michelle Gibson
Essay Winner**

Twelve year old Michelle Gibson, receiving an award for her essay, “Why I’m Proud To Be An American,” 1960, Woodstock, New York.

More Dirt on Maskiell Retirement

In 1984 Michelle published her book, *Women Between Cultures: The Lives of Kin-naird College Alumnae in British India*. It was the first of many works that investigated the lives and work of women in Pakistan and India. In the 1990s Michelle's research focused on the production and consumption of textiles. Since then she has published a series of highly regarded articles and book chapters on the ways in which khilats, phulkaris, and Kashmiri shawls figured as cultural symbols and as cogs in household and global economies. Of course, it meant she had to purchase many sumptuous textiles and lavishly illustrated books in pursuit of thorough research.

Over the course of twenty-two years in the classroom, Michelle has introduced thousands of students to Modern Asian history. Pete Fagen (MA, 2007) recalled the day he asked Michelle to be his adviser: "Her first official words of advice to me were 'Buy a plane ticket to India, we'll think of a topic later.'" With the obedience we've come to expect from Michelle's students, Pete "about fell out of my chair and dutifully complied," purchasing a one-way ticket to Delhi that led to a seven-month sojourn in India and Tibet. Pete is now in the Ph.D. program at Indiana University in Central Eurasian Studies.

Pete writes, "As Michelle prepares to retire, I want to tell her thank you. Michelle taught me how to think, she taught me how to write, she taught me how to take a break, she taught me how to believe in myself.

But, most of all, Michelle gave me an opportunity. I am beyond grateful."

Michelle has embodied the role of senior woman and historian in our department, our college, and our university. Her relationship with all her colleagues and her students has exemplified feminist principles of equality, fairness, and process. It's a truism, but there is not space or time to enumerate the ways in which Michelle has contributed to our community. We will sorely miss her in the corridors of Wilson, yet look forward with pleasure to visiting her in her splendiferous garden.

Billy Smith adds: "To my wonderful colleague, collaborator, and coworker in teaching, research, life, and love. Now it's time for an even better future."



Annual Margaret and Harry Hausser Lecture

-Sara Waller

On September 2nd, scholars of human nature, Jesse Prinz and John Doris, talked about the role of reason and emotion in our lives. They delighted and entertained an audience of 180 at the Museum of the Rockies for the spectacular 2010 Hausser Lecture.

John Doris teaches in Washington University's Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program and Philosophy Department. Much of his current scholarship involves theoretical and empirical research on moral responsibility, evaluative diversity, psychopathology, and rationality. His books include "Lack of Character" and "The Moral Psychology Handbook," and he has authored countless articles on morality and personhood.

Jesse Prinz is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the City University of New York. His research focuses on the perceptual, emotional, and cultural foundations of the human mind. He has written several books, including "Furnishing the Mind" and "The Emotional Construction of Morals," and countless articles on reason, emotion, and morality.

**A Lively
Philosophical
Discussion
Complete
With Stump
Speeches and
Q&As:**

**"What is
reason for?,"
by
John M.
Doris**

**"What is
emotion for?"
by
Jesse Prinz**



Cover image from *The Moral Psychology Handbook*, John M. Doris
tree house by Michael Cole

Greetings from the Chair

by Brett Walker

This year's History and Philosophy Department newsletter is devoted to student success. According to its Mission Statement, Montana State is the university of choice for students seeking a "student-centered learning environment," one that "promotes the exploration, discovery, and dissemination of new knowledge." The Department of History and Philosophy has long been a leader in this "student-centered" and research approach to education. The classroom is a wonderful starting place for learning but some of the real action takes place beyond those walls.

To begin with, the department attracts first-caliber students, ones who define the very character of the department. As the cover story illustrates, Mike Person is the kind of Montana kid that the department really enjoys. Modest, gracious (unless you are looking at him across the line of scrimmage), and ambitious, Mike has the kind of gritty tenacity that makes him successful. Person is a co-captain for the Montana State Bobcats. I have Mike in my "Age of the Shoguns" this semester: it doesn't surprise me that this history major has assumed such a prominent leadership role on our football team.

The department has also been engaged in other "student-centered" and student research opportunities. Sara Waller's "Urban Coyote" and "Dolphin Connection" projects both take philosophy students to new and exciting frontiers of animal languages. If urban coyotes do have a street slang of their own, one different from their hayseed cousins, then Waller's research team, which involves both undergraduate and graduate students, will be the first to know. Michael Reidy's "Tyndall Correspondence Project" invites students into the nineteenth century to transcribe manuscripts by the eminent scientist John Tyndall. The project includes universities around the world, but Montana State serves as the administrative and intellectual epicenter. Students draw on their expertise to help transcribe and

elucidate the meanings of these rare letters and documents. Importantly, the transcriptions will be published and students will be recognized in print for their research contributions.

These students are researching, peering into the past through a scientist's correspondences, and helping to interpret Tyndall's significant contribution to nineteenth-century science.

The Ashio-Anaconda copper mining NSF project allowed students to hone their interests and academic expertise working for the project. For the past three years, students have been heavily involved with research at archives around Montana. This past year, students in history and computer science joined forces to create an interactive "app" – a kind of research toolkit website – for discovering information about these two mines. The website was the senior project for the two computer science students and has garnered praise from officers at the National Science Foundation and elsewhere.

At every level of our curriculum there are students working closely with faculty members on original research topics. They learn to conduct fieldwork, transcribe tough-to-read documents, and invent new ways to disseminate knowledge. They thrive working with our world-class faculty, where they find themselves on the cutting-edge of the "exploration, discovery, and dissemination of new knowledge."





Department of History and Philosophy

Your comments and news are most welcome.

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