

# History, Philosophy, & Religious Studies

Newsletter 2014

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## First Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

By Gustavo Ascencio, Philosophy and Psychology Student

Students from over a dozen different universities in the U.S. and Canada gathered to discuss a variety of topics including Kant, moral responsibility and Extra Sensory Perception. The conference was planned and managed by Christopher Kloth, a Spring 2013 MSU graduate in Philosophy. Fifteen papers were selected to be presented at the conference, selection of which included assistance with travel expenses.

Every session, including the keynote speech, was open to the public and students from several different disciplines as well as members of the Bozeman community. Participants had a chance to listen to and meet talented students, and after each presentation, audience members had a chance to ask questions and engage in philosophical discourse. Dr. Ian Shnee from Kentucky State University gave the keynote speech on Gettier Counterexamples.

## Student Highlights & Alumni News



History PhD Student, **Natalie Sheidler**, wins Graduate Student Teaching Award. Natalie consistently receives high praise from her students and colleagues. She will be teaching her own undergraduate course this fall.

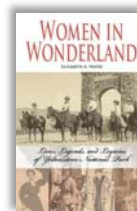
Philosophy major, **Chris Mora**, won a CLS travel grant to San Diego and presented a philosophical research poster "Reported ethical principles as a function of individual traits and group influence" at the International Neuroethics Society Conference.

**Gourav Nandi**, Philosophy student, also won a travel grant to present his paper "Hume's Ideas and Beliefs Concerning Personhood and the Data Dilemma" at the 65th Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference in Forest Grove, OR at Pacific University.



**Sabre Moore**, 2013 History graduate, was honored by The MSU Women's Center as a 2013 Student of Achievement Award Recipient, for students who have enriched MSU through hard work, team spirit, community activism and leadership.

**Jerry Jessee**, PhD History 2013, recently secured a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point.



**Elizabeth "Betsy" Waltry**, MA History 2010, author of *Women in Wonderland: Lives, Legacies and Legends of Yellowstone National Park*, has been honored with a WILLA Award. The nationally recognized award, named in honor of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather, is sponsored by Women Writing the West.

# Students Study Abroad in Casablanca



**At a dar for lunch in Meknes - David Ricci, Levi Birky, Katie Voss, Alex Dulmes, Jackie Barnes, Kylie Mosley, Matthew Evans**

Highlights included attending an international academic conference at Hassan II University, visiting hinterland Berber villages, ancient Saharan trade centers, thirteenth-century markets, the ancient Roman city of Volubilis, and the casbah and palace of Moulay Ismail Ibn Sharif, the second ruler of the Moroccan Alouite dynasty. The trip was generously subsidized by the Arab American Foundation (ARAMFO).

In June of this year, on the heels of attending an intense set of lectures regarding the history, religious beliefs, culture, and politics of Morocco, a group of MSU students found themselves touching down in Casablanca, Morocco, to kick off a 13-day educational adventure while earning course credits through *African History, Morocco: from Antiquity to Post-Colonization*. The course and group was led by Robin Hardy, Adjunct History Instructor.

The trip took students from Casablanca on a cultural and historical tour through Marrakesh, Rabat, Menkes, Fes, Tangier, the Atlas Mountains, and



**An afternoon at Volubilis - Levi Birky, Alex Dulmes, Jackie Barnes, Katie Voss, Alana Geiger, Robin Hardy, Kylie Mosley, Oliver Manning, David Ricci, Kirsty Miller, Matthew Evans**

## Our Dedicated Student Groups

The Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies is host to many student-led and faculty-supported groups that build community among and across our majors and provoke dialogue between our students.

Clubs include:

### Ethicats

*Debate Team*  
*Dr. Kristen Intemann*

### Filmosophy Night

*Philosophy & Film*

### Phi Alpha Theta

*History Honor Society*  
*Dr. Maggie Greene*

### Phi Sigma Tau

*Philosophy Honor Society*  
*Dr. Sara Waller*

For more information about our department's student groups, email [history@montana.edu](mailto:history@montana.edu)

## Ethicats Throw Down in Heber City

*A letter from Kristen Intemann, Associate Professor of Philosophy*

Please join me in congratulating this year's Ethicats, who placed 5th in our Regional Ethics Bowl! It was a long fought day in Heber City, UT, where the spectacular mountain views and the lack of anything else to do invigorated the competition. The students have spent the past two months preparing to debate 12 real-life ethical cases in business ethics, environmental ethics, biomedical ethics, and professional ethics. This year's team was made up of undergraduate students in different options in History and Philosophy.

The team started off the morning with a nail-biting match against Westminster College, debating whether it is ever ethical to break a surrogacy contract by refusing to have an abortion in a case where the fetus is found to have serious genetic abnormalities (geez, they don't start off with easy issues, do they?) .

Then, in the second and third rounds, MSU had the unfortunate luck of being matched against the two teams that went on to finish first and second in our region. In round 4, the Ethicats battled to the death with Utah State University. In the final round, Leah Hueser led the team to victory against the University of Utah in arguing that consumers have an obligation to refrain from buying goods produced in unethical conditions (such as sweatshops).

In the end, the competition was fierce and the Ethicats had 2 wins - including a rather spectacular domination of the University of Utah - 2 narrow defeats, and one tie against Utah State University. Although we will not be going to nationals this year, the team did an amazing job and every single judge remarked how impressed they were with our students' ability to work together as a team.

The students and I would also like to thank those who made this experience possible: Nicol Rae, Dean of the College of Letters & Sciences, David Cherry and the Department of History & Philosophy, as well as Prasanta Bandyopadhyay, Sandy Levy, Dale Martin, and Shelby Rogala who helped coach our students and gave them incredibly valuable feedback.

Yours,  
Coach K

**The Ethicats prepare for a long day of moral debates in Heber City, Utah**



## 2014 Stegner Lecture: Louis S. Warren

### God's Red Son: The Survival of the Ghost Dance

Award-winning historian Louis S. Warren delivered his talk on "God's Red Son: The Survival of the Ghost Dance" at Montana State University's 2014 Wallace Stegner Lecture this last Spring. Warren discussed the manner in which the Ghost Dance of 1890 promised Indian believers a new earth and the resurrection of the old ways. Common belief has it that the tradition was buried with the dead at the Wounded Knee Massacre, but Warren argues that the Ghost Dance did not die. It spread, adapted and survived, influencing religious practice among Indian peoples long into the twentieth century. He examined important questions such as How did it survive? What did it offer believers that helped them make their way in the modern world? In this lively public lecture, Warren answered these questions with a bold reinterpretation of a pivotal moment in American history.

Louis Warren is the W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western U.S. History at the University of California, Davis, where he teaches environmental history, the history of the American West, California history, and U.S. history. He is author of *The Hunter's Game: Poachers and Conservationists in Twentieth-Century America* (Yale, 1997) and *Buffalo Bill's America: William Cody and the Wild West Show* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2005). He has received numerous awards for his writing, including the Albert Beveridge Prize of the American Historical Association, the Caughey Western History Association Prize, the Western Writers of America Spur Award, the Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize, and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame Wrangler Award for Best Non-Fiction Book. He is currently writing a new book entitled *The Rising of God's Red Son: The Making of an American Religion and the Road from Wounded Knee* in support of which he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2012 - 13.

The Stegner Lecture is sponsored by the Wallace Stegner Endowed Chair in Western American Studies at MSU. The chair continues Stegner's legacy by focusing on teaching and research in history, literature, and philosophy with a concentration on pressing Western issues. The Wallace Stegner Lecture is hosted each year by the MSU Department of History and Philosophy. Past Stegner lecturers include Terry Tempest Williams, Jane Goodall, and David Quammen.



Promotional poster for 2014 Wallace Stegner Lecture



## 2013 Hausser Lecture:

### An Evening with Sheryl Noethe

By Sara Waller, Associate Professor of Philosophy

The Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies was pleased to host the 36th Annual Hausser Lecture. With the amazing patronage of Margaret Hausser, we enthusiastically brought the Montana State Poet Laureate 2011-2013 and Missoula resident, Sheryl Noethe, to

Bozeman for a small public reading in Renne Library and a large public talk in the Hager Auditorium at the Museum of the Rockies.

The Hager Auditorium talk brought together 150 people who delighted in hearing Noethe's moving stories of a difficult childhood, the power of writing, and poetry about such esoteric and diverse topics as quantum physics and adventures in riding the bus. Noethe read poems from her recent and forthcoming book, *As Is*, *The Ghost Openings*, and *The Descent of Heaven Over the Lake*; asked the audience to think about the significance of whales with remarkably human faces; she brought us heartwarming stories of truck stops, good men like her husband; and fine teachers who change the lives of students that might otherwise be fraught with self-doubt.

At a smaller library reading, Noethe was able to connect directly with several MSU students and infuse the power of words and emotions throughout a cozy coffee shop setting. Noethe was a powerful speaker and an exciting guest. She promised to return to Bozeman soon — we couldn't be more delighted. We look forward to seeing Mrs. Hausser next year; her presence was missed this year, and seeing her is a great highlight of this annual lecture.



Noethe prepares to read to a packed lounge at MSU's Renne Library, September 25, 2013

# Mary Murphy Honored as College of Letters and Science Distinguished Professor



**Dr. Mary Murphy, Distinguished Professor of History**

History professor Mary Murphy is the newest Letters and Science Distinguished Professor at Montana State University, the highest honor the MSU College of Letters and Science bestows upon its faculty members.

The three-year appointment recognizes Murphy's contributions to the college, MSU and the scholarly community at large, said Dean Nicol Rae. Murphy gave a public lecture this spring titled '*Can the Kaiser: Food, Gender, and the Domestic Politics of World War I*'.

Murphy first came to Montana in 1980 to research the history of Butte for her doctoral thesis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has taught in MSU's Department of History and Philosophy since 1990. In that time, she has won several awards for her teaching and scholarship, including the Wiley Award for meritorious research, and the Betty Coffey Award for contributions on behalf of women at MSU. She was the Michael P. Malone Professor of History from 2005-2010.

Murphy is known for her engaging history books focusing on gender in Montana, and is currently researching the historic role of food in the American West, as a way of tracing the history of women in the region.

Murphy has served on the boards for Humanities Montana and the Montana Historical Society. Humanities Montana named Murphy a Humanities Hero in 2012. *Excerpts by Evelyn Boswell*

## Women's and Gender Studies at MSU

Dr. Murphy and Dr. Intemann are currently the only two Women's and Gender Studies minor advisors in the Department of History and Philosophy.

The program encourages students to engage actively in the innovative and challenging work of interdisciplinary research by applying the critical and theoretical approaches of Women's and Gender Studies to their major.

Drawing on history, literature, cultural studies, social science, and science, the program fosters analysis of gender and sexuality as they intersect with race, ethnicity, class, nationality, and other categories of difference.

Areas of faculty strength include the study of nationhood, science, empire, transnational movements, globalization, family, health, and psycho-social well-being.

## Kristen Intemann Receives Betty Coffey Award

Dr. Kristen Intemann has been recognized by the Women's & Gender Studies Committee to receive the 2014 Betty Coffey Award. She was selected due to successfully integrating scholarship and engagement both at MSU and in the larger philosophy community, and because of her commitment to developing new courses and incorporating feminist theory into existing courses essential to the field of philosophy.

She has been recognized for her work toward helping students see how useful race and gender can be as categories of analysis, as well as her heartening and inspirational addition of feminist critiques of traditional philosophical views in academics.

Each year the Women's & Gender Studies Committee seeks nominations of faculty and staff who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in incorporating women's perspectives into the curriculum or developing academic programs that contribute to the elimination of persistent barriers to women's success at MSU. The award winner is honored at both the Women's and Gender Studies reception and the university's spring convocation.



**Dr. Kristen Intemann, Associate Professor of Philosophy**

# Conference Celebrates Billy G. Smith and Fellow Artisans



**Dr. Billy Smith, Professor of History**

In Philadelphia, November 2013, a scholarly gathering was held to celebrate the career, thus far, of Billy G. Smith, one of the McNeil Center's earliest fellows, and self-described "Dal Wallah, Chef, and Writer of the Purple Sage." Smith's work has inspired new approaches to multiple fields: urban history, the "lower sort" and the politically-engaged study of class relations, slavery, demography, print, materialism, quantitative history, and maritime history, among others. He was the Michael P. Malone Professor of History from 2002 through 2005 and the Distinguished Professor of Letters and Science from 2008 through 2011.

Daniel K. Richter, director of The McNeil Center for Early American Studies, said Smith was also one of the pioneers in what was once known as "the new social history." In a number of important articles and in his 1990 book -- The "Lower Sort: Philadelphia's Laboring People, 1750-1800" -- he set the standard for quantitative history from the bottom up and created what remains to this day the best work on late-18th-century Philadelphia and

early American urban history, Richter said. While continuing to explore social and labor history, Smith also wrote influential works on the history of medicine and disease and has turned his formidable talents to geographic information systems.

The conference, *On the Anvil of Labor History in the Revolutionary Era: Billy G. Smith and Fellow Artisans* was held at The McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

*Excerpts by Evelyn Boswell; and The McNeil Center for American Studies*

## Brett Walker wins Guggenheim Fellowship



**Dr. Walker, Regents Professor of History**

Regents' Professor Brett Walker was one of 175 scholars, artists and scientists across the nation to win a 2013 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, worth \$48,000. He and D. Graham Burnett of Princeton University were the only fellows in the "History of Science, Technology and Economics" category.

Walker applied for the fellowship by writing a proposal entitled, "The Slow Dying: Asbestos and the Unmaking of the Modern World." Winning the fellowship will allow him to pursue a project that will look at the possibility of global poisoning as industrial infrastructures around the world are destroyed by terrorism, war or natural disasters, or begin to decay.

The fellowship will help fund travel to Turkey, South Africa, Russia, Quebec and Japan where he will examine archives, conduct interviews and carry out other field work. The project will also involve Libby, Mont., and other locations in the United States. He expects it will lead him to expand his asbestos research to related projects, such as the effects of moving materials containing asbestos across national borders.

Walker also contributed to the University's Provost's Distinguished Lecturer Series in the Fall with "Ecologies of Terrorism: Tracking Asbestos from Libby to the Bodies of New York's First Responders," at the Museum of the Rockies' Hager Auditorium. *Excerpts by Evelyn Boswell, MSU News Service*

## Faculty Senate Chair: Michael Reidy



**Dr. Michael Reidy, Professor of History, has been voted in as Faculty Senate Chair for the 2014-2015 Academic year.**

# The Cooperative Predator Vocalization Consortium

*By Sara Waller, Associate Professor of Philosophy*

The Social Predator Vocalization Project was very successful this year. One of the best highlights was our spring break data collection trip. MSU students Jon Murtaugh, Gustavo Asencio, Alicia Netter, recent MSU graduate Christopher Kloth, and CSUDH student Angel Pinedo, launched the dolphin research vessel with MSU Associate Professor Sara Waller. We embarked daily from Terminal Island in Los Angeles to record and observe the vocalizations and behaviors of southern California dolphin populations. We also met several vocal sea lions, and a very affectionate, disabled baby brown pelican that had been adopted by the Southern California Marine Institute. While a few bottlenose dolphins were sighted and filmed, they did not vocalize much, and showed little interest in our boat. We were greeted enthusiastically by a large pod of Pacific whiteside dolphins who played



in our wake, raced with the boat, and cooperatively hunted while we watched and filmed. This change in dolphin populations may indicate warmer waters off the LA coastline.

In the evenings, we retreated to Malibu Heights, where coyotes were heard on two evenings and sighted on one. The spring break trip data complements vocalization data collected by enthusiastic students (all mentioned above, and Blake Hopper and Ethan Cayko) at cooperating sites such as Missouri Headwaters National Park. In West Yellowstone, we tracked coyotes, watched foxes climb on the rooftop of the Alpine Motel, and recorded wolf howls. All this wonderful work has led to modest funding from NIMBioS and will contribute to the MSU Library's new Acoustic Atlas.



## History Graduate Student Studying Abroad in Israel

*By Tim Turnquist*

Now that I have decided to do a History M.A. at Montana State University, dull moments are few and far between. World religions, theology, and archaeology have always fascinated me. When I was young my mother had traveled to Israel already several times, and with each trip brought home exotic "artifacts." These objects evoked in me a curiosity that has only grown over time. Since I frequently think about the history of religion, the thought of turning this incessant contemplation into a career move seems natural. I have taken two courses taught by Dr. Susan Cohen. Currently, I am writing from the Hebrew University at Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, where I am taking a historical archaeology course. The course unfolds the intricate religious and architectural tapestry that is Jerusalem, beginning with the Canaanite Period and continuing with the modern socio-political landscape. The architectural trinity of the Dome of the Rock, the Western Wall, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher give this city an electric atmosphere that captivates the mind.

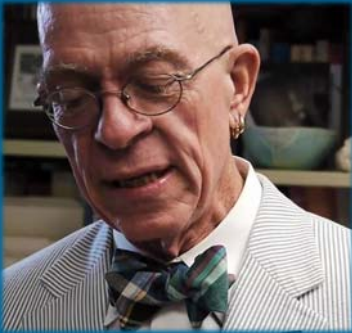
Despite the splendor of Jerusalem and its fascinating archaeology, the current conflict between Israel and Hamas has been an unsettling reality to assimilate for this rural Nebraskan! Yet, meeting diverse peoples and hearing their perspectives have been priceless. My time in Jerusalem will be pertinent for the start of my graduate career in August. In the fall, I will be taking Dr. Susan Cohen's Archaeology and Religion course; also I will take coursework related to the settlement of the American West. The month spent in Jerusalem will be useful for my upcoming Archaeology and Religion research paper which explores twentieth-century perspectives on Israelite settlement in the Levant. I look forward to returning to Montana and to beginning my graduate career at MSU.



**Tim Turnquist, with a view of the Dome of the Rock, in Jerusalem.**

# Celebrating New Faculty Books

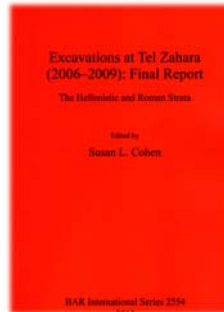
## College of Letters and Science Distinguished Speaker Series: Dr. Darden Pyron



On October 29, 2013, the Department of History, Philosophy was treated to a lecture from Darden Asbury Pyron, Professor of History at Florida International University, and biographical author.

His lecture entitled "History and Biography: The Case for Life and Times Writing" was held at the Procrastinator Theater in the Student Union Building and was open to the public and students of all disciplines.

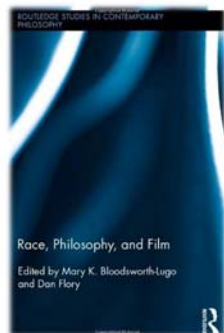
During Dr. Pyron's time at MSU, he presented a special Colloquium to a packed room of History Graduate students on his biographies of several famous historical and pop cultural icons such as novelist Margaret Mitchell, entertainer Liberace, and Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman.



## Susan Cohen

**Excavations at Tel Zahara (2006-2009): Final Report—The Hellenistic and Roman Strata**  
British Archaeological Reports

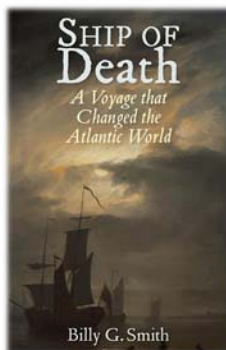
This volume presents the architecture, biological remains, and other material culture from the Hellenistic, Roman, and later strata excavated at Tel Zahara, a small site approximately 0.25 ha, located in the central Jordan Valley in modern Israel.



## Dan Flory

*Race, Philosophy and Film*  
Routledge Press

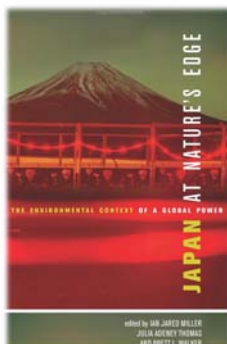
This collection fills a gap in the current literature in philosophy and film by focusing on the question: How would thinking in philosophy and film be transformed if race were formally incorporated, moved from its margins to the center?



## Billy Smith

*Ship of Death: A Voyage That Changed the Atlantic World*  
Yale University Press

This extraordinary book uncovers the long-forgotten story of the Hankey, from its altruistic beginnings to its disastrous end, and describes the ship's fateful impact upon people from West Africa to Philadelphia, Haiti to London.



## Brett Walker

*Japan at Nature's Edge: The Environmental Context of a Global Power*  
University of Hawaii Press

Japan at Nature's Edge is a timely collection of essays that explores the relationship between Japan's history, culture, and physical environment. The work is an environmental history in the broadest sense of the term because it contains writing by environmental anthropologists, a legendary Japanese economist, and scholars of Japanese literature and culture.

# Two New Staff Members Join the Department

## Sheryl Dettmann

A graduate of MSU, Sheryl has worked at the university since 2002, in the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Technology Transfer office. She has served as Chair of Professional Council.

Sheryl volunteers in the Symphonic Choir, performing with the Bozeman Symphony several times a year. In 2012, she was one of a dozen Bozemanites who travelled to London to sing in a music festival that was a kick-off to the Summer Olympics. She enjoys traveling, cooking, downhill and cross-country skiing, hiking with her dog, Bailey, and fishing with her husband, Mack.



## Kellie Stoolman

Kellie is an Idaho native and has lived in Bozeman for almost 3 years with her fiancé, 2 big black dogs, and 2 cats. She has worked on campus for over 2 years, previously in the Land Resources & Environmental Sciences Department.

In 2011, Kellie received her BS in Natural Resource Management from the University of Utah, and continues to take courses at MSU as a non-degree graduate student in preparation for applying to MSU's Fish & Wildlife Management graduate program. She enjoys hiking, fly fishing, camping, birding, rafting, skiing, cooking, and being a coach for the local Special Olympics track and basketball teams. Education is very important to Kellie, and she is excited to take a more hands on approach in working with students and faculty.



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## Upcoming Event: Michael P. Malone Conference

*By Bob Rydell*

*September 24-27, 2014*

"The Trans-Atlantic Buffalo Bill" is the subject of this year's Michael P. Malone Conference. Scholars from Europe and the United States will examine the influence of the Wild West on both European and American audiences with particular attention to how the show shaped ideas about cosmopolitanism. As with previous Malone Conferences, this one will also give our graduate students an opportunity to learn about recent developments in historiography and archives, including the digital humanities.

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### Contact Us!

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