

JUNE 2022

# PHILOSOPHY AND HUMANITIES



## Notes from the Chair

When we inaugurated this Dept. of Philosophy & Humanities newsletter at the end of 2019, we had no idea of what the next couple of years had in store for us all. But we have weathered it, and we hope you have done the same.

After our classes shifted abruptly online in March 2020, we stayed with remote instruction through the 2020-21 academic year. The faculty negotiated this transition in characteristic fashion by rolling up their sleeves and figuring out how to make it work. We learned new technologies for running synchronous classes and for recording and editing lectures for asynchronous ones; we attended training sessions and workshops on pedagogical techniques and assessments for online courses; we shared resources and tips with colleagues both at ETSU and elsewhere – all with one goal in mind – to keep teaching our classes effectively and to be there for our students. We returned to primarily face-to-face instruction in 2021-22, and though this has not exactly been a return to ‘normal,’ we have adapted to the challenges.

The last two years have also brought some important changes among the faculty. Dr. Jeff Gold retired after 42 years with the university, and Dr. Ian Hensley joined the department as our specialist in ancient philosophy. And though the pandemic stopped faculty travel to conferences, it didn’t prevent the faculty from continuing with their research and scholarly activity – most notably, Dr. Hensley was a fellow at the Centre for Hellenistic Studies in Spring 2021, and in 2022, Dr. Michael Allen published a co-edited volume and won the College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Research Award.

Our students have proved to be resilient and continue to excel, with some presenting work at undergraduate conferences. To support students as they approach their final year in the program, the faculty established the Philosophy Senior Scholarship in 2021. We are pleased to hear of the success of recent graduates as they pursue graduate and professional degrees at other institutions. All of the faculty enjoy hearing from alumni and former students, so please keep in touch and let us know what you have been up to.

Best,  
Leslie MacAvoy  
Professor and Chair



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### **Department Welcomes New Assistant Professor, Ian Hensley**

In fall of 2020, the Department of Philosophy & Humanities was pleased to welcome Dr. Ian Hensley to the faculty as Assistant Professor. Specializing in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, Dr. Hensley received his doctorate from Cornell University in 2016 and taught at Emory & Henry College and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During spring of 2021, he was a Research Fellow at Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies.

Originally from rural southwest Virginia, Dr. Hensley graduated with honors from University of Virginia before going on to study at Cornell University, where he was awarded the Margaret Werly Graduate Fellowship and the Sage Fellowship.

Ian is a self-professed basketball fanatic who enjoys playing as well as watching the sport.

Since 2020, Ian has published several articles, book chapters, and book reviews. He has also given talks at Oxford University's Ancient Philosophy Workshop, the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, and will give a talk at the Symposium Hellenisticum in Geneva, Switzerland this summer.

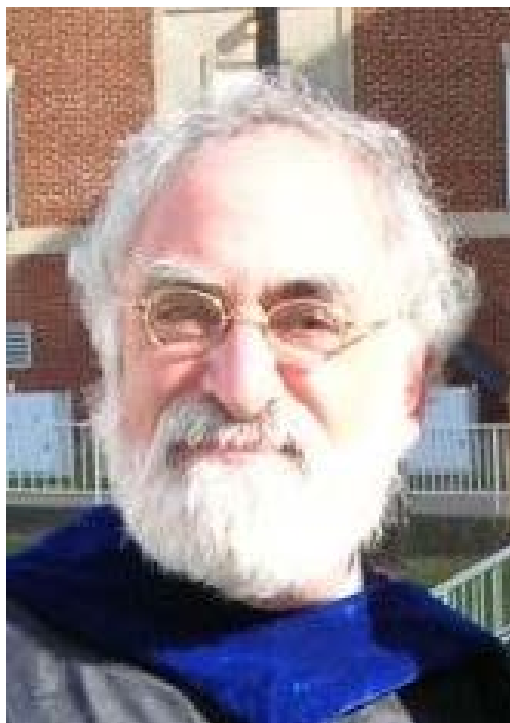
### **Jeff Gold Retires from Philosophy Department After Forty-Two Years of Service**

In 2020, the Philosophy Department bid farewell to Jeffrey Gold, who retired after 42 years of dedicated service to the institution. During that period, Dr. Gold touched the lives of thousands of ETSU students in his roles as professor, advisor, and administrator.

Jeff Gold came to ETSU in 1978 after receiving his Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He was department chair from 1981 to 1987 and again from 2004 to 2010.

Dr. Gold was a popular and well-liked professor, and many students at ETSU were introduced to philosophy in his courses. Specializing in ancient philosophy, Dr. Gold also taught classes in Eastern philosophy and mysticism, covering topics such as yoga and Kabbalah, Theories of Liberation, and Buddhism.

Dr. Gold served as an advisor throughout his teaching career, advising Philosophy majors and honors students in the department, as well as undeclared students in the University Advisement Center. He was also the director for the Center for Undeclared Majors from 1993 to 1998 while serving as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



### **Dr. Michael Allen's Distinguished Research**

In Spring of 2022, Dr. Michael Allen was honored with the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Research Award. Along with this award, Dr. Allen wrote the book *Rethinking the American Animal Rights Movement* with Emily Patterson-Kane and Jennifer Edie, and it was published by Routledge Press in 2022.

Since 2020, Dr. Allen has contributed 13 published journal articles, including five single-authored and eight co-authored pieces. He continues his dedication to both educating his students and pursuing his valuable research.

### **Additional Faculty Research**

#### **Dr. Allen Coates**

"Moral Worth and Accidentally Right Actions," *Analysis*, 81: 3 (July 2021), 389-396.

#### **Dr. Keith Green**

"Spinoza on Hatred and Power and the Challenge of Reconciliation," in Paula Satne and Krissanna Scheiter, eds. *Conflict and Resolution: The Ethics of Forgiveness, Revenge, and Punishment* (Springer, 2022), 59-81.

"Love, Hatred, and Self-preservation in Descartes' Passions of the Soul and Spinoza's theory of the Affects," *Rivista di Filosofia Neo-Scolastica*, CXII (2020), 2, 425-442.

"Spinoza, Sin as Debt, and the Sin of the Prophets", *Religions*, Special Issue: Religious Ethics and the Morality of Payback; ed. Diana Cates, 10:10 (2019), 552.

#### **Dr. David Harker**

"Scientific Progress and Scientific Realism," *New Philosophical Perspectives on Scientific Progress*, ed. Yafeng Shan. (Routledge, forthcoming 2022).

#### **Dr. Ian Hensley**

"The Physics of Stoic Cosmogony." *Apeiron* 54, no. 2 (2021): 161–187.

"The Physics of Pneuma in Early Stoicism." In *The Concept of Pneuma After Aristotle*, edited by Orly Lewis, David Leith, and Sean Coughlin, 171–201. Berlin: Edition Topoi, 2020.

#### **Dr. Scott Contreras-Koterbay**

"Affrontare Il sex appeal dell'inorganico nell'era della New Aesthetic" ("Addressing the sex appeal of the inorganic in the New Aesthetic era") was translated by editor Enea Bianchi and published by Mimesis Edizioni.

"In Anxious Anticipation of Our Imminent Obsolescence" included in *Lacanian Perspectives on Blade Runner 2049*, was edited by Calum Neill and published by Palgrave Macmillan.

#### **Dr. Leslie MacAvoy**

"Logos, Perception, and the Ontological Function of Discourse in Phenomenology: A Theme from Heidegger's Reading of Aristotle," *Language and Phenomenology*, ed. Chad Engelland, Routledge, 2021, pp. 115-131.

### **Philosophy Department Offers New Scholarship for Rising Seniors**

The Philosophy Senior Scholarship was created in 2021 by the faculty of the Dept. of Philosophy & Humanities to support rising seniors in the Philosophy major. The scholarship is awarded annually and is a competitive, merit-based award.

## Student Accomplishments

### Awards and Presentations 2022

Two Philosophy students, Abigail Arnett and Sarah Hill, presented research at the University of North Carolina Asheville Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference.

"Posthumous Harm through Narrative Identity" by Abigail Arnett, awarded first place.

"Hare's Response to the Non-identity Problem" by Sarah Hill.

### 2022 Scholarship Recipients

The Philosophy Senior Scholarship was awarded to Lukas Christensen.

The Dr. Neil Shanks Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Nathan Turner.

### Honors Theses 2022

"Examining Appalachian Deaths of Despair Through a Perspective of Marxism and Intersectionality" by Mackenzie Boughner, supervised by Dr. Michael Allen.

## Alumni

Are you an alumnus? We want to hear from you! Stay up to date on department news by visiting our website [www.etsu.edu/cas/philosophy](http://www.etsu.edu/cas/philosophy).

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