

Department of Philosophy Newsletter

Spring 2017

HONORS IN THE MAJOR STUDENTS

The following students are pursuing HIM theses in our department and we wish them much success in their exciting research.

Zacariah Neemah

Chair: Dr. Luis Favela
Thesis Title: *Flocks, Swarms, Crowds and Cities: On the Scope and Limits of Cognition.*

Austin Tindle

Chair: Jonathan Beever
Thesis Title: *Examination of Theories of Autopoiesis As It Relates to Questions of Mind, Cognition, and Living Systems.*

Patricia Miller

Chair: Luciana Garbayo
Thesis Title: *A Philosophical Study of the Role of Emotions in Decision Making.*

Darryl Hunter

Chair: Tino DiBernardo
Thesis Title: *Currently Untitled* This thesis will delve into the religious themes and aspects of the *Star Wars* movie series.

The HIM Program allows motivated students to undertake original and independent work in their major field. If any students would like to pursue an Honors in the Major, please contact us!

Happy New Year and Welcome to our first newsletter, in which we highlight student awards, student research, and some important upcoming dates and events.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the new things going on in the Department and we hope that you have a great semester and continued success!

The Philosophy Department at UCF offers majors and minors in Humanities and Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Religion and Cultural Studies, and a minor in Cognitive Sciences. Advising within the Department involves all full-time faculty serving as advisors for the programs in their areas of expertise. If you ever need advising, please go to the Philosophy Department in PSY 220 to speak to the main office staff, or email philosophy@ucf.edu, or call 407-823-2273.

2017 STUDENT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Department of Philosophy Academic Excellence Awards of \$500 will be available in Spring 2017 for UCF undergraduates majoring in Humanities & Cultural Studies, Philosophy, or Religion & Cultural Studies who have demonstrated academic excellence. Students interested in applying for an award must submit a **single pdf** email attachment to philosophy@ucf.edu by **March 3, 2017** which includes: (1) a 1-2 page letter of application that explains the student's academic achievements and future academic goals, (2) an original writing sample that is a maximum of 10 double-spaced pages, and (3) the student's UCF audit. Awards will be determined by a committee of departmental faculty and will be given at an event in April 2017 in which student winners will discuss their academic work.

COLLOQUIA

As part of our ongoing colloquium series, we are pleased to have three prominent scholars giving talks in our Department this semester. See the Events Calendar on our departmental website for full details.

Dr. John Stuhr, Arts and Sciences



Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and American Studies and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Emory College, will be visiting our department on Friday, **February 10**. Topic: TBD. Time & Location: PSY 226 from 3:30- 5:00 pm.

Dr. Portia Maultsby, Laura Boulton



Professor Emerita of Ethnomusicology at Indiana University, will be visiting our department and giving a colloquium on Friday, **February 24**, in PSY 226 from 3:30-5:00 pm. The colloquium's title is: "Constructing Identity and Meaning in Performance of Black Gospel Music on the Global Stage: The Netherlands, a Case Study."

Dr. J. Aaron Simmons, Associate



Professor of Philosophy at Furman University, will be giving a talk titled "Phenomenology from Now On" on Monday, **April 10**, in PSY 226 from 4:30-6:00 pm.



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

NEW FUTURE COURSES

Starting in fall 2017 the Humanities and Cultural Studies program will be offered a new course on **Critical Race Theory** (HUM 3930 Special Topics). Dr. Christian Ravela will be teaching this course, which will cover the major themes, theories, and historiography of Critical Race Theory, including special and world-historical racial formations from modernity to the 21st century.

Also, Drs. Ann Gleig and Luis Favela will be teaming up to offer an honors interdisciplinary seminar on **The Buddha's Brain: Buddhism and Cognitive Sciences** in spring 2018 (PHI 3930H & REL 3930H Honors Special Topics). This course will bring together perspectives from Buddhism and Cognitive Sciences to examine (1) the nature of mind and self, (2) the meaning of life, and (3) the role culture plays in conversations between religion and science.

KEY DATES

- Deadlines:
 - Add: 1/13/17
 - Drop: 1/12/17
 - Withdrawal Deadline: 3/22/17
- Holidays
 - MLK Jr. Day: 1/16/17
 - Spring Break: 3/13/17 - 3/18/17

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Philosophical Society** is an undergraduate student organization that meets every Friday in PSY 226 from 6:00-9:00 pm. More information is available on their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ucfphisociety/>.

The **Religious Studies Club** is starting and plans to meet bi-weekly this semester. Please contact President Nicole Wrobel for more details at kole@knights.ucf.edu

DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Bruce Janz will be one of several prominent scholars serving



as participating faculty at the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on Space, Place, and the Humanities

from July 24 to August 11, 2017. The institute hosted by the Humanities Center at Northeastern University is devoted to the newly-emerging, interdisciplinary field of Geohumanities. At the intersection of geography, history, literature, creative arts, and social justice, Geohumanities focuses on the role of space and place in a range of humanities disciplines.

We Are Here to Help You Succeed

All our faculty are more than happy to help you when you need advising, but for particular questions regarding course substitutions and major/minor changes please speak to one of the Program Directors, Program Assistant, or Chair.

- Dr. Michael Strawser, Department of Philosophy Chair, Michael.Strawser@ucf.edu
- Dr. Nicholas Shrubsole, Humanities & Cultural Studies Program Director, Nicholas.Shrubsole@ucf.edu
- Dr. Donald Jones, Philosophy Program Director, Donjones@ucf.edu
- Dr. Douglas Evans, Religion & Cultural Studies Program Director, Douglas.Evans@ucf.edu
- Dr. Jennifer Mundale, Cognitive Sciences Minor Program Director, Jennifer.Mundale@ucf.edu
- Mr. Josejuan Rodriguez, Program Assistant, Josejuan.Rodriguez@ucf.edu

Learn more about us!

Philosophy.cah.ucf.edu



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