

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

GRADUATE FACULTY

The Philosophy Department currently has fourteen regular faculty members, and approximately 30 graduate students in residence. The research and teaching interests of the faculty span all the major subject areas of philosophy (ethics, epistemology, history of philosophy, logic, and metaphysics), and many of the important specialties (including aesthetics, philosophy of language, philosophy of law, philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of psychology, philosophy of science, and political philosophy). The graduate faculty for the upcoming academic year, their primary research and teaching interests, and references to some publications are listed below.

Edward Becker, Associate Professor (Ph.D., Johns Hopkins). Professor Becker teaches graduate courses in analytic philosophy, and philosophy of language. His publications include articles on the philosophy of language, and he is currently completing a book on Quine.

“Holistic Behaviorism,” *Proceedings of the 9th International Wittgenstein Symposium*, 1985.

“Quine and the Problem of Significance,” *Proceedings of the 7th International Wittgenstein Symposium*, 1983.

Albert Casullo, Professor (Ph.D., 1975, Iowa). Professor Casullo teaches graduate courses in epistemology and metaphysics.

His publications focus on a priori knowledge, perception, and metaphysical issues connected with particulars and universals. He is the editor of the International Research Library of Philosophy volume on *A Priori Knowledge*, and the author of *A Priori Justification*.

“Knowledge, Truth, and Unthinkability,” in Larry Lee Blackman, ed., *Identity, Existence, and Knowledge: Essays on the Philosophy of Panayot Butchvarov* (Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2005).

A Priori Justification (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

“A Priori Knowledge,” in P. Moser, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Epistemology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

“The Coherence of Empiricism,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 81 (2000):31-48.

Janice Dowell, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh) Her areas of primary research are Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, and Metaphysics. She also has a serious secondary interest in metaethics.

“A Priori Entailment and Conceptual Analysis: Making Room for Type-C Physicalism”, (Australasian Journal of Philosophy, forthcoming)

“Serious Metaphysics and the Vindication of Reductions” (Philosophical Studies, forthcoming)

“The Physical: Empirical, Not Metaphysical” (Philosophical Studies, October 2006, Volume 131, Issue 1, pp 25-60.)

“From Metaphysical to Substantive Naturalism: A Case Study” (Synthese, January 2004, Volume 138, No. 2, pp. 149-173.)

John Gibbons, Assistant Professor, received his Ph.D from Brown University. He does the philosophy of mind by doing action theory and epistemology. He has published on the individuation of content and the explanation of action. He currently is working on epistemic externalism and the nature of reasoning.

“Knowledge in Action” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* LXII (2001).

“Externalism and Knowledge of the Attitudes” *Philosophical Quarterly* 51 (2001).

“Externalism and Knowledge of Content” *Philosophical Review* 105 (1996).

Reina Hayaki, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Princeton University). Professor Hayaki’s areas of specialization are philosophical logic, metaphysics and philosophy of language. She is currently writing a book on modality.

David Henderson, Robert R. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and the Moral Sciences, (Ph.D., Washington University) David Henderson teaches and writes primarily in epistemology and the philosophy of the social sciences. His interests in epistemology largely revolve around what it is to be justified in holding a belief. He has written on epistemological internalism and externalism, on various versions of reliabilism, on foundationalism and coherentism, on virtue epistemology, and on a priori justification. He is also interested in testimonial based knowledge, and in contextual accounts of knowledge. His work in the philosophy of the social science has focused on the relations between interpretation and

explanation, and on the place for attributions of rationality and irrationality.

Harry Ide, Associate Professor (Ph.D., Cornell). Professor Ide teaches graduate courses in ancient, Hellenistic, and medieval philosophy. His publications concern issues in ancient philosophy and ethics.

“Aristotle, *Metaphysics* 6.2-3, and determinism,” *Ancient Philosophy* 13 (1993): 341-354.

“Hobbes' Contractarian Account of Individual Responsibility for Group Actions,” *Journal of Value Inquiry* 27 (1993): 455-464.

“*Dunamis* in *Metaphysics* 9,” *Apeiron* 35 (1992): 1-26.

Jennifer McKittrick, Assistant Professor (Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology), She received her Ph.D. in with her dissertation “The Metaphysics of Dispositions”. Her research concerns metaphysics and philosophy of science, particularly dispositions and causal relevance. She also works on feminist philosophy and is a member of the department of Women's and Gender Studies at UNL.

“The Bare Metaphysical Possibility of Bare Dispositions” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, March 2003.

“Reid's Foundation for the Primary Quality/ Secondary Quality Distinction” *Philosophical Quarterly*, October 2002. Reprinted in *The Philosophy of Thomas Reid: A Collection of Essays*, John Haldane and Stephen Read, eds., Blackwell, 2003.

“A Case for Extrinsic Dispositions” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, June 2003.

Joseph Mendola, Professor (Ph.D., Michigan) Department Chair. Professor Mendola teaches graduate courses in metaphysics, ethical theory, and philosophy of mind. His research concerns philosophy of mind, ethics, and metaphysics.

Goodness and Justice (Cambridge University Press, 2006)

“Knowledge and Evidence”, *The Journal of Philosophy CIV*, March 2007

Anti-Externalism (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)

Nelson Potter, Professor, (Ph.D., 1969, Johns Hopkins). Professor Potter teaches graduate courses in ethics and Kant. Most of his publications are on Kant's moral philosophy. He also publishes on capital punishment and aesthetics. His current research focuses on Kant's philosophy, especially his ethics, and on topics in aesthetics.

“Kant and the Moral Worth of Actions,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 34 (1996): 225-241.

“Kant on Obligation and Motivation in Law and Ethics,” *Jahrbuch für Recht and Ethik* 2 (1994): 95-111.

“What is Wrong with Kant’s Four Examples,” *Journal of Philosophical Research* 43 (1993): 213-229.

Charles Sayward, Professor, (Ph.D., Cornell) Professor Sayward teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in philosophy of logic, philosophy of language, and philosophy of mathematics.

Intensionality and Truth, (Kluwer, 1996); *Arithmetic and Ontology: A Non-realist Philosophy of Arithmetic*, volume 90 of the *Monographs-in-Debate* subseries of *Poznan Studies in Science and Humanities*, edited by Pieranna Garavaso (Rodopi, 2006).

“What is the Logic of Propositional Identity?” (2006) *Logic and Logical Philosophy*, 15: 3-15;

“What Truth is there in Psychological Egoism?” (2006) *Facta Philosophica*, 8: 145-159;

“Quine and his Critics on Truth-Functionality and Extensionality” (2007) *Logic and Logical Philosophy*, 16: 45-63.

Robert Schopp, Robert J. Kutak Professor of Law, Ph.D University of Arizona, J.D., University of Arizona. Professor Schopp practiced clinical psychology before turning to the study of law and philosophy in an attempt to understand some perplexing issues that he encountered during ten years of clinical practice. He joined the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1989 after completing the concurrent law/philosophy program at the University of Arizona. His primary areas of interest involve questions that lie at the intersection of law, psychology and philosophy. These issues tend to arise in criminal law, mental health law, jurisprudence and professional ethics.

Competence, Condemnation, and Commitment, Washington D.C., (Amer. Psychological Assoc. Press, 2001)

“Multiple Personality Disorder, Accountable Agency, and Criminal Acts”, 10 S. Cal. Interdisc. L. J. 297 (2001)

Justification Defenses and Just Convictions,
(Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998)

Automatism, Insanity, and the Psychology of
Criminal Responsibility, (Cambridge,
Cambridge Univ. Press 1991)

Mark van Roojen, Associate Professor (Ph.D.,
Princeton). Professor van Roojen teaches
graduate and undergraduate courses in
normative ethics, metaethics, and political
philosophy. His current research is also in the
same areas. He has held visiting appointments
in philosophy at Brown University and most
recently at the University of Arizona.

“Knowing Enough to Disagree: A New
Response to the Moral Twin Earth Argument,”
in Russ Shafer-Landau (ed.) *Oxford Studies in
Metaethics*, Volume I (Oxford; Oxford
University Press, 2006).

“Motivational Internalism: A Somewhat Less
Idealized Account,” *The Philosophical
Quarterly* Vol. 50, No. 199 (April 2000), pp.
233-241.

“Reflective Moral Equilibrium and
Psychological Theory,” *Ethics* (July, 1999): pp
846-857.

“Expressivism and Irrationality,” *The
Philosophical Review*, Vol. 105, No. 3 (July,
1996): pp. 322-335.

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Philosophy Department offers graduate
programs leading to both the M.A. and Ph.D.
degrees, with most students pursuing the latter.
The Ph.D. program is designed to prepare
students for the profession in terms of both
research and teaching experience.

Prerequisites: The Admissions committee
may look at your overall GPA, but will
primarily be interested in your grades in
philosophy classes. Doing well outside of
philosophy might help, if you do well in any
area relevant to your philosophical interests.
For example, if you're interested in philosophy
of physics, doing well in advanced physics
courses will help; if you're interested in
classical Greek philosophy, doing well in
Greek and Latin language courses will help.
But since we're primarily interested in your
philosophical abilities, your philosophy courses
matter more.

Structure: The Ph.D. program comprises a
core program consisting of basic seminars in
logic, epistemology, philosophy of science,
ethics, social-political philosophy, metaphysics,
philosophy of language, history of ancient, and
history of modern philosophy; and a *research*
program consisting of advanced seminars in a
wide range of more specialized areas. The
Department offers eleven to twelve graduate
courses a year, divided about evenly between
the core program and research program.

Requirements: Students are expected to take a total of 54 hours of courses on the way to a Ph.D.. Students seeking a Ph.D. ordinarily must meet the following requirements prior to candidacy: (1) *Core Requirement:* pass six 800-level core classes with a B+ or better. Two of these should be in metaphysics and epistemology broadly construed, along with one course in each of logic, value theory, history of ancient philosophy and history of modern philosophy. (2) *Research Seminar Requirement:* pass upper-level seminars in each of metaphysics and epistemology, value theory, and history. (3) *Area Paper Requirement:* submit and have accepted research papers in the two of these three areas in which they are not pursuing dissertation work. (4) *Advancement Paper Requirement:* Submit and have accepted a paper in their dissertation area and pass an oral exam on the paper administered by a subcommittee of the faculty.

Normal Progress: Graduate Teaching Assistants usually take three courses per semester. In their first year, students typically take four basic seminars, including one or two in the history of philosophy, and two research seminars. In their first two years, students normally complete all of the core requirements, most of the research area requirements, and submit at least one research area paper for review. Students normally complete all course work and satisfy all requirements other than the dissertation by the end of their third year. Work on the dissertation begins in the first semester of the fourth year and is normally completed in five years. Students who have completed an M.A. in philosophy elsewhere are able to accelerate this schedule up to a year.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Availability: Financial assistance is available through both the Department and the University. For 2007-2008 fourteen graduate students hold teaching assistantships or fellowships.

Graduate teaching assistantships are awarded by the Department. The stipend for 2007-2008 is \$11,337., plus a full tuition waiver and approximately 80% payment of health insurance premiums. In addition financial support is available for summer school employment. Additional departmental support is available to students who serve as graders. The University awards a number of fellowships each year to its best graduate school applicants.

Criteria: Teaching assistantships and fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis. For entering students, decisions are made on the basis of the application form, transcripts, letters of recommendation, GRE scores, a statement of interest, and a sample of written work in philosophy. Students entering the program without financial support are considered for support in subsequent years. For such students, decisions are made on the basis of performance in their graduate studies.

Timetable: Applications for financial aid and teaching assistantships must be complete by **January 31** to insure full consideration. Applicants should be aware that the requesting, sending, and evaluation of official transcripts is a slow process that may require two months to complete. It also takes time for letters of recommendation to be completed and sent. Applying to take the GRE requires advanced planning. So be sure to begin the application process early.

Continuation: Once awarded, a teaching assistantship will be renewed each year for three more years provided the student makes normal progress towards the degree. A fifth year of financial support is usually available to students who are actively writing their dissertations.

Duties: Teaching assistants typically teach four discussion sections for large introductory lecture courses, and are responsible for much of the grading in those courses. Advanced teaching assistants teach their own courses in the evening program and during the summer.

GRADUATE STUDENT POPULATION

Here is some information about our currently supported students:

Ave. GRE score:	Verbal:	629/83%
	Quant:	620/60%
	Analytic:	482/50%
Ave. Cum. GPA:	3.5	
Ave. GPA-Phil:	3.73	
# Entering with MA:	3	

PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED INSTITUTIONS:

Bowling Green State University
Geneva College, PA
Minnesota State Univ.-Moorhead
Miami University, Oxford (MA)
St. Joseph's University, PA (MA)
Simpson College
SUNY Geneseo, NY
Texas Tech
Trinity International University (MA)
University of Central Arkansas
University of Minnesota, Mnnpls/St Paul
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque(MA)
University of Portland
University of Toledo, Ohio (MA)

PLACEMENT

The Department is strongly committed to helping its graduates secure academic jobs at respected institutions. The following is a list of academic placements made for our Ph.D.s during recent years. Some have had jobs at more than one institution.

Auburn University (Alabama)
California State University, Fresno (Calif.)
California State University, Northridge (Calif.)
Century Community and Technical College (MN)
College of St. Mary (Nebraska)
Creighton University (Nebraska)
Elon University (North Carolina)
Grinnell College (Iowa)
Illinois State University-Normal (Illinois)
Iowa State University (Iowa)
McNeese University (Louisiana)
Moorhead State University (Minnesota)
Northern Kentucky University (Kentucky)
Northwestern College (Iowa)
Southern Methodist University (Texas)
SUNY, Fredonia (New York)
Kirkwood Community College (Iowa)
Temple University, (Pennsylvania)
University of Colorado Springs (Colorado)
University of Colorado - Denver
University of Dubuque (Iowa)
University of Indianapolis (Indiana)
University of Louisville (Kentucky)
University of Memphis (Tennessee)
University of Minnesota-Morris (Minn.)
University of Nebraska-Omaha (Nebraska)
University of St. Thomas (Minnesota)
University of South Dakota (South Dakota)
University of Utah (Utah)
West Virginia University (West Virginia)
University of Wyoming (Wyoming)

In addition to these academic placements, our Ph.D.s have jobs in state government and the ministry. Some of our students have gone on to study in such fields as law or computer science.

FACILITIES

Computers with internet access and printers are available for all graduate students use. Office space is provided for students holding teaching assistantships or fellowships. A comfortably furnished common room housing a variety of philosophical journals and books provides a study area for students and a setting for faculty-student interaction outside the classroom.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

The Department annually brings to campus three to four nationally recognized philosophers each school year . Some of the past speakers include: Gisela Striker, Tony Brueckner, Stephen Darwall, Robert Stalnaker, John Searle, Timothy Williamson, Julia Annas, Stephen Yablo, Crispin Wright, Frances Kamm, Hilary Putnam, David Chalmers, Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, Philip Pettit, Colin McGinn

INFORMATION

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PHILOSOPHY DEPT.WEB SITE:

<http://www.unl.edu/philosop/>

Office of Graduate Studies: Admissions

1100 Seaton Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0619
PHONE: 800-472-2875
E-MAIL: graduate@unl.edu
Graduate web site with on line application
<http://www.unl.edu/gradstud/>

The first three items on the list below should be sent to the Office of Graduate Studies at the above address.

APPLICATIONS

All applications should include:

- (1) the single page application form providing basic information, this may be done online at: http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/prospective/app_degree.shtml
- (2) official transcripts from colleges attended
- (3) GRE scores
- (4) three letters of recommendation
- (5) a short statement of philosophical interests and
- (6) a sample of written work in philosophy.

The last three can be sent directly to the Department of Philosophy at the address below:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Department of Philosophy
1010 Oldfather Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588-0321

Applications for financial aid must be complete by **January 31** to insure full consideration.

