

# Department of Philosophy and Religion

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# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

## *Bill Adler Wins Top NC State Awards*

NC State has bestowed its highest faculty award, the Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal, on Dr. William Adler, Professor of Religious Studies. This medal recognizes Bill Adler's outstanding contributions to NC State during his 25-year career at the University. It follows hard on the heels of Bill's being named Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor.

Bill teaches courses on the New Testament, the Intertestamental Literature, Early Christianity to the Time of Eusebius, Life and Letters of the Apostle Paul, and Advanced Readings in the Christian Gospels. He is a superb teacher whose classes are almost always full; it is not unusual for students who take one of them to come back for one, two, or even three more. He has become an informal mentor to many, advising them on opportunities for further study and career choices, and encouraging them in their endeavors after graduation.

Bill notes that he has become increasingly aware of the challenges of teaching religion courses in a public university, especially on topics in which students are personally invested. All his classes promote constructive but unfettered inquiry and allow for ambiguity, uncertainty and civil intellectual exchange.

Bill is a model academic citizen. He has served on many university committees and is held in the highest esteem by departmental colleagues, who frequently select him for the most sensitive jobs, requiring the diligence, impartiality, and integrity for which he is admired. Bill has also made huge contributions in professional service, and was founding editor of the Society of Biblical Literature's monograph series *Early Judaism and its Literature*.

But Bill's greatest achievements are undoubtedly in research. His widely celebrated monograph, *Time Immemorial: Primordial History in Christian Chronography from Julius Africanus to George Syncellus* (Dumbarton Oaks, 1989), reopened and completely



*Faculty Award Winners: William Adler, Anna B. Bigelow, and John W. Carroll.*

redefined the field of Christian chronography, which had been virtually moribund for almost a century. This work remains the most important landmark in the field.

Bill's many other scholarly publications include *The Chronography of George Syncellos: a Byzantine Chronicle of Universal History from the Creation* (Oxford University Press, 2002), a joint work with Paul Tuffin of the University of Adelaide, which has been praised as a "monumental academic achievement."

Bill has received numerous honors, fellowships, and awards during his career, including a Fulbright-Hays Visiting Lectureship at the Hebrew University and major research fellowships from the Annenberg Institute, Dumbarton Oaks, the NEH, and the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Bill has also had distinguished visiting research appointments at the University of Adelaide, Friederich-Schiller-Universität Jena, and the University of Basel.

Bill's widely influential scholarship has put NC State on the world map in the eyes of medievalists, Byzantinists, biblical and patristic scholars, Renaissance scholars, classicists, and students of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and the Ancient Near East.

### **OTHER FACULTY AWARDS**

The Department has just had what could be its most successful year ever in winning faculty awards. As reported in our lead article, Dr. William Adler has received two major university awards. In addition, two other members of our faculty have won important awards.

Dr. Anna B. Bigelow, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, has received the CHASS (College of Humanities and Social Sciences) Outstanding Junior Faculty Award for excellence in research, teaching, and service. Anna has a prestigious Carnegie Fellowship for 2008-10. Her book, *Sharing the Sacred: Practicing Pluralism in Muslim North India*, is scheduled for publication by Oxford University Press at the end of 2009.

Dr. John W. Carroll, Professor of Philosophy, has received a CHASS Outstanding Teacher Award and been named as a member of the NC State Academy of Outstanding Teachers. A recognized international expert on laws of nature, John teaches metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of science. Students in John's metaphysics class greatly appreciate his use of the idea of time travel to present important issues in metaphysics.

# Department News

## BOB HAMBOURGER RETIRES

On April 17, 2009, the Department of Philosophy and Religion ended its working day with a reception to celebrate Dr. Robert M. Hambourger's twenty-seven years of service to NC State and wish him well in his forthcoming retirement.

Bob Hambourger, Associate Professor of Philosophy, joined the Department in August 1982 following thirteen years on the philosophy faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and three at Northwestern. He has published articles on philosophy of mathematics, theory of knowledge, and philosophy of religion.

Over the years, Bob has taught more than 7,700 NC State students in 129 course-sections. In addition, he has served on a number of important committees, including the NC State Council of Undergraduate Education and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, which he chaired for three years.

A long-time champion of general education, Bob is also well known as a man of compassion who has always been ready to support struggling students and help them to succeed.

Bob's most recent work assignment has been to gather data for a history of the Department. He reports some of his findings about the early days on page 3 of this *Newsletter*.

Bob plans to remain in Raleigh, where he has strong family and community ties.



*Department Head Michael Pendlebury (right) congratulates Associate Professor of Philosophy Bob Hambourger on his retirement after 27 years of service to the Department.*

## HEAD'S APPOINTMENT RENEWED

Chancellor Oblinger has endorsed Dean Braden's decision to renew Dr. Michael Pendlebury's appointment as Head of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. This comes after the regularly scheduled five-year review required of all department heads.

Michael came to NC State as Department Head and Professor of Philosophy in January of 2004 from the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he was employed for twenty years, serving eight and one-half years as Head of the Department of Philosophy, three of those years also serving as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Michael has an MA in Philosophy from Wits, and an MA in Linguistics and a PhD in Philosophy from Indiana University.

While at NC State, Michael has introduced and taught new courses on Global Justice and Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. His broad research interests range from metaphysics to political philosophy. His most recent paper, "How to Be a Normative Expressivist," is forthcoming in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

Michael has forged connections with GlaxoSmithKline through the Logic and Cognitive Science Initiative, and he has overseen the introduction of a new philosophy degree concentration in Ethics and also one in Logic, Representation, and Reasoning.

Michael has agreed to continue as Department Head. While no surprise, this is great news for the Department.

— John W. Carroll

## NEWSBITES

**Marina F. Bykova**, PhD (Moscow) was promoted to Professor of Philosophy in August 2008. Marina specializes in the history of philosophy, with a focus on German idealism and nineteenth century continental philosophy.

Associate Professor **Jason C. Bivins'** second book, *Religion of Fear: The Politics of Horror in Conservative Evangelicalism* (Oxford University Press, 2008), was named as the recommended book for February 2009 by the Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance.

This year two members of the faculty have completed twenty-five years of service in the Department: **Dr. William Adler**, Professor of Religious Studies, and **Dr. Christine M. Pierce**, Professor of Philosophy.

**Dr. Douglas M. Jessep**, Professor of Philosophy, resigned in May 2009 to pursue a faculty career at the University of South Florida. Doug joined NC State in 1991 and took primary responsibility for teaching ancient and early modern philosophy.

Six of the Department's twenty full-time faculty are now members of the **NC State Academy of Outstanding Teachers**.

The Department's Student Services Assistant, **Ken Peters**, is also a visual artist (see [www.kennetheugenepeters.com](http://www.kennetheugenepeters.com)). Ken's next solo exhibition starts on December 6, 2009 at the Horace Williams House in Chapel Hill.

In our **April 2009 Bowling Smackdown**, the philosophy students and faculty bested the religious studies students and faculty for the first time since 2006. The Smackdown was started in 2000 and is now an annual event. The overall record is: Religious Studies 5, Philosophy 3.

Our new undergraduate minor in **Logic and Methodology** has been approved for introduction in Fall 2009.

The Department's **Logic and Cognitive Science Initiative** is hosting a conference on ontology in September 2009. All speakers and moderators are respected philosophers from major universities, including Columbia, Cornell, Princeton, Stanford, Virginia, and Yale.

## HARD TIMES

Because of a huge drop in tax revenue resulting from the economic recession, the State of North Carolina is facing a major financial crisis. As we go to press, the media are discussing the extent to which the state will cut allocations to the public universities. Reductions ranging from 10 to 18 percent have been predicted.

Whatever the final budget, hard times are upon us. The most likely impact on the Department will be a loss of vacant faculty positions, larger classes, fewer advanced classes, less support for faculty to participate in conferences, and a hold on new developments. As we struggle to do more with less, we take a long-term view and look forward to the rebound.

# Yesterday and Tomorrow

## THE EARLY DAYS: "RED" HICKS

Today courses in Philosophy or Religious Studies at NC State don't have much in common with Bible study classes at the YMCA. Yet the Department's history, and prehistory, is steeped in such a connection.

William Norwood Hicks II, known as "Red," was born in 1901 and received his BS in Mechanical Engineering from State in 1923. Outstanding academically, Hicks was also a commander in the campus ROTC, leader of an excellent rifle team, writer for the *Technician* and *Agromeck*, a leader in student government, and a recipient of awards for oratory. But he was most devoted to his activities with the campus YMCA.

In 1920, the 'Y' played a surprisingly official role in campus life. Students had to pay a small fee to the Y which allowed them to use its basketball courts, pool and bowling alley, as well as rooms for a literary society and campus publications. Sunday chapel services also were mandatory for students, and there were voluntary Bible classes. Hicks rose through the ranks of the Y's student leaders, serving as president in his senior year. His experience teaching Bible study led him to decide on a career in education.

By 1925 Hicks was working for State and the Y when a new president of the college came into office, Eugene Clyde Brooks. Brooks made two important changes in campus religious life - he made chapel voluntary and instituted non-sectarian religion courses for credit. To further this second goal, Brooks arranged for Hicks to earn a master's degree in theology at Oberlin College in Ohio, which he did in 1927-28. In the fall of 1928, Hicks returned to NC State as an Assistant Professor of Religion and Sociology and Assistant Dean of Students. At this time the college had neither a department of philosophy nor of religion. Hicks became a one-man department of religion. The first course he offered for credit was "The Life and Teachings of Jesus."

It was only in 1949 that the central administration of the UNC system allowed State College to offer a B.A. in Philosophy, though not in Religious Studies. And so the department name was changed to the Department of Philosophy and Religion.

"Red" Hicks continued as Department Head until his retirement in 1966, when he had led the Department for nearly 40 years.

— Robert M. Hambourger

## FEATURE EMERITUS: DR. PAUL A. BREDENBERG

Dr. Paul A. Bredenberg played a fundamental role during our Department's transitional years - coinciding with the transition, spanning 1959-1965, of North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering into a university.

Paul arrived in 1950 as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Social Studies. He had just finished his PhD dissertation, *Metaphysical Foundations of the Laws of Thought*, at Yale. He was awarded several distinguished fellowships and grants, including a Ford Foundation Faculty Fellowship at Stanford, a summer grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, and a multi-year grant from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. He was promoted to Professor in 1963.

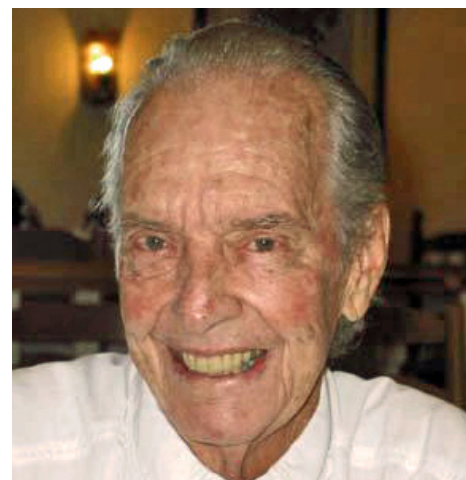
Much of Paul's work concerned theories of meaning and their relationship with the arts. Paul's teaching ranged from introductory philosophy courses, logic, and history of philosophy, through philosophy of religion and theory of knowledge.

Paul's professional service was extensive; he chaired the Committee on Academic Freedom of the American Association of University Professors and

he was president of the North Carolina Philosophical Association.

Paul retired in 1986. During his 36 years in the Department he contributed immeasurably to the growth and development of the humanities at NC State.

Paul has lived with his wife, Gladys, at Whitaker Glen for the past few years.



Dr. Paul A. Bredenberg. Photo courtesy Dale Lichtblau.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

*Our Spring 2009 graduates are moving on to new pursuits. Here's a sample of what lies ahead:*

**Tyler Barry** (BA in Religious Studies) is spending 14 months in the highlands of Ethiopia to research gelada monkeys.

**Thomas Brown** (BA in Religious Studies) is working full-time in the IT department of Withers & Ravenel Engineering in Cary, NC.

**Amber Clifton** (BA in Religious Studies) will be attending graduate school at Northeastern University to study world history.

**John Gonzalez** (BA in Philosophy) will be attending Boston University Law School to study international law.

**Evan Harris** (BA in Philosophy - Concentration in Philosophy of Law) is working with the U.S. Department of Labor as a summer intern as well as for the Orphan's Foundation of America. He plans to apply to law school.

**Joel Mikkelsen** (BA in Philosophy) is working at Red Hat and may pursue graduate studies in the future.

**Rakesh Parikh** (BA in Philosophy - Concentration in Philosophy of Law) will attend law school at the College of William and Mary.

**Ricky Lee Sartain** (BA in Religious Studies) is Educational Technology & Policy Lead for the Friday Institute. He begins the Masters of Public Administration program at NC State in Fall 2009.

**Melissa Schumacher** (BS in Philosophy - Concentration in Logic, Representation and Reasoning) will begin the graduate program in Philosophy at MIT in Fall 2009. She plans to specialize in logic and the philosophy of language.

**Andrew Shank** (BA in Religious Studies) will be interning with Reform University Fellowship at Virginia Tech for two years. He then plans to attend seminary.

**Michael Stahnke** (BA in Philosophy - Concentration in Philosophy of Law) received his real estate appraisal trainee license in May and began a two-year internship this summer.

**Rory Staunton** (BS in Philosophy - Concentration in Logic, Representation and Reasoning) will pursue a Masters in Physics at Arizona State University beginning in Fall 2009.

**Christopher Stone** (BA in Religious Studies) plans to pursue full-time employment in the non-profit sector and may eventually seek a master's degree.

**Rachel Wingo** (BA in Religious Studies) is taking a year off before starting a graduate program.

**Joseph Yandle** (BA in Religious Studies) is seeking a full-time vocational ministry position and may attend seminary in the future.

# Where Are They Now? News From Our Alumni

**Maurice Stanley, BA in Philosophy '67**, PhD (UNC-Chapel Hill '76), lives with his wife Glana in Wilmington, NC. He has taught philosophy in several colleges and retired in 2007 from UNC-Wilmington after 40 years of teaching. He is the author of two novels: *The Legend of Nance Dude* and *Midwinter*; a logic textbook, *Logic and Controversy*; and many philosophical papers, four of which were presented at Oxford University. Maurice presented a paper on "Teaching Political Science Using Logic" at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago in April 2009.

**Kevin Dovel, BA in Philosophy '83**, has been a partner in the promotional advertising and multimedia firm Proforma Promographix in Raleigh since 1996. He and his wife of 20 years, Laurie, have two kids, Matt (17) and Kelly (14).

**Jeb Bishop, BA in Philosophy '89**, MA (Loyola University '93) pursued graduate studies in philosophy at the University of Arizona, the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), and Loyola University of Chicago. He received the MA in Philosophy from Loyola in 1993. Since then he has lived in Chicago, where he works as a musician and freelance translator. In October 2007, Jeb was married to department alumna Jacqueline Cellini (see below).

**Krishna Mayfield, BA in Philosophy '96**, JD (North Carolina Central University '01) is a Contracts Manager at PAREXEL International, a clinical research organization that monitors research studies throughout the world. She and her husband Michael have three daughters, Melanie (16), Marissa (14) and Maven (12).

**Jeff Pflaumbaum, BA in Religious Studies '98**, BM in Contemporary Writing (Berklee College of Music '05), lives in Boston, MA with his wife of eight years, Lisa (Psychology '99). Jeff works as an independent writer, arranger, and composer. His large ensemble, The Wings of Fire Orchestra, has released two albums: *Bullfighter Ballet* ('06) and *Prospice* ('09). He also co-wrote a musical, *Fountain of Youth*, which ran for two weeks in San Jose earlier this year. Over the past few years Jeff has also been preparing an anthology on the history of horn/rock. Jeff also coaches Track & Field at St. John's Prep in Danvers, MA and Cross Country at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA.

**Jacqueline Cellini, BA in Religious Studies '99**, MLIS (Dominican University '05), lives in Chicago and works as a medical reference librarian at Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Prentice Women's Hospital. She is also pursuing a second masters in public health and informatics at UIC. Jacqueline travels when she gets a chance (with her trombone player husband), still reads Hindu myths and stories obsessively, and has never gotten used to Chicago winters.

**Rufus Rankin, BA in Philosophy '99 and MA in International Studies '04**, lives in Philadelphia. He is Manager of Product Development for Solon Capital, an alternative investment firm based in Princeton, NJ. Rufus is

also pursuing a doctorate in Business Administration at Grenoble Graduate School of Business in Grenoble, France. He married Ana Vizcarra in May 2007. (rufusrankin@gmail.com)

**Lauren Pressley, BA in Communications '02 and BA in Philosophy '03**, MLIS (UNC-Greensboro '07), was named a 2009 "Mover and Shaker" by *Library Journal*. This award was created to "identify librarians, vendors, and others who are 'shaping the future of libraries.'" Lauren works as Instructional Design Librarian at Wake Forest University's Reynolds Library.

**Rev. James W. Davis, BA in Religious Studies '03**, MDiv (Union Theological Seminary '07 – Graves Memorial Scholar), has served as Pastor at Providence Presbyterian Church in McGees Crossroads, NC since 2007. Jim and his wife Pat have two children, Megan (25) and Kyle (21). Jim has been active in the Presbytery of New Hope PCUSA since 2003 and is currently working on a book on "church and culture." He plans to pursue a DMin in the future.

**Gregory McCreery, BA in Philosophy '05**, has just finished his first year at the University of South Florida, where he is working towards a PhD in Philosophy. His dissertation will probably have something to do with phenomenology and aesthetics, or political autonomy and freedom. Greg has been a teaching assistant for two "Introduction to Philosophy" courses and will be a teaching assistant for "Science and Society" in Fall 2009. He and his wife, Sandy, have a daughter, Celeste (2).

**Kristin Sullivan, BA in Religious Studies '07**, is a Masters of Applied Anthropology student at the University of Maryland, College Park, where her focus is on community heritage tourism. Kristin has been working in this field for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and will begin an internship this summer with the National Park Service on the management team of a new National Historic Trail. She hopes to proceed to a doctoral program in 2010, looking at issues of political economy concerning eco- and religious tourism in the Western Himalaya. (krismsulli@gmail.com)

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**Jennifer Young, BA in Religious Studies and BS in Animal Science '07**, is currently working on her PhD in Genetics, focusing on Swine Genetics, at Iowa State University. She expects to graduate in 2012. As a graduate research assistant, she is involved in research, running a selection experiment in Yorkshire pigs, providing assistance to other graduate students in statistical analyses, and serving as an undergraduate teaching assistant. (jenakaj@msn.com)

## FEEDBACK

*Our previous Newsletter included a feature article on Dr. Robert S. Bryan, Department Head from 1966 until 1989, and the departmental advances made under his leadership. Here one of his earliest students, Maurice F. Stanley, who became a teacher of philosophy (see top of first alumni news column), pays tribute to Dr. Bryan and a fellow student for their influence on his life and career:*

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to talk about Dr. Robert Bryan. He has been very important in my life.

When I was a student at NC State in the late sixties, I had found that science didn't interest me as much as it had in high school. My physics courses consisted mostly of long strings of equations.

Dale Lichtblau — a fellow student and philosophy major (a new friend then, an old friend now) — told me I should take a philosophy course from the new chairman of the P&R Department, and I did. I found the class clear and fascinating, and he was the best teacher I had.

He encouraged me and seemed to have confidence in me — more than I had in myself. He helped me get a scholarship to Syracuse University, which I wound up turning down. My Dad said I wouldn't make it there, and he'd spent enough on my education already. Plus he figured I'd wind up in Vietnam.

I knew I wanted to be a philosopher ... and I wanted to be like Dr. Bryan.

Dr. Bryan expected clarity. His philosophy was intimately tied up with making sense when you speak or write. He was knowledgeable about literature and art. He was quite wonderful — kind, erudite, urbane.

He offered metaphysics in the works of Ayer, Ryle, Austin, Strawson, and Wittgenstein, and that was for me! I felt uplifted just knowing him. He gave me philosophy, a purpose in life.

I hope he remembers me as fondly as I remember him.

How awful it must be to have to make a living doing something you don't enjoy! Dr. Bryan — and my dear parents, my wife Glana, and even my curmudgeonly old friend Dale Lichtblau — saved me from that. I've been very lucky, very blessed, to have had these people in my life.

— Maurice F. Stanley

*This newsletter was prepared by David Auerbach, Michael Pendlebury, Ken Peters and Ann Rives, with assistance from John Carroll and Robert Hambourger.*