

# Philosophy Communiqué

Summer 2017

## Philosophy Can Provide Guidance in a Personal Search for Meaning

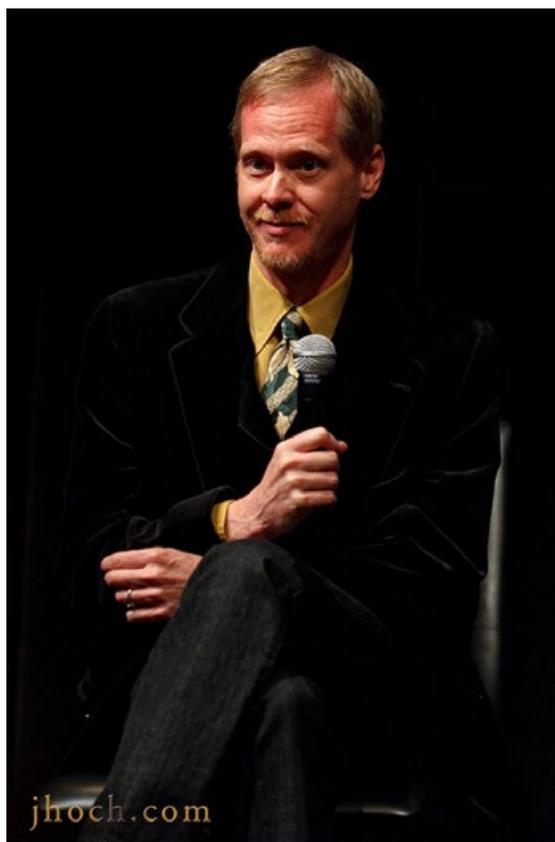
By *Melody Galen*

Alumnus Rick Ross, BS '91 chemistry, BFA '91, MA '97 philosophy, received the College of Arts and Science Distinguished Alumni award this past winter for his achievements in his profession. Ross took some time to answer our questions about how his studies in philosophy have influenced his life.

### **Your degrees are pretty widely varied. What led you from chemistry and art to philosophy?**

Despite their differences, each of my degrees was the result of a search for answers to childhood questions concerning my ultimate place in the world. As strange as it may sound for someone with four degrees, [He also earned a master of fine arts degree from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts.] I was actually raised in a religion that repudiated reason. As a child, I was taught that man had rejected God in order to follow his own way of thinking, which was reason. And this rejection caused the world to be corrupted by evil, dooming it to destruction. Humanity's only escape was to accept God's will through faith. Which was all fine and dandy, until I realized that faith was about belief, and belief was another form of thinking...just like reason. So, this created a dilemma for me.

How could I be sure I was doing the right kind of thinking, since this was clearly going to determine my ultimate physical end?



Rick Ross at the Museum of Modern Art for *The Explorer's Guild* book tour.

I can tell you that contemplating your demise isn't much fun for a kid, so I found escape through drawing—recording on paper the experience of my senses. This was a physical response to physical phenomena (or so it seemed at

the time), largely unmediated by thinking. At the same time, I was also fascinated by math, especially questions that could be pondered and proved without recourse to the physical world. This was thinking without physical consequences. These two extremes were my twin refuge as I struggled with the connection between thought and the physical world.

When I hit college and had to make practical choices like majors, I found in chemistry (though more so in its prerequisites of math and physics) the satisfaction of pure thought. Unfortunately, physical consequences kept popping up, like, for instance, in those pesky chem labs, when I'd accidentally set things on fire. I had chosen chemistry thinking I would eventually go into medicine (a good practical field), but when I spent the summer after my junior year assisting open heart surgery, I found I wanted nothing more to do with medicine. And so, having already taken a number of art classes mainly for escape, I decided to finish a degree in art. After graduation, with no immediate prospects for breaking into the art world, I took a year off to start a computer company, which was disappointingly unsatisfying. At which point I decided maybe it was time for me to finally tackle this whole mind/

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## From the Chair's Desk



by Matthew McGrath

I took over as chair of the department in August 2016. I was fortunate enough to have been preceded by excellent stewards of the department, most immediately by Robert Johnson, chair of the department from 2012 to 2016, who steered the course through some difficult times both for the department and the university. Our department is not a large one, and certainly not a wealthy one, but we are a flourishing department, full of faculty and graduate students who are dedicated teachers and active researchers who love philosophy.

Our faculty continues to publish in leading philosophy journals and presses, including *The British Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *The Philo-*

*sophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Mind*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Synthese*, Oxford University Press, and many others. Members of the faculty can be found giving talks at national and international conferences, sitting on important professional committees, such as the National Endowment for Humanities grant evaluation committee and the APA committee on the status and future of the profession, and helping to edit major journals such as *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Social Choice and Welfare*, and *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*. Our graduate students have seen success in publishing and conference presentations, some have presented two or even three times at APA meetings. Our department boasts award-winning faculty members and some of the best graduate teachers you will find around. When I took over as director of graduate studies two years ago, I was stunned by the very high teaching evaluations for our graduate student teaching assistants and instructors. I've found this confirmed every time I visit a graduate student's class. A number of our graduate students have also assumed key leadership posts on campus, such as president and treasurer of the Graduate Professional Council.

Finally, I want to mention someone who is leaving us. The last two years we were fortunate to have Nicholas Baima as a visiting assistant professor. Coming to us from Washington

University in fall 2015, Baima taught a total of 12 courses here in two years, including two graduate seminars and three upper-division courses in ancient philosophy. The praise for his teaching has been univocal. He made ancient philosophy come alive to students, challenging them to apply the ideas of Plato and Aristotle to their own lives. The challenges were mixed with occasional humor. He once told me he asked the students in his honors class, "Which of you think you live a virtuous life?" I'm sure this sort of question in a normal philosophy class would surprise students. Isn't the philosophy teacher merely supposed to convey information or to raise abstract questions? To be made to think about whether you are virtuous is something quite different. Baima told me among those who raised their hands was one student who was nearly always late to class. Baima pushed him about his lack of punctuality and asked, "So do you still want to keep your hand raised?" The student conceded, "I see what you mean," and lowered his hand. Everyone chuckled. Word got round among undergraduates (and graduates) that Baima is a don't-miss professor. It was partly his willingness to challenge students individually, not to let them assume the comfortable role of spectator, that drew the students. Whatever exactly the magic was, the department will miss him. Thank you, Nich, for two superb years of teaching for us.



**Laurel Youmans** served in the department office as an administrative assistant for several years before moving to Kansas City in 2016. All the work Youmans did to make the department operate effectively is very much appreciated.

# Search for Meaning

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body problem that had been plaguing me since I was a kid...which led me back to the philosophy department at Mizzou.

## What discipline in philosophy did you study?

I came in with the idea of making a general study of philosophy in order to answer my personal questions. Faith had failed me, and I was left with a set of behaviors that seemed to have no justification. I was like a building with no foundation, so I sought to discover a consistent basis for my actions. I studied ethics and logic, epistemology, metaphysics, and ontology. I took classes in Marxism, philosophy of mind, formal logic, and process philosophy. Finally, in order to finish my degree, I concentrated on aesthetics and the philosophy of art, though my real interest was always in much broader questions.

## Tell me a bit about what you do professionally now.

Here is my professional bio: Rick Ross is a writer, artist, filmmaker, and *New York Times* best-selling graphic novelist. Rick directed the award-winning short, *Backslide*, starring Felicia Day, named by the American Cinematheque as one of the 10 best comedy shorts of the year.

Rick has also illustrated comics and graphic novels, including the Image Comics series *Urban Monsters* and Spike TV's *1000 Ways to Die*. Additionally, he has created artwork for a number of animated-motion comics, including for the Cinemax television show *Femme Fatales*. Rick produces storyboards and visual development for films, commercials, music videos, animation, comics, and gaming.

Since 2012, he has collaborated with Oscar-winning director Kevin Costner to create the graphic novel series *The Explorers Guild* for Atria Books/Simon & Schuster. *The Ex-*

*plorers Guild: Volume One: A Passage to Shambhala* became a *New York Times* best seller in print hardcover fiction and has been translated into Czech, Hungarian, and Chinese, with others languages forthcoming. The paperback edition was released in October 2016.

Rick is also a fine artist. Imprinted with a life-long fascination for American comics and movies, Rick's paintings combine the triumphalist iconography of the super-hero with subversive surrealist double images, which together both reify and scrutinize the mythos of American consumer culture. A recent solo show at the Begovich Gallery of California State University Fullerton highlighted his paintings, along with examples from his nearly two decades working in comics, multimedia, and films. Rick's work can be seen at [www.agitainment.com](http://www.agitainment.com), and you can follow him on social media with the handle @agitainment.

## How has philosophy influenced your life?

Once my two years in the philosophy department were complete, I spent a year in India on a Rotary Foundation fellowship, ostensibly studying Indian philosophy, but really continuing my project of trying to discover some justification for action. Ultimately, I found myself at the bitter end of a Humean reduction, faced with the idea that the connection between thought and the physical world was essentially a matter of faith. I had started my journey to escape faith and found myself back where I began.

In the end, I came out with a more existential view of life, with a notion that meaning is created and not discovered. Empowered with a new emphasis on action, I realized I had stories I wanted to tell and recognized my long journey through art, science, and philosophy had made me perfectly suited

for making movies—visual storytelling relying heavily on technology. So, I went to film school at USC and have since made 20 short films, written many screenplays, and branched out into other forms of visual storytelling like comics and graphic novels.

Through my journey in philosophy, I found the organizing principles for the stories I tell, which deal with big questions about the place of humanity in the world, a point of view I could not have come to without years of the kind of rigorous thinking that is both the foundation and practice of philosophy.

## I think philosophy is one of the least understood majors in the humanities. What would you say to recommend or defend it—as someone who went on to a regular job rather than into academia?

I consider philosophy the basis for virtually every other discipline. If you look at the history of ideas, most fields sprang in one way or another from philosophy. Until recently, philosophers were also mathematicians and scientists and helped to lay the foundations for most of the various fields in academia.

What philosophy helped me learn, more than anything, is how to think critically about any subject (not to say I always do, but at least the potential is there). Every field, from math to music, from sociology to sculpture, deals in arguments of one kind or another (yes, even the arts). And there is no better training ground for critical thinking than the study of philosophy. In the end, it may not answer all your questions, but it provides you with the essential tools for the search.

*This is the first newsletter since the 2015 edition, and news is being covered since that time.*

**André Ariew** is the director of graduate students, a role that he assumed in August 2016. He has been proud to serve as dissertation adviser for three recent doctoral candidates: **Lynn Chiu**, PhD '16, is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bordeaux; **Katy Shorey**, MA '13, PhD '15, is a visiting professor at Western New England University; and **Richard Lauer**, MA '13, PhD '16, is a visiting professor at St. Lawrence University. Ariew is passionate about teaching his undergraduate course, PHL 1200, Logic and Reasoning. The course is foundational for college students. That's a bold statement, but it's true. The course involves learning rules for reasoning. And, since everything students learn in college involves evaluating reasoning, a course that teaches you the rules of reasoning counts as a foundational course. Since 2015, he has been working on two books. One is a textbook in the philosophy of biology. His co-author, Denis Walsh, is a philosopher and biologist at the University of Toronto. The other book manuscript is on the role of statistics in evolutionary biology. It takes a historical–philosophical perspective and is tentatively titled: *Charles Darwin, the Accidental Statistician*. Ariew also has several papers on philosophy of science either published or submitted. He likes to write with former students. Shorey and he wrote an encyclopedia article on innateness, and he has written three papers with **Yasha Rohwer**, MA '09, PhD '12, (an assistant professor at Oregon Tech) and **Collin Rice**, PhD '12, (an assistant professor at Bryn Mawr). One of those has been published in *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, and two others are under review.

**Nicholas Baima**, who has been a visiting assistant professor for two years is leaving for a tenure-track appointment at Florida Atlantic

## Faculty Activities

University. **Sarah Malanowski** and **Philip Zema**, who have been instructors, and **Kenneth Shields**, who has been a postdoctoral fellow, are leaving to pursue new academic goals. The department thanks them for their excellent work and wishes them all the best.

**Kenny Boyce** had two journal articles and one encyclopedia entry published in spring 2016. These are “Multi-Peer Disagreement and the Preface Paradox” (cowritten with Allan Hazlett, published in the journal *Ratio*), “In Defense of Proper Functionalism: Cognitive Science Takes on Swampman” (cowritten with our own Mizzou PhD **Andrew Moon**, published in the journal *Synthese*), and “Proper Functionalism” (published by the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*). In addition to these publications, Boyce also received a summer stipend through the Classical Theism Project (funded by The John Templeton Foundation) to work on a paper concerning the relationship between God and Abstract Objects. He recently presented some of his work on that topic in a keynote address at Truman State University's 2016 Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference. He is currently on research leave (via an internal grant through the university) and is working on a series of papers concerning nominalism and scientific explanation. He has presented a version of one of the papers resulting from this research at the 2017 meeting of the Pacific APA.

**Marina Folescu** won a 2017 American Philosophy Association Fellowship for study at the University of Edinburgh and an MU Research Council grant for her stay in Edinburgh.

**Claire Horisk** gave talks at The International Forum of Pragmatics and Philosophy of Language at Shan'xi University in Taiyuan, China, and at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities; both talks focused on work from a book project on the pragmatics of derogatory jokes. She won a Department of Women's and Gender Studies Alumnae Anniversary Award in 2015 for excellence in teaching and contributions to the education of women. She was elected to a three-year term as member-at-large on the executive committee of the Central Division of the APA. She served as a mentor at the Mentoring Project for Pre-Tenure Women in Philosophy at University of Massachusetts Amherst, and as an evaluator for the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships program. She recently organized and facilitated a workshop at the APA meeting in Kansas City for faculty who are interested in mentoring members of underrepresented groups.

**Matt McGrath**, in addition to taking on new responsibilities as director of graduate studies (2015–16) and now as department chair, has continued to work on his project in the epistemology of perception. “Knowing What Things Look Like” (*Philosophical Review* 2017) and a piece written with Juan Comesana titled “Perceptual Reasons” (*Philosophical Studies* 2016) are two of several pieces published from that project. When he is not thinking about the department, he tinkers with a large paper he's been wrestling with on the metaphysics of appearances. He continues to travel to St. Andrews for five weeks each summer to join in the activities of the Arché Institute, which means he misses some of the Columbia summer heat.

**Andrew Melnyk** has been teaching in the department at every level; he especially enjoyed the spring 2016 senior seminar on free will. He has also continued his research into inter-level relations in the sciences. In 2015, he published “The

Scientific Evidence for Materialism About Pains” (in *The Constitution of Phenomenal Consciousness: Toward a Science and Theory*, edited by Steven M. Miller), which argues that the failure of imaging studies to find variation in pain phenomenology without corresponding neural variation is best explained by the view that pain is a physically realized state. In 2016, he published “Grounding and the Formulation of Physicalism” (in *Scientific Composition and Metaphysical Ground*, edited by K. Aizawa and C. Gillett), which presents difficulties for the proposal to understand the thesis that everything is physical in terms of the currently fashionable relation of grounding. He also published “In Defense of a Realization Formulation of Physicalism” (*Topoi* online 2016), in which he replies to several critics of his formulation of physicalism in terms of realization.

**Alex Radulescu** reports that most of his current work is on context sensitivity in language and logic. His latest published paper proposes a new way to distinguish between indexicals, like “I” and “today,” and demonstratives, like “she” and “this.” The central theoretical claim is that the semantic values of indexicals are objects that play certain utterance-related roles, which are fixed independently of the words being used in the utterance. For instance, the speaker plays the speaker role whether or not she uses the word “I,” and the addressee plays that role whether or not the speaker uses the word “you.” Demonstratives, on the other hand, pick out objects that play no such role, and are instead helped by the speaker’s word-specific intentions.

**Philip Robbins** served as guest editor of *Cognitive Systems Research*, an interdisciplinary cognitive science journal. His paper “Philosophizing the Social Brain” appeared in a special issue of the journal *Philosophical Perspectives on Social Neuroscience*. He presented work at a variety of venues, including the Eastern Division meeting of the American Phil-

osophical Association, the Buffalo Experimental Philosophy Conference, and the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, as well as our own Missouri Philosophy of Science workshop.

**Kenneth Shields** defended in July 2016 his dissertation, *Amoralists, Inverted Commas, and the Puzzle of Moral Internalism: An Essay in Experimental Metaethics*. His paper, “Moral Internalism, Amoralist Skepticism, and the Factivity Effect,” was published in *Philosophical Psychology* in 2016. Both the dissertation and the paper address a rather interesting effect concerning cases (called amoralist scenarios) where a person claims an action is wrong but isn’t motivated to avoid the wrong behavior. Most people seem to grant that this amoralist knows that the action is wrong, but they won’t grant that the person really believes that the action is wrong. Shields is also scheduled to present his working paper, “A Dilemma for Neurodiversity,” at this year’s Society for Philosophy and Psychology conference. This paper explores a possible tension within the neurodiversity movement: the legally exculpatory role that autism should occasionally play is arguably in conflict with treating autism as merely a natural variation.

**Peter Vallentyne** served as an associate editor for the new *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* and for *Social Choice and Welfare*, a normative economics journal. With Steve Wall (University of Arizona) and David Sobel (Syracuse University), he organized the 2016 annual Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy workshop in Barcelona, edited the associated annual volume with Oxford University Press, and selected the biennial winner of the \$10,000 Sander’s Prize in Political Philosophy. He published a paper on rights of self-defense in a volume on the topic with Oxford University Press and a piece (with economist Luc Lauwers) on decision theory when options have no finite expected value, i.e., infinite

expected value or undefined expected value, in *Economics and Philosophy*.

**Paul Weirich** edited a special issue of the online journal *Games*. The issue’s title is “Epistemic Game Theory and Logic,” and it contains nine articles by scholars from various disciplines and an introduction by Weirich. He also significantly revised and updated his entry, “Causal Decision Theory,” for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Cambridge University Press published in 2017 the paperback edition of his book, *Models of Decision-Making: Simplifying Choices*. During the academic year 2016–17, he presented papers at conferences in Leipzig, Germany; Lausanne, Switzerland; Lund, Sweden; Munich; York, England; Atlanta; Seattle; and College Station, Texas. He continues to serve as an associate editor for *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* and has an MU research leave for the academic year 2017–18, during which he will write about risk.

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The department welcomes these talented philosophers:

**Ian Hensley** will start as a visiting assistant professor in fall 2017. He received his doctorate from Cornell in 2016. He has broad interests in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, and his current research project concerns the physics and metaphysics of the Greek Stoics. For more on Hensley, please see his web page: [www.ianhensley.com](http://www.ianhensley.com).

**Drew Woodson** will start as an instructor in fall 2017. His specialty is the political economy of race. His doctorate will be from Michigan State University.

# Alumni Spotlights



## Andrew Moon

Moon earned his doctorate in 2010 under the supervision of Peter Markie, and his dissertation won an MU Distinguished Dissertation Award. He began his academic career with a post-doctoral fellowship and a visiting appointment at MU, then he held visiting appointments at Kansas State University and Dalhousie University. After a postdoctoral

fellowship at Rutgers University and also at the University of Notre Dame, he became, in 2017, an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. His specializations are epistemology and philosophy of mind. His journal articles appear in *Mind*, *Synthese*, *Episteme*, *Acta Analytica*, *Philosophy Compass*, and *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*. He has contributed several chapters to collections, including one edited by **Kevin McCain**, MA '07, a fellow MU philosophy graduate.

"My graduate education at the University of Missouri was foundational to my success in philosophy today," says Moon. "In particular, I felt that the faculty always had an eye toward providing us with skills that would help us to succeed in the profession: how to write a publishable paper, how to present an APA paper, how to make a good handout, and so on. All this required the professors' time and devotion. My dissertation committee was always ready to give me feedback on my work, and professors regularly gave constructive criticism on our seminar presentations. They

also often had open doors and office hours that allowed for helpful conversations, wherein I received advice on my ideas, my papers, and my teaching. This help extended to the job market. I received much feedback on my job application materials, and I also received help in the form of mock interviews. Lastly, I felt significant emotional support from the faculty during my years on the job market. Over all, the University of Missouri philosophy department provided excellent training that led to my eventually receiving a tenure-track job as an assistant professor."

Congratulations to Andrew Moon on his very successful academic career!



## Collin Rice

Rice earned his doctorate at MU in 2012, working with André Ariew. He recalls, "The MU philosophy department provided me with an environment in which I could pursue the topics that mattered to me and make contacts with the top scholars in my

areas of interest." Rice won a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Center for the Philosophy of Science, and went from there to teach at Lycoming University. He notes, "The professors in the department at MU provided lots of time and feedback to help me improve my early work into something publishable. They also encouraged and supported me to start publishing my work while I was a graduate student, which was a huge benefit when I went on the job market." On the strength of his excellent publication record, Rice became an assistant professor at Bryn Mawr in 2016. He maintains as an associate scholar a connection to Pittsburgh's Center for Philosophy of Science. He has been a visiting research fellow at Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich and a visiting scholar at the University of California, Irvine. His specialization is philosophy of science, and he has published articles in journals such as *Synthese*, *Biology and Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Noûs*, *Philosophy of Science*, and *Philosophical Studies*.

Congratulations to Collin Rice on his outstanding academic career!

## Workshops

Kline Workshops convened in spring 2016 on ontological commitment, under the direction of **Kenny Boyce**; in fall 2016 on context-sensitivity in language, under the direction

of **Alex Radulescu**; and in spring 2017 on political philosophy, under the direction of **Peter Vallentyne**. A Missouri Philosophy of Science Workshop, organized by **André Ariew**, convened in spring 2016.

## Graduate Students

**Jon Marc Asper** presented at the Iowa Graduate Philosophy Conference in April 2017 a paper titled “Value Intransitivity Without a Money Pump” defending the claim that objective axiological relations allow fully informed rational agents to choose differently and that this flexibility does not lead to vulnerabilities to a money pump so long as agents’ preferences are stable.

**Troy Hall** was the 2016 recipient of the Bondeson Prize, the Department of Philosophy’s award for excellence in graduate student teaching. The award, which also comes with a \$200 stipend, is named after Curator’s Teaching Professor Emeritus William B. Bondeson. “I am very honored to receive this award,” Hall wrote. “Teaching has always been a great passion of mine, and the Bondeson Prize is particularly meaningful for me as I teach medical ethics, the very course I once took from Professor Bondeson.”

**Alex Howe**, during summer 2015, presented his master’s thesis at the

# Philosophy Student News

Toward a Science of Consciousness conference in Helsinki. Since then, he had a small piece published in *Animal Sentience: An Interdisciplinary Journal on Animal Feeling*, as well as an article accepted by the *Journal of Animal Ethics*. Howe is also working on a piece provisionally accepted by *Res Publica* on legal punishment. He continues to serve his third term as treasurer of Miz-zou’s graduate student government, where he was recently elected president. He is also serving a term as national director of outreach for a national graduate student advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., after serving a year-long term as employment concerns advocate for the same organization. Recently, Howe has been appointed to a three-year position on the

APA Committee on Non-Academic Careers.

## Undergraduate Students

**Casey Hawkins** and **Hannah Kauffman** won Department of Philosophy Outstanding Majors Awards for 2017.

## Alumni Activities

**Kevin Bird**, BS ’16, won a National Science Foundation graduate fellowship and also a Fulbright graduate fellowship.

**Young-Ran Roh**, PhD ’97, is a professor at Chonnam National University, and is spending academic year 2016–17 on sabbatical at the University of North Carolina, working with Professor Thomas Hill. At MU, Roh visited her dissertation adviser, Jack Kultgen, and other members of her doctoral committee. For a sample of her work, see “Is the Disposition of Constrained Maximization Chosen Rationally?” in *Theory and Decision* (2005) 59:19–41.

## Staff Profile



**Jennifer (Jen) Bennett**, BFA ’05, has been the office support assistant IV for the department since July 2016. She has worked for other campus departments, including agronomy, printing services, psychology, and art. She is currently pursuing a master of arts degree in fibers at Mizzou. Between academic programs, Bennett received a certificate of completion in construction technology from the Columbia Area Career Center. In addition, she coached as a volunteer for the Mizzou Track and Field Team

and participated in various athletic activities including triathlon, marathon, and ultra-marathon events. As an

undergrad, she competed as a pole-vaulter for the track and field team. A few of her accomplishments include All-American, Big 12 Champion, and six-time All-Big 12. As an MFA candidate, she received recognition from the Surface Design Association and *Sculpture* magazine in 2015 and 2016, respectively. She taught Introduction to Art and Beginning Fibers courses and instructed workshops at Mizzou’s Craft Studio, the Columbia Art League, and Access Arts in Columbia. Bennett lives in Ashland, Missouri.

The department is very lucky to have such a talented and accomplished MU alumna managing the office with efficiency and hospitality.

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The department appreciates hearing from alumni and friends. Send announcements or milestones to the address listed above.



# Giving Back

The Department of Philosophy has an excellent record of scholarly achievements and contributes enormously to the College of Arts and Science and to the University of Missouri. Its providing education in philosophy puts students in a position to address humanity's big questions and to gain the satisfaction of a reflective life. Because philosophy teaches reasoning, persuasive writing, and creativity, it imparts skills that make students valuable to employers. The faculty's research enriches their teaching and contributes to the vitality of the discipline and its progress.

The state of Missouri supplements funding that comes from tuition and faculty grants, but the university relies on donations to enhance its programs. In the past, a generous donation created the Kline Chair in Philosophy and other donations created prizes for the top students in philosophy. The department counts on its friends to continue this tradition of support. The department's top three priorities are undergraduate scholarships, graduate travel to conferences, and a dissertation fellowship.

Your donation will help improve upon the work being done in MU philosophy. Your donation could provide funding for undergraduate students to continue their studies in philosophy, for a graduate student to participate in an important conference, or to create a fellowship for dissertation research.

To make a donation to the Department of Philosophy, please contact the department chair, Professor Matthew McGrath at [mcgrathma@missouri.edu](mailto:mcgrathma@missouri.edu).