

Ryerson University – Department of Philosophy

2012-2013 News Stories

- Students in Ryerson's residence buildings recently completed a survey about which professors made positive contributions to their academic experience in 2012-2013. Four philosophers ([James Cunningham](#), [Andrew Hunter](#), [David Rondel](#), and [Meredith Schwartz](#)) were each honoured as "A Prof who Made a Mark". Congratulations to all!
- [Alex Wellington](#) was the keynote speaker at the [Society for Practical Ethics](#) conference, held in Victoria from June 3-5, 2013. Her talk was titled: "From Thought Experiment to the Real World: Experimental Philosophy and Teaching and Research in Practical Ethics."
- The Philosophy Department mourns the death of former student Jehangir Saleh, who passed away on June 28th after a long battle with Cystic Fibrosis. Jehangir specialized in philosophy while he was a student in the Arts and Contemporary Studies BA program from 2003-2009, and later enrolled in the MA program in Philosophy at Guelph University. Jehangir will be greatly missed by his professors and fellow students. Our deepest condolences are with his friends and family at this very difficult time. [[Guelph profile](#)] [[Facebook page](#)]
- [Elizabeth Trott](#) and MA candidate David Collins presented a co-authored paper at the 2013 [Ryerson Faculty Conference](#) on May 16th. Their paper was entitled "What Technology may NOT be Doing for Student Learning".
- [David Checkland](#) is the 2013 recipient of the [Ryerson Faculty Association](#) Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations, David!
- [Meredith Schwartz](#) was recently chosen to be [profiled on the Faculty of Arts website](#) for her outstanding and innovative teaching. Congratulations, Meredith!
- Congratulations to MA students David Collins, Ryan Froese, Kirk Lougheed, and Anna Shevchenko, who all presented papers at the University of Windsor [Graduate Student Philosophy Conference](#) on April 16th. David will also present his paper at the following events in June: [The European Society for Aesthetics](#) in Prague, and the [Canadian Society for Aesthetics](#) in Victoria.
- Congratulations to MA student Erik Bormanis, who recently gave a talk titled "Substance and its Expression in Spinoza and Hegel" at the [University of Ottawa Graduate Student Philosophy Conference](#).
- Congratulations to MA student Elena Derksen, who will give a talk titled "The Possibility of Believing at Will" in June at the Annual Meeting of the [Canadian Philosophical Association](#) in Victoria.
- [David Hunter](#) has been named the Editorial Board Coordinator for the [Canadian Journal of Philosophy](#), one of the leading general-interest academic philosophy journals. The Philosophy Department will also house the journal's editorial office, which will include MA student Jason Poettcker as Editorial Assistant. This position is generously funded by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts.
- Congratulations to MA students Kris Wilkinson and Ayana Samuel on winning [Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements](#) from the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada](#). Kris spent Fall 2012 at Oxford University, and Ayana is spending Winter 2013 at MIT.
- Klaas Kraay has been awarded a research grant from the Templeton Foundation for a project entitled "Theism: An Axiological Investigation". This project aims to stimulate research into the difference in value that God's existence would (or does) make in the world. Valued at \$199,900USD, this grant will fund two Research Fellowships – one in 2013-2014 and another in 2014-2015 – along with two public

lectures in 2014, and a research workshop to be held at Ryerson in 2014-2015. More details will be posted soon on Klaas' [website](#).

- The department mourns the loss of Continuing Education instructor Jackie Smith, who [passed away on Oct. 12, 2012](#). To honour her legacy, Ryerson is instituting the Jackie Smith Memorial Award in Ethics. To contribute to this award, contact [Maureen Sheridan](#) in Continuing Education.
- [Prison exchange program creates powerful learning opportunities for students](#).
- Congratulations to our MA students who were recently awarded [Ontario Graduate Scholarships](#): Mike Brienza, Veronica Majewski, Phillip May, Ayana Samuel, and Kris Wilkinson.
- Congratulations to recent MA graduate Chris Dragos, whose paper ("The No-Minimum Argument, Satisficing, and No Best World: A Reply to Jeff Jordan") was recently accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal [Religious Studies](#).