

Curriculum Vitae
KIMBERLY ANN BLESSING

Department of Philosophy
SUNY Buffalo State
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September 2015

Higher Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1996.

Doctoral Dissertation: “The Missing Cartesian Ethic: An Examination of Descartes’ Provisional” Morality.”

Directors: Richard T. Hull and Kenneth Barber; Outside Reader: Vance Morgan.

Awarded William T. Perry Prize for Outstanding Ph.D. Scholarship in Philosophy.

M.A. in Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1992.

Master’s Thesis: “An Examination of Mary Midgley’s *Wisdom, Information, and Wonder: What is Knowledge For?*” Director: Newton Garver.

B.A. *Cum Laude* in Philosophy and Modern Languages, State College at Buffalo, 1990.

Diplôme: Certificat Pratique de Langue Française, Université de Nancy: Faculté Des Lettres, Nancy, France, 1988.

Academic Positions

Professor of Philosophy. SUNY Buffalo State, formerly Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. 2013-present.

Associate Professor of Philosophy. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. 2008-2013.

Chair, Department of Philosophy and Humanities. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. 2008-2014 (two terms).

Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. 2004-2008.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy. King’s College. Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. 2003-2004.

Associate Professor of Philosophy. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. 2002-2003.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. 1997-2002.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Canisius College. Buffalo, New York. 1996-1997.

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Canisius College. Fall 1994-Spring 1996.

Instructor. Niagara County Community College. Sandborn, New York. Summers 1994-1999.

Adjunct Assistant Professor. State University College of New York at Fredonia. Fall 1995-Spring 1996.

Adjunct Assistant Professor. Wyoming Correctional Facility. New York State Prison System. Fall 1995.

Adjunct Assistant Professor. Attica Correctional Facility. New York State Prison System. Spring 1995.

Instructor. State University of New York at Buffalo. Buffalo, New York. Fall 1992-Summer 1994.

Areas of Specialization

Meaning of Life, Descartes, Early Modern Philosophy, Philosophy and Popular Culture

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Religion, Existentialism, Women and Philosophy

Languages

French. Some German

Publications

- “The Meaning of Life and Work in *Downton Abbey*,” in *Downton Abbey and Philosophy*, edited by Robert Arp (Open Court, forthcoming).
- “What HBO’s *Girls* Has to Say About Meaning in Life for Millennials,” principal author with Samantha Wezowicz in *Girls and Philosophy: The Book Isn’t A Metaphor for Anything*, edited by Richard Greene (Open Court, 2015).
- “Atheism and Meaningfulness in Life,” *The Oxford Handbook of Atheism*, edited by Stephen Bullivant and Michael Ruse (Oxford University Press: 2013).
- “What’s Done, is Done: Descartes on Resoluteness and Regret.” *Essays in Philosophy: Cartesian Virtue and Freedom*. Vol. 14, No. 2, July 2013, pp. 141-161.
- “Is the PR-ization of Media Bullshit?,” co-authored with Joe Marren. *Media Ethics*, Vol. 24. No. 2, Spring 2013.
- “More Bullshit: Political Spin and the PR-ization of Media,” with Joseph Marren, in *The Ultimate Daily Show and Philosophy* edited by Jason Holt (Wiley-Blackwell: 2013).
- “I Re-Read, Therefore I Understand: Kimberly Blessing Tells Us René Descartes’ Advice on Reading Philosophy,” *Philosophy Now*, January-February 2013.
- “Mal-Placed Regret” in *Inception and Philosophy*, edited by David Johnson (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).
- “One Monk’s Message: Establishing An Enlightened Ethic for the Media,” co-authored with Joe Marren. *Media Ethics*, Vol. 21, No. 9, Spring 2010.
- A review of Christopher Grau’s, ed., *Philosophers Explore the Matrix* (Oxford University Press, 2005), in *Journal of Value Inquiry* (2007) 41: 403-407.
- “Bullshit and Political Spin: Is The Medium The Massage?,” with Joseph Marren, in *The Daily Show and Philosophy*, edited by Jason Holt (Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series, 2007).
- “The Beer-Truck Hypothesis and *Groundhog Day*: What Time Can Tell Us about The Meaning of Life.” *Dialogue: A Journal of Religion and Philosophy*, November 2007.
- “*Fade to Black*: Absurdity, Suicide, and the Downward Spiral” co-authored with Justin Donhauser, in *Metallica and Philosophy*, edited by William T. Irwin (Open Court, 2007).
- “The Cartesian Meditator and his Moral Muse: Ethics of the *Discourse on Method* and Correspondence with Elizabeth,” *The Modern Schoolman*, November 2005.
- Movies And The Meaning of Life: Philosophers Take on Hollywood*, co-edited with Paul J. Tudico (Open Court, 2005).
- “Deceit and Doubt: The Search For Truth in *The Truman Show* and Descartes’ *Meditations*,” in *Movies And The Meaning of Life: Philosophers Take on Hollywood* (Open Court, 2005).
- A review of Vance Morgan’s *Foundations of Cartesian Ethics* (Humanities Press, 1994), in *Canadian Philosophical Review*, May 1995.

Conference Presentations

- “Atheism, Theism, and the Meaning of Life,” Atheism The Contemporary Debate: A Symposium Inspired by the Recent Publication of *The Oxford Handbook on Atheism*. Florida State University. Tallahassee, Florida. December 2013.
- “Theism, Atheism, and Meaningfulness in Life,” Central Division American Philosophical Association. New Orleans, Louisiana. February 2013.
- “Atheism and Meaningfulness in Life,” Western New York-Western Pennsylvania Regional Meeting, American Catholic Philosophical Association, Saint John Fisher College, Rochester, NY, 21 April 2012.
- Commentator, “Descartes and the Danger of Irresolution” by Shoshana Brassfield. Upstate New York Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy (UNYWEMP): Descartes Day a.k.a. ‘A Cartesian Colloquium,’ Syracuse University. March 2010.
- “Acting With Cartesian Resolve.” Creighton Club New York State Philosophical Association. Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY. 18 October 2008.

- “One Monk’s Message: Establishing An Enlightened Ethic for the Media,” co-authored with Joe Marren. Colloquia fellow for Colloquia 2000 series in Applied Media Ethics. University of Hawai’i at Manoa. Honolulu, Hawai’i. October 14-18 2007.
- “Resoluteness and Reasonable Regret in Descartes’ Thinking about Morality.” Eastern Division American Philosophical Association. Washington, DC, December 2006.
- “Beer-Truck Hypothesis and *Groundhog Day*: What Time Can Tell Us about The Meaning of Life.” Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. April 2006.
- “Understanding Cartesian Moral Theory.” Midwest Seminar on Early Modern Philosophy. University of Chicago. Chicago, Illinois. April 2001.
- “Maxims of Morality, Not Methodology.” NEH Summer Seminar: “Descartes and His Contemporaries: Scholastics and *Novatores*.” Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA. Summer 2000.

Other Professional and General Audience Presentations

- “Thinking About The Meaning of Life with Philosopher Kimberly Blessing.” Center for Inquiry. Buffalo, New York. March 2015.
- “A Review: Lawrence Wright’s *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, And the Prison of Belief* (2013).” Bistro Bookers, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library’s Book Review and Discussion Group. Chef’s Restaurant, Buffalo, New York. September 2014.
- “The Meaning of Life and Work in Downton Abbey.” Philosophy Department Faculty Colloquia. SUNY Buffalo State. Buffalo, New York. Fall 2015.
- “What HBO’s *Girls* Has To Say About Meaning in Life for Millenials” with Samantha Wezowicz. Philosophy Department Faculty Colloquia. SUNY Buffalo State. Buffalo, New York, Spring 2014.
- “Women and Philosophy,” with Sarah Caputi, Carissa Handiman, Rachael Saathoff, Samantha Wezowicz, and Leigh Duffy. Philosophy Department Faculty Colloquia. SUNY Buffalo State. Buffalo, New York, Spring 2013.
- “Theistic and Atheistic Theories about the Meaning of Life,” Conversations In and Out of the Disciplines Lecture Series. Buffalo State English Department. 15 March 2013.
- “Inception and Philosophy: Mal-Placed Regret (invited), Philosophical Society. Gwynned-Mercy College, PA, 29 March 2011.
- “Meaning of Life” (invited), GM Common Hour. Gwynned Mercy College, PA, 30 March 2011.
- “Atheism and Meaningfulness in Life,” Philosophy Faculty Colloquia, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, New York, October 2011
- “What’s Done is Done: Descartes on Resoluteness and Regret,” Philosophy Faculty-Student Colloquia. Buffalo State College, Buffalo, New York, October 2011.
- “Acting With Cartesian Resolve.” Philosophy and Humanities Faculty-Student Colloquia. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. October 2008.
- “Bullshit and Political Spin: Is the Medium The Massage?,” with Joseph Marren. Philosophy and Humanities Faculty Lecture Series. Buffalo State College. November 2006.
- “Serendipity: How I Landed At Buffalo State,” Keynote Address, President Howard’s All College Honors Program. Buffalo State College. November 2006.
- “*Fade to Black*: Absurdity, Suicide, and the Downward Spiral” with Justin Donhauser. Philosophy and Humanities Student Colloquia. Buffalo State College, Buffalo, New York. September 2005.
- Book Talk: *Movies and The Meaning of Life*. Arts and Humanities Month: Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. October 2005.
- “Isn’t It Ironic? Not Really: Oprah Winfrey Introduces Madonna, “New and Improved”.” Socrates Society. King’s College. Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Fall 2003.

- “On the Nature of Friendship,” Siena Heights University Torch Night Ceremony. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. May 2003.
- “Popular Culture and Higher Education: What the Reporters Failed to Report,” American Studies Series. University of Toledo. Toledo, OH. April 2002.
- “Truth Matters: Academic, Skeptics and Dead-End Dogmatism,” Opening Address, “Dialogue Day: *Veritas*.” Siena Heights University. March 2002.
- “Is the Genome the Secular Equivalent of the Soul?,” “Common Dialogue Day: Technology and the Human Spirit.” Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. Spring 2001.
- “Cognitive and Passionate Uncertainty: Getting Cartesian Morality Right.” Humanities Division Colloquia. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. Fall 2000.
- “A New Reading of Descartes’ *Discourse on Method*.” Philosophy Department Colloquia Series, Canisius College. Buffalo, New York. April 1997.
- “*Une Morale Par Provision* from Descartes’ *Discourse on Method*.” Philosophy Department Symposium, State University College at Fredonia. Fredonia, New York. April 1996.

Select Media Coverage (list available upon request)

Pursuant to Animated Philosophy and Religion course. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. 2001- 2002.

Awards and Grants

- President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Advisement 2015. SUNY Buffalo State. Buffalo, New York.
- Certificate of Recognition, President’s Council on Equity and Diversity 2008-2009. Buffalo State College, 2009.
- Outstanding Faculty Member, nominated by Residence Life. Buffalo State College, 2007.
- Honorary Member. Pi Delta Phi. French National Honor Society, inducted 2006.
- SUNY Individual Development Award, 2006.
- NEH Summer Seminar: “Descartes and His Contemporaries: Scholastics and *Novatores*,” Roger Ariew and Daniel Garber, Directors. Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA. 18 June-14 July 2000.
- Liberty Fund Seminar: “Liberty and the Nature of Law.” Park City, Utah. 16-21 July 2001.
- Liberty Fund Socratic Seminar: “William Paley and the Origins of Liberalism.” Indianapolis, Indiana. Spring 2001.
- Liberty Fund Colloquium: “Beauty as the Moral Education of the Passions in Aristotle and Hume.” Tryon, North Carolina. October 1999.
- Siena Heights Faculty Scholarship to attend a Summer Seminar on the Dominican Order and History, Fanjeaux, France. May-June 2002.
- William T. Parry Prize for Outstanding Ph.D. Scholarship in Philosophy. State University of New York at Buffalo, 1996.
- Dean’s Award for Excellence in Philosophy and Religious Studies. State University College at Buffalo, 1990.

Professional Activities

- Anonymous Referee Canadian Philosophical Association. 2008 to 2010.
- Anonymous Referee University Press of Kentucky. 2005-present.
- Anonymous Referee: Continuum Books, 2011.
- Anonymous Referee: The Canadian Philosophical Association, 2009
- Session Chair, Philosophy and Popular Culture Conference. State University of New York at Buffalo, 2004.
- Liberty Fund Seminar: “Liberty and the Nature of Law.” Park City, Utah, July 2001.
- Liberty Fund Socratic Seminar: “William Paley and the Origins of Liberalism.” Indianapolis, Indiana. Spring 2001.
- Liberty Fund Colloquium: “Beauty as the Moral Education of the Passions in Aristotle and Hume.” Tryon, North Carolina. 7-10 October 1999.
- Initiated and chaired Aquinas Forum, Siena Heights University: “What Thomas (or the *Summa*) Has To Offer Today’s Catholic,” Ralph McInerney, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, 2002. “The Control of Biblical Meaning: the Birth and Death of The Canon of Scriptures,” George Aichele, Ph.D., 2001. “Panel Discussion: Creationism vs. Evolution,” Fall 2000. “Panel Discussion on Proposal B: Assisted Suicide,” 1998. “Forgiveness and the Death Penalty by Marietta Jaeger,” Fall 1998. “Science and Faith: A Lecture by Carl Kaster,” 1997.

Courses Taught (Teaching Portfolio Available Upon Request)

SUNY Buffalo State. Buffalo, New York. Department of Philosophy and Humanities.

Introduction to Philosophy (over 20 sections, including mass lecture, Freshman-only)

Introduction to Social and Moral Philosophy (2 sections)

Introduction to Humanities (team-taught)

Foundations of Inquiry

Meaning of Life (over 5 sections)

Modern Philosophy (over 10 sections)

Philosophy of Religion (over 5 sections)

Existentialism (2 sections)

Honors Professional Ethics

Special Topics: Skepticism

Senior Seminars: Atheism and the Meaning of Life; Descartes

Moral Issues (3 sections)

Independent Study: Modern Philosophy Tutorial (5); Tools of the Trade (2); Feminism; Schopenhauer and The Meaning of Life; Women and Philosophy (team-taught)

Philosophy Honor's Thesis: Julian D'Offray

King's College. Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Department of Philosophy.

Fundamentals of Philosophy (7 sections)

Philosophy and Popular Culture: Movies and The Meaning of Life (3 sections)

Bioethics

Feminist Philosophy (team taught)

Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. Department of Philosophy.

Introduction to Philosophy (28 sections)

Introduction to Logic

Introduction to Intellectual Inquiry

Introduction to Ethics (2 sections)

Philosophy of Person (4 sections)

Practical Wisdom

Animated Philosophy and Religion

Business Ethics (team taught)

Social Ethics (3 sections)

Ancient Philosophy (2 sections)

Modern Philosophy (2 sections)

Philosophy of Religion (2 sections)

Skepticism

Senior Thesis (2 sections)

Directed Study: History of Philosophy (6 sections); Ancient Philosophy

Senior Thesis: "Divine Attributes: Towards an Understanding of the Conflict Between Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom," Rebecca J. Lloyd. "Creation Story: Inferiority or Equality of Women?," Joana S.

Armstrong

Canisius College. Buffalo, New York. Department of Philosophy.

Topics in the History of Philosophy II: Descartes

Introduction to Philosophy (5 sections)

Honors Philosophy I (4 sections)

Modern Philosophy I

State University of New York College at Fredonia. Fredonia, New York. Department of Philosophy.

The Age of Reason

Philosophical Ideas

Courses Taught (continued)

Wyoming Correctional Facility. New York State Prison System. Consortium of the Niagara Frontier.
 Modern Philosophy

Attica Correctional Facility. New York State Prison System. Consortium of the Niagara Frontier.
 Introduction to Philosophy

Niagara County Community College. Sandborn, New York. Department of Humanities.
 Philosophical Thinking (7)

State University of New York at Buffalo. Buffalo, New York. Department of Philosophy.
 Knowledge and Reality (2)
 Introduction to Philosophy

Administrative Service

Chair, Philosophy Personnel Committee. SUNY Buffalo State. 2015 to present.

Philosophy Personnel Committee. SUNY Buffalo State. 2012-2015.

Co-Founding Member, Buffalo Ladies in Philosophy (BLIP). Buffalo, New York. Fall 2014 to present.

Search Committee for SUNY Buffalo State Provost. SUNY Buffalo State. Buffalo, New York, Fall 2014-present.

Chair, Department of Philosophy and Humanities. SUNY Buffalo State. Buffalo, New York. 2008-2014.

Director of Advising: Philosophy and Religious Studies. SUNY Buffalo State. Fall 2008-2014.

Founding Member and Mentor, WIP: Women in Philosophy. SUNY Buffalo State. Spring 2013-present.

Founder and Coordinator, Faculty-Student Philosophy Department Colloquia. SUNY Buffalo State. Spring 2006-present.

Program Array Committee. Appointed by Dean, School of Arts and Humanities. SUNY Buffalo State. 2013-2014.

College Planning Council. SUNY Buffalo State. Buffalo, New York. 2008- 2014.

Arts and Letters Steering Committee. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. Fall 2010-2012.

Philosophy and Humanities Department Student Activities Coordinator. Buffalo State College. 2007 – 2014.

Chair, Search Committee for Associate Dean, School of Arts and Humanities. Buffalo State College. Fall 2012.

Advisor, BSC Freethinkers Student Club, Fall 2010 – Fall 2013.

Advisory Committee International Studies Minor. Buffalo State College. 2007-2010.

SUNY Department Chair Institute. SUNY Center for Professional Development. Syracuse, New York. September 2007.

Chair, Search Committee for Department of Philosophy and Humanities. Buffalo State College. 2007-2008.

Chair, Search Committee for Department of Philosophy and Humanities (Search #1). Buffalo State College. 2006-2007.

Search Committee for Department of Philosophy and Humanities (Search #2). Buffalo State College. 2006-2007.

Search Committee for Dean, School of Arts and Humanities. Buffalo State College. Summer 2005-Spring 2007.

Chair, Search Committee for Department of Philosophy and Humanities. Buffalo State College. 2005-2006.

Chair, Philosophy and Humanities Faculty-Student Colloquia. Buffalo State College. Spring 2005-present.

Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee. Buffalo State College. 2005-2006.

Academic Plan Committee. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. 2004-2008.

New Faculty Committee. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, New York. 2004-5.

Co-Chair. King's College Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. April 2004.

Department Chair. Philosophy Department. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. Fall 1999-2003.

Vice Chair. Teaching Faculty Assembly Executive Committee. Siena Height University. Adrian, Michigan. 2001-2003.

Social Committee. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. 2001-2002.

Coordinator, Humanities Division Colloquia. Siena Heights University. Fall 2000-2003.

Campus Ministry Assessment Committee. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. 2001.

Faculty Welfare Committee. Siena Heights University, Adrian, Michigan. 1999- 2001.

Faculty Handbook Committee. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. Fall 2000.

Academic Standards Committee. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. 1998-2002.

New Faculty Committee. Siena Heights University. Adrian, Michigan. Fall 1997-Spring 1999.

References (available upon request)

Michael Ruse, Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL
mruse@fsu.edu

George T. Hole, SUNY Distinguished Professor *Emeritus*, Department of Philosophy
Buffalo State College
Buffalo, New York 14222
gthole@buffalostate.edu

James Grunebaum, SUNY Distinguished Professor *Emeritus*, Department of Philosophy
Buffalo State College
Buffalo, New York 14222
grunebjo@buffalostate.edu

Raymond Belliotti, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy
SUNY Fredonia
Fredonia, New York
Raymond.Belliotti@fredonia.edu

Daniel Garber, Ph.D., Stuart Professor of Philosophy. Chair, Department of Philosophy
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey
dgarber@Princeton.EDU

William T. Irwin, Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy; Series Editor, The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series, Wiley-Blackwell
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
wtirwin@kings.edu

Mark Schersten, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities
Siena Heights University
Adrian, Michigan
mschersten@sienahts.edu

John Kelly, Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy
Canisius College
Buffalo, New York
kellyj@canisius.edu

Richard T. Hull, Ph.D., Professor *Emeritus*, Department of Philosophy
State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York
rthull62@hotmail.com