

Cornerstone

Transformational Scholarship at Azusa Pacific University

Office of Research and Grants | Fall 2017



Faculty Spotlight

Ethan Schrum

Assistant Professor, Department of History and Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

A Brief Interview *(continued on page 3)*

3



Student Spotlight

Cherrish Hardy

School of Theology

“Write the paper that saves you” -

These words... *(continued on page 2)*

2



Mentoring Program

Call for Applications

Mentoring Program for APU Junior Faculty

(continued on page 4)

4



Calendar and Events

Upcoming ORG Events & Deadlines

3



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CREV

Impactful Scholarship Working *with Ethics and Values*

There are many complaints that societal norms around ethics and values are in steep decline. Some argue the decline is more fanciful than actual; others point to business practices, politics, and public discourse, as evidence the decline is real. The question of fanciful or real aside, practically all agree on the importance of elevating our understanding and practices of ethics and values. What better place to advance such understanding and practices than Azusa Pacific University?

The APU Center for Ethics and Values (CREV) promotes scholarship around ethics and values through the CREV Faculty Fellowships (CFF) and the Beverley Hardcastle Stanford Fellowship (BHSF). Typically, each year, up to three CFF recipients receive 3-6 teaching release units to pursue scholarship in ethics and values, while the BHSF is more concentrated as it provides release for one faculty from all teaching responsibilities for a semester to similarly engage in scholarship around ethics and values.

This past year, CREV director, Mark Eaton, Ph.D., and the CREV advisory team refined the fellowships' guidelines to clarify these opportunities are for a wide range of disciplines, not just those specializing in ethics. CFF guidelines state the desire to “make a significant contribution to current understandings of ethics and values, broadly defined, in any area of culture and society.” The guidelines go on to say, “recipients need not be working *on* ethics so much as *with* ethics to impact their disciplines.” Further, the fellowship program, “encourages the application of scholarship to the needs and problems of the world” with the hope of “foster(ing) a better understanding of significant moral issues of our world.” The BHSF guidelines express similar goals. It is clear the CFF and BHSF present excellent opportunities for scholars from many disciplines to contribute to discussions about impact of ethics and values in their fields.

(Article continued on Page 4)

Congratulations!

Recent funding (August - October 2017)

Gary Black, Jr. (HC). *Plantinga Reading Group.* Funded by the Society of Christian Philosophers. (\$3,000)

Jennifer Buck (SOT). *Bad and Boujee – Toward a Trap Feminist Theology.* Funded by the Center for Faith and Culture, Yale Divinity School. (\$10,000)

Adam Green (SOT). *Plantinga Reading Group.* Funded by the Society of Christian Philosophers. (\$3,000)

Bonita Huiskes (SON). *Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program.* Funded by US DHHS Health Resources and Services Administration (\$1,511,905)

Mary Rawlings (BAS). *UCCF DCFS Title IV-E MSW Internship Stipend Program. Grant Supplement/Extension.* Funded by the UCLA/LA County DCFS. (\$429,193)

Kathleen Ruccione (SON). *Children's Oncology Group (COG) NCTN Operation Scientific Leadership.* Funded by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) NIH (\$7,500)

Cahleen Shrier, Marian Saleh, Jennifer Buck (CLAS, SOT). *Science for Youth Ministry.* Funded by Luther Seminary from a John Templeton Foundation grant. (\$5,000)

Stuart Strother, Barbara Strother (SBM). *APU SBM China Study Abroad Program.* Funded by Freeman Foundation. (\$399,157)

Welcome New ORG Team Members!

We are excited to welcome two new members to the Office of Research and Grants team.



Martha Bellin, RN, BSN
IRB Coordinator
Martha comes from City of Hope where she had significant IRB experience. She loves traveling, camping (especially near rivers), and canoeing.



Xiaoqing (Sharon) Wang, PhD
Director of Graduate Student Publications
Sharon joined APU after 11 years in higher education, most recently Concordia University, Irvine, where she directed an MA program in international studies. She enjoys gardening and is an amazing storyteller.



Student Spotlight

Cherrish Hardy

School of Theology

... began my research endeavors as an undergraduate at APU. In speaking this, Dr. Barbara Harrington in the Honors College challenged us to pursue a line of inquiry that bears direct relation to our lived experience. Why does this topic matter to me, to the world? Why is it worth my intimate investment? Because of this mindset, as well as encouragement and constructive feedback from Dr. Adam Green, a term paper for my Epistemology course became an independent research project. I began to ask questions such as:

What allows people who are degraded, demeaned, and oppressed by those with social power to still pursue vibrant, meaningful, creative lifestyles that express the passion in their being? What is it that offers grounding and hope for people even when other social groups tell them their social identifications make them abnormal, detestable, disposable, and sub-human?

These are the driving questions of this project entitled "The Epistemology of Testimony as it Relates to Self-Worth". I believe *part* of the answer consists in a knowledge of, and high regard for, that inner voice which says, "I must be worth more than what this treatment accounts for."

The focus of my research, therefore, is the process of coming to *know* and live out of one's self-worth, concentrating specifically on the impediments social pressures may have on this process. I aim to provide a truly *applied* epistemology - a type of knowing and holding beliefs regarding the self that directly applies to and improves one's quality of life. I examine the tendency of societal pressures to inappropriately identify various characteristics - race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, class, age, ability, etc. - as evidence of self-worth. The success of this project has the potential to equip, encourage, and empower individuals who identify with marginalized groups, so as to trust in and live out the inherent worth of their very existence.

With the guidance of Dr. Rico Vitz and Dr. Teri Merrick in the Department of Philosophy, I have been able to present my research at the American Academy of Religion Western Regional Conference and at the Minorities in Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, where I received comments, feedback, and pushback that will serve to strengthen this project. Dr. Vitz and Dr. Merrick have not only been of tremendous help in the progression of this research, but in the development of my confidence and personal style as a scholar.

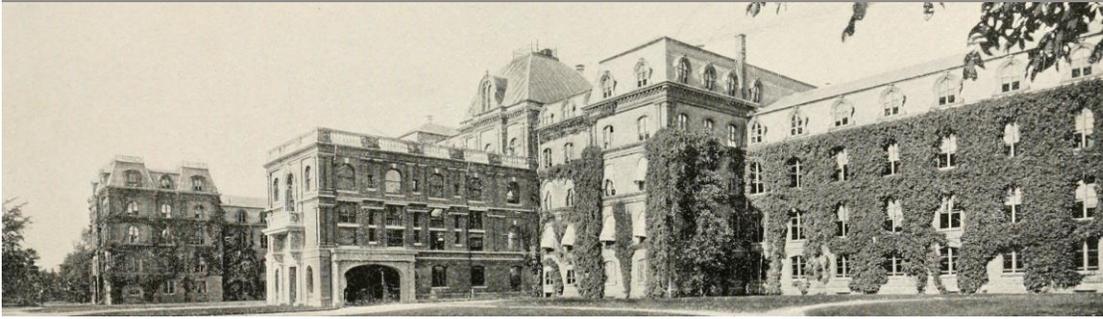
Cherrish Hardy along with Drs. Vitz and Merrick are one of the eight faculty-student dyads that have been awarded a SURE award in 2017.

"Cherrish Hardy's scholarship highlights her rigorously insightful mind, her undeterrable work ethic, and her courageously compassionate heart. In short, she embodies APU's mission at a remarkably high level of excellence. I'm excited to see what the future holds for her!"

Rico Vitz, PhD
Professor & Chair, SOT Philosophy

"Cherrish's work is marked by a combination of authenticity, ethical commitment, and substantive intellectual rigor rarely found in a person of her age. In prose and poetry, she offers her reader profound philosophical meditations on our all too human ways of being in the worlds. It has been an honor to serve as her SURE co-advisor!"

Teri Merrick, PhD
Professor, SOT Philosophy



Faculty Spotlight

Office of Research and Grants (ORG): You joined APU in 2014 as assistant professor of History in CLAS. What led you to be a scholar in your field and what led you to APU?

Ethan Schrum (ES): I pursued American intellectual history because I was interested in how ideas moved from the level of academic speculation to the level of mass belief, and particularly in the role of how institutions mediated that process by giving legitimacy to ideas. A big thing that attracted me to APU was the opportunity to teach the great books through the Humanities Program, High Sierra, and the Honors College.

ORG: This year you are one of six CREV Faculty Fellows. What do you hope to accomplish during this fellowship and how do you expect this to help your scholarship?

ES: I'm examining how Americans began to describe their country, and especially their education system, as "secular" during the 1950s. As an intellectual historian, I think it is critical to look at the vocabulary people use to describe their world and what it can tell us about patterns of thought. The fellowship is providing me a big boost by giving me time to launch this project.

ORG: Have you been awarded a CREV fellowship before? If so, how does the new fellowship award build on the previous one?

ES: Yes, I had one in Fall 2015. That one was to write the final chapter of my first book, which will be published in about a year. The connection between them is that the first one helped me deepen my understanding of certain aspects of American intellectual life in the twentieth century, so it provides some background for the current one.

ORG: Do you sense your scholarship influences your effectiveness in teaching and/or interacting with students?

ES: Definitely! This semester one of my courses is an independent study on Modern America with two students, and this project is helping me share deeper insights with them.

ORG: Congratulations on recently receiving a book contract! Tell us a little bit about that.

ES: It is exciting to see this process nearing completion, because I have been working on this book for almost 11 years! I have a contract with Cornell University Press to publish in its American Institutions and Society series with a release date of Fall/Winter 2018. My book, *Administering American Modernity: The Instrumental University in the Postwar United States*, is about the transformation of the elite research university after World War II.

ORG: Any exciting scholarship goals for the next 10 years?

ES: I would like to write a second book on post-World War II American intellectual life.

ORG: Here is a fun question: How do you get to work?

ES: For my first 2.5 years, I rode my bike, which I loved. After we moved closer to campus, though, I realized that my commute was too short to give me a good workout and I could use my time more effectively by reorganizing my commuting and workouts. Now I'm just another person taking up a precious parking spot!



"Scholarly writing and research engages us in a process of critical thinking, a process of conceptualizing, applying, synthesizing and evaluating, a process that models for our students the importance of engaging in good reasoning, looking for accuracy and consistency about a specific topic and the value of moral thinking."

*Vicky R. Bowden, DNSc, RN
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs*

Calendar & Events

Events/Workshops

Foundation Focus Luncheon
December 11, 2017: Canyon City Foundation - Vision and Priorities (VIP Room)

Undergraduate Research Showcase
November 6, 2017: 11:30am-12:30pm (Wilden 231)

Upcoming Sabbatical Luncheons
November 28, 2017: Christopher Schmidt
January 10, 2018: Don Thorsen
January 31, 2018: Marjorie Graham-Howard
February 20, 2018: Keith Reeves

Writing Consultation with John Trent
January 29-30, 2018

Common Day of Learning (CDL)
Proposal deadline: December 8, 2017
CDL: February 28, 2018

Call for Applications

Research and Grants Mentoring Program for APU Junior Faculty
November 10, 2017: Intent to apply
December 4, 2017: Application submission deadline
December 15, 2017: Awards notification

Research Ethics Deadlines

IRB (human subjects research)
November 1, 2017: Full Board Review Application deadline for November meeting
November 29, 2017: Full Board Review Application deadline for December meeting
January 3, 2018: Full Board Review Application deadline for January meeting

IACUC (animal research)
November 8, 2017: Protocol or amendment deadline for November meeting
December 6, 2017: Full Board Review Application deadline for December meeting
January 10, 2018: Full Board Review Application deadline for January meeting

(CREV article, continued)

For 2017-18, CREV did things a little differently. Rather than make three CFF awards with up to six units each, six faculty received awards of three units each. Throughout the fall semester, these six fellows have had regular lunch gatherings that included the CREV director, the executive director of the Office of Research and Grants, and others to discuss the fellows' scholarship activity and progress. The 2017-18 CFF fellows are:

- Jennifer Buck, Ph.D. (SOT), *Distinct: Quaker Holiness in Everyday Life*
- Ethan Schrum, Ph.D. (CLAS), *The Rise of Secular America: The Secular Realm in the Post-World War II American Imagination*
- Matthew Smith, Ph.D. (CLAS), *Acts of Recognition: Where Scandal and the Sublime Meet in Shakespearean Drama*
- Caleb Spencer, Ph.D. (CLAS), *Postsecularism: Protestant Experiences and the Logics of Belief*
- Steven Wilkens, Ph.D. (SOT), *Redeeming Humor*
- Jessica Wong, Ph.D. (SOT), *Seeing Jesus: A Visual Theology of Race and the Holy Icon*

Paul Shrier, Ph.D., is the 2017-18 BHSF fellow. His intriguing project, *In Their Own Words: Participating with the Disability Community as Christians* has a documentary video as the outcome. Dr. Shrier was spotlighted in the spring 2017 *Cornerstone* which can be linked to from <https://sites.google.com/a/apu.edu/org/cornerstone>.

The value of the BHSF is highlighted by looking back at two previous awardees.

Cheryl Crawford, Ph.D., (Practical Theology) 2012-13

Dr. Crawford credits the BHSF with providing her time to continue critical longitudinal research that follows adolescents' spiritual journeys as they move through emerging adulthood. Her earlier research resulted in the book, *Sticky Faith*, and multiple presentations around the U.S. There are, however, no studies tracking spiritual journeys past emerging adulthood as persons enter into their 30's. Through the BHSF, Dr. Crawford was able to extend the longitudinal breadth of her research into the 30's, making this a potentially seminal study when it reaches publication projected for fall 2019.

Joshua Rasmussen, Ph.D., (Philosophy) 2016-17

When Dr. Rasmussen was asked about the impact of the BHSF on his current work, he noted two recent invitations to give keynote talks on that work. One talk was in Brazil, and the other will be for the prestigious American Philosophical Association. Dr. Rasmussen also noted an expanded online platform, which extends the reach of his current research. These are in addition to three books, three book chapters, and two journal articles he worked on during the BHSF. Of special note is completion of his book, *Necessary Existence*, which lays out new arguments for the existence of an eternal foundation of all things. *Necessary Existence* will be released in spring 2018 by Oxford University Press. Be sure to get it!

Kudos to Drs. Crawford and Rasmussen for their continued excellent scholarship.

Research and Grants

Mentoring Program for APU Junior Faculty

CALL for APPLICATIONS

We invite applications for two mentoring fellowships!! APU Junior Faculty within five years of initial full-time appointment are eligible. This multiple layer mentorship program will be for 18 months. Note the following dates:



- November 10, 2017: Intent to Apply
- December 4, 2017: Submission Deadline
- December 15, 2017: Awards Notification
- January 11, 2018: Mentoring Program Kick-Off

[PROGRAM DETAILS HERE](#)

Recent Research Events @ APU

CLAS Fall Research Day

This annual event organized by the CLAS Department of Biology and



Chemistry took place on September 16, 2017. Students and faculty presented their findings. The award winners were:

Outstanding oral presentation: Courtnee Reaves, Silas Griffin, Abel De Castro

Outstanding poster presentation Chemistry: Daniel Villegas, Alissa Matus and Jenelle Dhing

Outstanding poster presentation Biology: Abigail Shricker and Elena Padilla

Honorable mention poster presentation: Marc Abou Assali

37 Students
24 Posters
9 Presentations
16 Faculty

CRISPR Lecture and Panel Discussion

On October 5, 2017, the Center for Research in Science hosted a great event on "Gene Editing: Who Draws the Line? Dr. Ting



Wu (Harvard Medical School) presented on the development of various gene editing tools. Dr. Nathan Joh (Amgen) and Dr. Rico Vitz (Philosophy, APU) joined Dr. Wu in a panel discussion to further explore the ethical implications. The audience asked questions on the rationale for enhancement and trans-humanism. Congratulations to Dr. Louise Huang, CRIS Director, for organizing this great event!



Common Day of Learning February 28, 2018

Theme "Be Devoted, Be Productive" (based on Titus 3:14)
Benjamin Marsh, CDL Director: "This year's theme is a call for us to be devoted to God, one another, and our work. Moreover, there is an expectation that devotion be reflected in fruitful acts that fortify our relationship with God and one another and leads to diligently crafted products in our work life."

Proposal Deadline: December 8, 2017