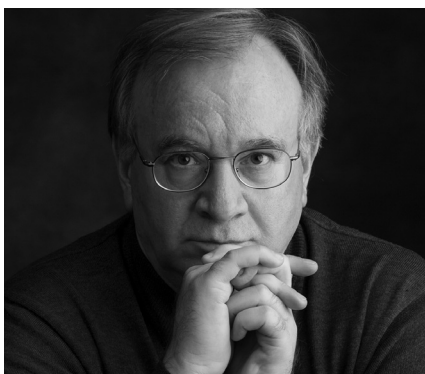


Sophia

New Faculty Members

Barry Freundel

Barry Freundel received his PhD in Rabbinics with honors from Baltimore Hebrew University. He is the author of many articles and two books, *Contemporary Orthodox Judaism's Response to Modernity*, and *Why We Pray What We Pray*; the remarkable history of Jewish prayer, which was published in 2010. Barry's research interests include Jewish Law particularly as it relates to cutting edge contemporary issues, the history of Jewish Liturgy and Medical Ethics. Along with a love for sports, particularly football, Barry enjoys the folk music of America and of many other countries. He may be best known (at least to the students) for his appearance on HBO's *Da Famous Ali G* show available on Utube under Religion and AliG.Dr.



Shimon Shokek

Professor Shimon Shokek earned his BA, MA, and PhD from the Department of Jewish Philosophy and Mysticism of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he taught Jewish ethics, philosophy, and mysticism for 7 years.

In 1987 Professor Shokek joined the faculty of Baltimore Hebrew University and taught there for 23 years. In 2009 he joined the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Towson University with the establishment of the Judaic studies program at Towson University. This fall Dr. Shokek will offer graduate and undergraduate courses on the history and mystical philosophy of Kabbalah and Hasidism, as well as the popular undergraduate course on the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

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New Faculty Members, *continued*

Professor Shokek is the author of numerous books and articles in both Hebrew and English on central themes in Jewish thought. Among his books are *Jewish Ethics And Jewish Mysticism*; *Kabbalah And The Art Of Being - The Smithsonian Lectures*; and *Repentance In Jewish Ethics, Philosophy, and Mysticism*.

Recently Dr. Shokek has completed two philosophical novels in Hebrew: the first novel, *Like A Planted Tree*, was published by the prestigious *Yediot Sefarim* in Tel Aviv in 2008, and the second novel, *The Secret Of The Missing Hebrew Letter*, is forthcoming next year by the same publisher.



Susanna Garfein

Dr. Susanna Garfein received her Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Johns Hopkins University in 2004. Dr. Garfein comes to Towson from Baltimore Hebrew University and has been a visiting professor at Johns Hopkins University, UMBC and McDaniel College. Her research is concerned with the political and religious identities in ancient Israel

and how these identities shaped the religious and historical picture of ancient Israel.

A native of Tallahassee, Florida, Dr. Garfein began her academic career at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia (UGA). During her undergraduate studies, she majored in Religion with her concentration in Judaic and Biblical Studies. Dr. Garfein's undergraduate studies led her to pursue both the archeological and philological aspects of biblical studies. During the summers of 1991-1993, Dr. Garfein participated in the Harvard-sponsored Leon Levy archaeological expedition in Ashkelon, Israel. After graduating from UGA, Dr. Garfein attended the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's one-year graduate program where her primary field of study was in Aramaic as well as linguistic change within Biblical Hebrew. After Israel, Dr. Garfein concentrated in Hebrew Bible and Northwest Semitic Languages at the Johns Hopkins University. In May 2004 Dr. Garfein completed her doctorate from the Johns Hopkins University. Her dissertation is entitled "Temple-Palace Conflict in Pre-Exilic Judah." Currently she is preparing the dissertation for publication.

At Towson, Dr. Garfein teaches a variety of courses concerned with the history, language and literature of the Hebrew Bible. In addition to serving as a faculty member in the department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Dr. Garfein serves as the Program Director for the Graduate Program in Judaic Studies. Dr. Garfein lives in Baltimore with her husband, Ross Goldstein, and their dog Ruthie.



Carl Yamamoto

Carl Yamamoto received his Ph.D. in religious studies from the University of Virginia in 2009, specializing in Tibetan Buddhism. His dissertation examined the life and works of Lama Zhang, a controversial 12th-century Tibetan political, military, and religious leader. Prior to that, he had received master's degrees from Yale in philosophy and from Virginia in religious studies. His current research interests include: the formation of religious identities and sectarian traditions, textual production and material culture in Tibet, and Buddhist literary genres, particularly religious biography and autobiography. He is currently turning his dissertation into a book, and for the future looks to translate a collection of Lama Zhang's biographies and songs of spiritual realization for future publication. On the side, he plays the Hawaiian steel guitar—rather poorly, but with much enthusiasm.

Forum Activities

The Towson University Philosophy Forum is a student-run, SGA-budgeted group at Towson University. Its membership consists of Towson students who actively seek to engage their college peers in philosophical discussions on campus. The Philosophy Forum fosters a sense of community between students and professors, and encourages students to work together to think philosophically. We produce or co-sponsor many events on Towson's campus in conjunction with the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies such as the Annual Spring Undergraduate Conference, the Wing-Chun Wong

Memorial Lecture, and the Ian Moore Memorial Lecture. We also edit and publish Towson's undergraduate philosophical journal entitled "The Journal of Philosophical Ideas." In addition, we coordinate various trips to philosophical conferences, such as this year's trip to the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy's conference. We also host a lecture series of our own, where we invite speakers to lecture on and discuss philosophy with students. All are invited to attend our fortnightly meetings and engage the group in philosophical discussion and debate.

Current Officers (Fall 2010- Spring 2011)

President: Jonathan Suss

Treasurer: Travis McDonald

Vice President: Duncan Scales

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Wing-Chun Wong Memorial lecture

The Wing-Chun Wong Memorial Lecture, which is made possible through the generosity of Dr. Wing-Chun Wong's family members, was given by Dr. Rosemarie Tong on December 3, 2009. Dr. Tong is the Distinguished Professor of Health Care Ethics at the University of North Carolina. Her areas of specialization are healthcare ethics and feminist philosophy. Her published works include: *Globalizing Feminist Bioethics*, co-authored with Aida Santos and Gwen Anderson (in progress), *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction* (1998), *Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*

(1996), *Unity in Diversity* (1995), *Controlling Our Reproductive Destiny: A Technological and Philosophical Perspective* co-authored with Larry Kaplan (1994), *Feminine and Feminist Ethics* (1993), *Feminist Thought: A Comprehensive Introduction* (1989), *Ethics in Policy Analysis* (1985), and *Women, Sex and the Law* (1987). Her talk, entitled, "Feminist Thought in Transition: Past Accomplishments, Present Tensions, and Future Opportunities," was a great success.

Dr. Elizabeth Kassab gave the 2010 Wing-Chun Wong Memorial Lecture

on November 16, 2010. The title of her lecture is "What is Enlightenment? An Arab Post-Colonial Perspective." Dr. Kassab is on the faculty at Lebanese American University, and her research interests are in comparative philosophy of culture, postcolonial thought, and contemporary and modern Arab thought. Her published works include: *Contemporary Arab Thought: Cultural Critique in Comparative Perspective* (2009), and *The Theory of Social Action in the Schutz-Parsons Debate* (1991).

Ian Moore Scholarship Award Recipients

Daniel Murphy was named to receive the 2009-2010 Ian Moore Scholarship. Previous winners have included Paul Kelly, Katrina Penner, Patrick O'Neill, Tracy Funk, Katherine Filbert, Sam McElroy, Lisa Shaw, David Kaye, Brian Walters, Mathew Sanderson, Nicholas Webster, and John Bova. The Ian Moore Scholarship was created in memory of Ian Moore, an Alumnus of our Department who met with an untimely and tragic death. Through the generosity of Ian's parents, the Department has created both the scholarship and the annual Ian Moore memorial lecture series.

Ian Moore Memorial Lectures

On April 2, 2009 Dr. Jorge J.E. Gracia gave the 11th annual Ian More Memorial Lecture entitled, "Racist or Advocate?: The Ambiguity of Racism." Dr. Gracia is on the faculty at SUNY Buffalo, and holds the Samuel P. Capen Chair of Philosophy. His areas of interest include Meta-physics/Ontology, Philosophical Historiography, Philosophy of Language/Hermeneutic Ethnicity/Race/Nationality, Hispanic/Latino Issues, Medieval/Scholastic Philosophy, Hispanic/Latino/Latin-American Philosophy. Some of his works include: *Images of Thought: Philosophical Interpretations of Carlos Estévez's Art* (2009), *Latinos in America: Philosophy and Social Identity* (2008), and *Surviving Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality in the Twenty-First Century* (2006).

Dr. Alphonso Lingis, a distinguished philosopher who gave our first Ian Moore Memorial lecture, returned to give the 2010 Ian Moore Memorial lecture on April 1, 2010. Dr. Lingis' talk was entitled "Dominion of Shadows." The presentation combined philosophy and performance art. Dr. W. Fuchs taught a seminar on the work of Dr. Lingis, which prepared student to delve more deeply into the work of Dr. Lingis. Dr. Lingis is currently Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Pennsylvania State University. His areas of specialization are phenomenology and existentialism, and some of his works include: *Violence and Splendor* (forthcoming), *The First Person Singular* (2007), *Body Transformations* (2005), *Trust* (2004), *Dangerous Emotions* (1999), and *The Imperative* (1998).

Wing-Chun Wong Essay Prize

The Department named Paul Kelly as the winner of the Spring 2009 Wing-Chun Wong Essay Prize, and Patrick O'Neill as the winner of the Spring 2010 Essay Prize. The prize is awarded in honor of Dr. Wong who taught in the Department until his untimely death. Students submit a scholarly paper, and the winner is determined by a committee of faculty in the Department. The winning student is selected in the fall term of every academic year, and the winner presents his or her paper at the Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in the spring.

New Faculty Members, *continued*

Dr. Barry M. Gittlen, *Professor of Biblical and Archaeological Studies Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Towson University*

Dr. Barry M. Gittlen, Professor of Biblical and Archaeological Studies at Towson University, has spent the better part of his life as an archaeologist in the pursuit of the past. He has scoured the earth in search of ancient Canaanites and Israelites at Tell Gezer, the Jenin-Megiddo Survey, Tell Jemmeh, Tel Ser'a, and Har Resisim. As Field Archaeologist and Archaeological Coordinator for the Tel Miqne/Ekron Excavations in Israel (1982-1996), he helped recover the fascinating history of this Philistine industrial city. Combining the disciplines of Archaeology and Biblical Studies, Dr. Gittlen strives to bring the past to life and to reach new understandings of the ancient Israelite populace which produced Biblical Literature.

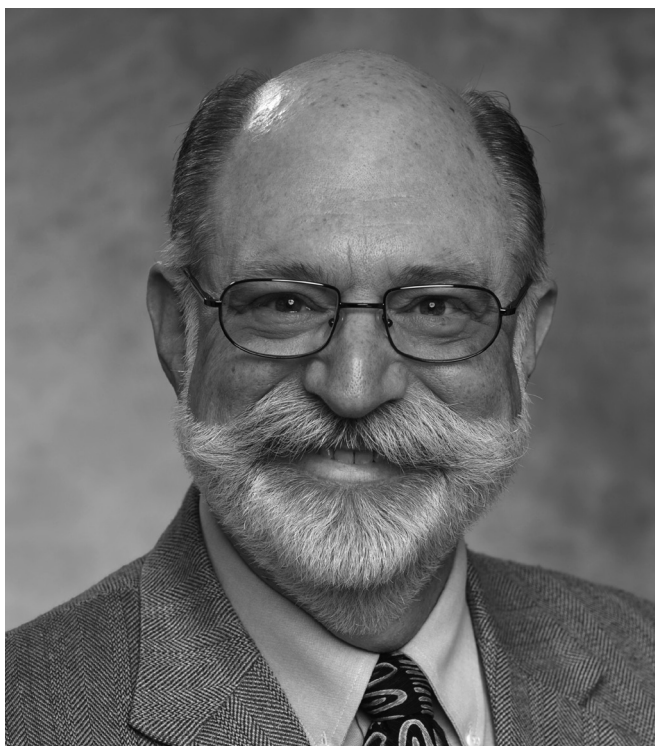
Dr. Gittlen received his PhD from the Department of Oriental Studies of the University of Pennsylvania (1977) and has authored many scholarly articles as well as the recently published *Sacred Time, Sacred Place: Archaeology and the Religion of Israel* (Eisenbrauns 2002). While currently preparing *Tel Miqne-Ekron: Report of the 1984-1996 Excavations in Field III*, the final report on his excavations at Philistine Ekron, he is also researching the function and meaning of images, especially anthropomorphic images, in Israelite civilization.

Before joining Towson University's faculty, Dr. Gittlen served many years as a faculty member of Baltimore Hebrew University, and also served as its Library Director (1974-6), Dean of Graduate Studies (1995-2002), Interim President (2007) and Provost (2008-2009). He currently

serves as a Trustee of the American Schools of Oriental Research and Chairman of its Mid-Atlantic Region.

The recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, Dr. Gittlen is listed in the *Who's Who in Cypriote Archaeology* and *Who's Who in Biblical Studies and Archaeology* and has served as consultant to, and actor in, documentary films (most recently brought to Egypt by the BBC and Discovery Channel). Named Baltimore Hebrew University's "Most Popular Professor" by Baltimore Magazine (January 1997) and the 1993 recipient of the President's Award for "The Professor Who Most Exemplifies the High Ideals of the Baltimore Hebrew University," Dr. Gittlen's students constitute his lasting legacy.

Archaeologists are somewhat out of the ordinary to begin with. Dr. Gittlen climbed the Aztec Pyramid of the Sun in a driving rain storm and the Egyptian Great Pyramid in oppressive heat. In the air, he has zip-lined through the Costa Rican rain forest. On the ground, he discovered fossils in Israel's Makhtesh Ramon crater, hitch-hiked throughout Israel, smoked fresh tobacco with Palestinian farmers and been hosted by Palestinian village chieftains, been shot at in the Galilee and tear-gassed in Jerusalem. Under the ground, he has discovered 4000 year old houses, Philistine gold and silver jewelry, Biblical era inscriptions (Hebrew and Aramaic), weapon and tool hoards, Roman frescos, and a plethora of information on life among the ruins. Archaeology can be exciting!



Alumni Reports

Paul Kelly

In the year since graduation, I have been employed by the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Catonsville, Department of Philosophy as a teaching assistant for an Introduction to Philosophy class, and as a joint instructor for a course on Biomedical Ethics, both with Professor Daniel Jenkins. In the Fall, I will be moving to Boston to attend Tufts University for their Master of Arts program in Philosophy.

The Towson University Philosophy and Religious Studies Department has been an invaluable asset in my intellectual growth, and I wish them the very best. I would encourage all current Philosophy students to make the most of their undergraduate experience by becoming actively involved with departmental events, attending guest lectures and conferences, and joining the student-run Philosophy Forum.

Patrick Young

Before I graduated in May I applied for a position at Towson as the new Coordinator of Veterans Services. In 2008 I helped to create the Veterans group of Towson University and served as their president for 2 years. I figured that the new coordinator position would be the perfect opportunity to transition from student advocate to administrative staff member. As of July 27th I've been working in my office located in the new Veterans Center here on campus, Rm. 107 in the Psychology Building. I hope to utilize my position to better assist Veteran Student's transition from the military to a college environment and continue that work into the future.

Pilardi on her retirement. Her class on Foucault was one of the most challenging and rewarding courses from my experience at Towson. Chok dee!

Sabbatical Leave Report For the Academic Year 2007-2008

Rose Ann Christian

My sabbatical research took as its focus the work of the versatile Victorian thinker, William Kingdon Clifford. As one of the more dedicated members of the prestigious 19th century Metaphysical Society and as a contributor to such influential journals as *The Nineteenth Century* and the *Contemporary Review*, Clifford played a part in the shaping of attitudes, both social and intellectual, in the England of his day. Renown as a mathematician – he was Professor of Applied Mathematics at University College, London – he lectured and wrote on a remarkable variety of topics, ranging from non-Euclidian geometry, contemporary physics, philosophy of science, metaphysics, to religion and ethics. These interests, though impressively wide-ranging, were not on his understanding as disparate as they may at first appear. Clifford exhibited a deep interest in the relation between the revolutionary intellectual developments of his day and the health of the society in which he lived. He speculated on a grand scale about matters moral, religious, and metaphysical and was eager to promote the vision of human life he favored. Despite the range and versatility of his thought, however, Clifford's reputation among philosophers in our day depends largely on a single albeit influential essay, "The Ethics of Belief." My sabbatical research and writing is part of a larger project seeking not only to locate Clifford's thought in its intellectual context, but aiming also to enrich contemporary appreciation of this interesting and provocative figure.

Paul Pojman

Paul spent two months traveling in Central America. He finished an essay, co-authored with Evelyn Wright, at the intersection of technology studies and environmental ethics, "Evaluating Technology Options in Climate Mitigation Solutions", published an essay in *Social Anarchism*, "Anarchospirituality", wrote a concluding essay to work begun in graduate school, "The Influence of Biology and Psychology upon Physics: Ernst Mach Revisited", and made substantial progress on the 6th edition of an *Environmental Ethics* anthology, co-authored with Louis Pojman. He also spent time preparing for a class on anarchism, which he taught in the spring of 2010.

Christos Evangeliou,

Professor of Philosophy,

Honorary President of IAGP

My sabbatical leave was more sedative and less mobile than I had anticipated. It did not take me this time to far away countries like Russia, Korea and China to present papers at international conferences or at the World Congress of Philosophy, as I had hoped. My sabbatical half salary and the weak dollar made travel abroad rather difficult.

But, as the Greeks would say, "ουδέν κακόν αμιγές καλού" (there is no evil unmixed with some good). The reduction of trips abroad provided me with more time to complete several papers, which had been left incomplete over the years because of lack of time and energy to work on them. In the coming years they will be published in professional

journals, in conference proceedings, or in special collections of papers.

I also wrote and published in newspapers and the Internet several timely articles, which were circulated widely and received favorable commentaries and responses. Among these articles were: "America's Chance for Real Change: The Barack Obama Phenomenon," "Resign: The Right Thing to Do for President George W. Bush," "Lessons of History: The Armenian Genocide," and the "Hellenic Love of Liberty."

I revised and prepared the second edition of the first volume of my poetic collection, *Mousa Glykophilousa*, which was reissued in 2007. I also completed the third volume, *Mousas Paregrga*, which is ready for publication and will complete the trilogy of this poetic project. This volume will include the poem "Olympic Spirit," which has had an international recognition. It has been published and translated into English, German, and Chinese! It seems that my poetry has stronger appeal than my philosophy.

I completed and prepared for publication a new book, *Themata Politica: Hellenic and Euro-Atlantic*, published by the Cambridge Scholars Press in summer of 2008. For this book I did research at the University of Athens, Greece, in the summer of 2007, and at the NYU in the winter of 2007-8 as visiting scholar. The priority I gave to this politically sensitive and timely book has delayed the research on my other books, *The Passion of Hellenic Philosophy in Europe*, and *Aristotle: Platonic Aspects of his Philosophy*. I read and

reviewed some interesting books, which will be published soon.

In addition to this, I participated actively in more than a dozen conferences where I presented papers and chaired sessions. I also participated and taught at two Summer Seminars, which were organized by the Olympic Center of Philosophy and Culture in Olympia, Greece, in the summer of 2007 and 2008 respectively, as a member of the Organizing Committee. For my contributions to the OCPC I have been recognized and honored by the Mayor of Pylos, who presented me with the plaque "Demos Nestoros."

So, in light of the above multiple scholarly activities and promising projects, one may fairly conclude that this Sabbatical Leave was very productive and rather rich in educational experiences. More would have been accomplished if the financial support were more generous for the scholarly productive TU faculty. But that is a different issue.

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DC1110.034

Alumni Questionnaire

Would you like to receive a directory of our alumni? Yes No

Would you like a copy of our undergraduate journal, *Philosophical Ideas*? Yes No

Do you want to be added to the e-mail list of the Philosophy Forum? Yes No

Do you have suggestions for a Philosophy Colloquium topic? (Write them in "comments" area below.)

Would you like to present a paper at the Philosophy Forum or Philosophy Colloquium? Yes No

Were you aware of the Ian Moore Lecture before reading about it in this issue of *Sophia*? Yes No

Would you like to be sent information on the Moore lecture and the colloquium? Yes No

Do you have any ideas for developing alumni relations in the department, or for projects that you are interested in pursuing with us? Yes No

If so, please attach comments and inform us of them.

Comments? _____

Please return to: *Sophia*

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Towson University

8000 York Road

Towson, MD 21252-0001

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Graduation year: _____ Other degrees/professional training earned: _____