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Associate Professor and Chair
Department of English and Languages
East Central University
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EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Philosophy, 1997

State University of New York at Buffalo
Title: "The Slippage of the Self: The Interdependence of Sartre's Fiction and Philosophy."
(Dr. Carolyn Korsmeyer, director.)

M.A. in Philosophy, 1995

State University of New York at Buffalo
Title: "Beyond Contemporary Pragmatism Toward a Buddhist Process Ontology."
(Dr. Peter Hare and Dr. Kenneth Inada, directors.)

B.A. in Philosophy, 1993

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York

PUBLICATIONS:

"City of Dreams: Bad Faith in *Mulholland Drive*" in *David Lynch and Philosophy*.
Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2011.

"Dead Men Do Tell Tales: The Existential Significance of the Dead in *Four Sheets to the Wind*" in *Images, Imaginations, and Beyond: Proceedings of the 8th Native American Symposium*. August 2010. <http://www.se.edu/nas/>

Introduction. *The Philosophy of the Western*. Ed. Jennifer L. McMahon and B. Steve Csaki.
Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010.

"Beating a Live Horse: The Elevation and Degradation of the Horse in Westerns" in *The Philosophy of the Western*. Ed. Jennifer L. McMahon and B. Steve Csaki. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010.

"Twilight of an Idol: Our Fatal Attraction to Vampires" in *Twilight and Philosophy*. Ed. Rebecca Housel and Jeremy Wisniewski. NY: Blackwell, 2009.

"House and Sartre: Hell Is Other People" in *House M.D. and Philosophy*.
Oxford: Blackwell Publishing (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture

Series), 2008.

“24 and the Existential Man of Revolt” in *The Philosophy of TV Noir*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky (Philosophy and Popular Culture Series), 2007.

“The Existential Frankenstein” in *The Philosophy of Science Fiction Film*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press (Philosophy and Popular Culture Series), 2007.

“After Hours: Scorsese on Absurdity” in *The Philosophy of Martin Scorsese*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press (Philosophy and Popular Culture Series), 2007.

“Talking Trees and Walking Mountains: Buddhist and Taoist Themes in *The Lord of the Rings*” in *The Lord of the Rings and Philosophy*. Editor, Eric Bronson. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2003. Co-authored with Dr. B. Steve Csaki.

“Popping a Bitter Pill: Existential Authenticity in *The Matrix* and *Nausea*” in *The Matrix and Philosophy*. Editor, William Irwin. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2002.

“The Function of Fiction: The Heuristic Value of Homer” in *The Simpsons and Philosophy: The D’oh of Homer*. Editors, William Irwin, Mark T. Conard, and Aeon J. Skoble. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2001.

“Seinfeld, Subjectivity, and Sartre” in *Seinfeld and Philosophy: A Book About Everything and Nothing*. Editor, William Irwin. Chicago: Open Court Press, 1999.

“Sartre’s Nothingness and Zen *Sunyata*: Sickness as a Refuge for the Self.” *Journal of The Association for the Interdisciplinary Study of the Arts*, Special Issue, Fall 1997.

“Dependent Origination and the Dual-Nature of the Japanese Aesthetic.” *Asian Philosophy*, Volume 7, Number 2, July 1997.

Section Introductions in *Aesthetics: The Big Questions*. Editor, Carolyn Korsmeyer. Oxford: Basil & Blackwell Publishing, 1997.

“The Yellow Wallpaper: The Role of Psychological Literature in Understanding Neuroses.” *Politeia*, Spring 1991.

FORTHCOMING ARTICLES:

“Truth, Lies, and Videotape: *Ikiru* and Truth Telling in a Medical Context” in *Journal of Intercultural Disciplines*.

“Momentarily Lost: Finding the Moment in *Lost in Translation*” in *Finding the Ox: Buddhism and American Culture*. Albany: SUNY Press. Forthcoming 2012. Co-authored with Dr. B. Steve Csaki.

“To Forgive or Forget: Arendt and Nietzsche on the Merits of Memory” in *Philosophy and the Contemporary World*. Accepted for publication pending final editorial approval.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

“Dead Men Do Tell Tales: The Existential Significance of the Dead in *Four Sheets to the Wind*.” Conference paper. Presented at the Eighth Native American Symposium and Film Festival, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, November 2009.

“Truth, Lies, and Videotape: *Ikiru* and Truth Telling in a Medical Context.” International Association of Asian Studies Conference. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 2006.

“Finding the Value of the Moment with the Help of *Lost in Translation*.” International Association of Asian Studies Conference. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 2006. Presented jointly with Dr. B. Steve Csaki.

“Laughing in the Silence: Existentialism and the Making of Meaning.” International Conference on Silence and Laughter in Literature and the Visual Arts. Atlanta, Georgia, October 2003.

“Idle Idols: An Existential Critique of the Pursuit of Permanence in Platonic Philosophy.” International Conference on Imitation and Parody in Literature and the Visual Arts. Atlanta, Georgia, November 2001.

“Is Authenticity All It’s Cracked Up to Be?: The Agony of Existential Awareness and the Bliss of Bad Faith.” International Conference on Madness and Bliss in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2000.

“Nausea, The Plague, and No Exit: The Ability of Existential Dystopias to Promote Authenticity.” International Conference on Utopia and Dystopia in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, November 1999.

“An Uncomfortable Coupling: Sartre on the Necessity of the Body to the Formation of Self.” Fifth Annual International Conference on Persons, St. John’s College, Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 1999.

“Unnecessary Losses: The Incompatibility of Joy with Extreme Idealism.” International Conference on Joy and Sorrow in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, November 1998.

“Real Necessities, Virtual Fantasies: The Role of the Body in Identity Formation.” 23rd Annual Meeting of the American Semiotics Society, Toronto, September 1998.

“Unforgettable: Arendt, Nietzsche and an Ethics of Remembrance.” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, Tennessee, February 1998.

“Dissolving Borders, Fading Foundations, Disgust, and Despair: The Effects of Sartre’s Existential Insights.” International Conference on Borders and Foundations in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, October 1997.

“Sartre’s Nothingness and Zen *Sunyata*: Sickness as a Refuge for the Self.” International Conference on Despair and Desire in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, October 1996.

“Beyond Contemporary Pragmatism Toward a Buddhist Process Ontology.” New York Conference on Asian Studies, Oakdale, New York, October 1996.

“The Dual Influence of Dependent Origination on a Japanese Aesthetic.” New York Conference on Asian Studies, Buffalo, New York, September 1995.

CREATIVE WORK:

“Break Time.” Original Charcoal Drawing (10”X 12”). Skidmore Alumni Exhibit (juried). Tang Art Museum. Saratoga Springs, New York, June 2011.

“Nervous Heifer.” Original Charcoal Drawing (5” X 8”). Skidmore Alumni Exhibit (juried). Tang Art Museum. Saratoga Springs, New York, June 2011.

“Ghost Rider.” Original Graphite Drawing (8” X 14”). Skidmore Alumni Exhibit (juried). Tang Art Museum. Saratoga Springs, New York, June 2011.

“Inclosing Reserve.” Original Oil Painting (20”X24”). Skidmore Alumni Exhibit (juried). Tang Art Museum. Saratoga Springs, New York, June 2006.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Review of David Goldblatt’s and Lee B. Brown’s *Aesthetics: A Reader in the Philosophy of the Arts* (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 1996), *American Society for Aesthetics Newsletter*, 1999.

Review of Susan Feagin’s *Reading with Feeling* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996), *Journal of Value Inquiry*, July 1998. Co-authored with Dr. Sarah Worth.

INVITED LECTURES:

“Who Am I Really?: An Existential Explanation for Our Fascination with Facebook, MySpace and Gaming.” Public Lecture. Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival. East Central University, November 2008.

“Is Ignorance Preferable to Authenticity?: The Existential Implications of *The Matrix* and *Nausea*.” Public Lecture. Transylvania University, Lexington, KY, February 2001.

“The Essentials of Existentialism.” Invited Lecture for Cast of *Waiting for Godot*.
Centre College, Danville, KY, October 1999.

“The Significance of Sartre’s Fiction for His Philosophic Project.” Invited Lecturer.
Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, January 1997.

“Dying Isn’t What It Used to Be: Contemporary Issues in Medical Ethics.” Guest on
WBEN Radio Program, That’s Life. Buffalo, New York, February 1996.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Department of English and Languages, East Central University

- Composition I (ENG 1113), Fall 2010, Fall 2009, Fall 2008, Fall 2007
- Composition II (ENG 1213), Spring 2011, Spring 2010, Spring 2009, Spring 2008
- Responding to Literature (HUM 2413), Summer 2010, Fall 2007
- Introduction to Philosophy (HUM 2613), Summer 2011, Spring 2011, Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Fall 2009, Spring 2009, Fall 2008, Spring 2008
- Enduring Questions in Western Humanities (HNRS 1213), Fall 2011, Fall 2010, Fall 2009
- World Religion and Thought (HUM 2633), Fall 2010
- Critical Approaches to Prose (ENG 3323), Spring 2009
- Philosophy of Art (HUM 4983), Spring 2009
- Western Film and Philosophy (HUM 4983), Summer 2011
- Interpreting Film (HUM 2813), Fall 2011

Department of Language and Literature, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma

- Rhetoric (IDS 1013), Fall 2006
- Writing I (IDS 1113), Fall 2006
- Advanced Composition (ENG 3503), Fall 2006
- Critical Approaches to Literature (ENGL 4503), Spring 2007
- Writing II (IDS 1213), Spring 2007
- World Thought: 1650-present (IDS 4333), Spring 2007

Philosophy Program, Centre College

- Existentialism (PHI 350), Fall 1998, Fall 2000, Fall 2002, Fall 2004.
- 20th Century Continental Philosophy (PHI 380), Winter 2000, Spring 2002, Spring 2004.
- 19th Century Continental Philosophy (PHI 330), Fall 1997, Fall 1999, Fall 2001, Fall 2003, Fall 2005.
- Introduction to Philosophy (PHI 110), Winter 1998, Winter 1999, Winter 2000, Winter 2001, Fall 2001, Spring 2002, Spring 2003, Spring 2005.
- Philosophy of Art (PHI 160), Spring 2000, Spring 2001, Centreterm 2002, Spring 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005.
- Philosophy of Religion (PHI 170), Spring 1999.
- Introduction to Humanities I (HUM 110), Fall 1997, Fall 1998, Fall 1999, Fall 2000, Fall 2002, Fall 2003, Fall 2004.

- Introduction to Humanities II (HUM 120), Spring 1998, Spring 1999, Spring 2000, Spring 2001.
- Advanced Aesthetics (PHI 400: Independent Study), Spring 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005.
- Heidegger's *Being and Time* (PHI 400: Independent Study), Centreterm 2003, Spring 2003.
- Buddhist Philosophy (PHI 400: Independent Study), Winter 1998, Spring 1999, Spring 2001.
- Emotion And/As Judgment (PHI 400: Independent Study), Spring 1998; (PHI 500: Senior Seminar), Spring 2003.
- Existentialism and Buddhism: A Comparative Analysis (PHI 400: Independent Study), Summer 1998.
- Nietzsche's Philosophy and Literature (PHI 400: Independent Study), Spring 1999.
- Existential Literature (PHI 400: Independent Study), Fall 2003.
- Existentialism and Hermeneutics (PHI 400: Independent Study), Fall 2003.
- Beginning Chinese (HUM 400: Independent Study), Winter 1998.

Department of Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo

- Social and Ethical Values in Medicine (PHI 337), Fall 1994, Fall 1995, Spring 1996, Fall 1996, Summer 1997.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Chair of the Department of English and Languages and Humanities Program Coordinator**, East Central University, 2007-present.
- Recipient of Exceptional Merit Award for Scholarship**, East Central University, 2008, 2009, 2010.
- Editor, *The Philosophy of the Western***. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010.
- Awarded Tenure**, East Central University, 2009
- Philosophy Department Chair**, Centre College, 2001- 2005.
- Promoted to Rank of Associate Professor**, Centre College, September 2004.
- Awarded Tenure**, Centre College, September 2003.
- Recipient of Award at Centre College Honor Walk**, 2002, 2003, 2005. (These awards are given by graduating seniors to acknowledge the individual who has contributed most to their academic success at Centre College.)
- Recipient of FDC Summer Research Grant**, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006.
- Recognized in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers***, 2002, 2003.
- Recognized in *Who's Who in Humanities Higher Education***, 2005.
- Recipient of Kirk Award for Excellence in Teaching**, 2001.
- Moderator, International Conference on Silence and Laughter in Literature and the Visual Arts. Atlanta, Georgia, October 2003.
- Faculty Mentor for John C. Young Scholar Program, 1999-2000.
- Recipient of Teagle Foundation Grant**, 1998-2001.
- Recipient of Omicron Delta Kappa's "1997-8 Rookie of the Year" Award**. (Award given to the new member of the Centre College faculty who most impresses students with his or her excellence in, and dedication to, teaching.)
- Nominated for Teaching Excellence Award, SUNY at Buffalo, Spring 1997.
- Recipient of Teaching Excellence Award**, SUNY at Buffalo, Spring 1996.
- Full Tuition Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship, SUNY at Buffalo, Fall 1993-Spring 1997.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Philosophy and Literature, Existentialism, 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy,
Asian/Comparative Philosophy, Aesthetics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

History of Philosophy, Ethics, Biomedical Ethics

LANGUAGES:

French, Chinese

Updated: 10/11/11