



THE MURPHY INSTITUTE
TULANE UNIVERSITY

THE EXCHANGE

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Right Place, Right Time

AS OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY pursue their intellectual and social policy interests, sometimes occasions arise when their skills and specialization are in high demand. The fiscal challenges facing Louisiana provided one such opportunity for faculty and students of The Murphy Institute.

In our program in public finance in the Center for Public Policy Research, James Alm, Chair of Economics at Tulane, and I have been working for several years with both graduate and undergraduate students interested in tax policy. We were able to draw on these scholarly investments when the top legislative leaders in Baton Rouge approached our friend and colleague at LSU, James Richardson, to see if he would help organize a study of the Louisiana tax system, particularly



Jim Richardson and Steven Sheffrin present their analysis to the Louisiana legislature.

Courtesy of Mark Ballard, The Advocate

in time for implementation after the next gubernatorial election. Richardson is a long-time LSU fiscal expert who worked closely with previous governors and serves as the outside member on the state's Revenue Estimating Conference. He also has worked closely with us on Murphy-related public finance projects and conferences.

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RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME


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We jumped at the chance to take part in a major tax study for the state and organized a joint Murphy Institute-LSU project. On the Tulane end, we recruited three graduate students in Economics and several undergraduates to join us in an extended examination of the key taxation issues facing Louisiana. The two groups thoroughly explored needed reforms to the system of sales taxation, personal and corporate income taxation, property taxation, excise taxes, and taxes on oil and gas. While we all love that Louisiana is unique, some of this uniqueness has led to inefficiencies in our tax and revenue system that should eventually be changed. Our focus was on designing the proper structure for the tax system for the long run, not simply raising additional revenue in the short run.

What could have just been another academic exercise, however, became much more when Louisiana's budget situation deteriorated. All of a sudden, legislators were interested in our tax proposals. While our proposals were not designed to simply raise revenue, some of them could have an immediate impact. We worked feverishly in January and February to put together a presentation to a joint committee and an executive summary of our work. For those who are interested, you can find our work and our testimony on our website at murphy.tulane.edu/programs/public-policy/public-finance/louisiana-tax-study

The 2015 legislative session that ensued was framed by the current governor's unwillingness to raise taxes unless they were "offset" by tax reductions somewhere in the budget. Lobbyists for businesses and local governments also had their own strong views and resources. Despite these constraints, several of our ideas did find their way into bills and became part of the overall budget package. Some of our other key ideas, however, will have to wait for the next governor. After the end of the 2015 legislative session, we plan to refine our proposals and assist the next administration in bringing some rationality—and potentially some more revenue—to the state's fiscal system.

As you read in the next few pages of *The Exchange* about our skilled and accomplished graduates this year who are entering a robust economy, they also appear to be in "the right place at the right time."



Steven M. Sheffrin, Executive Director
August 2015

UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL ECONOMY PROGRAM '15

24 NEWCOMB-TULANE COLLEGE SENIORS were awarded B.A. degrees in political economy at the May 2015 University Commencement. Several received high academic honors, with 5 students graduating magna cum laude. The magna cum laude graduates are BOTHWELL GRAVES LEE, EMMA LOOS, RICHARD POLLOCK, HALEY REA, and MELISSA REITCHECK.

Other members of the class of 2015 include MARIANA ALTMAN, JESSE BIRD, JONATHAN BRODO, SCOTSON WEBBE COLLEY, JOHN CROWLEY, PAIGE HANDLEY, CAROLINE HOLLANDER, WILLIAM KATZ, PIERCE WILLIAM MACKIE, EMILY MARCUS, SUZANNE RAAD McSHANE, THOMAS JAMES O'BRIEN, LEE PARKER, NATHANIEL PROSSER, ELIZABETH SCHOEN, HERBERT SCHWAT, NICHOLAS STONE, STEPHEN SWIBER, and ROBERT M. WHITE. Fall 2014 graduates include MAX GOODMAN and ALEXANDRA NASEREE.

The Charles H. Murphy Prize in Political Economy was awarded to BOTHWELL GRAVES LEE and MELISSA REITCHECK. The Murphy Institute Public Service Award was presented to SUZANNE RAAD McSHANE.

The Senior Honors Scholars in Political Economy were EMMA LOOS and SUZANNE RAAD McSHANE.



In addition to the Charles H. Murphy Prize in Political Economy, BOTHWELL GRAVES LEE was selected for two other prestigious awards at Tulane: the Newcomb-Tulane College Dean's Service Award for exemplary leadership, scholarship, honor, service, and commitment to the college and campus community, and the Isoline Rodd Kendall and John Smith Kendall Award for excellence in both academic and extracurricular accomplishments. Graves was chosen from among our senior majors this year to attend the national undergraduate conference for programs in PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics) at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Duke University. He also served as an officer on the Newcomb-Tulane Honor Board. Graves, a tenor saxophone in Tulane-based New Orleans funk-soul-rock fusion band CakeWalk, is moving to Louisville, Kentucky to work as a paralegal in a law firm, before attending law school.

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A YEAR OF LOSS AND RENEWAL AT THE MURPHY INSTITUTE

THIS ACADEMIC YEAR was marked by the passing of Dr. Judith Kelleher Schafer, the founding Associate Director of The Murphy Institute, on December 16, 2014. A prolific scholar and historian who was well known as an expert on slavery, the American legal system, and New Orleans and Louisiana history, Dr. Schafer is also fondly remembered as an adviser, guide and mentor for hundreds of Political Economy majors and alumni during the first twenty years of our undergraduate program.



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This year also marked the tenth consecutive year that an undergraduate woman majoring in Political Economy was honored with an Oak Wreath Award, presented by the Newcomb College Institute. This year's recipient was MELISSA REITCHECK '15. The continuing recognition of our students for this prestigious award demonstrates the resilient strength of the legacy of academic and co-curricular achievement created by Dr. Schafer over the years during her tenure as Associate Director.

Testament to Dr. Schafer's influence on the lives of her students and advisees poured in from across the globe. DR. CHANTALLE F. VERNA '92, PhD, Associate Professor of History and International Relations at Florida International University, wrote, "I will always remember the kind, warm and wise guidance Dr. Schafer provided as I pursued my studies at The Murphy Institute. She was instrumental to my decision to become a professor of history."

ANDREW SUZMAN '89 wrote, "Dr. Schafer was a great friend to me at Tulane. She helped get me a great summer job at Price Waterhouse in London during my junior year, she was so supportive and helpful when I was applying to Harvard Business School, and she was a great adviser and source of encouragement. Dr. Schafer was really a model of how to be a university professor."

RYAN NEELS TERRY '95 wrote, "*Judy and I had countless lengthy conversations in her little office to the side of the Murphy space in Tilton during my years there as an undergraduate in the early 1990s. We had, following my graduation, kept in touch for a while, but too short a while. She had a marvelous wit and was, quite simply, a delightful and engaging conversational and intellectual partner.*"

Even after her tenure as Associate Director, Dr. Schafer continued as an influence on our students as an extraordinarily popular professor and raconteur. REBECCA JADE HARRY '08 remembers, "*Even years after graduation, I still fondly remember a story she told me as a Newcomb College freshman. When she herself was a college student at Newcomb, she travelled down to Grand Isle for a weekend and went crab fishing, which apparently was a somewhat surprising activity for women to do back then (oh, Louisiana in the '60s...). Apparently a man walking by was curious about why a girl would do such a seemingly bold and 'masculine' thing and stopped to talk to her. After learning where she went to school, he said something to the extent of, 'Oh well, you're a Newcomb woman. That explains it. Newcomb women can do anything they set their minds to.' I'm sure I've butchered that story, but she really was the quintessential Newcomb woman and gave me my first real glimpse into the life of the law. I am forever indebted to her, and her loss is deeply felt.*" ☺

UNDERGRADUATE POLITICAL ECONOMY PROGRAM

(continued from page 3)

MELISSA REITCHECK, the co-recipient of The Charles H. Murphy Prize in Political Economy, graduated with a dual-degree triple major in Political Economy, Economics, and Linguistics. She was a member of Oak Wreath and was selected as an Outstanding Woman Leader by Tulane Women in Politics. In addition Melissa was selected from among our senior majors this year to attend the national undergraduate conference for programs in PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics) at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Duke University. Melissa will work as a Project Manager for Epic Healthcare Software.



EMMA LOOS was a double major in Political Economy and Sociology, with a minor in Urban Studies. Selected as the Senior Honors Scholar in both Political Economy and Sociology, she wrote her senior honors thesis on "The Los Angeles River Development: A Watershed in the Concrete Jungle." She interned at the Los Angeles River Revitalization Commission and Green Light New Orleans; she served as the Executive Vice President of Community

Engagement for Tulane's Residence Hall Association and as an Advisory Board member of the Center for Public Service; and she volunteered for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Animal Rescue New Orleans (ARNO). Emma also served as captain of her intramural soccer team.



THOMAS JAMES O'BRIEN was the Managing Editor of *The Tulane Hullabaloo* and an intern investigator for the Orleans Public Defenders. He sits on the board of directors of the non-profit Roots of Renewal NOLA and will attend Tulane Law School where he is the recipient of a Tulane Law School Dean's Honor Scholarship and a Tulane Law School Louisiana Merit Scholarship.

PAIGE HANDLEY served as the President of Women in Politics at Tulane and completed two internships: the first at the Illinois State Democratic Victory Fund and the second at a community center in Budapest during her study abroad semester in Hungary.

HERBERT SCHWAT interned with the Orleans Public Defenders, Bayou Land Resource Conservation and Development, as well as The Mindfulness Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

SUZANNE RAAD McSHANE won The Murphy Institute Public Service Award. She was a minor in Cell & Molecular Biology. She was also selected as a recipient of The Tulane 34 Award which recognizes students for their exemplary leadership, service, and academic excellence. Suzanne was also honored for her public service with two awards: Leaders in Service Award and Newcomb Alumnae Association Community Service Award. Selected as a Presidential Scholar, a Community Service Scholar, and a Newcomb Scholar, Suzanne is the first major in our program to hold that triple distinction. She was also chosen as the UGL Services Community Service Scholar as well as the CACTUS Outstanding Student Leader. A Senior Honors Scholar in Political Economy, Suzanne wrote her honors thesis on "The Economics of Breast Cancer Screening in New Orleans." She will work as a research technician at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for the Center for Cancer Genome Discovery (CCGD) in Boston, Massachusetts.



CAROLINE HOLLANDER was an intern for the Worldwide Orphans Foundation and a sponsorship intern for Live Nation. She was the co-director of the Crescent City Debate League for five consecutive semesters and served as a middle school debate coach at Lafayette Academy Charter School from January 2013, and as a senior coach at Lafayette from September 2013.



EMILY MARCUS was an intern for Graham-Pelton Consulting, Inc. and for the Tulane City Center. She will be moving to London to pursue a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the London School of Economics, where she will focus her studies on public housing management.

PIERCE WILLIAM MACKIE volunteered at the Audubon Nature Institute and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He is moving to Chicago to take up a position as an Analyst in the Consumer Research and Analytics Department at AOL.com.

ELIZABETH SCHOEN will work for the New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute.

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HALEY REA, winner of the Anthony F. and Mary Anne Corasaniti Award, was a double major in Political Economy and Spanish, and a Presidential Scholar. Haley worked her way through school at two jobs, as an ESL instructor for La Semilla ESL, and as a pedicab driver for Bike Taxi Unlimited in New Orleans. Fluent in Spanish, she spent a semester abroad in Cuba last year and volunteered for MEDICO Honduras as a photographer and informational organizer for a medical group working to train

doctors and assess needs for an underfunded rural hospital in Honduras. Her future plans include continuing as a pedicab driver with Bike Taxi Unlimited and guiding tourists in Cuba as a tour leader with the company insightCuba.

JONATHAN BRODO was a student videographer for the Tulane Athletics Department and a member of Tulane University College Republicans. He is moving to Washington, D.C. for the summer for an internship in the office of Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA).

MARIANA ALTMAN was a double major in Political Economy and Art. As a Public Service Fellow, she worked with the Sign Painting and Typography class to create work that would hang in medical clinics throughout New Orleans. She served as a studio assistant to the artist Adam Mysock, and also participated in Sudz Soap, a student-run business that sells soap in order to fund sanitation projects in India. Mariana will be an ASPIRE Mentor Coordinator at the Family YMCA of Yakima, Washington through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, an AmeriCorps program.

STEPHEN SWIBER was the President of Delta Tau Delta. He will pursue a Master's of Management in Energy at Tulane's Freeman School of Business.

NATHANIEL PROSSER will stay in New Orleans to work as a research analyst at the McEnery Company.

NICHOLAS STONE served as Executive Vice President of the School of Liberal Arts student government and interned with the Griffin Law Group LLC. In the fall he will attend the University of Oregon School of Law where he received an Oregon Law Merit Scholarship.



LEE PARKER was a dual-degree double major in Business and Political Economy. He volunteered as a middle school debate coach at Crocker Prep and was the Vice President of Internal Affairs for the Tulane Debate Team.



RICHARD POLLOCK, a dual-degree double major in Business and Political Economy, received a Leaders in Service Award and a Tulane Association of Business Alumni Community Service Award. During his time at Tulane he interned for Bond

Public Relations and Brand Strategy and was a member of the 2015 Tulane Men's Ultimate Frisbee national championship qualifying team. ☺

THE JUDITH KELLEHER SCHAFFER SUMMER INTERNSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Funds from the Judith Kelleher Schaffer Summer Internship Grant Program were used to endow four fellowships in the amount of \$2,500 each for Summer 2015. The students receiving the funds, along with their graduating class, hometown, and internship placements are as follows:

SAMUEL FISHMAN '16 from Lutherville, Maryland, will intern for the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana.

ZACHARY OSHIN '16 from Los Angeles, California, will intern for the Committee for a Better New Orleans in New Orleans, Louisiana.

MATTHEW SIMON '15 from Middletown, New Jersey, will intern for Better Day Health in New Orleans, Louisiana.

GAETANO TRACHTENBERG '16 from Berkeley, California, will intern for the Independent Police Monitor in the Office of the Inspector General for the City of New Orleans in New Orleans, Louisiana.

ALUMNI NEWS

1980s

FRANK FALKENBURG '88 is Vice President of Operations, Mergers & Acquisitions, and General Counsel for Relevant Brands Group, Inc. in Novato, California. **JEFFREY KERENSKY '88** is Vice President for Property Legal Services for the Property Loss Research Bureau in Downers Grove, Illinois. **HARLAN KRICHMAN '89** is President and CEO at Merion Realty Partners LLC in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

1990s

ANTHONY SCHAFFHAUSER '90 is Dean of Student Access at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. **BRETT VERONA '91** serves as Corporate Counsel at Halthion Medical Technologies, Inc. in Tampa, Florida. **RYAN NEELS TERRY '95** is Telecommunications Policy Adviser and Analyst for Goldberg, Godles, Wiener & Wright LLP in Washington, D.C. **RONALD J. SCALISE, JR. '97** is Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and A.D. Freeman Professor of Civil Law at Tulane University Law School in New Orleans, Louisiana. **JENNIFER OVERDORFF PAPPAS '98** is Chief Operations Officer and Chief Compliance Officer at Next Capital Management LLC in New York City, New York.

2000s

ERICK MARIN '00 is Assistant General Counsel for H.I.G. Capital in Miami, Florida. **MOIRA McDONOUGH WEINBERG '00** is an Associate in the Litigation Department of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in New York City, New York. **KESAH SCHMITT '04** is Account Strategist at GoKart Labs in Minneapolis, Minnesota. **KATHRYN BISHKIN '05** is an Associate in Criminal Law at Mills & Williams LLP in Dallas, Texas. **DR. LUCAS CARLSON, M.D. '08** graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 2014 and received a Master's of Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2015. He will be a resident in the Brigham and Women's/Massachusetts General Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency Program in Boston, Massachusetts. **MICHELLE HOLMES '09** is Special Assistant to the Vice President for International Programs at the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago, Illinois. **JACQUELINE MABRY '09** is Senior Advancement Officer for the School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington, D.C.



< *Ronald J. Scalise, Jr. '97 lives in New Orleans and works at the Tulane University Law School.*

Laura White '12 > graduated from GWU with a master's degree in early childhood special education.



2010s

SARA SANDS '10 works at Carnegie Corporation of New York as a Program Assistant for Teaching & Human Capital Management. **CLAIRE DRAKE McVEA '11** is Executive Assistant to the President of the LSU Alumni Association in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. **JENNY O'CONNELL '11** has been living in Washington, D.C. since 2011, working first at an environmental consulting firm doing transportation work and for the last year at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials with environmental staff at State Departments of Transportation. She is moving to New York City to pursue a master's degree in urban planning at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service. **LAURA WHITE '12** graduated from George Washington University with a master's degree in early childhood special education. She is now an early childhood teacher at Maury Elementary for the District of Columbia Public Schools in Washington, D.C. ☺

HONORS, AWARDS, AND PUBLICATIONS



☉ SHU-YI OIE was named the first Hoffman F. Fuller Associate Professor of Tax Law in 2014. She is the author of two papers with Diane Ring: “The New ‘Human Equity’ Transactions” *California Law Review Circuit 5* (2014) and “Human Equity? Regulating the New Income Share Agreements” *Vanderbilt Law Review* 68 (2015).

☉ Associate Professor DAVID SHOEMAKER published a book, *Responsibility from the Margins* (Oxford University Press, 2015), as well as chapters, “Remnants of Character” in *Moral Psychology and Human Agency* (Oxford University Press, 2014) and “Ecumenical Attributability” in *The Nature of Moral Responsibility* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

☉ RONNA BURGER, Professor of Philosophy, the Catherine & Henry J. Gaisman Chair, and the Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies was invited to give the “Dean’s Lecture” last fall at St. John’s College, Santa Fe, opening the 2014-15 Speaker Series in their Great Books program. The paper she presented, “Divine Plan and Human Agency: The Biblical Story of Joseph,” is part of her ongoing project: interpreting biblical narratives guided by fundamental questions of political philosophy.



☉ ADAM FEIBELMAN, Sumter Davis Marks Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Faculty Research at Tulane Law School, published “The IMF and Regulation of Cross-Border Capital Flows” *Chicago Journal of International Law* 14 (2015).

☉ Associate Professor of Philosophy OLIVER SENSEN published a co-edited volume, *Kant’s Lectures on Ethics: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) as well as “Kant on Human Dignity Reconsidered” *Kant-Studien* 106 (2015) and “Respect Towards Elderly Demented Patients” *Diametros* 39 (2014).

☉ Associate Professor of Architecture GRAHAM OWEN was an invited speaker on design ethics and globalization in the Illinois Institute of Technology’s “In the Loop” series and led the Architecture and Globalization session at the Technical University of Delft’s Summer School on “Facing Moral Complexity.” He spoke at the University of Hamburg on the ethics of design in disaster recovery and also gave the closing keynote on “Whatever Happened to Semi-Autonomy?” at the International Society for the Philosophy of Architecture’s summer conference, at TU Delft.

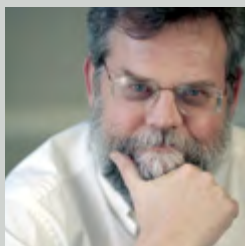
☉ Associate Professor of Economics MARY OLSON published “Regulation of Safety, Efficacy, and Quality” in *Encyclopedia of Health Economics*, Volume 3 (Elsevier, 2014) and “The Food and Drug Administration” in *The Guide to U.S. Health and Health Care Policy* (Sage and CQ Press, 2014).



☉ STEVEN SHEFFRIN, Executive Director of The Murphy Institute and Professor of Economics, is the co-author of “Psychological Non-equivalence of Tax Bases: An Empirical Investigation” *Proceedings of the 106th Meeting of the National Tax Association* (2015) and “The Past and Future of the Urban Property Tax” in *Land and the City* (Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, 2015).

For the sake of brevity, we asked our faculty to limit journal articles to two. For a complete list of publications, please see our website at murphy.tulane.edu/people/faculty

✪ RICHARD VELKLEY, Celia Scott Weatherhead Professor of Philosophy, published a co-edited volume, *The Linguistic Dimension of Kant's Thought: Historical and Critical Essays* (Northwestern University Press, 2014), as well as two book chapters: "Art as World-Disclosing: Kant's Genius in Heidegger's Work" in *Heidegger und die Dichtung. Heidegger-Jahrbuch*, Volume 8 (Verlag Alber, 2014) and "Culture and the Limits of Practical Reason in Kant's Religion" in *Kant's 'Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason': A Critical Guide* (Cambridge University Press, 2014).



✪ DOUGLAS NELSON, Professor of Economics, is the author of "Prospects for Constitutionalization of the WTO" *World Trade Review* 15 (2015) and "Migration and Networks" in *Complexity and Geographical Economics* (Springer, 2015).

✪ Professor and Chair of Economics JIM ALM is the co-editor of three forthcoming volumes with Edward Elgar Publishing: *Behavioral Responses to Taxation and Tax Reform in Developing Countries*, Volumes I and II. This past year, he also co-authored more than 25 journal articles which are published or forthcoming, including "Revisiting the Income Tax Consequences of Legalizing Same-sex Marriage" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 33 (2014) and "Whither the Marriage Tax" forthcoming in *National Tax Journal*.



✪ ERIC MACK, Professor of Philosophy, is the author of "Elbow Room for Rights" *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy* 1 (2015) and "Elbow Room for Self-defense" forthcoming in *Social Philosophy and Policy*.

✪ MARK VAIL, Associate Professor of Political Science, received the Mortar Board Excellence in Teaching Award for Tenured Faculty, 2015. He is the author of "Between One-Nation Toryism and Neoliberalism: The Dilemmas of British Conservatism and Britain's Evolving Place in Europe" in "Interpreting British European Policy" *Journal of Common Market Studies* 53 (2015) and "Europe's Middle Child: France's Statist Liberalism and the Conflicted Politics of the Euro" in *The Future of the Euro* (Oxford University Press, 2015).



✪ DOUGLAS HARRIS, Associate Professor of Economics, Schleider Foundation Chair in Public Education, and Director of Education Research Alliance for New Orleans, was ranked among the top 25 most influential economists of education by the American Enterprise Institute for the fourth year in a row. He is the co-author of "Skills, Productivity and the Evaluation of Teacher Performance" *Economics of Education Review* 40 (2014) and "To Charter or Not to Charter: Developing a Testable Model of Charter Authorization and Renewal Decisions" *Journal of School Choice* 8 (2014).

✪ JONATHAN RILEY, Professor of Philosophy, is the author of "Is Mill an Illiberal Utilitarian?" *Ethics* 125 (2015) and "Liberty" in *Issues in Political Theory* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).





The Murphy Institute's Executive Director Steven Sheffrin introduces Lawrence Katz to a full house.

CHECK US OUT ON YOUTUBE!

At Tulane and throughout New Orleans, The Murphy Institute is known for putting on fascinating lectures on current issues by leading academics. In order to share these lectures more widely, we've begun featuring our public lectures on our website and our new YouTube channel.

To see our latest lectures, check us out on YouTube at: [YouTube.com/MurphyTulane](https://www.youtube.com/MurphyTulane)



LAWRENCE F. KATZ

2015 YATES
LECTURE

UNDERSTANDING LONG-RUN CHANGES IN U.S. WAGE INEQUALITY



WAGE INEQUALITY, one of today's hottest topics in both politics and economics, was the focus of Lawrence F. Katz's presentation at this year's Yates Lecture. Katz, editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* since 1991 and a leading Harvard economist, explored both long-run changes in the U.S. wage structure since 1820 and, more specifically, how the evolution of educational attainment and technological change have affected the wage structure in the last century. Katz noted that up until 1980, the increase in the supply of educated workers was higher than the demand, limiting increases in wage inequality. However, the reverse has been true since 1980. Since then, the demand for high-skilled workers has grown faster than the supply, resulting in a wage premium for high-skilled workers and contributing to rising inequality. Thus, Katz argued, technology is

prevailing in the "race between education and technology." To counter the rising inequality, Katz recommended a number of public policy responses, including implementing progressive wealth and income taxes, investing in infrastructure, and funding experimentation in social programs. Above all, Katz highlighted the need to improve schools, as well as employment and training systems. "When we expand access to education," Katz concluded, "...not only do those being educated benefit, but this spills over to a more broad-based prosperity."

LAWRENCE F. KATZ is the Elisabeth Allison Professor of Economics at Harvard University and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. His research focuses on issues in labor economics and the economics of social problems. He is the author (with Claudia Goldin) of the award-winning book *The Race between Education and Technology* (Harvard University Press, 2008), a history of U.S. economic inequality and the roles of technological change and the pace of educational advance in affecting the wage structure.

The Mary C. Parker Yates Lecture, endowed in 1996 by Murphy Institute alumna Rebecca Yates ('89) Velandier in memory of her mother, is The Murphy Institute's major public academic event. Designed to promote university-wide discussion of issues of current concern, the annual Yates Lecture brings leading thinkers and public figures to the Tulane campus.

conferences

BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF BEHAVIORAL PUBLIC ECONOMICS

This one-day conference, organized by James Alm, Public Finance Program Director, and Steven M. Sheffrin, Executive Director of The Murphy Institute, brought together researchers across disciplines to explore new contributions to behavioral public economics and to increase awareness of the subject. The researchers' disciplines included economics, psychology, law, and accounting, and contributions to the conference were empirical, experimental, and theoretical. Speakers presented on behavior surrounding tax compliance, financial education and competence, and incentives affecting choices in various circumstances such as in the lunchroom or with regards to conserving the environment.

SANDRO AMBUEHL

PhD Candidate, Department of Economics,
Stanford University

***Financial Education, Financial
Competence, and Consumer Welfare***

SAMANTHA DE MARTINO

PhD Candidate, Economics Department,
University of Sussex

***Protecting the Environment: For
Love, Money, or Fame? The Role of
Motivation and Incentives in Payments
for Environmental Services Programs***

MICHAEL GIDEON

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center on Aging,
University of Chicago

***Survey Measurements of Income
Tax Rates: Estimation and
Behavioral Implications***

MONICA SINGHAL

Associate Professor of Public Policy,
Harvard Kennedy School

***Social Recognition and Tax
Compliance: Evidence from a
Field Experiment in Bangladesh***

GARETH MYLES >

Professor of Economics, Department
of Economics, University of Exeter
***Predictive Analytics and the
Targeting of Audits***



DINA POMERANZ

Assistant Professor, Entrepreneurial
Management Unit, Harvard Business School
***Dodging the Taxman: Evidence on
Firm Misreporting Behavior and
Evasion Substitution***

ANYA SAMEK

Assistant Professor, Economics Department,
University of Wisconsin-Madison
***A Field Experiment on the Impact
of Prompts and Incentives on
Student Lunchroom Choices***

STEPHAN MÜHLBACHER >

Faculty of Psychology,
University of Vienna
***An Experimental Study
on Mental Accounting of
Self-employed Taxpayers***



MORALITY IN THE MARKETPLACE

CONFERENCE ON MORALITY, CO-SPONSORED WITH THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

This conference was the first in-person meeting of many of the members of the Moral Research Lab (MoRL), a virtual laboratory that investigates the mental processes underlying morally motivated judgment and choice, with a focus on consumer behavior and implications for public policy. Organized by Janet Schwartz and co-sponsored by the A.B. Freeman School of Business, Duke University's Center for Advanced Hindsight, and the D. W. Mitchell Lecture Fund as part of the Provost's Faculty Seminars in Interdisciplinary Research, this event provided an outlet for researchers from disciplines ranging from anthropology, psychology, business marketing, and philosophy to share their approaches and findings and to engage in a discussion of their work. Topics at the conference included using defaults as psychological barriers to dishonesty, the neurobiology of morality, valuing different human lives, and why corporations such as Target elicit anger rather than sympathy in cases such as the data breach of 2014.



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organized by
JANET SCHWARTZ

JAMES BLAIR
Chief of Unit on Affective Cognitive Neuroscience,
National Institutes of Health
The Neurobiology of Morality(ies)

MINA CIKARA
Assistant Professor of Psychology, Harvard University
There Is Less 'I' in Teams

ALAN FISKE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Professor, Department of Anthropology,
University of California, Los Angeles
Why Be Nice? And How?

GEOFFREY GOODWIN
Assistant Professor, Psychology Department,
University of Pennsylvania
Valuing Different Human Lives

NINA MAZAR
Associate Professor of Marketing, Rotman School
of Management, University of Toronto
***Defaults as Physical and Psychological
Barriers to (Dis)honesty***

SHAUN NICHOLS
Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona
Rationality in Moral Psychology

TAGE RAI
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Ford Center for
Global Citizenship, Northwestern University
***Corporations Are Cyborgs: Organizations
Elicit Anger but Not Sympathy When
They Can Think but Cannot Feel***

SCOTT SMITH
United States Navy
***Catch-22: Evolution and Expectations
of Military Ethics***

DONN VICKREY
Certified Fraud Examiner
Retaliation against Whistleblowers

workshops

WORKSHOP IN REGULATION & COORDINATION

In this joint workshop between Tulane Law School and The Murphy Institute, visiting scholars presented works-in-progress on regulation of economic activity. The faculty conveners were Adam Feibelman (Law), Shu-Yi Oei (Law), Nicholas Almendares (Law), and Steven Sheffrin (Economics/Murphy Institute).

SPRING 2015 WORKSHOPS

ODETTE LIENAU >

Associate Professor of Law, Cornell University Law School

Law in Hiding: Market Principles in the Global Legal Order

OMRI MARIAN

Assistant Professor of Law, University of Florida Levin College of Law

A Conceptual Framework for the Regulation of Crypto-currencies

CRISTIE FORD

Associate Professor of Law, University of British Columbia Peter A. Allard School of Law

Financial Innovation as Regulatory Challenge



DANIEL SCHWARCZ

Associate Professor of Law, University of Minnesota Law School
Consolidated Regulation in Insurance

NICHOLAS ALMENDARES

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Tulane University Law School
Class Actions as Regulation



organized by
SHU-YI OEI

The 5th Annual Tulane Tax Roundtable brought together tax scholars from around the country, resident Tulane faculty, and Tulane students for discussion and debate about important tax policy issues of our time. Co-sponsored by Tulane's Murphy Institute and Tulane Law School, the roundtable showcased the drafts and works in progress of its participants, and subjected these works to rigorous analysis in a discussant-driven workshop format.

JAMES ALM

with BRIAN ERARD

Professor and Chair, Tulane University, Department of Economics

Using Public Information to Estimate Self-employment Earnings of Informal Suppliers

ALEX RASKOLNIKOV

Wilbur H. Friedman Professor of Tax Law, Columbia Law School
Rational Decisions under Legal Uncertainty

SUSAN C. MORSE

with ERIC J. ALLEN

Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin School of Law
Tax Savings for U.S.-Headquartered, Non-U.S.-Incorporated Multinational Firms

STEVEN A. DEAN

with DANA BRAKMAN REISER

Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School
SE(c)(3): A Catalyst for Social Enterprise Crowdfunding



JOINT WORKSHOP IN POLITICAL ECONOMY WITH DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The joint Political Science-Murphy Institute workshop aimed to enrich the intellectual climate for graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, advanced undergraduates, and faculty in Political Science and The Murphy Institute, as well as other interested participants in the Tulane community. This year's events accomplished this by bringing together scholars working in comparative and international political economy and human rights for an ongoing conversation about participants' research agendas. Two meetings took place in the spring semester of 2015. Each meeting featured a paper by a guest speaker, comments on the paper by a Tulane faculty member, and a Q&A session with the audience.

SPRING 2015 WORKSHOPS

MATTHEW WINTERS Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Challenging Corruption in an Emerging Market Economy: When Will Brazilian Voters Act on Information about Corruption?

MARK BLYTH Eastman Professor of Political Economy, Brown University Watson Institute
Whatever Happened to Europe? From Social Democratic Heartland to Heartless Creditors' Paradise?

tulane tax roundtable



< MIRIT EYAL-COHEN
Associate Professor of Law,
University of Alabama School of Law
Lessons in Fiscal Activism

STEVEN SHEFFRIN
with ANNA L. JOHNSON
Professor of Economics & Executive Director
of The Murphy Institute, Tulane University
***The Success of SNAP (Food Stamps)
and the Desirability of Taxing Food***

KIRK J. STARK
Barrall Family Professor of Tax Law
and Policy, UCLA School of Law
Tax Policy in the Super ZIPs

ANDREW T. HAYASHI
Associate Professor of Law,
University of Virginia School of Law
***Taxing Committed Consumption
and the Simple Economics
of Paying in Kind***



^ LSU law professor Philip Hackney (left)
and presenter Andrew T. Hayashi (right).

tulane property roundtable

The inaugural Tulane Property Roundtable, organized by Sally Brown Richardson and co-sponsored by Tulane's Murphy Institute and Tulane Law School, brought together property scholars from around the country to discuss and debate important property issues pertaining to the regulation of private and public property rights. The roundtable showcased the works-in-progress of the participating scholars and encouraged lively debate regarding the drafts. Participants represented a wide variety of focuses within property law, including progressive property, law and economics, environmental law, and Indian law.

ERIC T. FREYFOGLE

Swanlund Chair and Professor of Law,
University of Illinois College of Law
***Private Ownership and Human
Flourishing: A Critical Review***

JESSICA A. SHOEMAKER

Assistant Professor of Law,
University of Nebraska College of Law
Emulsified Property

ABRAHAM BELL

with GIDEON PARCHOMOVSKY
Professor of Law, Bar-Ilan University
Faculty of Law and University of
San Diego School of Law
Of Property and Information

MEREDITH M. RENDER

Associate Professor of Law,
University of Alabama School of Law
Forms versus Norms

SALLY BROWN RICHARDSON

Assistant Professor of Law and
Gordon Gamm Faculty Scholar,
Tulane University Law School
Reframing Ameliorative Waste

LEE ANNE FENNELL

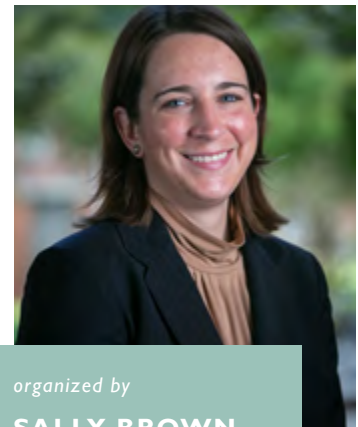
Max Pamm Professor of Law,
University of Chicago Law School
Fee Simple Obsolete

TIMOTHY M. MULVANEY

Professor of Law, Texas A&M
University School of Law
***Legislative Exactions
and Progressive Property***

MICHAEL PAPPAS

Assistant Professor of Law,
University of Maryland Francis
King Carey School of Law
A Right to Be Regulated



organized by

**SALLY BROWN
RICHARDSON**

Three of The Murphy Institute's post-doctoral Fellows from the Center for Public Policy Research have completed their two-year appointments and are taking the next steps in their careers. We congratulate them on their accomplishments while here at Tulane. We are pleased to announce their plans for the coming year.

XIAN LIU will be a visiting assistant professor at Indiana University-Indianapolis.

CRISTIAN SEPULVEDA accepted a tenure track Assistant Professor position at Farmingdale State College (SUNY Farmingdale), starting in August.

NINA YIN will be Assistant Professor at the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, where she will be part of the Center for Human Capital and Labor Market Research.

working groups

HEALTH POLICY WORKING GROUP

KEITH FINLAY

Assistant Professor of Economics
Willingness-to-Pay for Pharmaceutical Retail Convenience: Evidence from a Contingent

NINA YIN

Postdoctoral Fellow, The Murphy Institute
Influences on the Demand and Supply of Pediatric Studies: An Analysis of Pediatric Exclusivity

MARK DIANA

Associate Professor, Department of
Global Health Systems and Development
An Evaluation of Patient-centered Medical Homes in the Louisiana Medicaid Population

The Working Groups of the Center for Public Policy Research bring together faculty from numerous disciplines across Tulane's campuses to establish a network of professionals and produce interdisciplinary research that will address critical policy issues.

PUBLIC POLICY WORKING GROUP

XIAN LIU

Postdoctoral Fellow, The Murphy Institute
Regulatory Compliance, Information Disclosure and Peer Effect: Evidence from the Mexican Gasoline Market

ROBERT SANTILLANO

Senior Research Fellow, Education Research
Alliance for New Orleans
Distribution Distortions from Test-Based Accountability in a Market-Based Setting

PAULA ARCE-TRIGATTI

Postdoctoral Fellow, The Murphy Institute
Is There Choice in School Choice? Investigating Product Differentiation among New Orleans Charter Schools

SEAN HIGGINS

PhD Candidate, Department of Economics
Debit Cards, Cash Transfers, and Savings: Evidence from Mexico

NORA LUSTIG

Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics
The Analytics and Empirics of Fiscal Redistribution

The Center for Ethics and Public Affairs had another outstanding year. What marked this year as particularly successful was the interdisciplinary nature of its seminars, lectures, and conferences. While ethics, political philosophy, and political theory remain the core strengths of the Center, the Center also featured speakers specializing in law, history, psychology, and neuroscience. Of particular note were our activities involving the fields of law and moral psychology.

MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

Last year, we received word that the Center was selected as the venue for the 2014 meeting of the Moral Psychology Research Group (MPRG). This prestigious group of psychologists, cognitive scientists, and philosophers selects a different university each year for their annual conference, in which they invite the host university's faculty to take part.

Seeing this as a great opportunity, Murphy Institute faculty member David Shoemaker convinced the group to deliver a series of public lectures in addition to holding the conference. The result was impressive. On November 7 of 2014, four of

the group's distinguished members presented their work to the Tulane community at Rogers Chapel: FIERY CUSHMAN, who directs the Moral Psychology Research Lab at Harvard University, captivated the audience with the results from his experiments on moral judgment and our aversion to causing physical harm. Dartmouth College neuroscientist and philosopher

ADINA ROSKIES showed dramatic video footage of two patients—a man with Parkinson's disease and a woman suffering from severe depression—receiving significant relief from their symptoms via the experimental treatment of deep brain stimulation. RON MALLON, Director of the Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology Program at Washington University in St. Louis, presented on the latest research on the relation of human nature to human behavior, and the University of Arizona's SHAUN NICHOLS, Professor of Philosophy, revealed the preliminary findings of his

study on fear of death and belief in the afterlife. These lectures were particularly well attended by not only Tulane students and faculty, but also members of the New Orleans community at large. Undergraduate students in Steven Sheffrin's behavioral economics class attended the excellent public presentations, which provided impetus for several research projects for the class.

A number of our own faculty and graduate students participated in the second day of the conference, which featured presentations in a seminar setting. David Shoemaker, Faculty Fellow Neil Sinhababu, and Graduate Assistant Nate Stout made presentations to the group. "The Moral Psychology conference was an amazing opportunity," says Stout, "not only to hear about the research from the top people in the field, but also to present to them and receive feedback on my work."



FIERY CUSHMAN



Shaun Nichols (right) discusses his work with graduate students Eric Brown (left) and Nathan Biebel (center).



Ron Mallon and Adina Roskies from the Moral Psychology Research Group Conference

ETHICS AND LAW

Regular attendees of the Center's faculty seminar include Nicholas Almendares, our Visiting Assistant Professor in Law, Tulane School of Law Forrester Fellow Catherine Hardee, Loyola School of Law Westerfield Fellow Kristen van de Biezenbos, and Tulane philosophy graduate students Kelly Gaus and Christopher Boom, both of whom have law degrees.

The Center continues to host leading legal scholars and law professors as visiting Faculty Fellows. In 2012-2013 Hanoch Sheinman, Professor of Philosophy and Law at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, served as a Faculty Fellow. This year the University of Warwick's Massimo Renzo, a philosopher of law, joined us as a Faculty Fellow. Next year, we look forward to hosting Michael Sevel, Lecturer in Jurisprudence at the University of Sydney's School of Law.



The 2014 Moral Psychology Research Group Conference was hosted by David Shoemaker

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

The Center also remains a venue where some of the world's leading philosophers present their work. The past year our three Faculty Fellows, philosophers Hille Paakkunainen, Massimo Renzo, and Neil Sinhababu, were all fully engaged in our public lectures, seminars, and conferences, presenting at seminars and serving as commenters at our conferences. We hosted eight seminar sessions, five public lectures, and three conferences: the annual Politics, Philosophy and Economics Conference; the Moral Psychology Research Group Conference; and the New Orleans Invitational Seminar in Ethics (NOISE). This year's PPE conference was devoted to an interdisciplinary examination of war and the allocation of resources. It featured prominent economists, philosophers, political scientists, and law professors, whose papers will be published in a special issue of the journal *PPE*. Our annual NOISE conference, organized by David Shoemaker, continues to bring leading ethicists to Tulane to present new papers.

This coming November, Shoemaker will host the third biennial meeting of the New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility. Papers presented at this conference will form the basis of a volume of *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility*, a book series edited by Shoemaker and published by Oxford University Press.

"The Moral Psychology conference was an amazing opportunity, not only to hear about the research from the top people in the field, but also to present to them and receive feedback on my work."

—NATHAN STOUT
PhD Candidate and 2013-2014 Graduate Fellow

seminars & lectures



organized by
BRUCE BROWER

Organized by Bruce Brower, Center for Ethics and Public Affairs (CEPA) lectures and seminars draw eminent scholars and renowned speakers to Tulane. Presentations address a wide array of issues, including moral responsibility, ethical theory, distributive justice, and the relevance of scientific findings for moral concerns.

R. JAY WALLACE
Professor of Philosophy,
University of California, Berkeley
***Rational Normativity and the
Problem of Moral Obligation***

< DANA NELKIN
Professor of Philosophy,
University of California, San Diego
***Friendship, Freedom,
and Special Obligations***

DAVID VELLEMAN
Professor of Philosophy,
New York University
Morality Here and There

ALLEN BUCHANAN >
James B. Duke Distinguished
Professor of Philosophy,
Duke University
***Towards a Naturalistic
Theory of Moral Progress***

MARK SCHROEDER
Professor of Philosophy,
University of Southern California
The Unity of Reasons

ALASTAIR NORCROSS
Associate Professor of Philosophy,
University of Colorado at Boulder
***Deontology, Using,
and Causal Fetishism***

KIT WELLMAN >
Professor of Philosophy,
Washington University
in St. Louis
Procedural Rights



PPE 2015 THE ETHICS OF WAR

The PPE CONFERENCE is an annual event organized by the editors of Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. Papers presented at the conference are targeted for subsequent publication in this top-rated academic journal. The 2015 conference featured interdisciplinary discussion between philosophers and social scientists about normative and theoretical issues associated with war and resource allocation.

DAVID B. CARTER
Assistant Professor of Politics, Princeton University
Conflict, Transfers of Territory, and the Shadow of the Future

KASPER LIPPERT-RASMUSSEN
Professor of Political Science, Aarhus University
Pogge, Poverty, and War

ANNIE STILZ
Associate Professor of Politics,
Princeton University
Settlement, Expulsion, and Return

VICTOR TADROS
Professor of Law, University of Warwick
The Persistence of the Right of Return

ANKE HOFFLER
Research Officer, Centre for the Study
of African Economies, Department
of Economics, Oxford University
Conflict and Violence

NEW ORLEANS INVITATIONAL SEMINAR IN ETHICS

The 2015 New Orleans Invitational Seminar in Ethics (NOISE) was organized by David Shoemaker. It featured papers on ethics and political philosophy by JEFF MORIARTY of Bentley University, JUSTIN D'ARMS of Ohio State University, DANIEL JACOBSON of University of Michigan, MIKHAIL VALDMAN of Virginia Commonwealth University, and MICHAEL McKENNA of University of Arizona.

FELLOWS 2014–2015

FACULTY FELLOWS

HILLE PAAKKUNAINEN
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Syracuse University

MASSIMO RENZO
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Warwick

NEIL SINHABABU
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
National University of Singapore

GRADUATE FELLOWS

CHRISTOPHER BOOM
Department of Philosophy

DANIEL DAVENPORT
Department of Philosophy

THOMAS MULLIGAN
Department of Philosophy

CHRISTOPHER WILLOUGHBY
Department of History

FELLOWS 2015–2016

FACULTY FELLOWS

JASON HANNA
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Northern Illinois University

JASON RAIBLEY
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Director, Center for Applied Ethics
California State University, Long Beach

MICHAEL SEVEL
Lecturer in Jurisprudence
University of Sydney

GRADUATE FELLOWS

DEREK DUPLESSIE
Department of Philosophy

MICHAEL MORRISSEY
Department of Philosophy

APRIL OLSON
Department of Philosophy

CAROLINE TIPLER
Department of Psychology

profiles of faculty fellows

MASSIMO RENZO had an outstanding year at The Murphy Institute's Center for Ethics and Public Affairs. Arriving at the end of August from the University of Warwick, he instantly took to New Orleans; by the first week, he had attended his first jazz funeral and was skateboarding to his office each morning. "I enjoyed living in the French Quarter," he says, "as well as spending time in the Bywater and the Faubourg Marigny, where I was constantly surrounded by music but always found a place to work."

Whether working at Bywater coffee shops or in his office at Tilton Hall, Renzo accomplished a good deal in his fellowship year. He completed an article, "Human Rights and the Priority of the Moral," which is forthcoming in *Social Philosophy and Policy*, and drafted three new papers: one on the value of political self-determination; one on humanitarian intervention; one on paternalism and consent. He also finished work on a co-edited volume, *Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights*, which was published by Oxford University Press in May.

Renzo was an active member in the Center for Ethics Faculty Seminar and a valued contributor to the Center's conferences. "The seminar was excellent, and so were the conferences organized by the Center for Ethics," he says. "I particularly enjoyed participating in the NOISE and PPE conferences."

"New Orleans is the only place I've ever lived in the States where I felt completely at home."

—MASSIMO RENZO

In the fall, Renzo will take up a Readership in the Law School at King's College London. Much as he looks forward to living in London, he will miss the food, music, and architecture of New Orleans, and especially the friendliness of its people. "New Orleans is the only place I've ever lived in the States," he says, "where I felt completely at home."

Like Massimo Renzo, HILLE PAAKKUNAINEN found much to like about New Orleans, not just its sunny weather, but the warmth of its people. "People here love their city so much. They hang out on its streets, in its restaurants and bars and music venues... People are super-friendly and know how to enjoy life."

"It can be hard to show philosophers why they should stick to common sense."

—HILLE PAAKKUNAINEN

Paakkunainen also found much to like at the Center for Ethics. "The seminar series was of very high quality, with an ideal format—just two hours of discussion with everyone having read the paper in advance," she says. She also appreciated that there was a core group of faculty and graduate students who attended nearly all the seminar sessions. "It was great to get to know them philosophically in the process." Equally enthusiastic about conferences hosted by the Center for Ethics, she was delighted that they allowed her to "see even more great talks." Paakkunainen also valued the administrative help at the Center, saying, "Having support of the student workers and graduate assistants was such a luxury, which allowed me to focus on my research."

While at the Center, Paakkunainen worked on a series of articles that refute a view about the justification of action that some philosophers hold but that she finds rather bizarre. According to this view the considerations that justify our actions are sometimes to be ignored in decision-making. "I think the view is wrong-headed, and its denial looks pretty commonsensical," she says. With a wry smile Paakkunainen notes, "It can be hard to show philosophers why they should stick to common sense."

In the fall Paakkunainen returns to the University of Syracuse where she is Assistant Professor of Philosophy.

As a hedonist about moral value, NEIL SINHABABU was eager to spend a research year in New Orleans. He relished his time at Tulane, which included “spectacular guest speakers and helpful conversations on my research with the Center for Ethics faculty, visiting fellows, and graduate students.” Sinhababu was also impressed with the friendliness of local New Orleanians, many of whom were sympathetic to his view that pleasure is the only good thing in life.

As a Center for Ethics Faculty Fellow, Sinhababu’s main project was to finish a book explaining how we think, feel, and act, in terms of desire. His strategy, he says, “is to first understand the properties of desire—not just its role in motivating action, but the way it makes us feel pleasure when we daydream about what we desire, and the way it directs our attention towards objects of desire.” Careful attention to these properties of desire, Sinhababu maintains, “helps us explain a variety of complex features of practical deliberation, such as what we think about when we make decisions, why we often act irrationally, and how we can exercise willpower.”

Other projects also went well while Sinhababu was at The Murphy Institute. The *Journal of Philosophy* accepted “The Backward Clock, Truth-Tracking, and Safety,” which he co-authored with fellow Singapore philosopher John Williams, and *American Philosophical Quarterly* accepted his article “Divine Fine-Tuning vs. Electrons in Love.” Sinhababu was especially excited to start a new paper on the correspondence between pleasure in our moral feelings and the moral value of pleasure itself, which received a good deal of helpful discussion at a session of the Center for Ethics seminar.

Having been promoted to Associate Professor of Philosophy at the National University of Singapore, Neil will soon return to the Eastern Hemisphere with pleasant memories of New Orleans.

For information about the 2016-2017 faculty fellowship opportunities, please visit our website at murphy.tulane.edu/center/

NEIL SINHABABU, HILLE PAAKKUNAINEN,
AND MASSIMO RENZO



“My year at Tulane included spectacular guest speakers and helpful conversations on my research with the Center for Ethics faculty, visiting fellows, and graduate students.”

—NEIL SINHABABU



THE EXCHANGE *Fall 2015*

A PUBLICATION OF
THE MURPHY INSTITUTE
AT TULANE UNIVERSITY



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