

The Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium holds an annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in order to provide a forum for exceptional undergraduates in philosophy to share their work with each other. On February 23, 2008, West Chester University was honored to host this year's conference.

To keep up the tradition of tying the conference theme to the GPPC theme of the year, we encouraged submission of papers that dealt with concepts of location and locality, broadly construed, although papers were accepted on any topic. We received about twenty-five papers, and decided to limit the program to eight papers to provide ample time to each paper at the conference.

One wonderful aspect of the GPPC conference is the opportunity for each author to get feedback from multiple perspectives. First, the authors of the top eight papers were given the two sets of faculty reviewer comments, as well as my own. Second, we asked the authors to pair off and comment on each others papers. Those comments were prepared and forwarded to each author ahead of the conference so that the author could have time to reflect on the comments. The hard work of the authors paid off, as the dialogue generated at the conference evidenced (I was continuously having to cut off discussion prematurely, despite the ample time set aside for each paper).

The group of eight papers displayed a variety of philosophical approaches, writing styles and content interests. This made it difficult for my co-coordinators, Helen Schroepfer and Dan Forbes, and me to determine how to rank the top papers. Rather than ranking the papers, we opted to award three Best Papers Prizes (which only made the decision slightly less difficult). Those awards went to Melissa McCartney of Haverford College, G. Owen Schaefer of Princeton University, and Samantha Noll of West Chester University.

As a first-time conference organizer, I certainly learned a lot as I went along and take full responsibility for the oversights. For the many wonderful things that occurred, I have others to thank. I thank the student presenters for commenting on each other's papers in a spirit of constructive and friendly criticism. For all their help along their way, I also thank the faculty blind reviewers, my co-coordinators and our department's administrative assistant. In addition to the GPPC, I'd like to thank West Chester's Department of Philosophy and the College of Arts and Sciences for co-sponsoring the event. Finally, I thank Pete Amato for collecting these papers in the Proceedings. I hope you enjoy them.

Matthew Pierlott  
West Chester University of PA