

# JAMES M. OKAPAL

Department of Social Science and Humanities  
Missouri Western State University  
Saint Joseph, MO 64507  
[jokapal@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:jokapal@missouriwestern.edu)

## EDUCATION

Ph. D **University of Tennessee**, Knoxville, TN; August 2004

*Dissertation:* "Pluralism and Practical Reason"

*Chair:* Betsy Postow

M. A. **Bowling Green State University**, Bowling Green, OH; May 1996

*Advisor:* Edward F. McClenen

B. A. **The Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH; June 1993

*Major:* Philosophy

*Minors:* Political Science, English

*Thesis:* "Morals by Accident"

*Chair:* Donald C. Hubin

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Normative Ethics

Practical Ethics

Ethics and Literature

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Social and Political Philosophy

Meta-Ethics

Logic

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Graduate School Faculty, Missouri Western State University, 2019 to present

Professor of Philosophy, Missouri Western State University, 2018-present

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Missouri Western State University, 2012-2018

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Missouri Western State University, 2005-2012

Adjunct Professor, Department of Philosophy, Southern Methodist University, 2004-2005

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Ashland University, 2000-2001

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Denison University, 2000

Lecturer, Cuyahoga Community College, 1999 and 2001

Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Missouri Western State University, 2015-2020

Chair, Department of History and Geography, Missouri Western State University, 2015-2020

## PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

"We Will Pretend He's Not Even Here": Failures of Recognition in *Carnival Row*, Season One in *Science Fiction and Fantasy Take on Social Issues*

Single Author

19. "Expanding and Exploring Moral Philosophy through Science Fiction" in *Teaching Pop Culture in the Humanities Classroom*. Edited by Archipoli, Hampsten, and Hatfield. (Lexington Books, 2025)
18. "The Moral and Linguistic Contours of Insults" in *The Prindle Post* Ed. Tucker Sechrest (May 31, 2024). Stable URL: <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2024/05/the-moral-and-linguistic-contours-of-insults/>
17. "The Call for Supreme Court Reform" in *The Prindle Post* Ed. Tucker Sechrest (July 25, 2023). Stable URL: <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2023/07/the-call-for-supreme-court-reform/>
16. "Questions of Authenticity from Androids in the Age of Chat GPT" in *The Prindle Post* Ed. Tucker Sechrest (June 2, 2024). Stable URL: <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2023/06/questions-about-authenticity-from-androids-in-the-age-of-chatgpt/>
15. "Disentangling Human Nature from Moral Status: Lessons For and From Philip K. Dick" in *The Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy* Vol. 6 (2023). Stable URL: <https://jsfphil.org/volume-6-2023/disentangling-human-nature-from-moral-status/>
14. "The Rise of Rey Skywalker: The Importance of Community and Friends in *Star Wars*" in *Star Wars and Philosophy Strikes Back*. Eds. Decker, Kevin S. and Jason T. Eberl (Wiley-Blackwell, 2023).
13. "Moral Status and Moral Agency in Science Fiction" in American Philosophical Association Public Philosophy Blog. Editor: Rachel Robinson-Greene (Dec 8, 2022) Stable URL: [https://blog.apaonline.org/2022/12/08/moral-status-and-moral-agency-in-science-fiction/?fbclid=IwAR0\\_lejarNzbtRS09GI7cDAB3FWRZHCxfOJjWg8rjgHlv9jM1Owl2WaO19o](https://blog.apaonline.org/2022/12/08/moral-status-and-moral-agency-in-science-fiction/?fbclid=IwAR0_lejarNzbtRS09GI7cDAB3FWRZHCxfOJjWg8rjgHlv9jM1Owl2WaO19o)
12. "Justice vs Care in *Tales of the Jedi*" in *The Prindle Post*. Ed. Tucker Sechrest (Nov 2, 2022). Stable URL: <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/11/justice-versus-care-in-tales-of-the-jedi/>
11. "Fantastic Beasts and How to Categorize Them" in *The Prindle Post*. Ed. Tucker Sechrest (Sept 9, 2022). Stable URL: <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/09/fantastic-beasts-and-how-to-categorize-them/>
10. "She-Hulk: Superhero?" in *The Prindle Post*. Ed. Tucker Sechrest (Aug 26, 2022). Stable URL: <https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2022/08/she-hulk-superhero/>

9. "Moral Luck and the Judgment of Officials" in *The Prindle Post*. Ed. Tucker Sechrest (Sept 14, 2020). Stable URL: <https://www.prindlepost.org/2020/09/moral-luck-and-the-judgment-of-officials/>
8. "Harry Potter as Philosophy: Five Types of Friendship" in *The Palgrave Handbook of Popular Culture as Philosophy*. Ed. David Johnson (Palgrave, 2020)
7. "Who am I to You?" in *Blade Runner 2049 and Philosophy*. Eds. Robin Bunce and Trip McCrossin. (Wiley Blackwell, Summer 2019)
6. "All Other Priorities are Rescinded": The Moral Status of Employees in the *Alien Franchise* in *Alien and Philosophy*. Eds. Decker, Kevin S. and Jeff Ewing (Wiley-Blackwell, Spring 2017).
5. "In Search of..." Friendship: What We Can Learn from Androids and Vulcans" in *The Ultimate Star Trek and Philosophy*. Eds. Decker, Kevin S. and Jason T. Eberl (Wiley-Blackwell, Spring 2016).
4. "Of Battle Droids and Zillo Beasts: Moral Status in the *Star Wars Galaxy*" in *The Ultimate Star Wars and Philosophy*. Eds. Eberl, Jason T. and Kevin S. Decker (Wiley-Blackwell, October 2015)
3. "13 Open Questions about Happiness" in *Philosophy Now* (Issue 87, Nov/Dec 2011, pp 46-47)
2. "Problematic Arguments for Comprehensive Values" in *Florida Philosophical Review* (Volume X, Issue 1, Summer 2010, pp 43-74)

#### Joint Author

1. With Patricia Donaher: "Causation, Prophetic Visions, and the Free Will Question in Harry Potter" in *Reading Harry Potter Again: Critical Essays* Ed. Anatol, Gisele Liza (Praeger, May 2009)

#### Book Reviews

Review of Čejková, R. U. R. and the Vision of Artificial Life in *The Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy* Volume 8 (2025)

Review of Dreyfus and Kelly, *All Things Shinning: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age* in *Tradition and Discovery* Volume 38, Number 2 (2011-2012)

Review of Grene and Depew, *The Philosophy of Biology: An Episodic History in Tradition and Discovery* Volume 37, Number 2 (2010-2011)

Review of Narveson, *This is Ethical Theory* in *Teaching Philosophy* Volume 33, Number 4 (December 2010)

James M. Okapal

Review of Nichols, et. al. *Philosophy through Science Fiction: A Coursebook with Readings* in *AAPT News* Volume 31, Number 1 (Winter 2010).

Review of Alice Dreger's *One of Us*, in *Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* Volume 12, Number 2 (October 2004)

#### Editorial Activities

Series Editor: *Ethics and Culture*, McFarland Press

*Abortion Rights as the Free Exercise of Religion*, Peter S. Wenz (2025)

*Pathways to a New Environmental Ethic*, Steven E. Alford (2024)

*Having Their Say: Athletes and Entertainers and the Ethics of Speaking Out*, Kristie Bunton (2021)

*Ethics in Comedy: Essays on Crossing the Line*, Steven Benko, editor (2020)

*Ethics after Poststructuralism: From Levinas to Posthumanism*, Ann Keniston, Lee Olsen, and Brendan Johnston, editors (2020)

#### Other

"Introductory Guide to Ethical Theory in Healthcare" for Heartland Regional Medical Center Ethics Committee" (2010; revised 2017 for MOSAIC Life Care)

### PRESENTATIONS

#### Non-Peer Reviewed at Peer Reviewed Conference

"We Will Pretend He's Not Even Here": Failures of Recognition in *Carnival Row*" (November 2024) Pacific Northwest Political Science Association, Tacoma, WA

"Enhancement and Alienation in 'Flowers for Algernon'" (March 2024) for Missouri Western State University Pop Culture Club

““What the hell do they want from me?”: Enhancement and Alienation in "Flowers for Algernon". (March 2024) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Chicago, IL

"We Will Pretend He's Not Even Here": Failures of Recognition in *Carnival Row*" (April 2023) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, San Antonio, TX

"The Rise of Rey Skywalker" (April 2022) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Virtual

““In Search of...” Friendship: What We Can Learn from Androids and Vulcans” (March 2016) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Seattle, WA

“Of Battle Droids and Zillo Beasts: Moral Status in the *Star Wars Galaxy*” (April 2015) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA

“Give them a Better Chance: Potentiality and Moral Responsibility in Roger Zelazny’s ‘Keys to December’” (April 2014) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Chicago, IL

“Slug Club versus Death Eaters: Benign and Malign Friendships in *The Half-Blood Prince*” (March 2013) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Washington, D. C.

“Buggers and Piggies and AI, Oh My!: Moral Status in the Works of Orson Scott Card” (April 2012) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Boston, MA

*Peer Reviewed*

“Why Ethicists Hate Alignment in D&D” with David Perlman (April 2025) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA

“‘We Will Pretend He’s Not Even Here’: Failures of Recognition in *Carnival Row*” (November 2024) Pacific Northwest Political Science Association, Tacoma, WA

“You don’t want to go making friends with the wrong sorts: Friendship and Moral Development in Harry Potter” (May 2021) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Virtual

“Exploring Strange New Worlds: Ethical Criticism in Science Fiction” (April 2019) Popular Culture Association, Washington D. C.

“Disentangling Human Nature from Moral Status in the Works of Philip K. Dick” (September 2018) Science Fiction Popular Cultures Conference, Kona, HI.

“Memory and *Ready Player One*: Identity and Identification” (March 2018) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Indianapolis, IN

““All Other Priorities are Rescinded”: the Moral Status of Employees in the *Alien* Franchise” (April, 2017) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, San Diego, CA

““In Space No One Can Hear You Scream”: Problematic Bases for Being a Subject of Justice,” Pacific Northwest Political Science Association, Portland, OR. (November 2016)

“Anthropomorphic Markers of Moral Status in Children’s Literature” (September 2012) Ethics and Children’s Literature: A Symposium, Greencastle, Indiana

“Lions, Tigers and Andys, Oh My!: The Moral Status of Non-Human Sentients in Philip K. Dick” (April 2011) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, San Antonio, TX

“A Common Form for a Variety of Ethics Papers” (July 2010) American Association of Philosophy Teachers Biennial International Workshop, Myrtle Beach, SC

“Integrating Reading and Writing by Modeling Argument Analysis in Class” (July 2010) American Association of Philosophy Teachers Biennial International Workshop, Myrtle Beach, SC

“13 Conversations about Happiness” (April 2010) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, St. Louis, MO

“Introducing Ethics into Introductory Biology” (Oct 2009) Association of College and University Biology Educators, Kansas City, MO

“Subsumptive Reasoning and Science Fiction Literature” (April 2009) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA

“Voldemort’s Choice and the Determinism of Heroism” (Oct 2007) Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association, Kansas City, MO

“Comparative Choice without Comprehensive Values” (April 2007) American Philosophical Association, Chicago, IL

“Ethics in an Introductory Biology Class” (Feb 2007) Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Cincinnati, OH

“A Sophisticated Orthodox Approach to Choice” (April 2006) University of Missouri at Kansas City, Kansas City, MO

“Comparativism and Covering Values” (April 2005) 32<sup>nd</sup> Value Inquiry Conference, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

“The Problematic Nature of Covering Values” (March 2003) Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

‘Pluralism and Principles of Decision’ (November, 2001) Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference

‘Cognitivism without Truth-Values’ (April, 2001; September 2001) Ohio Philosophical Association

Philosophy Department Klatsch, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

‘Practical Reason and Multi-Consideration Pluralism’ (November 1998) Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference

‘So You Want to Take a Vacation: The Problematic Defense of Continuity’ (March 1997) Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

‘Morals by Accident’ (May 1993). William Edward Bingham Lecture at the Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

*Invited*

“What is a Beast?” for Philanthropic Educational Organization, St. Joseph, MO Chapter. (Feb 2025)

“Preparing for the Conference” for Membership Matters Series of the Popular Culture Association (Dec 2024)

“Christianity and Philosophy” for Ashland United Methodist Church, St. Joseph, MO (March 2025, April 2024)

“Muggles, Wizards and Merpeople: The Contours of the Moral Community” for Rolling Hills Library, St. Joseph, MO (April 2024)

“Enhancement and Alienation in ‘Flowers for Algernon’” for Missouri Western State University Pop Culture Club (March 2024)

“Moral Case Studies for Accounting” for Pony Express Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants, St Joseph, MO (Feb 28, 2024)

“The Language of Ethics for Accounting” for Pony Express Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants, St Joseph, MO (Feb 21, 2024)

“‘We Will Pretend He’s Not Even Here’: Failures of Recognition in *Carnival Row*” for Missouri Western State University Pop Culture Club (Fall 2022)

“The Language of Bioethics” for Clay County Public Health Center, Liberty, MO (June 2022)

“The Rise of Rey Skywalker” for Missouri Western State University Pop Culture Club (Fall 2021)

“Legal and Ethical Issues with Opioid Epidemic and Marijuana in MO” MOSAIC Ethics Committee Lecture, St. Joseph, MO (July 2019)

James M. Okapal

“Ethics, Piggies and AI, Oh My!: Social Justice for Non-Humans in Science Fiction”  
Keynote Speech for Science and Social Justice Series, Highland Community College,  
Highland, KS (October 2018)

“Ethics for Chaplains” MOSAIC Spiritual Health, St. Joseph, MO (September 2018)

“Sex in the City, Sex in the Hospital” MOSAIC Ethics Committee Lecture, St. Joseph, MO  
(July 2018)

“Ethical Decision Making and Consultation in Clinical Setting” MOSAIC Nurse Residency  
Program, St. Joseph, MO (2017-2020)

“The Principles of Healthcare Ethics” MOSAIC Life Care Ethics Committee, St. Joseph,  
MO (January 2018)

“Healthcare Ethics and Decision Making” MOSAIC Life Care Ethics Committee, St.  
Joseph, MO (January 2017)

“What Would Harry Do?: Virtue and Leadership” Missouri Department of  
Transportation, Northwest Regional Accelerated Leadership Development Meeting, St.  
Joseph, MO (July 2013)

Missouri Western State University Honor’s Committee Book Review Panel on *The  
Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (April 2011)

“Rich and Poor: A Panel Discussion” (March 2006) Northwest Missouri State University,  
Maryville, MO

‘Comprehensiveness Explained’ (March 1999) Graduate Student Colloquium, University  
of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

### *Interviews*

Interviewed by Richard Greene and Rachel Greene (2019) “Fantastic Friends and Where  
to Find Them” on *I Think, Therefore I Fan*. Podcast. <https://ithinkthereforeifan.com/>

Interview by Richard Greene and Rachel Greene (2019) “The Purple Replicant of Cairo”  
on *I Think, Therefore I Fan*. Podcast. <https://ithinkthereforeifan.com/>

### *Commentaries*

Commentary on the panel “Political Theory: Legality, Interpretation, and Judgement”  
(November 2016) Pacific Northwest Political Science Association

‘Comments on “The Impossibility of a Code of Ethics”’ (November 2002) Tennessee  
Philosophical Association Conference.

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‘Comments on “Trust as a Source of Reasons”’ (April 2000) Ohio Philosophical Association Conference.

‘Comments on “Instrumental Reason: Kant’s Reply to Achilles”’ (March 1998) Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

*Other*

Promotion Retrospective: “Exploring Strange New Worlds: A Research Retrospective on Ethics and Science Fiction” (October 2018) Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO.

Panel Discussion “Science and Social Justice” (October 2018) Science and Social Justice Series, Highland Community College, Highland, KS

Panel Discussion “Science, Science Fiction and the Sacred” (September 2018) Science Fiction Popular Cultures Conference, Kona, HI.

Panel Discussion “Unresolved Questions about Morals and Values in *Black Panther*” (September 2018) Science Fiction Popular Cultures Conference, Kona, HI.

Panel Discussion of Robert Wise’s *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (March 2013) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Washington, D. C.

Panel Discussion of Troy Duffy’s *The Boondock Saints* (April 2012) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Boston, MA

Panel Discussion of Richard Linklater’s *Waking Life* (April 2011) Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, San Antonio, TX

“Respite Palliative Sedation for Refractory Symptoms at the End-of-Life” (July 2006) Center for Applied and Professional Ethics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

‘The Moral Dilemmas Debate: A Misuse of Deontic Logic’ (November 2003) Philosophy Department Klatsch, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

‘Pluralistic Consequentialism: A Functional Success’ (November 2002) Philosophy Department Klatsch, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

‘Lexical Ordering as a Method of Adjudication’ (March 1999) Philosophy Department Klatsch, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

‘Decision Analysis and Medicine’ (April 1998) Center for Applied and Professional Ethics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

**GRANTS**

Co-Principal with Karen Koy for *Galileo’s Legacy Conference* from MWSU Foundation

James M. Okapal

(2014-2015) \$2000 for operations

Co-Principal with Karen Koy for *Galileo's Legacy Conference* from MWSU Foundation  
(2013-2014) \$3000 for operations

Co-Principal with Karen Koy for *Galileo's Legacy Conference* from MWSU Foundation  
(2012-2013) \$3500 for operations

Principal for Summer Research with Joshua Swindler from MWSU Program of Research,  
Teaching and Applied Learning (PORTAL)  
(2012) \$3500

Co-Principal with J. Mark Mikkelsen for *Galileo's Legacy Conference* from MWSU Foundation  
(2012-2013) \$4000 for operations

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO. 2005-present*

### ***Lower-Level***

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Bioethics
- Business Ethics
- Contemporary Ethical Issues
- Globalization
- Humanities: Ancient and Medieval
- Logic/Reasoning and Argumentation
- Honors Freshman Seminar—Philosophy, Literature, and Film
- Honors Freshman Seminar—The History and Philosophy of Mystery

### ***Upper-Level***

- Ethics and Literature
- Normative Ethical Theory
- Environmental Philosophy and Public Policy
- History of Social and Political Thought
- Contemporary Social and Political Theory
- Modern Philosophy
- MWSU Honors Seminar: Harry Potter as Literature and Philosophy
- MWSU Honors Seminar: "Whodunit - The History and Philosophy of Solving Mysteries" with Dr. Evan Hart Fall 2023
- MWSU Honors Seminar: "Animals, Aliens and AI," Spring 2025

### ***Graduate-Level***

Foundations of Professional Ethics

*Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 2004-5*

- Business Ethics
- Contemporary Moral Problems

James M. Okapal

**Medical Ethics: End of Life Decision Making**

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 1996-9; 2001-4*

**Graduate Instructor**

- Ethical Theory and Application
- Value and Reality
- Ethical Theory
- Formal Logic

**Graduate Teaching Associate**

- Knowledge and Reality

*Ashland University, Ashland, OH Spring 2000 to Spring 2001*

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Introduction to Ethics
- The Philosophy of Human Nature

*Denison University, Granville, OH Spring 2000*

- Introduction to Philosophy

*Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, OH 1999; 2001*

- Introduction to Philosophy
- The Individual and Society

*Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 1994-6*

**Graduate Instructor**

- Introduction to Philosophy

**Graduate Co-Instructor**

- Formal Logic

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

- Formal Logic

- Death and Dying

**THESIS DIRECTION**

- Chair for Molly (Joshua) Swindler's Undergraduate Senior Thesis "The Virtuous Euthyphro Dilemma"
  - First part published under Joshua Swindler in *Dialogue* (2013) Volume 55, No. 2-3, pp. 114-120.

**INDEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DIRECTION**

- Directed research of Caleb Hazelwood on CRISPR-Cas9 technology
  - Senior paper "A Capabilities Approach to Justice in Human Germ Line Modification"
  - Presented work as part of the Emily Murray Student Fellowship at The Hastings Center, Summer 2016

**COURSE DEVELOPMENT**

- Assisted development of multimedia, distance learning environment for Introductory Logic, Bowling Green State University
- Created module on moral theory and reasoning for Introductory Biology

## TEACHING ENRICHMENT

- Online Learning Consortium Certificate, Foundations Program, 2019
- AAPT Biennial International Conference, Coastal Carolina Univ., 2010
- Seminar on Critical Thinking, Center for Critical Thinking, 2006
- Teaching Effectiveness Seminars, Southern Methodist University, 2004
- Recognizing Students in Crisis, Southern Methodist University, 2004
- Grades, Grading, and Grade Inflation, Southern Methodist University, 2004
- Philosophy Teaching Seminar by Martin Benjamin, University of Tennessee, 2001
- Microsoft PowerPoint Training, University of Tennessee, 1999
- HTML Web Page Training, University of Tennessee, 1999
- GTA Mentoring Program, University of Tennessee, 1998-9

## HONORS & AWARDS

- David Sokol Area Chair Award, Popular Culture Association, March 2024
- James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award, Missouri Western State University, April 2023
- Faculty Mentor of the Game, Missouri Western Student Athlete Advisory Committee, 2018
- Honorary Coach, Griffon Volleyball, Missouri Western State University, 2014
- Compass Award, Missouri Lambda Chapter of Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, 2014
- Honorary Coach, Griffon Softball, Missouri Western State University, 2012
- Honorary Coach, Griffon Volleyball, Missouri Western State University, 2011
- Honorary Coach, Griffon Basketball, Missouri Western State University, 2011-
- Outstanding Faculty Implementation of Critical Thinking, Missouri Western State University, 2008
- Service-Learning Newcomer, Southern Methodist University, 2005
- Graduate Teaching Award, University of Tennessee, 2002 (Currently named the John Hardwig Teaching Prize)
- Research Assistant to Edward F. McClenen, Bowling Green State University, 1995
- Member Phi Beta Kappa, Epsilon of Ohio at the Ohio State University, 1994
- Graduated Cum Laude, with Distinction in Philosophy, and with Honors in the Liberal Arts from the Ohio State University, 1993
- Recipient of the William Edward Bingham Award for the paper 'Morals by Accident': An Ohio State University Research Award for the Best Undergraduate Paper in Philosophy, 1993
- The Ohio State University Scarlet and Gray Scholarship, 1989-1991
- Outstanding College Student of America 1988-1989

## SERVICE ACTIVITIES

### *Professional*

- Chair, Governing Board, Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association 2025 to present

- Chair, Ethics Committee, Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association 2024 to present
- Trustee at Large, Governing Board, Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association 2024 to present
- Book Review Editor, Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy 2024 to present.
- At-Large Member, Ethics Committee, Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, 2022 to 2024
- Area Chair, Philosophy and Popular Culture, Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, 2014-2016, 2021 to 2022
- Co-Area Chair, Philosophy and Popular Culture, Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association 2012-2013; 2022 to 2024
- Session Chair, Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association National Conference 2010-2016, 2022

*University*

- Committee Member, Engineering and Technology Chair Search, 2023-2024
- Chair, Department of Social Science and Humanities Curriculum Committee, 2023-2024
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Missouri Western State Univ., 2006 to 2009; 2020 to present
- Several Departmental Level Promotion and Tenure Committees 2012 to 2024
- Missouri Western State University Spring Commencement Announcer, 2022 to 2023
- Program Review Committee, Missouri Western State University, 2017, 2018
- Missouri Western State University Fall Commencement Announcer, 2015 to 2020
- Missouri Western State University Graduate Hooding Announcer, 2017 to 2019
- Co-Director, Galileo's Legacy Conference, Missouri Western State University, 2012 – 2015
- Chair, General Studies Committee, 2014 to 2016
- General Studies Committee, 2010 - 2014
- Chair of Galileo's Legacy Conference—Sustainability, Missouri Western State Univ., 2009-2010
- Honors Committee, Missouri Western State Univ., 2009 to 2010
- Philosophy and Film Club Coordinator, Missouri Western State Univ., 2008-2010
- Philosophy Hiring Committee, Missouri Western State Univ., 2008-2010
- Academic Honesty Committee, Missouri Western State Univ., 2009-2010
- Critical Thinking Committee, Missouri Western State Univ., 2006 to 2008
- Co-Curricular Activities Committee, Missouri Western State Univ., 2005 to 2015
- HPG Western Excellence Committee, Missouri Western State Univ., 2005 to 2015
- Health Professional Review Committee, Southern Methodist Univ., 2005
- Departmental Meeting Graduate Student Representative, University of Tennessee, 2002-3
- Undergraduate Committee, University of Tennessee, 2001-2
- Speakers Committee, University of Tennessee, 1997-8, 1998-9
- Personnel Committee, Bowling Green State University, 1995-6

*Community*

- MOSAIC Ethics Committee, 2016 to 2023
- Heartland Health Ethics Committee, St. Joseph, MO, 2005 to 2014,

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- The American Philosophical Association, 1994 to present
- Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, 2009 to present