SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

# PHILOSOPHY, COSMOLOGY, & CONSCIOUSNESS

California Institute of Integral Studies



#### **COMMUNION OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

ROBERT MCDERMOTT, INTERIM PROGRAM CHAIR MARCH 23 2021

"Reply All" emails from faculty and staff this past week have been expressing welcome to Emi Kojima who will succeed Matt Segall in his administrative role. They also expressed the kind of gratitude for Matt that is usually reserved for a retiring faculty or staff member of many years. Happily, Matt is not leaving; he has at last joined PCC as full-time faculty. Considering the enormous amount of Matt's teaching, advising, and lecturing, it would be easy for PCC students to assume that he has been full-time for the past several years. In her email Provost Liz Beaven expressed her gratitude for the myriad ways that Matt has been indispensable to the working of her office. Several department chairs, eager to imitate the extraordinary increase in PCC applications due to our online MA and Ph.D. curricula, have depended on Matt to help them create similar online programs. Students in Matt's three sections of German Idealism (all full precisely because Matt is the instructor) can be forgiven for thinking that PCC faculty is Matt's only position. PCC faculty and students are delighted that henceforth Matt will have only one job, the exact right one. (continued on page 10)

#### **CONTENTS:**

"Communion of Academic Subjects" by Robert McDermott

> Recent Faculty Works 2

Recent Community Works 3-4

"From Ideals to Deeds" by Impact@CIIS 5-7

> An Invitation from the PCC Forum 8-9

"Communion of Academic Subjects" continued 10-13

### **RECENT FACULTY WORKS**

Elizabeth Allison's recent work includes presenting "Life Without Ice: Vanishing Ice, Vanishing Cultures?" with a panel on "vital ice" for the <u>International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture conference</u>; an interview with PCC alum and adjunct faculty Sam Mickey for the <u>Yale Forum on Religion and ecology Spotlights podcast series</u>; ESR's annual <u>Religion & Ecology Summit</u> this past March; and a talk on "Communitarian Values and Care Ethics for Climate Resilience" at the Graduate Theological Union conference on Visions for a Viable Future on March 19th.

Sean Kelly's much anticipated *Becoming Gaia*: On the Threshold of Planetary Initiation was published on Valentine's day.

Robert McDermott and Jake Sherman both contributed essays ("Rudolf Steiner on Sophia" and "Mary, Seat of Wisdom") to the forthcoming anthology, *Philo-Sophia*, coedited by Robert and Debashish Banerji; the anthology will also include essays by PCC PhD candidate Olena Provencher and alum Bishop Marc Andrus.

Brian Swimme has launched a new multimedia project in collaboration with Devin O'Dea and PCC PhD candidate Monica DeRaspe-Bolles called <u>The Human Energy Project</u>; together they have already released a number of videos for their <u>ongoing film series</u>, spreading awareness of the noosphere, or planetary mind.

Rick Tarnas has presented twice on the archetypal weather for CIIS' Public Programs in this last tumultuous year: <u>"What's Happening in the Stars Right Now?"</u> on April 23, 2020, and <u>"The Planets in 2021"</u> on February 5, 2021, both now available to watch on YouTube.

Matt Segall's recent publications include "<u>On the Place of Life in the Cosmos: Whitehead's</u> <u>Philosophy of Organism and Contemporary Theoretical Biology</u>," in *Intuiting Life: Process Ontology for Biophilosophy* (New Castle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, forthcoming 2021); "<u>Time and</u> <u>Experience in Physics and Philosophy: Whiteheadian Reflections on Bergson, Einstein, and Rovelli</u>," in *The Quarrel of Time: Einstein vs Bergson* (De Gruyter, forthcoming 2021); "Alchemical Consciousness After Descartes: Whitehead's Philosophy of Organism as Psychedelic Realism," in *Philosophy of Psychedelics* (Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2021); "Wordsworth's Poetic Vision of Nature in Light of Whitehead's Organic Philosophy," in *Death and Anti-Death, Vol. 18: Fifty Years After Earth Day* (Ria University Press, 2021); "On the Emergence of Integral Religions," in *The Future Faces of Spirit* (Perspectiva, forthcoming 2021); *Physics of the World-Soul: Whitehead's Adventure in Cosmology* (SacraSage, forthcoming 2021).

## **RECENT COMMUNITY WORKS**

 Kimberly Carfore (PCC MA '12
ESR Ph.D. '19) published "Ecofeminist Theology:
Intersectional Justice and Plumwood's Philosophical
Animism" in SAGE Journal of Feminist Theology 29(3), 206-219.

🔅 Ezekiel Fugate (current PCC Ph.D.) is delighted to announce the launch of his latest collaborative project Deep Belonging Collective (DBC). DBC supports folks in reconnecting their guidance, with inner remembering their deepest potentials as integral members of the Earth community, and functional reclaiming a cosmological orientation. DBC offers on-land on-line and programs as well as 1-on-1 mentoring. To learn more about DBC and the 2021 program lineup, visit www.deepbelonging.org. You can also reach out to Ezekiel directly bv emailing him: ezekiel.fugate@gmail.com.

Max Leyf (PCC Ph.D. '20) published a modified form of the dissertation he defended last spring, tilted The Redemption of Thinking: A Study in Truth, Meaning, and the Evolution of Consciousness with Special Reference to Johann von Goethe, Owen Barfield, and Rudolf Steiner.

🔅 Joshua Halpern (PCC MA '13) welcomed 2020 with a debut album of climate collapse response songs, published on exact Saturn-Pluto conjunction, available at <u>homehowls.com</u>. Josh offered Water-in-Place selfguided creek tours during the lockdown, and is reserving headwater camping sites along the rivers which source drinking waters for SF and the East Bay this Summer 2021, available to join at watershedwitness.com. Josh's workshops in climate courage, including several recent PCC Forums, are explorable at ecocourageous.com.

PCC alum Francesca Po received her doctorate (DPhil) from the University of Oxford in 2020 with the thesis title "Exploring the Emerging Church: Christianity, the New Age, and Self-religion in the Sacralisation of Inclusivity." Other recent publications of hers include The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Religion and Peace with J. Mitchell, M. Percy, and L. Orr (editors) and "Self-religion in Global Peace Movements," in The Wiley-Blackwell Companion Religion to and Peace (forthcoming, 2021).

Erica Jones (PCC MA '12) is launching the inaugural course of The Prism Community: Self-care to deepen belonging and community in May 2021. Self-care is at the center of this course, as it forms the foundation of our health as well as the contributions we make to our communities. In the Prism Community, Erica is excited to further develop the practice of making the Earth a planet within astrology, using an epistemology of the heart. Erica is also pleased to be offering online dream work free to community. Dream messages emanating from the Mystery in that space have been so encouraging and nourishing through the global pandemic. Erica has also recently been part of panel astrological discussions with fellow PCC alums and extended family, posted on YouTube: Archetypal Vision 2020 (the astrology of 2020 and 2021), and a <u>discussion of</u> January 2021 political events in the USA. The latter was a test run for an exciting new venture called the Archetypal News Network, which is developing highquality daily broadcasts on current events, societal trends, people in the spotlight, entertainment, and education using the lens of archetypal astrology. Erica was invited and joined the Board of Advisors for ANN and invites you to check them out on YouTube!

\*PCC alum Sheri Ritchlin published "Living Cosmology" in *The Living Legacy of Thomas Berry* published by the Center for Ecozoic Studies (forthcoming) and a paper on "Confucian Roots of the Ecozoic" for an Ecological Spiritualities Conference at Harvard in April, now postponed due to Covid until April 2022. Sheri's contribution to keep spirits up through the pandemic has been channeled through her ongoing blog, Sheri <u>Ritchlin's Indranet – Letter from a town of 50</u>.

\* Michael Sukhov, Ph.D., PCC Visiting Scholar (12-13') published "Herbert Marcuse on Radical Subjectivity and the 'New Activism': Today's Climate and Black Lives Matter Movements" in *Radical Philosophy Review*.

\* PCC alum and Ecology, Spirituality, and Religion (ESR) doctoral student Matthew Thierry published "Accelerating Hate: Atomwaffen Division, Contemporary Digital Fascism, and Insurrectionary Accelerationism" with Michael Loadenthal and Samantha Hasserman in *Cyber Hate: Examining the Functions and Impact of White Supremacy in Cyberspace*, edited by Robin Maria Valeri and Kevin Borgeson (2021). Matthew also guest edited the Peace and Justice Studies Association's Peace Chronicle: Spring 2021 Issue on "Climate," published late in March of 2021. The issue includes include work from Matthew as well as ESR doctoral student Chantal Noa Forbes, and Lauren Finley-Jacob from the Women's Spirituality program.

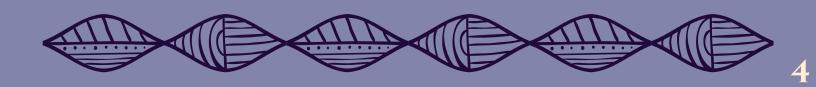
### SAM MICKEY HOSTS FORE



The Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology has launched a podcast, FORE Spotlights, hosted by PCC alum (Ph.D. '12) and adjunct faculty member, Sam Mickey. The podcast focuses on people working at the confluence of religious and ecological perspectives. Interviews cover new publications, engagements in practice and activism, resources for teaching, and perspectives from the arts and humanities. Members of the PCC community are featured in previous episodes, including faculty (Elizabeth Allison and Sean Kelly) and alumni (Elizabeth McAnally and Kimberly Carfore).

You can <u>listen to FORE Spotlights</u> on any podcast client (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Pandora, etc.).

An archive of video recordings is available here: <u>https://fore.yale.edu/Resources/Multimedia/Video/FORE-</u> <u>Spotlights-Archive</u>



# FROM IDEALS TO DEEDS: THE WAY OF INTEGRAL IMPACT

"Twitter is right across the street from CIIS," pondered PCC alumn Abeer Desai, "but it feels as though it is across the universe." In 2015, Impact@CIIS was born out of a curious desire to bridge the gap between the integral world of CIIS and the often materially reductionistic world of techno-optimists. Six years later, the mission remains the same for Impact@CIIS, only now with a larger community and momentum for this movement to unfold.

As a way to nurture co-creation, praxis, and integral alchemy, Impact@CIIS launched the Integral Impact Incubator this Spring. With a leadership team of eleven individuals – including two program managers, a curriculum designer, and eight coaches – we have built a relational practice space in which 30+ students and community members are participating, learning, and manifesting their ideas into reality in three stages:

- I. Idea Pool: At this stage, confusion, play, and ideation take place. Whether one has an idea or not, this is the time to question, empathize, and have "idea sex," as MFA professor Carolyn Cooke would say.
- 2. Integral Dive: With a concrete idea, question, problem, or solution at hand, participants begin to apply a holistic, mystical, and soulful vision to their project ideas.
- 3. Participatory Launch: In this final stage, participants engage in conversations on the importance of social and financial capital, and learn how to finance, market, and pitch their projects to the world.



In May, the incubator will host a Pitch Showcase, where participants will have the opportunity to share and present their projects and ventures with the larger CIIS community.

Building and managing the incubator has been quite an experimental process for the leadership team. Organizational Support Manager, Ayeh Kashani, shares her reflections:

"What a semester. What a ride. When I first chose to get involved with the incubator, I meant to hold space. What I did not expect was to be held. Whether self-exploration and through contemplation by attending workshops, or by being called forth as a leader, the incubator has provided me with the space to identify and explore potentials edges while and growth gaining experience and confidence in areas I already practice praxis."

Integral praxis is a core tenet of the Integral Impact Incubator. Somya Thakker, the Program Director, has been on a quest to investigate the liminal space in which idea and action meet:

"I have always struggled with turning my ideas into something practical. A few years ago, I attempted to launch a social enterprise but came across numerous obstacles that prevented me from realizing the project. Most of these challenges arose because my idealism was not rooted in pragmatism. Spirit and matter were not aligned, and thus nothing of substance could be manifested. Ever since then, I have challenged myself and others to find ways in which spirit and matter can meet in harmonic contrast to help create holistic initiatives. So it has been such a joy to help build this participatory experiment. I am slowly beginning to witness how the dynamic interplay between idealism and realism, spirituality and practicality, and idea and action can enable the integral paradigm shift to gather momentum."

Without this community, our understanding of integral praxis would not be whole. Integral Impact Coach, Alexander Winter, reflects on the power of this co-creative space:

"The Integral Impact program is a community force of creative minds who seek to make their ideas actionable. I am grateful for the rewarding opportunity to share insights and experiences with driven and talented people. I continually learn from the rich interactions with my impacters as they tackle the hurdles to implement their vision.

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This community serves as a shared repository for skills, experiences, solutions, and mutual inspiration. The word integral is rooted in the idea of wholeness, achieved by integration, which forms a complete creative circle from idea to implementation. In this process, we learn our ignorance to build spaces from which suitable answers emerge to birth living visions whose impact seeds opportunity and integrity."

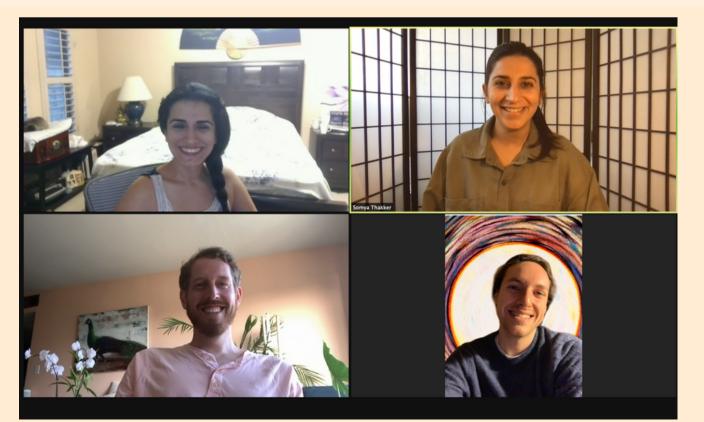
As a coach, Alexander provides 1-1 mentoring sessions to several participants in the incubator. PCC students, Ashley Dale and Emma Jackson have been working with Alexander to fine-tune their collaborative project, and reflect on their experience thus far:

"The Impact@CIIS program has been invaluable to our project. As two CIIS students graduate charting new territory with our future holistic healing center that will utilize holistic healing modalities alongside psychedelic medicines, we were looking for guidance and support in the initial phases and found that with our coach, Alexander. His knowledge of starting a business, as well as seeking funding, building the foundation, and collaborating with others in our space has been instrumental in moving us forward in the right direction. We value his feedback and insight regarding our project and know that he helps fill in the gaps where our knowledge lacks. He will be an integral part of our future center no doubt!"

Imagination, inspiration, and intuition are central in entrepreneurial success. In the following sentiments, coach and workshop leader Lucien Dante Lazar introduces how we may engage in and understand these capacities as alchemists:

"Alchemy, you are the changing of the worlds. All that you are is who I am—I must know that. To receive is an alchemical deed that awakens the spirit in nature. In such a love of receptivity, another alchemical deed occurs: we give our freedom of perception. Imagine this dual-directional flow taking place in wide awake consciousness. Really, imagine it! ... In alchemy you must remain yourself so that what metamorphoses can behold you. In the imaginative life, true deeds may manifest. Support these tasks by inspiration's kiss. Inspiration lovingly sculpts the imaginative world, awakening you to hidden mysteries of self-capacity. Within these seeds of inspiration's light, intuition shall find you. And there, in your deepest heart, it shall speak, "Amen" to all you do. With imagination be inspired to receive the intuition of apotheosis, and therefrom act! You will be an alchemist of time.

My soul aches with the freedom of worship. I see time as that which shall pass. My heart's throne is my body's crucifix. This source is my alchemical guide. In imagination I sing with Angels, In intuition I pray with the Gods, In inspiration the world is freedom. These tongues are alchemy's job. Love life truly so that you become them."



#### With integral gratitude, Impact@CIIS Leadership Team



## **AN INVITATION FROM THE PCC FORUM**

Dear Friends,

Please join us over the next two months for our last set of PCC Forum events for the Spring 2021 semester. The PCC Forum has for years offered a sacred container for students to participate in while fostering dialogue and collaboration in the pursuit of truth. As the direction of this pursuit reflects the interests of its participants, consider sharing your own work in philosophy, cosmology, and consciousness, or co-conspiring with us towards those ends. If you'd like to help us organize or stay connected with PCC Forum events, please see below for extra-curricular discussion groups and PCC Forum-related links! Many thanks to those speakers, audience members, organizers, and helper-outers who make this work: you are most appreciated.

(See page 9 for the remaining Spring 2021 Forum lineup)



# **UPCOMING PCC FORUM EVENTS**

April 1 at 6pm PT An Ecology of Liberation: Weaving the Worlds of Expanded States of Consciousness, Human Rewilding, and Radical Eco-Activism, with Michael Lynn <u>https://fb.me/e/18ozmloed</u>

> April 8 at 6:30pm PT Consumerism and the Cosmos, with Brian Thomas Swimme and Tom Purton <u>https://www.facebook.com/events/458017472181460</u>

April 15 at 6:30pm PT New Terrain: Soil Health as Human Health, with Lauren Finley Jacob

April 22 at 6:30pm PT Becoming Gaia: On the Threshold of Planetary Initiation, with Sean Kelly and Jeremy Johnson

> April 29 at 6:30pm PT PCC Unplugged, hosted by Erica Jones and friends

May 6 at 6:30 PT Archaeoastronomy and Integrated Cosmologies, with Kerri Welch and Drew Dellinger



#### **COMMUNION OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS**

(Continued from page 1)

There has been no rush of emails concerning other changes in PCC because they are unfolding very gradually and still in the distance but as this will be the only PCC Newsletter of my interim chair tenure, let me share what news I have. Change was signaled by the Admissions section of the PCC website where Sean, Jake, Elizabeth, and Matt list their specialties for applicants. Rick Tarnas, founder of our program twenty-five years ago, will continue mentoring all of the dissertations to which he has been committed but he will reduce his teaching to one specialty course each year. Brian Swimme, whose Center for the Story of the Universe was supported by Laurance Rockefeller even before I came as president in 1990, will similarly continue mentoring dissertations while reducing his teaching. Unlike Brian and Rick, I plan to retire fully at the end of the spring 2022 semester. All three of us will stay connected to PCC which, as is well known, is not just a job but a community which sustains and defines us, and to which we will be eager to contribute so long as we are compos mentis. Because of the dramatic increase in the number of applicants (and the painful process of rejecting qualified applicants), we hope to receive approval for at least one new faculty member but as I once knew too well, the pressures on every budget from many directions are always intense.

I want to take this opportunity to share some observations about our program, and especially concerning the subtle but obvious strength of PCC as a social-intellectual-ecological-spiritual community. I am eager to emphasize what you all know—or will soon learn—that an important part of learning is collaborating with colleague-friends. Most of us, whether faculty or students, are more likely to do our best work when we feel ourselves to be part of a team, a conscious member of a collaborative effort. We are more likely to "step up," withstand, and affirm hope as part of a team than when we must think and act alone. This is one of the obvious reasons that students come to PCC, and having come, tend to stay involved as alumni. Which metaphor do you prefer for PCC—a community, a vessel, a network, a "heroic community" (Rick's term), or Indra's Net? I prefer all of them.

I knew the ideals of CIIS when I was a professor in New York City and a younger colleague-friend of Haridas Chaudhuri. As CIIS president in the 1990s I learned the challenge of implementing those ideals. Bringing \$5M from Laurance Rockefeller seemed to intensify the conflicts. But the steady maturation of the CIIS community eventually enabled PCC to realize its ideals. For the past 25 years PCC has been creating, renewing, deepening, expanding its commitment to "reimagining the human species as a mutually enhancing member of the Earth community." As a result of teaching two sections of Introduction to PCC last semester and reading a dozen applications to PCC in the past few weeks, I have relearned that the PCC ideals are alive and attractive to applicants and students worldwide. I am pleased to report that alums, current students, and applicants, continue to affirm that the PCC vision, values, and colleague-friendships

are essential to their well-being. Applicants and beginning students know something of the curriculum and faculty members' writings and videos but they do not yet know the wide reach of the PCC community. When I was president I created a list of about fifty "CIIS Sages," colleague-friends who share our values and can speak on our behalf. Perhaps we should do the same for PCC. We would begin with Joanna Macy and Stan Grof and then add the names of thirty, forty, or fifty colleague-friends who support or ideals and our work.

One way to show a slice or portrait of the PCC community in action might be for me to share the names of distinguished individuals who in the past week have participated in the extended PCC community—as I participated in their contributions. Last Sunday my wife Ellen and I watched Mary Evelyn Tucker (MET) deliver an inspiring sermon for the Grace Cathedral virtual eucharist service. How could anyone not be inspired listening to, and watching, MET? On Monday evening, I watched Mary Evelyn and her husband John Grim on the Grace Cathedral Forum in dialogue with Malcolm Young, Dean of Grace Cathedral. Mary Evelyn, John, and I were friends of Thomas Berry in the 60's and 70's. They have been friends and collaborators of Brian Thomas Swimme since the 1980's. In the mid-1990s I arranged for Mary Evelyn and John to teach a PCC course on ecology and religion. Elizabeth McAnally, after taking that course finished a doctorate in PCC, whereupon MET and John named Elizabeth director of the Yale Religion and Ecology Newsletter—which you should all receive and read. In 2005, CIIS awarded Mary Evelyn and John an honorary doctorate for their work as founders and directors of the discipline of Religion and Ecology. When I chaired PCC search committee for a new faculty appointment I visited John and Mary Evelyn who told me about Elizabeth Allison who was finishing her dissertation in Bhutan.

During the Forum, MET and John recounted the dramatic ten-year labor that produced Journey of the Universe, written and narrated by Brian Thomas Swimme. The director was David Kennard who then co-taught a course on film production with Brian. Missy Lahren, Max DeArmon, and Theo Badashi then made a film on renewable energy that has been seen by many thousands throughout the world. Two weeks ago Missy brilliantly defended her dissertation based on teaching "The New Story" (of Thomas and Brian) to middle school students. Max and Theo have spent the last several years working on Changing of the Gods, a ten-part documentary based on Rick Tarnas's Cosmos and Psyche.

Yesterday I spent time on the phone with Chris Bamford whom I met in and through William Irwin Thompson and the Lindisfarne Association in the 1970s. Chris is writing the Foreword to *Philo-Sophia*: *Wisdom Goddess Traditions*, edited by Debashish Banerji and me and including essays by seven CIIS faculty members, including Jake Sherman. Two days ago I spent an hour on a Zoom call with Satish Kumar, founder of Schumacher College in Devon, England. Satish will receive a CIIS honorary degree at our commencement in May. In 1999 when we moved to our building at 1453 Mission Street, Satish delivered a celebratory lecture on the meaning of "Namaste," the name of our largest room. The name, by the way, was chosen by Bob Graham, a friend then and now who was chair of the finance committee of the CIIS board in the 1990s and a PCC alumnus. Bob is the founder and director of Namaste Direct that does micro-lending for indigenous women in Guatemala.

I have been working with Elizabeth Jennings, PCC (MA, PhD on leave), who is serving as copy-editor for the book that Debashish and I are co-editing, *Philo-Sophia: Wisdom Goddess Traditions* as she did for my book, *Steiner and Kindred Spirits* (2015). Whether revising our own essays or editing the essays of other authors, Debashish and I—like Rick and Sean working on their book in honor of Stan Grof—are conscious of working as part of a team effort and a collaborative result. In a few days I will be on a monthly zoom discussion with Jake Sherman, Bishop Marc Andrus (Ph.D., PCC), and Will Keepin and Cynthia Brix, cofounders and co-directors of Gender Equality Reconciliation International who were awarded CIIS honorary degrees in 2015. Along with other major influences in the PCC lineage such as Joseph Campbell, Huston Smith, and Fritjof Capra, Will is a contributor to the *Festschrift: Essays in Honor of Stan Grof* being edited by Rick and Sean. Although most of these names are not on the PCC website, they constitute an Indra's Net of relations, each simultaneously reflecting their own work and the PCC vision. If you touch "Satish" you find courses by Sean and Matt. If you touch "Christopher Bamford" you find the publisher of my books and Sean's Coming Home. If you touch "John Cobb" you find Matt's collaboration with Whitehead scholars at Claremont. If you touch "Stan Grof" you find Rick and Sean. If you touch "MET" you find the Fifth Annual Religion and Ecology Summit created and organized by Elizabeth Allison.

PCC reminds me of a big family house with three teenage children and a dozen teenage friends, each one with a story, a passion, a potential, and probably a secret pain or anxiety, all drawing off the gamut. No one feels alone and each one knows that the shared delight and commitments are entangled-exactly what they came for, counted on, and plan to continue. The responsibility of continuing PCC falls significantly to Jacob Sherman whose career in and out of PCC is quite distinguished: Jake earned a master's degree in PCC and then a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, and then joined PCC as core faculty, then back to Cambridge to teach for three years, and then returned as chair, which he is and will be by what seems like divine edict. Thank you, Jake. With Jake chairing and teaching full-time, and Sean, Matt, and me teaching full-time (until I retire), and Elizabeth teaching half-time in PCC while teaching half-time and chairing ESR, PCC faculty will hold the center of the ever-expanding PCC reach. And who will sustain them? You might think Jake but truer to say that every day in so many ways the coherence of PCC will be assured by our omni-competent program coordinator, Lilly Falconer. And second to Lilly, the one-person communication team of Ashton Arnoldy, editor of this Newsletter among many other tasks. And that's not all: PCC core faculty are also supplemented by adjuncts who fill out the curriculum: Drew Dellinger, Laura Michetti, Sam Mickey, Becca Tarnas, and Kerri Welch. We are so grateful to have all these admirable scholars as well as all of you contributing to the unfolding of the PCC vision — good for people and good for the Earth.

