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Professional Activities

1/17/2017 [Archive](#)

James Alm, Chair of the Department of Economics, and **Steven Sheffrin**, Director of the Murphy Institute, have been appointed to the newly-formed 8 member Louisiana Tax Institute. The Tax Institute is an advisory body to the Department of Revenue whose goal is to provide technical and policy assistance on the formation of Louisiana tax policy.

Professor William Balée, Department of Anthropology, spoke on "Applied historical ecology and the limits of extreme conservation biology" in the Final Project Meeting of "Long-term sustainability through place-based, small-scale economies: Approaches from historical ecology" at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto, Japan on January 9th. **Thomas Beller**, Associate Professor of English, published two essays on *The New Yorker's* Culture page blog this fall, "Don DeLillo and Move-In Day," which makes reference to Tulane, and "First Snow." Beller is also participating in the planning for Tulane's role in the upcoming NBA All-Star game, for which New Orleans will play host for the second time in four years. Finally, Beller was interviewed by David Coggins this past December as part of The National Arts Club's Fashion Fridays series, in connection with Coggins' book, *Men and Style*, in which Beller is featured.

William Brumfield, Professor in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, recently added a new article to his Discovering Russia series entitled "Russia Beyond the Headlines." [This article](#) focuses on one of Russia's most prominent monasteries. Each article in the series focuses on Russia's historic architecture and cultural heritage and is written for the foreign-language service of the Russian national newspaper *Rossiiskaia Gazeta*.

Ronna Burger, Professor of Philosophy and Catherine & Henry J. Gaisman Chair, presented "Aristotle on Friendship, Philosophy, and the Metaphysics of Eros" as the Keynote Speaker at the Braniff Conference in the Liberal Arts, University of Dallas.

Aaron Collier, Assistant Professor in Studio Art (Painting and Drawing), has a solo exhibition of drawings entitled *What to Make of Silence* at Hyman Fine Arts Center, Francis Marion University, Florence, SC from January 10-February 16, 2017.

Maxwell Dulaney, Assistant Professor of Composition & Theory in the Newcomb Department of Music, participated as a resident composer at the Estalagem da Ponta do Sol Residency for Contemporary Music and Electronics. Dulaney performed his composition *Improvisation for Harmonica* and workshopped a new composition for solo violin, *a turning inwards*, no.2, with internationally-renowned violinist Karin Hellqvist.

Sarah Heise (SLA '18), a junior majoring in political science, presented a paper based on her own research project at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. The paper is "The Relationship Between Religious Participation and Political Participation in Louisiana" and it is based on the results of a survey that she created and raised the money to administer in November.

Brian Horowitz, Sizeler Family Chair Professor, Jewish Studies, co-edited a volume of the journal, *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*, vol. 29: *Writing Jewish History*, 2016. The introduction was written by N. Aleksiu and B. Horowitz, pps. 1-18. In addition, Prof. Horowitz has an article in the edition: "'Building a Fragile Edifice': A History of Historical Institutions in Russian-Jewish Historiography, 1860-1914," 61-76. In connection with the launch of the volume, Horowitz has been invited to London to participate in a symposium at the Polish Embassy.

Kevin Morris, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, published an article, "Issues in Phenomenalist Metaphysics" as part of a symposium on Michael Pelczar's *Sensorama: A Phenomenalist Account of Spacetime and Its Contents*. The article appeared in *Analysis* 76: 4, 471-79.

Stephen F. Ostertag, Assistant Professor of Sociology, presented two papers at the [European Sociological Associations midterm Conference on the Sociology of Culture](#) at the University of Exeter in the UK (November 16-18, 2016).

Chris Rodning, Associate Professor of Anthropology and the Paul and Debra Gibbons Professor in the School of Liberal Arts, was recently the speaker in the monthly [Morris Bart Lecture Series](#) at the [New Orleans Jewish Community Center](#), and his talk, "[Archaeology of Louisiana Indians](#)," concentrated on monumental earthworks built by Native Americans of the Lower Mississippi Valley.

David Shoemaker, Professor in the Department of Philosophy & Murphy Institute, gave an invited talk, "Cruel Jokes & Normative Competence," at a conference on Learning and Changing Norms, held at the University of Arizona's Freedom Center on December 10, 2016. In addition, his paper, "Me and Mine," co-authored with Peter Jaworski (Georgetown) was accepted for publication in *Philosophical Studies*.

In October, **David Smilde**, the Favrot Professor of Sociology, published an op-ed in the *New York Times* on the crisis in Venezuela. He was also quoted in the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The Guardian*.