

Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy
53rd Annual Meeting
Plenary Business Meeting Agenda

March 14, 2026 | 05:00-06:00 PM MT | CHB-A A106 | University of Nevada Las Vegas

- I. Call to Order (McBride)
- II. [Approval of Minutes of March 2025 Plenary Business Meeting](#) (Brunson)
- III. Memorial Notices (Varner)
- IV. Election of New Officers and Amendment Approval (Bell)
 - A. Nominees
 1. Vice-President/President-Elect (1)
 - a) Sergio A. Gallegos Ordorica
 - b) Terrance MacMullan
 2. Secretary (1)
 - a) Daniel J. Brunson
 3. Representatives (2)
 - a) Bethany Henning
 - b) Zachary Piso
 - c) Scott Stroud
 - d) Aaron B. Wilson
 4. Nominations from the Floor
 - B. Amendments
 1. Addition of Graduate Student Representatives Committee
 2. Addition of Grants Committee
 - C. Results
- V. Treasurer's Report (Myers)
- VI. President's Report (McBride)
- VII. Announcements and New Business from the Floor
- VIII. Adjournment (McBride)

March 2025 Plenary Business Meeting Minutes

PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING

McBride: Call to order at 05:03

Thanks to Local Host Jacoby Carter and Howard University

Thanks to Daniel Brunson

Thanks to Program Co-Chairs Alessandri and Musgrave, as well as members Henderson, Lake, Hernandez and Wilson

Woods moved to accept the minutes from the 2024 Plenary Business Meeting, someone seconded, approved by acclaim

Hand off to Varner for Memorial Notices

Sandra Rosenthal
Green shares an encomium

Christopher Hookway
John Woods

Eric Daypool: encomium by Aaron Wilson

Moment of reverence and silence

Hand off to Myers for the Treasurer's Report:
[Applause]

Update on Lachs Endowment
Announcement of the Rosenthal Prize

Treasury is doing well, as usual, on budget for the year.

Invites Immediate Past President Steven Fesmire to encourage donations and encourage the growth of the society

President's Report

SIAP2024

SAAP2025 Local Host Carter: nearly 170 on the program, and 190 registered. Grateful to host the first SAAP meeting at an HBCU, and expects to not be the last.

Elections:

No nominations from the floor. Ballots distributed.

Announcement on behalf of *The Pluralist* by Sunny Heenen: Bernstein issue, SIAP issue, and always looking for reviewers

Waks: Cambridge University Press Handbook on *Human Nature and Conduct* on the way

Foust: Josiah Royce Society virtual conference this October

Vannatta: Pluralist book review editor

Saito: World Congress of Philosophy will be in Kyoto in 2028

Rubin: Santayana Edition received a \$300,000 grant for a *Realms of Being* critical edition. The virtual reading group meets regularly. Santayana conference in Madrid in Spain. Flamm promoting the Angus Kerr-Lawson Prize

Question about source and possible threat to the grant (it is NEH, and not yet).

Brown: *Experience and Nature* conference at the Center for Dewey Studies in October

Lake: Upcoming conference on Design Thinking and participatory thinking (DesignForge)

Voparil: meeting of the Rorty Society in December in Buenos Aires

Elections results: Naoko Saito and Nate Whelan-Jackson

Meeting adjourned by acclaim 05:40 PM

Amendments and Elections

Amendment 1: Graduate Student Representatives

Under ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 7. Graduate Student Representatives Committee. The committee shall consist of three (3) members who are current graduate students, or no more than one (1) year post-Ph.D., appointed by the President with approval from the Board of Directors for renewable terms of two (2) years. The duties of the Graduate Student Representatives Committee shall include, but not be limited to, inviting members or non-members to participate in Graduate Student session(s) at the Annual Meeting and at the meetings of other societies as appropriate.

Amendment 2: Grants Committee

Under ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 8. Grants Committee. The committee shall consist of three (3) members: the Immediate Past President of the Society, and 2 (two) at-large Directors in their third year of service. The duties of the Grants Committee shall include, but not be limited to, supervising the disbursement of Society funds for awards, fellowships, grants, prizes, and scholarships for research, scholarship, and study about American philosophy.

Vice-President/President-Elect (1)

- Sergio A. Gallegos-Ordorica, [John Jay College of Criminal Justice](#)
 - Sergio A. Gallegos-Ordorica is Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. His current research and teaching interests encompass Philosophy of the Americas, Mexican Philosophy (focusing, in particular, on Novohispanic Philosophy), American Pragmatism and Philosophy of Race. He has recently co-edited with Paul Showler a special issue on Richard Rorty's politics that was published in *Contemporary Pragmatism* and he also co-edited with Obed Frausto a special issue on Radical Mexican Philosophy that was published in *Radical Philosophy Review*. His book on Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz's *villancicos* (choral poems) is forthcoming in Cambridge University Press as part of the Cambridge Elements series on Women in the History of Philosophy. He is currently co-editing two books with Stephanie Rivera Berruz and Terrance MacMullan on the Philosophy of the Black Experience(s) in the Caribbean and Latin America and the Philosophy of the Americas for Springer and Bloomsbury respectively. He has been previously involved with SAAP as member of the Coss Dialogues committee and co-chair of the program committee. He strongly believes that the future of SAAP rests upon continuing to foster collaboration and build bridges with different philosophical traditions across the Americas and beyond.
- Terrance MacMullan, [Eastern Washington University](#)
 - Terrance MacMullan first attended SAAP in 1997 as a PhD candidate at the University of Oregon under the direction of Scott Pratt, Nancy Tuana and Mark Johnson. SAAP has remained a cherished and influential community for Terrance since that time. He has worked at Eastern Washington University since 2002 where he loves teaching classes such as American Pragmatism, Latin American Philosophies of Liberation and Star Wars and Philosophy. In 2009 he published *Habits of Whiteness: A Pragmatist Reconstruction* with Indiana University Press and in 2023 he published *From American Empire to América Cós mica* through Philosophy: Prospero's Reflection with Lexington Press. He is currently co-editing, with Sergio Gallegos Ordorica, the Bloomsbury Handbook of the Philosophies of America. He has published research on the philosophy of race, Latin American Philosophy and American Pragmatism in the *Inter-American Journal of Philosophy*, *The Pluralist*, *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* and the *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*. In 2011 he co-hosted, with Kevin Decker, the 38th annual SAAP meeting in Spokane. He served on the Program Committee for the 41st Annual SAAP meeting in Denver and was the Program Co-Chair, with Erin Tarver, of the 47th Annual SAAP meeting in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. He has been a member of the Inter-American Affairs committee since 2012 and his research has been recognized three times with the Inter-American Philosophy Award. Terrance is honored to serve SAAP in any way he can as he is eager to show his appreciation to this society and its members for the support and kindness they have given him for nearly thirty years.

Secretary (1)

- Daniel J. Brunson, [Morgan State University](#)

Directors-at-Large (2)

- Bethany Henning, [The College of St. Scholastica](#)
 - Bethany Henning is assistant professor of philosophy at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth Minnesota, and held the Besl chair for Ethics/Religion and Society at Xavier University from '21-'24. She is the current president of the Rocky Mountain Division of the American Society for Aesthetics, and the author of *Dewey and the Aesthetic Unconscious: The Vital Depths of Experience* (Lexington 2022) and *A Metaphysics for the Liberal Arts: Process, Quality, and Continuity* (Routledge 2026, co-authored with Seth Vannatta). Her research and teaching focus on aesthetics, psychoanalysis, and ecological pragmatism. Bethany also pursues public philosophy beyond the academic context, and facilitates two regularly meeting groups for the philosophically curious: the "Philosophy After Hours" reading group for adults of all educational levels, and the "Duluth Initiative for Ecophilosophy." This second group uses the experimental method to look for continuities between theory and practice while working to improve ecological wellbeing at the southernmost shores of Lake Superior.
- Zachary Piso, [University of Dayton](#)
 - Zachary Piso is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Dayton. His research explores the social and ethical values at stake in environmental science, often through a philosophy of science in practice approach that deploys both conceptual analysis and mixed-methods social science. These interdisciplinary studies are typically written to support practitioners in fields like sustainable agriculture and community-based participatory research, and he's also authored essays recently on public philosophy, pragmatist philosophy of science, and fishkeeping.

Piso is presently writing the final chapters of a monograph about social-ecological systems science, a field that recruits economists, anthropologists, geographers, and other social scientists to understand human action through their respective theories and methods. The task of the book is to analyze the distinctive value judgments that are implicated when we cite social causes, and to work out procedures for engaging democratic communities to ensure these explanations are legitimate. Broadly Deweyan in spirit, the argument draws widely from pragmatist philosophy of language, feminist philosophy of science, and environmental pragmatism. It's also informed by several years of experience serving UD's sustainability research and teaching, where Piso delivers community-engaged capstone for the Sustainability major, and has held director roles in research facilitation and watershed

stewardship. He's proudly mentored three cohorts of UD's River Stewards, a fellowship program through which students volunteer with local conservation organizations, and his current seniors are currently restoring an urban woodlot to provide access to outdoor recreation and nature exploration.

- Scott Stroud, [University of Texas Austin](#)

- I am a philosopher who makes his living as a Professor of Communication Studies and Program Director of Media Ethics at the Center for Media Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin. My work in rhetoric, communication, and media ethics has been heavily influenced by the philosophy of John Dewey, going back to my doctoral work in philosophy with Richard Shusterman and the dissertation that became my first book, *John Dewey and the Artful Life* (2011). I attended my first SAAP in 2007 and have always returned to it as one of my academic homes. I look forward to serving the organization that has so helped me find my voice in pragmatism and American thought.

I am really excited about new paths to forge in American thought. My book, *The Evolution of Pragmatism in India* (University of Chicago/HarperCollins India, 2023), has brought attention to Ambedkar's part of the story of Dewey's pragmatism—and to pragmatism as a philosophical position to add to the debates over democracy, education, and ethics in India. If elected, I look forward to helping SAAP promote American philosophy here and around the world. I want to build on my past efforts. I co-founded the first "Center for John Dewey Studies" in India at Savitribai Phule Pune University and I'd be interested in opening other such centers in India with SAAP's support. The Indian students and faculty I've met on my many trips to India are extremely excited about learning about American thought and pragmatism. It's an exciting time for us studying pragmatism, and I hope to serve SAAP and help push our common interests forward in any way that I can.

- Aaron Wilson, [South Texas College](#)

- Aaron Wilson is Associate Professor of philosophy at South Texas College in McAllen, Texas. He is a certified triadomaniac, currently serving as the Director of the Charles S. Peirce Society, having published about a dozen articles on Peirce as well as a book, *Peirce's Empiricism: its Roots and its Originality*, and he is currently working on another that develops a Peircean philosophy of perception. He has interests in other pragmatists, especially John Dewey, as well as early modern philosophers, the philosophy of technology, to which he has applied both Peirce and classical pragmatism more broadly. He also serves on the editorial board of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, and he spends most of his professional time on teaching related obligations, lecturing part-time at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley—because, you know, his 5-course a semester load at STC just is not enough for him. Perhaps his plate is fully loaded. I don't know. But he'll get the job done!