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Issue Introduction

David Boersema
info@ubiquitypress.com

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David Boersema
Pacific University

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The papers included here were all presented in April 2012 at the 16th annual Pacific University Undergraduate Conference. (For the full conference program, see <http://www.pacificu.edu/as/philosophy/conference/schedule.cfm>.) Over the years the conference has hosted nearly 1,200 students, coming from almost 300 different schools, representing 48 U.S. states and several other countries. Of the nearly 90 presentations at the 2012 conference, the papers below, because of their impressive quality, were selected for publication in this issue. They demonstrate the remarkably fine scholarship of the best of those students whose papers were accepted for presentation.

This conference is a general one every year, meaning that papers in all areas of philosophy are presented. The papers in this issue span ethics, philosophy of mind, epistemology, philosophy of language, aesthetics, metaphysics, history of philosophy, and more. They represent and exemplify the substantive and sophisticated work of the undergraduate students who participated in the conference. Given the strengths of these papers (as well as others that were presented at the conference), it was truly a difficult task to identify a “Best Paper.” Nonetheless, such a paper was identified: Landon Elkind’s paper, “The Theory of Structured Propositions and the Resolutions of Problems with the Essential Indexical,” along with another that was selected as Honorable Mention, Sterling Hall’s “Resonating Ontologies: The Illusory Nature of the Confrontation between Žižek’s Ontology and Speculative Realism.”