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Issue Introduction

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The papers included here were all presented in April 2011 at the 15th 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 more than 1000 students, coming from more 260 different schools, representing forty-seven U.S. states and several other countries. Of the nearly ninety presentations at the 2011 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, 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: Amanda Hutchens’s paper (“A New Perspective on Enantiomorphic Pairs and Substantivalist Spacetime”), along with another that was selected as Honorable Mention, Dustin Bishop’s (“The Possibility of Group Ethics: A Defense and New Approach”).