The 39th Conference of the International Merleau-Ponty Circle was held at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, August 28-30, 2014. The Conference Director was Dr. Stefan Kristensen, University of Geneva, *Unité d'histoire de l'art*, with the assistance of his colleague, Prof. Marie Theres Stauffer. The primary theme of the conference was “Adversity and Creation: Aesthetics, Politics, Psychology.” The theme commemorated the lecture by Merleau-Ponty titled “Man and Adversity” given on September 10, 1951 at the *Rencontres Internationales* in Geneva, subsequently published in *Signs*. There were 37 individual papers presented to an audience of 77 registered participants and 100 total attendees. The conference was bilingual (French – English) and the conference director provided bilingual abstracts of the conference papers. The scholars on the program arrived from the United States, France, Finland, Germany, Canada, Australia, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Japan, and Israel, as well as Switzerland. Invited speakers were Gottfried Böhm (University of Basel), Vivian Sobchack (University of California), Sara Heinämaa (University of Helsinki), and Guy Félix Duportail (University of Paris I). Sadly, the recent death of his wife prevented Prof. Gottfried Böhm from attending and delivering his keynote address announced on the topic: “What is an image?” The conference was sponsored in part by grants from the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Rectorate of the University and the “Société académique”, as well as the Faculty of Humanities; moreover, the University of Lyon 3 agreed to finance a part of the transportation costs of keynote speaker Prof. Vivian Sobchack, since she was to participate in a conference organized by Mauro Carbone in Lyon the following week. The full program is posted at the Archive link on the Merleau-Ponty Circle website: [www.uri.edu/artsci/phl/impc](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/phl/impc).

The 9th annual Martin C. Dillon Memorial Lecture was given by Anna Caterina Dalmasso (*Université de Lyon – III*), titled “L’artiste et l’adversité: Hasard et création chez Merleau-Ponty.” The M. C. Dillon lectureship is awarded annually to the best graduate student conference paper submission chosen by the conference director(s) together with the General Secretary, Associate General Secretary, and co-editors of *Chiasmi International: Trilingual Studies Concerning Merleau-Ponty's Thought*. The honorarium for the lecture is made possible through the generous contributions of Circle members to the M. C. Dillon Endowment Fund. The winning M. C. Dillon paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Chiasmi International*. The Dillon prize has spurred increasing graduate submissions for the conference program.

Stefan Kristensen did a magnificent job organizing this conference beginning from months of planning, fundraising and grant writing, creating the conference website, keeping track of registrations, and communicating with the General Secretary, Associate General Secretary, and membership. His multiple linguistic fluencies enabled easy communications with diverse international constituencies. He also arranged for the creation of a wonderful poster and flyer for the conference showing a graphic abstraction of Merleau-Ponty, match on fire, lighting one of his ever present cigarettes. During the conference, each day maintained an atmosphere of warmth and cordiality typical of the spirit of the Circle, in addition to the intellectual challenge offered by paper presentations and vigorous discussion. The conference concluded with a banquet on Saturday evening at the *Restaurant des Bastions* situated in the historic *Parc des Bastions* near the entrance to the University of Geneva, the first botanical park in Geneva in the shadow of
the Mur des Réformateurs (1873). A highlight of the banquet was the attendance of Stefan’s family, including his wife, Anna Barseghian, and two young children, Sarah and Arno. On Sunday morning, for Merleau-Ponty Circle members who could extend their stay, Stefan hosted a wonderful wine tasting outside Geneva in the hills of Domaine Dugerdil in the village of Dardagny. We express our deep gratitude to Stefan Kristensen for all he did to create a truly magnificent conference program and its enrichments in historic Geneva. Indeed, the International Merleau-Ponty Circle is extremely grateful to him for the time and hard work to create this wonderful conference.

At the business luncheon held on Saturday at the congenial Café du Marché, Prof. Jennifer McWeeny presented information regarding the 40th conference of the Circle, for which she will be the conference director at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA, USA, October 1-3, 2015. The conference theme will be “The Twenty-First Century Body: Thinking Merleau-Ponty In and Out of Time.” Keynote speakers will include Prof. Etienne Bimbenet (Université de Lyon – III). Conference paper submissions of no more than 3,000 words accompanied by a 200 word abstract should be submitted to the conference director at merleau Ponty2015@wpi.edu by June 1, 2015. Paper submissions directly pertinent to the conference theme are particularly encouraged, but papers on any area of current research in Merleau-Ponty studies will be considered for inclusion on the program. For further information, go to the Call for Papers on the Merleau-Ponty Circle website: www.uri.edu/artsci/phl/impc.

At the business luncheon, the membership also voted to accept the invitation from Prof. Rajiv Kaushik to host the 41st annual conference of the Circle at Brock University in St. Catharines, Canada, September 22-24, 2016. Brock University is located in the Niagara winemaking region of Southern Ontario, a short distance from Buffalo, New York and roughly one hour from Toronto. The conference theme will be “Merleau-Ponty: Doing Philosophy from the Outside.” Keynote speakers will include Françoise Dastur (Université de Paris I – Sorbonne) and Rudolf Bernet (University of Leuven, Belgium). We look forward to working together with Prof. Kaushik and sincerely thank him for his invitation.

Respectfully submitted,

Galen A. Johnson, General Secretary
Leonard Lawlor, Associate General Secretary