Paul B. Thompson holds the W.K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics at Michigan State University. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Stony Brook University in 1980, where he wrote a dissertation on nuclear power risk assessment under the supervision of Don Ihde. Since leaving Stony Brook, he held joint philosophy and agricultural science appointments at Texas A&M and at Purdue prior to joining the MSU faculty in 2003. Thompson has been praised for his work taking philosophy beyond its traditional academic borders. He is a former President of the Society for Philosophy and Technology and the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society. He has published over two hundred journal articles and book chapters, and authored or edited more than ten books, the most recent of which is *From Field to Fork: Food Ethics for Everyone*, published by Oxford University Press in 2015.

Philosophical food ethics is a deliberative inquiry into the normative dimensions, the reasons and rationales, of food. It encompasses debates over the production, consumption and cultural significance of the human diet and the technological apparatus that supports it. However the term food ethics is used more widely to reinforce particular political orientations to food and dietary choice, specifically the idea that objectives relating to social justice and sustainability can be achieved through dietary choices that have particular economic consequences. In the latter sense, food ethics reflects an emergent social movement at an international scale. As the truly global dimensions of this social movement are reflected in a philosophical understanding of food ethics, it becomes possible to understand food ethics as a topic with surprising implications for philosophical thought.

Don Ihde Distinguished Alumni Award
“The Emergence of Food Ethics”

December 3rd, 2015
214 Harriman Hall
4:00-7:00 PM
Reception to Follow