Annual Newsletter

department OF PHILOSOPHY

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New Faculty Member



The department is very pleased to announce the hire of a new faculty member. Emily McRae will join us from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she recently completed her doctorate. She works on issues in ethical theory, moral psychology, feminist philosophy and Asian philosophical ethics (mainly Tibetan Buddhist). Her dissertation, titled *Love, Equanimity and the Cultivation of Moral Emotions,* is an exploration of the nature of emotions and their roles in moral life from Western and Buddhist perspectives. She also has articles forthcoming in *Philosophy East and West* and *Journal of Religious Ethics* on the nature of emotions in ethical life.

Emily became interested in Tibetan Buddhist philosophy when she was an undergraduate and her interest only increased after spending a year in Western China and Tibet after she graduated college. Emily started studying Tibetan in China and continued her study in Madison. In 2008, she spent several months studying Tibetan language and philosophy at Rangjung Yeshe Institute (Ka-nying Shedrup Ling Monastery) in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Having grown up in Vermont and attended college in upstate New York, Emily is happy to transition to the (mostly) mild Oklahoma winters. She looks forward to hiking, biking and exploring Oklahoma as well as continuing her other favorite pastimes: yoga and dance.

In Memoriam

The department rues the recent loss of two individuals who contributed to the life and flourishing of the department.

Barney Jack Doss, who received his doctorate in philosophy at OU and worked for many years in the discipline, died Nov. 24, 2009. After completing his doctorate. in the department, Doss worked at Henderson State University, then University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Southeast Arkansas College. He retired from teaching in 2007. He is remembered fondly by the department here and by the many students whose lives he touched in his long career of teaching and mentoring.



Larry R. Wade, an Oklahoma native and longtime supporter of the university, died March 6, 2011. During a long and very active life of public service that included publishing the Elk City Daily News, serving as mayor of Elk City and work for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Wade also served the university in a number of ways. In addition to serving on the OU Board of Regents, the OU Alumni Association and endowing a number of scholarships, Wade especially is remembered by the Philosophy Department for his creation of the Mary Elizabeth Wade Endowed Scholarship for Philosophy Majors. The scholarship, named in honor of his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Wade Perkinson, was established in 2000 and is awarded annually to a distinguished graduating senior.



Philosophers in the Provinces

It recently was discovered that the western wall of our office home, Dale Hall Tower, is at risk of falling off. Consequently, the department has moved to a building located south of campus and ominously and simply simply Building 4. The new-to-us office space is a converted WWII-era Army office and is located between Reaves Park and the Jimmie Austin OU golf course. It will serve as home until spring of 2012, when the Tower will be restored and we will again occupy our old space.

While our new proximity to playground swings and a pirate jungle gym is naturally exciting, the move has of course spurred a minor panic among some faculty, as we all need to remove every piece of furniture, book and stray paper from our offices. Quite apart from the archaeological effort that confronts some, hopes and fears about the new location abound. Will there be, as some hope, WWII ammunition drums for trash cans? Do the pizza joints deliver out there? Will *The Anatomy of Melancholy* read differently when perused in sight of a golf course? Will our 1970s earth tone palette file cabinets look as coolly retro in the new spot? If we get a golf cart to transport us back and forth to campus, can I drive?. Stay tuned for next year's *Newsletter,* when these, and surely other, questions will be answered. Through the magic of OU's mail and phone systems, you will still be able to reach us through our current numbers and address.



The archaeological dig in Dale Hall Tower, we should note, is already yielding unexpected treasure in the form of documents no one has seen for years. This treasure, has in turn, given rise to a new *Newsletter* segment we're calling "From the Archives." Check out this year's installment and look for it again next year!

First OU Ethics Bowl Team Shows No Mercy



This year OU fielded its first ever team in Ethics Bowl competitions. Ethics Bowl is a competitive speech event sponsored on the national level by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. It combines ethical analysis of cases (the cases are provided before the competition) with elements of debate (teams give opposing speeches), quiz bowl (the judges ask questions), and extemporaneous speaking (competitors are not allowed to bring any notes with them when they meet another team). The idea for fielding a team originated with the Integrity Council in the Provost's Office, but soon the Price College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences were involved. The Philosophy Department offered up Steve Ellis to participate as one of the team's faculty advisers and OU's team consisted mostly of Philosophy majors - Tony Boese (Senior.), Gregory Maus (Junior.), Guss Keyes (Senior.), and Cody Franklin (Freshman.) - and Evan DiFilippis (Junior., Political Science and Economics) served as a proxy for the rest of the university. The success of OU's inaugural Ethics Bowl campaign exceeded our wildest expectations. We won first place at both the state competition in Edmond and the regional competition in San Antonio, Texas, qualifying for the National Tournament in Cincinnati. Unfortunately, we were unable to bring home any hardware from nationals. Watch out for the OU juggernaut in 2011-12!

From left, Gregory Maus, Cody Franklin, Tony Boese, Evan DiFilippis with their first-place trophies.

Department News

Faculty Honors and Awards

Hugh Benson is spending spring semester of this year at King's College London, where he is on a Leverhulme Visiting Professorship. While there, Hugh is giving a series of three lectures on Plato's epistemology.

Sherri Irvin gave the Seventh Parodi Lecture in Philosophy of Art at the Miami Art Museum in December 2010.

Zev Trachtenberg has been awarded a Fulbright. He'll be spending spring semester of 2012 in Belfast, Ireland, conducting research on environmental political theory at Queen's University.

Linda Zagzebski has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for next year for her project "Epistemic Authority: An Investigation of Trust, Authority, and Autonomy in Belief."

Graduate Student News

Joshua Seachris received the 2010 Provost's Ph.D. Dissertation Award in the Humanities for his dissertation, "Theism, Naturalism, and Narrative: A Linguistic and Metaphysical Proposal on the Meaning of Life."

Undergraduate Student News

Matt Bruenig was awarded the Philosophy Department's 2010-2011 Clayton Feaver Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each year to an outstanding senior in philosophy.

The Mary Elizabeth Wade Scholarship, given annually to an outstanding junior in philosophy, was awarded to **Mary Stanfield**.

Joseph McKinney was honored with service as the department's Banner Carrier at the 2011 College of Arts and Sciences Convocation, a recognition awarded to an exceptional graduating senior each year.

Colloquia and Conferences



In the past year, the department hosted several visiting scholars in a diverse and interesting series of colloquia. Speakers this year were: Ann Cudd (University of Kansas); Michael Ferejohn (Duke University); Lindsay Craig (OU); Adam Cureton (University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill); Evan Williams (Rutgers University); Emily McRae (University of Wisconsin – Madison); Erica Holdberg (University of Chicago); Lee Hester (University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma); and Jeff Speaks (Notre Dame).

This year, the graduate students also organized and hosted a graduate student conference that brought to OU a number of graduate students from other Philosophy programs. As part of the conference, they also hosted Valerie Tiberius (University of Minnesota), who gave the keynote lecture for the conference.

On April 30, Professor Wayne Riggs organized what was called the OU In-House Epistemology Conference. There were just so many graduate students around writing epistemology papers, it seemed like the thing to do. Graduate students Shyam Patwardhan, Josh Rollins, Mary Gwin and Kelly Morris gave talks, as did Professor Riggs.

» Congratulations to all our undergraduates who were awarded the B.A. in philosophy in 2010 and 2011!

Matthew Blaha (2011)
Anthony Boese (2011)
Matthew Bruenig (2011)
Clayton Dodson (2010)
Paul Garner (2011)
Matthew Ghata (2010)
Olivia Glenn-Allen (2011)
Michael Goodwin (2011)
Jared Haines (2011)
Mara Herschap (2011)
Weston Johnson (2011)
Gregory Maus (2011)
Joseph McKinney (2011)
Carminy Jin-Joo Phillips (2010)
Emily Powell (2011)
Neha Satyanarayana (2011)
Jared Stepien (2011)
Trent Steward (2010)

» Congratulations, too, to our graduate students who received M.A.s and Ph.D.s in 2010 and 2011!

John Cheek M.A. (2011)
Christopher Kieffer M.A. (2011)
Bryan Reece M.A. (2010)
Rusty Jones Ph.D. (2010)
Josh Seachris Ph.D. (2010)

From the Archives

In the early 1950's the department enjoyed the great benefit of having a brilliant undergraduate, Marjorie Bowen, recording minutes for the meetings of the Philosophy Society. In the 1952-1953 school year, she compiled the following record of the Society's colloquia, giving brief, informative abstracts for each lecture:

Wednesday, Nov. 12: Nellie Weatherford, "What is Knowledge?"
She didn't know but referred us to Webster.

Thursday, Nov. 20: Dr. Ida Benz, "The Struggle Against Nihilism"
Oh, it's nothing!

Thursday, Feb. 12: Tom Maskaleris, "Christian and Classical Elements in Modern Greek Thought"
There are Christian and classical elements in modern Greek thought.

Thursday, Feb. 26: Bill Hwandy, "The Philosophy of the New Criticism"
The New Criticism has decided that the only criticism of a poem one can make is to point to it and say Ugh!

Thursday, March 12: Dr. Gustav Mueller, "The Christ Dogma and its Transformation"
Contrary to popular opinion, Christ was born on the road to Damascus.

Wednesday, April 8: Dr. Percy Buchanan, "Russia in Asia"
This gist of this talk is "Watch Russia!"

Thursday, April 23: Dr. H. O. Eaton, "Is Ethics Practical?"
Well, yes!

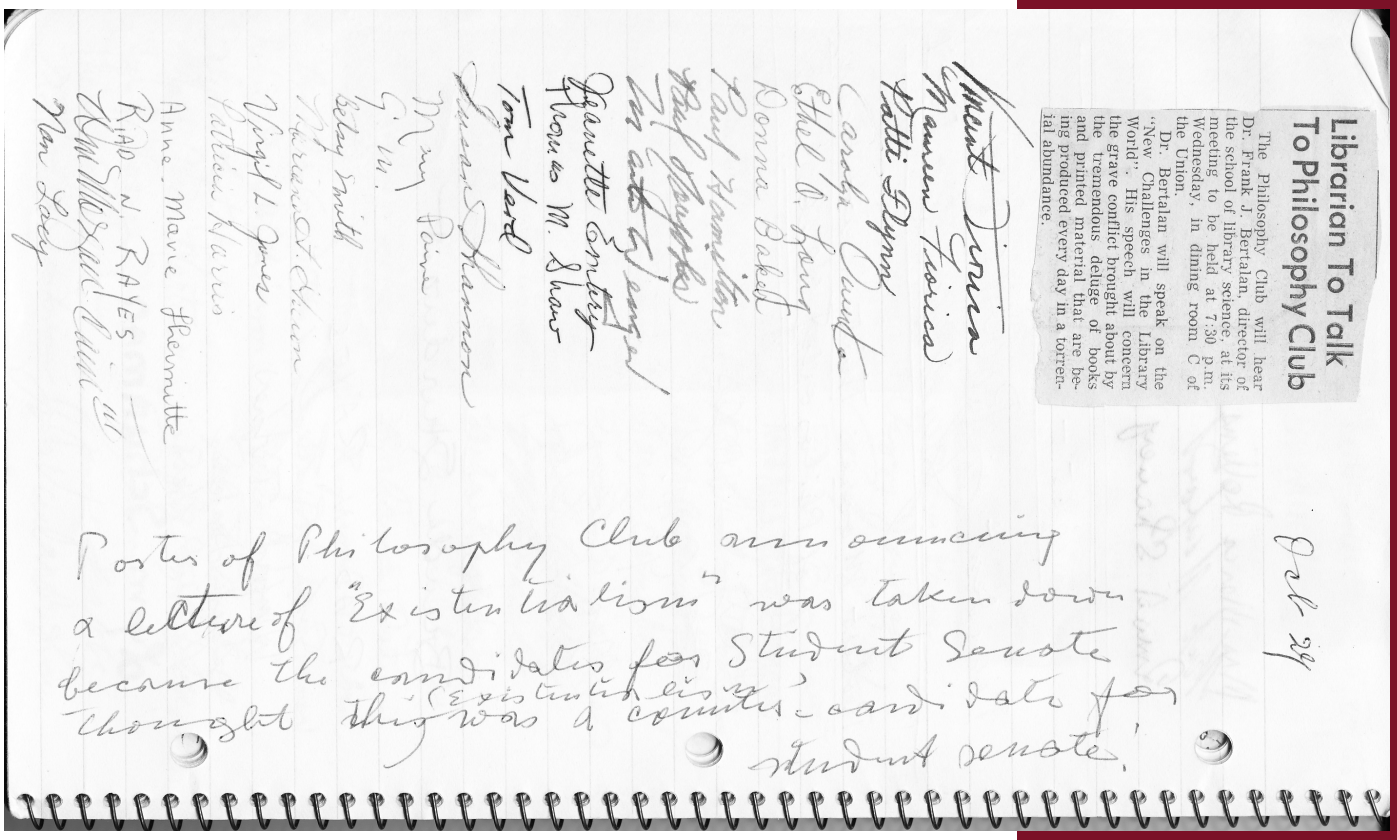
Tuesday, April 28: Dr. H. V. Thornton, "An Understanding Public"
The public is not very understanding.

Tuesday, May 12: Henry Cross and John Knight, "What is Dialectic?"
The motto is "Aufgehauben."

Below is a comical and witty blurb by Bowen, who summarized Dr. Gustav Mueller's talk from March 12, 1953. She writes:

The first meeting of the Philosophy Club of the spring semester was held in stoa 217 the meeting place of the great minds who, alone, know for sure that they do not know. The speaker was awaited in silence for many had heard diverse frightening legends about him. Others had sat at his feet, urged by him to ask questions about all phenomena ___but not about the English. Slowly the great master stalked across the agora, barefoot, clasping his tattered chiton about him as he stared profoundly at the ground, (or was it his pipe?) Before him sat the bright-eyed youth of Norman waiting to be corrupted. On the one hand was the north wall, but on the other hand was the south wall. Perceiving this as solution to his ponderings he leaned against a column that Jowett would call absolute and began:

Below is a small note included in the Philosophy Club notebook of 1965. It reads: "Poster of Philosophy Club announcing a lecture of 'Existentialism' was taken down because the candidates for Student Senate thought this ('Existentialism') was a counter-candidate for Student senate!"



Librarian To Talk To Philosophy Club

The Philosophy Club will hear Dr. Frank J. Bertalan, director of the school of library science, at its meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, in dining room C of the Union.

Dr. Bertalan will speak on the "New Challenges in the Library World". His speech will concern the grave conflict brought about by the tremendous deluge of books and printed material that are being produced every day in a torrential abundance.

Oct 24

Posters of Philosophy Club announcing a lecture of "Existentialism" was taken down because the candidates for Student Senate thought this ('Existentialism') was a counter-candidate for student senate!

Alumni/ae News

ROKSANA ALAVI (B.A. '96) received her Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in Lawrence in spring of 2008. Her dissertation was titled, "Race and Oppression: Philosophical Issues in Voluntary Oppression" and she recently has published its last chapter, "Race, Identity, Stereotyping and Voluntary Oppression." Her current research entails examining human trafficking from a philosophical perspective and she currently is an assistant professor of Philosophy at South Texas College in McAllen, TX.

JESSE BUTLER (Ph.D. '06) is in his fourth year as a tenure-track assistant professor at the University of Central Arkansas. He reports, "I had an article recently published in the *Journal of Consciousness Studies* (Vol 18, No. 2, 2011). The article, titled "Introspective Knowledge of Experience and Its Role in Consciousness Studies," presents a critique of recent acquaintance-based models of introspection and proposes a new model for understanding the unique epistemic properties of introspection. I presented related work to the Midsouth Philosophy Conference this spring, and will also be presenting to the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness at their annual international meeting in Kyoto, Japan this summer. I also have a forthcoming chapter in a book about philosophy in the work of sci fi writer Philip K. Dick, dealing with the theme of self-knowledge as it appears in several of his novels."

JOHN DELL (M.A. '10) reports "I am happy to have accepted a position as a Retention (not to be confused with 'pretension') Specialist with the Center for Student Advancement at OU's University College. This is a wonderful opportunity for me because I get to assist students who are struggling with meeting their academic obligations, and I also get to teach, do research and advise. In other news, my daughter Norah, who will be 2 on March 31, just had her first "bm" in the toilet. The end of diapers is near!" The editor is in awe of Norah's early farewell to diapers and believes that John owes it to humanity to share the secrets of his success.

PETER HUTCHESON (Ph.D. '79) continues to work at Texas State University. He recently presented two extended comments. In "The Aims of Theodicy" he argued that John Hick's appeal to epistemic distance is implausible. In "The Most Plausible Response to the Problem of Evil" he argued that atheism is a more plausible response to the problem of evil than either process theism or traditional theism. In addition to his professional activities, Peter reports that his family is doing wonderfully: "My oldest daughter, Vanessa (23), earned her B.A. (English major, philosophy minor) in December 2010. Vanessa earned a curve-busting score of 177 on the LSAT, a score that is better than 99.9% of students who take the exam. My second daughter, Jessica (21), will graduate in May 2011. Jessica is a star student who has been a Justice Louis Brandeis Scholar, a Life Science Scholar, and her latest accolade is that she is a Beckman Scholar. My third daughter, Alyssa (19), loves dance, and she is on the competitive dance and drill team, the Kilgore College Rangerettes. My son, Wesley (15), is one helluva tuba player in the Bowie High School Band. My wife, Ann-Marie, became a National Board Certified Teacher a few years ago. She has been teaching biology (and sometimes chemistry) for 16 years at Bowie." Finally, Peter is "distressed to learn that the department offices will be moved in May. Doesn't the philosophy faculty and staff *own* the sixth floor of Dale Hall Tower?"

DAVID (KYLE) JOHNSON (Ph.D. '06) continues as assistant professor of philosophy and King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Penn., but will be standing for tenure next year. (Best wishes, Kyle!) He recently published "God, Fatalism, and Temporal Ontology" (2009), an article length version of the major argument in his dissertation. He also reports: "I've presented at numerous conferences; most recently I presented a paper that derails skeptical theism at the eastern meeting for the Society of Christian Philosophers at Fordham." He continues to work heavily on the intersection of philosophy and pop culture. "William Irwin and I recently edited *Introducing Philosophy Through Pop Culture*, for Wiley-Blackwell. It is a compendium textbook that can be used with any Introduction to Philosophy textbook and that helps the professor use pop culture to interest undergraduates in philosophy. I am currently editing *Inception and Philosophy* for the same publisher. I still host my philosophy and pop culture podcast (with Jay Kelly) at philosophyandpopculture.com. I am also recently started blogging for *Psychology Today*. You can find me under the heading 'Plato on Pop.'"

MARY ANNE WINN MCGEE (BA '73) graduated from OU Law School in 1976. She reports, "My family and I own a small independent oil and gas production company. My daugher, Caitlynn McGee (BA '09), presently is attending OU Law School and will graduate in 2012. And they told me a philosophy degree was worthless. Anyway, it was the best background I could have had, and I enjoyed it, too."

TIM MILLER (Ph.D. '07) had a paper, "Continuous Creation and Secondary Causation: the Threat of Occasionalism," appear recently in *Religious Studies* 47 (2011): 3-22. In addition to this, he and his wife, Beth, travelled to China in December and adopted a boy, Qun Bao. Tim reports that Qun Bao just turned 4 in February and is keeping them very busy!

BRINT MONTGOMERY (Ph.D. '02) was promoted in January to full Professor at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma City. He continues to run the Philosophy program there, and now is in his 15th year of teaching. In related news, he has noticed a sudden increase in committee assignments.

MICHAEL SILBERSTEIN (Ph.D. '94) gave a number of presentations this year and had several works recently appear in print, including "Complexity and Extended Phenomenological-Cognitive Systems," target article in *Topics in Cognitive Science: Special Issue on the Role of Complex Systems in Cognitive Science,* Guy Van Orden and Damien Stephen, Editors; "The Dialectic of King and X in Do The Right Thing in *The Philosophy of Spike Lee: Series on The Philosophy of Popular Culture*, Mark Conrad, Editor, The University Press of Kentucky; "Why Neutral Monism is Superior to Panpsychism" in *Mind and Matter: an International Interdisciplinary Journal of Mind-Matter Research*; and "In Defense of Eternalism: The Relativity of Simultaneity and Block World" in *Space, Time, and Spacetime - Physical and Philosophical Implications of Minkowski's Unification of Space and Time*, Daniel Peterson and Michael Silberstein (Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York 2010).

WILLIAM WHITE (M.A. '07) reports: "After I finished at OU I moved to Chicago and got another MA in Biblical Exegesis at Wheaton College. I finished that degree in May 2010 and in July married a German named Tanja. Tanja already had a daughter, who turned 9 in April, and thus I am now a husband and a father. I moved to Berlin shortly after the wedding and since that time I have been learning German, which I have become quite fluent in. This summer (July) we will move to the States for a year and during this time we will be visiting family and friends. We are also using this year to raise financial support in order to return to Berlin as missionary pastors. While in the States, we will be traveling; however, we will be living in Oklahoma, just south of Norman. In the next couple of years we are planning to have a couple more children and I'm planning to do my Ph.D. after five years or so of working in Berlin. My wife and I share an email address: willandtanja@gmail.com. I also have a personal email: williamjohnwhite@gmail.com. We would love to hear from anyone. I'm sure I'll come to visit the department when we are settled in Oklahoma."

Faculty News

NEERA BADHWAR, who is now Professor Emeritus and much missed in the department, recently published a review of Anita Superson's *The Moral Skeptic in Ethics* and has an article on moral character forthcoming in the *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*. She also presented "Autonomy as a Morally Admirable Trait" at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference at the University of Colorado, and at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. Her book, *Happiness as the Highest Good*, is (of necessity) coming to an end, as Georgia State University is hosting a conference on it in August. On the personal front, she says that she and her husband Larry bought a lovely house in an even lovelier neighborhood in which the neighbors actually know (and like) each other. Taking advantage of a conference Down Under last fall they took in some snorkeling in the sublime Great Barrier Reef and are now passionate novices. Grandchildren Annika and Aidan keep them amused and fascinated with their endless inventiveness at play and fresh-eyed observations.

HUGH BENSON currently is the Leverhulme Visiting Research Professor at Kings College London (yes – London, England!) and reports thoroughly enjoying himself and getting work done. He misses his wife, sons, friends, colleagues, dog, cat and the sun (in roughly that order), but is doing his best to take advantage of living in one of the most amazing cities in the world. He has given a series of lectures devoted to Platonic dialectic and, together with Professor M.M. McCabe, will be giving a seminar in late April and May devoted to the influence of Plato's *Republic* on the subsequent history of philosophy. He had three papers appear in print or online: "*Dialectic in the Republic*: The Divided Line 510b-511d" in *Cambridge Critical Guide to the Republic*, ed. M. McPherran (2010), pp. 188-208, "Socratic Method" in *Cambridge Companion to Socrates*, ed. D. Morrison (2011), and "The Problem Is Not Mathematics, but Mathematicians: Plato and the Mathematicians Again" *Philosophia Mathematica* (2011); doi: 10.1093/philmat/nkq029 – and gave a variety conference presentations, including "The Unhypothetical First Principle in Plato and Aristotle," at the International Plato Society in Tokyo, Japan.

STEVE ELLIS reports, "This has been a good academic year. My paper "The Cult of Efficiency in Corporate Law" (with Grant Hayden, Hofstra Law) appeared in the *Virginia Law and Business Review*. I debuted a new class - Justice in Society - that I really enjoy teaching. I also had the fascinating experience of coaching OU's Ethics Bowl team. Our Ethics Bowl triumphs are covered elsewhere in this newsletter, but I should point out that I had a great time getting to know our competitors, most of whom were Philosophy students."

RAY ELUGARDO published "Identity Through Change and Substitutivity *Salva Veritate*" (co-authored with Robert J. Stainton) in *Time and Identity,* edited by J.K. Campbell, et al. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2010): 113-128. In addition to that, Ray and his wife celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last summer. Congratulations to both Ray and Rose!

JIM HAWTHORNE was on sabbatical in 2009-2010. He says, "During that time I attended a workshop on probabilistic reasoning at the University of Leuven in Belgium, where I presented some of my work on probabilistic logic. I spent most of my time that year working on two new articles and a book. All of this work is on various aspects of the Logic of the Evidential Support for scientific theories. The articles are forthcoming in research journals, and can be found on my web page. The book is still in the works. I returned to teaching this past fall. I taught Intro Logic and a Phil of Science course, two of my favorite courses. I spent most of my research time working on the book and heavily revising my article on 'Inductive Logic,' which can be found online in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. That article is very comprehensive, and has grown to around 120 pages in hard-copy. I'm looking forward to a conference in Dusseldorf, Germany, in mid-May, where I'll be presenting work on a new 'qualitative logic of comparative evidential support' that can be shown to underlie the probabilistic Bayesian logic I usually work with. For logicians, the best part of conferences in Belgium and Germany is the discussion in the biergarten at the end of the day. A few really good biers, and the napkin-theorems will be flying !"

SHERRI IRVIN reports: "I spent a lot of 2010 hanging out with my favorite toddler, Zed, and honing my guitar skills: I can now play some songs, sort of. (Thanks to grad student Dave Spindle for lending and, later, selling me a really nice acoustic guitar.) I was invited to give the Seventh Annual Parodi Lecture in the Philosophy of Art, co-hosted by the University of Miami Philosophy Department and the Miami Art Museum. My visit to Miami was great: I got to check out the scene on South Beach, do studio visits with a couple of local artists, and study works in the Miami Art Museum's collection. I was invited to give my paper 'Artwork and Document in the Photography of Louise Lawler' at the Agency and Automatism conference at the Tate Modern in London, which is where I began my new project of exploring non-natural hair color. I published

one paper, 'Aesthetics as a Guide to Ethics,' in *Aesthetics Today: A Reader*, edited by Robert Stecker and Theodore Gracyk (Rowman & Littlefield, 2010). I also started work on a book, tentatively titled *Challenging Objects: A Philosophy of Contemporary Art*."

NEAL JUDISCH published two papers this year, "Descartes' Revenge Part II: The Supervenience Argument Strikes Back," in Bealer and Koons, eds. *The Waning of Materialism*, Oxford University Press, and "Bringing Things About," in Hazlett, ed., *New Waves in Metaphysics,* Palgrave Macmillan. On the philosophy of religion front, he presented an article titled "Divine Conservation and Human Agency" at the Rutgers/Notre Dame Philosophical Theology conference, and a paper called "Meticulous Providence and Gratuitous Evil" at the University of Arkansas Philosophy of Religion conference. He and his wife welcomed into the world their fifth child, Brendon Forrest Judisch, on June 17, 2010.

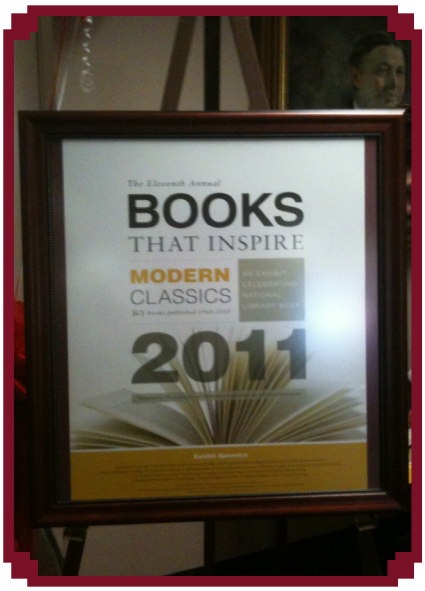
SHELLEY KONIECZNY continues her Herculean efforts to keep the department running and, more recently, keep it packing for the upcoming move. Her son, Alex, is now in middle school.

MARTIN MONTMINY published two papers: "Context and Communication: A Defense of Intentionalism," *Journal of Pragmatics* 42 (2010), 2910-2918; and "Two Contextualist Fallacies," *Synthese* 173 (2010), 317-333. In December, he presented the paper "The Case of the Missing Keys and Other Puzzles: Epistemic Modals and Indirect Weakened Assertions" at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting, in Boston. He also tried, with limited success, to teach Monte Cook how to swear in French Canadian.

AMY OLBERDING completed her Howard Foundation Fellowship and the book resulting from the year's leave, *Moral Exemplars in the Analects,* is forthcoming with Routledge Press. In a stroke of good timing, both she and her husband, Garret, received book contracts during Christmas week of last year, a his-n-her holiday gift that easily bested the prior year's set of new towels. Her newest project is an edited volume, the *Dao Companion to the Analects.* For that volume, she is writing an essay on moral failure as it is presented in the Analects and is discovering just how many are the ways people can go wrong. Finally, her daughter Adelein, age 8, is doing well and learning to cope with the ongoing disappointment that neither of her parents "write books about something interesting. You know, about horses."

WAYNE RIGGS was on sabbatical leave this last year. Consequently, he spent most of his time going around gleefully explaining to people that he was on sabbatical leave for the year. He also published some articles, gave some talks, organized some reading groups; but mostly he read a lot and worked on several papers that he will give during his upcoming European junket. (He has always wanted to go on a junket.)

HELENE SWEATT, who joined the department a couple of years ago as an administrative assistant, had her book and related essay selected for OU's Books That Inspire Exhibit. Her book selection and essay will be on display in Bizzell Memorial Library and she, along with other essayists, were honored at a reception this spring. The book she nominated for the exhibit is *Life is So Good*, and she writes, "I discovered *Life Is So Good* while I was a literacy volunteer at the Norman Public Library. Dawson's autobiography describes his life as the son of a farmer at the turn of the 20th century. He was the grandson and great-grandson of African American slaves. Dawson went to work at the age of 4 to help support his family and was, consequently, unable to attend school. Dawson kept his illiteracy a secret but had a lifelong dream to learn. In 1996, at the age of 98, his dream came true when a literacy volunteer knocked on Dawson's door and told him adult education courses were being taught a few blocks away. Mr. Dawson responded eagerly, 'Wait, I'll get my coat.' At the age of 102, he wrote *Life Is So Good* (co-written with Richard Glaubman), which was published in 2000 and received national media attention. This is a story about looking on the brighter side of life, that you're never too old to learn, and it's never too late to realize your dreams."

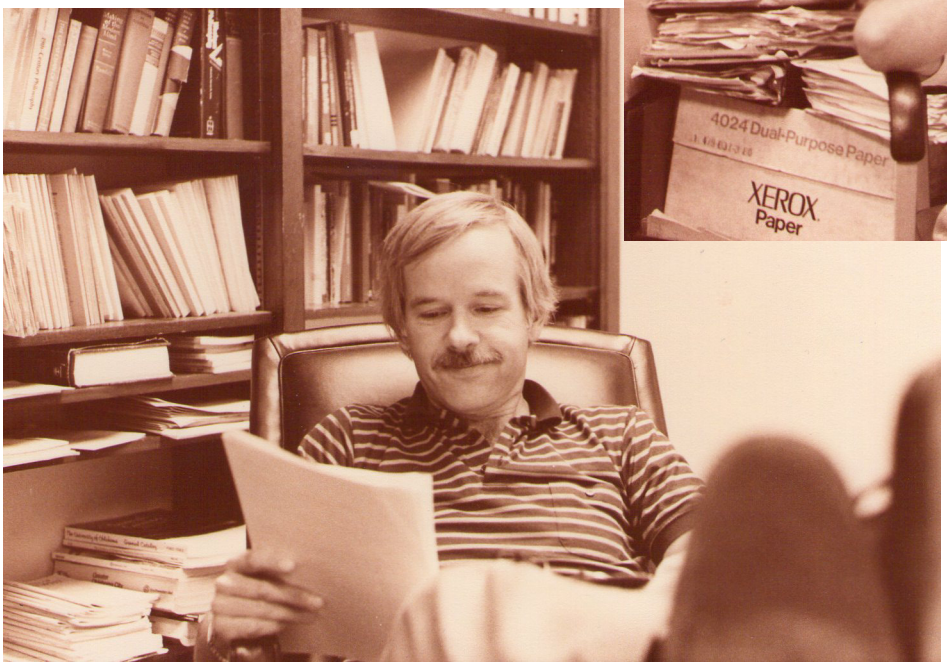


ZEV TRACHTENBERG has spent the spring term serving as acting chair, while Hugh Benson has been on leave in London. This brief stint has been full of activities, from not-so-fun things like routine administrative matters, to extremely rewarding things like concluding the search that is bringing our new colleague Emily McRae to Norman. All-in-all, this experience completely confirms what he has always been told: that in fact it is Shelley Konieczny, our administrative assistant, who is responsible for our department functioning at all. On the academic front, a highlight of the fall semester was his trip to Madison, Wis. (before all the excitement there), to give his talk "Rousseau as a Philosopher of Environmental History" as part of the Geography Department's Yi-Fu Tuan Lecture Series. This spring, he was thrilled to be selected for a Fulbright Award to do research on environmental political theory at Queen's University Belfast in during Spring Term, 2012. He also continues on the Planning Commission for the City of Norman, serving as chairman during 2010.

LINDA ZAGZEBSKI, as noted above, has a Guggenheim Fellowship for next year. In addition to that honor, she also will be giving the nine Kaminski lectures at the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, in May, followed by the three Olaus Petri lectures at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. She reports, "I am deep at work on my book, *Epistemic Authority: A Theory of Trust, Authority, and Autonomy in Belief,* which is based on my Wilde lectures, given at Oxford last May 2010. I've published several papers this past year and have spoken at Baylor University, the University of Colorado, the University of Georgia and the University of Tennessee, among others."

Editor's Note: Monte Cook and Chris Swoyer had not been heard from at press time. We fear they may have been packed into boxes for the move. However, we offer the following images of them, circa 1982, in order to carry us all over until we unpack the professors themselves.





University Overview

Created by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree-granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. The Norman campus serves as home to all of the university's academic programs except health-related fields. Both the Norman and health Sciences Center colleges offer programs at the Schusterman Center, the site of OU-Tulsa. The OU Health Sciences Center, which is located in Oklahoma City, is one of only four comprehensive academic health centers in the nation with seven professional colleges. OU enrolls more than 30,000 students, has more than 2,400 full-time faculty members, and has 21 colleges offering 163 majors at the baccalaureate level, 166 majors at the master's level, 81 majors at the doctoral level, 27 majors at the doctoral professional level, and 26 graduate certificates. The university's annual operating budget is $1.5 billion. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

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