

PHILOSOPHY

NORTHWESTERN

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Message from the Chair



The Department of Philosophy has completed another activity-filled year. As you'll read in this newsletter, our students shine at every level, our faculty are engaged on campus and around the world, and our workshops and conferences provide stimulating opportunities for our own community and beyond.

We were proud to learn that undergraduate major Jun Kyung You won an award for best paper at the UnterGang Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at the University of Oregon this spring. This is an example of the success our majors enjoy academically and professionally; they deliver papers at conferences,

participate actively in research, and pursue challenging, meaningful educational and career opportunities after graduation.

Even as our undergraduate program remains vibrant, we constantly think about ways to improve our students' experience and to enhance the value of their Northwestern degree, including

- insisting on the highest standards of scholarship so that a Northwestern BA in philosophy signals to prospective employers an ability to assess complex issues from all sides and to communicate effectively in speech and writing
- providing a greater variety of both lower- and upper-division courses so that students can delve into philosophical topics that capture their imagination
- recognizing superlative philosophical work
- supporting research opportunities and providing funds for the increasing number of student trips to present at national and international venues
- supporting the Undergraduate Philosophy Society and the still-recent tradition of giving philosophy department T-shirts to all majors

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PHILOSOPHY NORTHWESTERN

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NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Message from the Chair, continued

- connecting our majors to alumni and professional networks that can help them land on their feet after college
- creating more opportunities for faculty and majors to interact and philosophize in informal settings

Our ongoing initiatives include active groups such as the Undergraduate Philosophy Society and Women in Philosophy (WiPhi); the PhilFEST celebration of students who write senior theses; and annual lectures, including the Inclusiveness Lecture, the Distinguished Alumni Lecture, and the Bussey Lecture featuring a high-profile woman in philosophy.

In May the department hosted a fantastically successful conference, "Critical Theory in Critical Times," bringing together arguably the largest collection of critical theorists ever assembled. Also, as the departmental home of the Brady Program in Ethics and Civic Life, we sponsored the annual Brady Distinguished Visiting Professor Lecture Series; Steven Kelts, who is joining the Princeton faculty, gave three lectures about topics in ethics, political philosophy, and civic engagement. And, as always, our department offers cocurricular events open to the whole community, including workshops, reading groups, and conferences. Looking to next academic year, we heard the great news that several of our faculty received a grant from the Mellon Foundation to host a yearlong Sawyer Seminar about social epistemology.

The continued generosity of our alumni has enabled us to make this department an active, energetic, and welcoming environment. Gifts specifically earmarked to the philosophy department are used wholly to benefit our students and programs. A gift of \$1,000, \$500, \$100, or even \$25 makes a considerable difference; these contributions accumulate and can be used immediately for our students.

Thank you for your continuing friendship with the philosophy department and for your ongoing commitment to Northwestern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandy Goldberg".

Sanford (Sandy) Goldberg
Professor and chair

P.S. If you would like to make a gift online, please visit us at www.giving.northwestern.edu. You may also phone in a contribution to the development office at 847-467-3737.

Distinguished Alumni Lecturer Argues for “Philosophy Leaders” in All Areas



Delivering the philosophy department’s fourth annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture, Wendy Nelson (BA 91) stressed the need for “philosophy leaders” in business, politics, the world at large, and even parenting.

By preparing us to live with ambiguities, to act on reasoned decisions with confidence while recognizing the limits of our knowledge, philosophy educates us to address today’s biggest challenges, said the business leader, board member, and parent. She gave examples from her life of two such challenges.

One was her visit to a town in North Dakota that is struggling with the environmental, social, and educational effects of the state’s oil boom and the accompanying surge in population. She was there as a member of the board of the Bush Foundation, which helps communities grapple with large issues.

In a personal example, she described how, as a gay parent of two children, she worked tirelessly to oppose a Minnesota constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman. Reflecting on the success of the “Vote No” initiative, she argued that a powerful tool—and a core competence of the “philosophy leader”—is the capacity to listen respectfully to opposing sides even when one disagrees vehemently with their views.

Nelson spoke movingly of her time as a philosophy major at Northwestern. She came into philosophy by taking a course after a family tragedy, and she found that she loved the discussions and topics. Her family at first was ambivalent about her choice of a major, but her grandfather came around after seeking the opinion of his business and law friends, who responded favorably. (She thinks he assumed that she would follow the philosophy degree with law school.)

As a philosophy major, Nelson said, she sometimes felt like a fish out of water: most majors dressed in black and spoke about their angst; she was on the varsity tennis team and dressed the part. Yet she felt safe among people who were passionately driven to tackle complex, difficult, sometimes unresolvable issues.

Nelson’s postcollege career path was far from predictable. A possible career in tennis was cut short by injury. But not long after a coach suggested the “crazy” idea that she get into business, she returned to Northwestern to get an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management in 1999 and then worked in finance and capital management at the private equity firm Lake Capital in Chicago. She moved in 2003 to the hospitality and travel company Carlson, based in Minnesota, and worked in various executive capacities, including executive vice president of Carlson Hotels and executive vice president for brand strategy.

She sits on many for-profit and not-for-profit boards, including that of Minneapolis’s Guthrie Theater, and she has served as a Northwestern University trustee since 2005.

Conferences, Workshops, and Other Events

Conference Applies Critical Theory to Critical Times

Distinguished critical theorists presented cutting-edge work on aspects of current global crises at the international conference “Critical Theory in Critical Times,” hosted by the philosophy department in May with support from the Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies and other sponsors.

Keynote speaker Jürgen Habermas (emeritus, Goethe University) returned to Northwestern, where he had taught in the early 2000s, to offer new perspectives on the need and possibilities for transnational democracy. Other symposia featured speakers Amy Allen (Dartmouth), Seyla Benhabib (Yale), Wendy Brown (UC Berkeley), Rainer Forst (Humboldt), Nancy Fraser (Goethe), Rahel Jaeggi (New School), Christoph Menke (Goethe), and Charles Mills (Northwestern). Topics included the role of international human rights in strengthening democratic sovereignty, analysis and critique of the economization of political rights, the need to reconceptualize the critique of capitalism in our global era, and the need for critical theory to overcome its Eurocentric heritage and embrace critical race theory and postcolonial studies.

Professors Cristina Lafont and Penny Deutscher worked for almost a year to bring together the most interesting scholars in critical theory to discuss what the field has to offer in our times. Besides the speakers, the event attracted more than 300 participants from all disciplines across the humanities and the social sciences. The conceptual tools of the various strands of critical theory were put to the test, sharpened, and honed for the challenges at hand, often revealing

new ways of conceiving and connecting the diversity of explanatory paradigms encompassed in the tradition. “The participants had the unique opportunity to observe how the cutting edges of critical theory are being sharpened for the future,” Lafont said.

The concentrated expertise in critical theory among speakers and visitors produced remarks in the Q&A sections about “philosophy in the making.” The forthcoming volume of the proceedings is expected to be a new standard work in critical theory.

Epistemology Conference Hears Keynote on Empirical Justification

Louise Antony of the University of Massachusetts Amherst gave the keynote address, “From Causes to Reasons: On the Possibility of Empirical Justification,” at the fifth annual Northwestern–Notre Dame Graduate Epistemology Conference in April.

The joint conference allows up-and-coming scholars in epistemology to meet and share their research. This year graduate speakers came from St. Louis University, Purdue, Harvard, Michigan State, King’s College London, and the Universities of Maryland, Arizona, Massachusetts Amherst, Rochester, and Missouri–Columbia.

The conference was supported by the philosophy departments at Northwestern and Notre Dame, as well as Northwestern’s cognitive psychology department and Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities.

NUSTEP Conference Packed with Speeches

Two keynote addresses, five talks by faculty, and four talks by graduate students

made for a chock-full conference of the Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics in March.

NUSTEP’s eighth annual conference, held in the elegant setting of the John Evans Alumni Center, drew some of today’s most exciting moral philosophers at various career stages. Outstanding presenters, commentators, and attendees from around the country gathered for three great days of philosophy, conversation, and dining in downtown Evanston.

Keynoter Gary Watson of the University of Southern California spoke about the importance of having a life—leading a life one can call one’s own—as compared with being merely alive. Keynoter Tamar Shapiro of Stanford University spoke on desire and its connection with choice and will.

The event was organized by professors Kyla Ebels-Duggan, Richard Kraut, and Stephen White, along with several graduate students.

For more information about this and past NUSTEP conferences, visit www.philosophy.northwestern.edu/conferences/moralpolitical.

Mellon Grant to Fund Sawyer Seminar on Social Epistemology

A grant of \$175,000 from the Mellon Foundation will fund the 2014–15 Sawyer Seminar’s yearlong investigation of “What Do We Know? Theoretical Issues in Social Epistemology.” In addition to the seminar sessions, the award will provide for reading groups, new courses in social epistemology, and the hosting of a postdoctoral fellow (Matthew Kopec, University of Wisconsin PhD) and two predoctoral fellows (Casey Johnson and Nick Leonard) who research related topics.

Philosophy faculty members Fabrizio Cariani, Jennifer Lackey, Baron Reed, and Sandy Goldberg received the award along with colleagues Steven Epstein of sociology and Uri Wilensky of learning sciences and computer science.

The Sawyer Seminar in 2014–15 will focus on the nature of knowledge communities and the social dimensions of knowledge production. Solutions to environmental, political, educational, health, and economic challenges demand the best of what we know. But how much do we know, and what happens when experts disagree about what we know? In each of the relevant fields (environmental science, educational theory and practice, and so forth), a sense of understanding—that is, how information is acquired, stored, shared, dissected, and ultimately vindicated as knowledge—is needed.

This topic will be addressed in the Sawyer Seminar's four conferences and related quarter-long reading groups. The seminar will be convened by the philosophy department and coorganized with faculty from the broader social epistemology community at Northwestern. Leading US and international thinkers from different disciplines will participate, including history, economics, computer science, public policy, sociology, education policy, library science, cognitive science, psychology, technology studies, learning sciences, and law. Events will be targeted to the whole Chicago-area social epistemology community. Each conference will draw faculty from Chicago-area universities as discussants.

For further details, see www.philosophy.northwestern.edu/sawyer.



Some Graduating Seniors Share Their Plans

“I will be working in the profession of law to find out whether a law career is right for me. If everything works out well, I will go to law school afterwards.”

—**Leigh Brissenden**

“As sad as I am to be leaving Northwestern, I am also very excited about my next steps. Starting in the fall I’ll be working as a consultant at Bain and Company. Although I’ll be doing a fair amount of traveling, I’ll continue calling Chicago home.”

—**Hyunjun Kim**

“I will be attending the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, with the hope of becoming a physician. I am excited to learn to provide compassionate and knowledgeable patient-centered care, and I am open-minded about exploring many different medical fields. I hope that the critical thinking skills that I have learned as a philosophy major here at Northwestern will help me to achieve these goals.”

—**Laura Ledvora**

“I am pursuing a career in medicine and starting at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine in August.”

—**Kevin Lewis**

“I will be returning to where I grew up in New York City to pursue a career in learning and organizational development. Though my immediate plans remain uncertain, I am excited to begin work in the field and later to go to graduate school in organizational psychology, followed by a career in facilitation and team and leadership development.”

—**Daniel Liss**

“I’ll be going to Sierra Leone to teach English with the Peace Corps [before applying to graduate school in philosophy].”

—**Daniel Olson**

“I will continue to live in Chicago as I conduct research at Northwestern and develop my startup nonprofit Spark Clean Energy. I will soon be applying for academic fellowships, with the hope of starting postgraduate education in fall 2015.”

—**Mark Silberg**

Groups Report on Year's Activities



After-Life of Phenomenology Research Workshop

The ongoing influence of phenomenology was the focus for the third year of the After-Life of Phenomenology Research Workshop. The fall workshop examined early French and Francophone receptions of German phenomenology; winter, the contemporary French engagement with phenomenological concepts; and spring, the difficult legacy of Martin Heidegger's political thought and commitments. The sessions drew participants from across the humanities disciplines at Northwestern, as well as from Loyola University Chicago and DePaul University.

Cosponsored by the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the workshop hosted scholars including Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Columbia), recent Northwestern PhD Deborah Goldgaber (LSU), Donna V. Jones (UC Berkeley), Paul Livingston (New Mexico), David Nowell Smith (East Anglia), and Julia Ireland (Whitman College). It partnered with the

Critical Theory Cluster to bring in Catherine Mills (Monash), Estelle Ferrarese (Strasbourg), and Amy Allen (Dartmouth). Speakers presented work on Henri Bergson, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Georges Canguilhem, Alain Badiou, and Martin Heidegger.

Philosophy PhD candidate Morganna Lambeth will direct the workshop in 2014–15.

Ancient Philosophy Consortium

The Chicago–Area Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy Consortium is fortunate that the Midwest region has one of the world's foremost concentrations of scholars working on ancient Greek and Roman philosophy. Papers from scholars at Northwestern, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola, the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Notre Dame, and other Midwestern universities were discussed at the consortium's monthly meetings this year.

Philosophy Climate Committee

The Climate Committee, a department initiative to raise awareness of the challenges of underrepresented and marginal-



ized groups and ensure that their members are fully integrated into the Northwestern philosophy community, hosted speaker Rebecca Kukla (pictured), professor and senior research

scholar at Georgetown University's Kennedy School of Ethics, for the annual Inclusiveness Lecture at the start of the academic year. Kukla's topic was "Making Insiders and Outsiders: Constituting Communities through Peripheral Speech."

The Climate Committee also hosted a tea to welcome prospective students and fostered several department-wide conversations about the departmental environment. Committee members in 2013–14 were Amy Flowerree (chair), Gretchen Ellefson, Carlos Periera di Salvo, Daniel Trujillo, and Cristina Lafont (faculty liaison).

Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy

G. W. F. Hegel was the focus of the Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy in 2013–14. Its annual workshop, held at cooperating institution Marquette University in Milwaukee, examined Hegel’s theoretical philosophy; Hank Southgate (Wisconsin–Madison), a Northwestern philosophy PhD, was a speaker. The consortium also sponsored a workshop on German Idealist philosophy of mind, a talk by internationally renowned Hegel scholar Paul Redding (Sydney), and a book discussion on Sally Sedgwick’s *Hegel’s Critique of Kant: From Dichotomy to Identity*.

In an exception from the Hegel theme, the group sponsored a talk by Stephen Engstrom (Pittsburgh) on Kant’s moral philosophy.

Epistemology Brownbag

Now in its fifth year, the Northwestern Epistemology Brownbag showcases the new work of established and emerging epistemologists from all around the world. Highlights from this year included Lizzie Fricker (Oxford) discussing unreliable testimony, Michael Lynch (Connecticut) on the possibility of rational persuasion, Jason Konek (Bristol) on the foundations of epistemic decision theory, Christina Van Dyke (Calvin) on Aquinas and knowledge in the afterlife, and Magdalena Balcerak-Jackson (Konstanz) on imagination and the a priori/a posteriori distinction.

Epistemology Brownbags are held at midday (noon–1:30 p.m.) on selected Wednesdays throughout the academic year.



Ancient Philosophy Workshop

Ancient Philosophy Workshop Welcomes Junior Faculty

Northwestern hosted a June workshop for six untenured faculty members—all working in ancient philosophy—from around the country. They were able to meet and discuss their current work and to have their papers reviewed by six junior faculty from the Chicago area. Topics included methodology in Aristotle’s ethics, the nature of desire in Stoic ethics, appetite in Plato, and mathematical entities in Aristotle.

Philosophy of Language and Linguistics Workgroup

Researchers came from near (University of Chicago and Northern Illinois University) and far (University of Latvia and Eötvös University in Budapest) to present their work to the Philosophy of Language and Linguistics (PhLing) workgroup in 2013–14.

Lilia Rissman (Chicago) gave a talk about the features of certain verbs. Lenny Clapp (Northern Illinois) defended a view of presupposition as a semantic phenomenon. John Mackay (Wisconsin–Madison) argued against the view that

the word “actually” behaves like actuality-operators in logic. Joshua Armstrong (Pennsylvania) advocated a semantics that can account for imprecise assertions. Brendan Balcerak-Jackson (Konstanz) considered the exist-



Joshua Armstrong

tence of semantic natural kinds. Jurgis Skilters (Latvia) presented his work on spatial cognition. Zsofia Zvolenszky (Eötvös) revisited her noted criticism of possible world semantics for modality. Graduates Derek Green (Northwestern) and Tim Grinsell (Chicago) presented work arising from their dissertations.



Michael Lynch

Continued on next page



WiPhi potluck attendees (above); Practical Philosophy Workshop participants Asaf Bar-tura (left) and Gent Carrabregu (top left)

Practical Philosophy Workshop

Participants in the Practical Philosophy Workshop, a forum allowing the Northwestern community to engage with innovative work in moral and political philosophy, were treated to essays on the limits on the right to procreate, democratizing of technology, conceptions of agency, the nature of moral reasons, moral and political solidarity, and many more topics in the group's fourth year. Among those invited to present works-in-progress were Anton Ford (Chicago) and Sarah Conly (Bowdoin College).

Women in Philosophy

WiPhi (Women in Philosophy) welcomed Julia Driver of Washington University in St. Louis in March to deliver the third annual Gertrude Bussey Lecture. Driver's talk, "Moral Complicity," was attended by about 60 faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates.

Driver asked what, if any, wrong can be done if one remains a bystander or stays silent while knowingly tolerating the commission of evil. Self-respect may suffer in such cases, but what actual harm is done? Driver suggested that the wrongfulness of complicity might have less to do with causing harm and more to do with publicly standing up for moral standards.

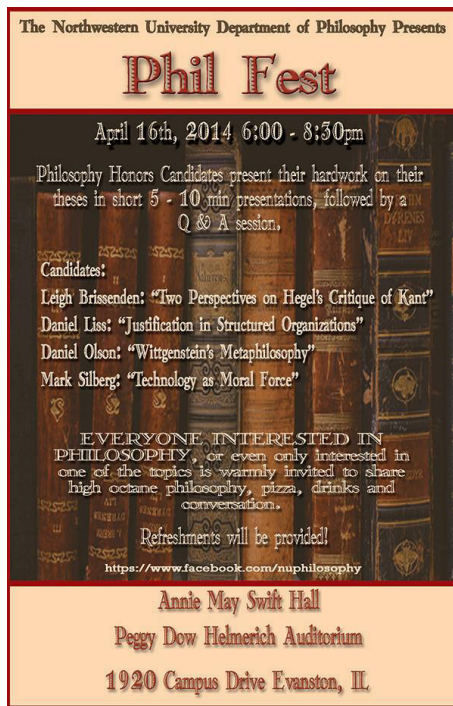
The Gertrude Bussey Lecture, named after a 1912 PhD graduate who was the first woman to receive a PhD in philosophy from Northwestern, is the highlight of WiPhi's annual activities. A prominent woman philosopher is invited to deliver the lecture and interact with students and faculty over two days.

WiPhi is a group of Northwestern women philosophy students and faculty who organize events and meetings that offer a supportive, engaging, and safe environment for all women interested in philosophy, not just majors and minors. Besides discussing philosophical topics,

the group talks about what it means to be a woman in philosophy and provides young women with role models in the profession.

In addition to regular biweekly meetings, events this year included a fall-quarter potluck with the Undergraduate Philosophy Society and other members of the philosophy department; faculty spotlight meetings in which Cristina Lafont and Jennifer Lackey discussed their research as well as their careers; and a presentation by graduate student Chelsea Egbert, in light of campus discussions on sexual assault and sexual harassment, on her research about sexuality and consent.

Undergraduate News



The Northwestern University Department of Philosophy Presents

Phil Fest

April 16th, 2014 6:00 - 8:30pm

Philosophy Honors Candidates present their hardwork on their theses in short 5 - 10 min presentations, followed by a Q & A session.

Candidates:

- Leigh Brissenden: "Two Perspectives on Hegel's Critique of Kant"
- Daniel Liss: "Justification in Structured Organizations"
- Daniel Olson: "Wittgenstein's Metaphilosophy"
- Mark Silberg: "Technology as Moral Force"

EVERYONE INTERESTED IN PHILOSOPHY, or even only interested in one of the topics is warmly invited to share high octane philosophy, pizza, drinks and conversation.

Refreshments will be provided!

<https://www.facebook.com/nuphilosophy>

Annie May Swift Hall
Peggy Dow Helmerich Auditorium
1920 Campus Drive Evanston, IL

Fifth PhilFEST Showcases Best Undergraduate Research

Four outstanding students presented the results of their senior theses at the fifth annual PhilFEST in April. They displayed a near-graduate level depth of analysis and breadth of topic-specific information in the 45-minute panel Q&A period in which they explained and defended their work.

Philosophy students consider PhilFEST one of the department's major festive events, and there was "philoso-FREE pizza" for the more than 40 students and faculty members attending from all over campus.

The four presenters—Leigh Brissenden, Daniel Liss, Daniel Olson, and Mark Silberg—received the traditional red roses. Here are the abstracts of their theses, each followed by comments from their supervisors.

Leigh Brissenden (Mark Alznauer, supervisor):

Two Perspectives on Hegel's Critique of Kant

Kant and Hegel are both idealists—which means that both acknowledge that our knowledge of objects is "shaped" by the conceptual means through which we correctly describe them when we know them. Kant is also famous for postulating "things in themselves," i.e., things outside the shaping through space and time. Hegel is famous for having complained that

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Attending and Presenting at a Conference: An Undergraduate's Experience

By Jun Kyung You

I presented a paper at the University of Oregon's Undergraduate Philosophy Conference May 17 and was fortunate to be one of four presenters who received an award for best paper. My paper, "Foundation of Morality: Denial of Utilitarianism and Introduction of Empathy," discussed Bernard Williams's critique of utilitarianism's reliance on negative responsibility, and how an empathetic moral system, although dependent on sentiment, is a viable replacement for utilitarianism in moral considerations. The paper was an extension of what I wrote during winter quarter for an introductory moral philosophy course under Professor Stephen White and teaching assistant Mark Thomson.

The one-day conference featured eight undergraduate papers that were selected through blind review out of a pool of 30 submissions from US and Canadian universities. Since the conference was not limited to any one topic, I was exposed to diverse ideas in philosophy ranging from Plato to Foucault. Especially insightful was the keynote address, "Immanent Critique and the Case of Puerto Rican National Identity," by Rocio Zambrana, an assistant professor at the University of Oregon.

Traveling across the country to present on a matter that I had pondered about, and conversing with other undergraduates who put similar devotion into their papers, was an enlightening experience. I was able to catch a glimpse of the life of an academic thanks to this opportunity.

if things in themselves are what we want to know, then, Kant argues, we can't (*nomen est omen*). Recent discussions—between Pippin and Ameriks, two contemporary interpreters—allow a better judgment about who is right and what went wrong in the philosophy of the one who isn't.

In her extremely delicate weighing of the arguments in these abstract matters, Leigh Brissenden showed in her compelling presentation who is right in what respects—and it was not only Hegel's critique, but also Ameriks, and Pippin to a certain degree, and Kant himself, too. Idealism's fate isn't settled yet.

Daniel Liss (Jennifer Lackey, supervisor):

Justification in Structured Organizations

What do the judgment of a jury under legal evidential constraints, a poll about the performance of a commuter train conductor, the cognitive merit of the scientific community upon losing track of an important paper, and an unopened package containing an award have in common? They all shed light on, and productively disarm many of the assumptions we make about, group justification. This is the state of a community allowing us to correctly attribute justified belief to a group, as in “the jury was justified by the evidence at hand in their verdict of innocence.” What does this mean for each member of the group, and how does individual belief aggregate into group belief? Was the jury justified, after all, or was it not?

Given that none of the approaches to these questions are without drawbacks, Daniel Liss answered such questions by developing a new conception of group justification out of the strengths of existing proposals—so that the jury, even though each of its members knows from independent evidence that the accused is guilty, nonetheless can be justified (by the evidential standards) in acquitting the accused. Naturally, this raised controversy and discussion. And it earned Liss's thesis the Hull Prize as best thesis and a presentation at this year's Northwestern Undergraduate Research Expo.

Daniel Olson (Axel Mueller, supervisor):

Wittgenstein's Metaphilosophy

Wittgenstein asked ever more trenchant questions regarding the status of philosophy. Philosophers often claim to discover what we ought to accept—against all appearances, in spite of scientific practice—by merely conceptual and logical means. But what is philosophy itself? Is it a science? If so, what evidence

does it use and what constitutes its experimental and theoretical parts? If it isn't a science, how can it warrant its own methods and results? Maybe in the end it really isn't a form of learning or a route to getting things right. Hint: it still belabors the same old questions since Plato! But then what IS it? Could we not just skip the “eternal” questions if we can't answer them?

Daniel Olson's thesis tapped into heated current discussions about philosophy in epistemology, the philosophy of mind and metaphysics, and recent Wittgenstein interpretation to get clarity about these issues. Wittgenstein gained a reputation for reviving an ancient answer to concerns with philosophy's standing for analytic philosophers by saying that philosophy is not the attempt to answer questions but to get rid of the worries underlying the asking. According to the Wittgenstein stereotype, philosophy is nothing but therapy. However, Daniel Olson's use of recent research shows that neither that stereotype nor the purported answer is the whole story. Philosophy will go on, not in spite of but well within the best Wittgensteinian spirit.

Mark Silberg (Mark Sheldon, supervisor):

Technology as Moral Force

If ethics of human rights helps us answer the question of what protections we owe to one another by virtue of being humans all the same, then a question arises what we owe to nonhumans, if anything. But wait: current nonhumans *will* be humans! Future generations thus might already, by our own standards, have rights we owe them. But what if our actions in pursuit of securing today's human rights prevent the exercise of such rights, e.g., to a clean environment or a sustainable climate, by future generations? Can we be present centric, or is this, like racism, an undue exclusion? Can we resolve such paradoxical riddles at all, and if not, how can we justify today's political actions?

In an interdisciplinary blending of climate science, economics, and moral and ethical theory, Mark Silberg's thesis and presentation demonstrated why it is right to think that things look so bleak: because they are! Dissatisfied with the pseudo-existentialist resignation often found among participants in these debates, Silberg proposed a perspective that allows us to formulate precise locations at which to seek solutions, gives reason to hope, and, above all, does not rule out reason to act.

Two Graduating Seniors: An Exit Interview

In 2013–14 **Isabella Copeland** was president of WiPhi (Women in Philosophy) and **Daniel Liss** was copresident of the Undergraduate Philosophy Society.

Please tell us what you did in the philosophy department.

IC: As president of the Women in Philosophy group, an inclusivity initiative of the department, I aimed to encourage and support women interested in the study and practice of philosophy.

DL: I was a student in both philosophy and the School of Education and Social Policy's learning and organizational change program. Merging those two interests, I was able to specialize in collective epistemology, in which I wrote a senior thesis with Professor Jennifer Lackey. I was also one of the two presidents of the Undergraduate Philosophy Society, among other extracurricular commitments. I am very happy with the education and intellectual support I received from the philosophy department at Northwestern; working in and with the department was one of my favorite experiences during my four years.

When did your interest in philosophy start, and what triggered it?

IC: Before Northwestern, the study of philosophy did not mean anything to me. I had been pondering questions of identity, consciousness, and responsibility for a long time, though, and when I realized that these questions go back for thousands of years, and that there exist mountains of answers with wide-ranging consequences—all under the umbrella called “philosophy”—I knew I was home. My interest in philosophy was specifically triggered by a sense of camaraderie I had with a couple of authors who spoke on issues important to me—people who were putting my feelings into words. Nietzsche, Sartre, Beauvoir—all described my own thought-experiences in a way that validated and challenged them at the same time. It was like a friend saying, “Yes, I feel that too, but why? Is this right?”



2014 graduates Isabella Copeland and Daniel Liss

DL: My interest in philosophy started in an introductory class in high school. I found philosophy was a way to exercise my love of thinking critically about abstract theoretical problems. After coming to Northwestern I learned that, as a result of the quarter system, it would be easy to combine philosophy with my major in SESP, and I happily declared the second major.

What was your dream when you started planning your future in philosophy, and how, if at all, did it change after you joined the department and learned more about the field?

IC: My philosophy future was never planned; the study of philosophy felt more like a compelling desire rather than a formal, academic decision. My experience at Northwestern was initially rough; I was totally out of my element in the hyperacademic, competitive, stressed-out atmosphere. Reading philosophy helped me connect with my feelings of otherness, evaluate them logically and rigorously, and move forward. As I learn more about philosophy, my sense of philosophy's everyday utility has only gotten richer.

DL: I'm not sure I had a dream when I started my philosophy future at Northwestern. I was interested in philosophy because I found it fun. I think my only goals for my four years with the department were to learn, think, talk, and then, more broadly, have fun.

Continued on next page

What was your biggest surprise from thinking things through as a philosopher—the thing that would have looked weirdest to you when you started but now seems obvious?

IC: The Ship of Theseus still bothers me. If the ship Theseus had all its component parts replaced, if all the boards and sails were completely replaced by new boards and sails, can we still call the resulting ship Theseus? Is it fundamentally the same? Similarly, our cells regenerate every few years, but we do not consider ourselves fundamentally different, new people after each change. How do we claim identity?

DL: This is an interesting question. Perhaps the problem and related issues that I found most surprising are the difference between knowing something and knowing that you know something. After you think about the distinction, it seems quite obvious and logical, but the idea that you can know something, while at the same time be uncertain that you know that thing, was a very weird notion.

What was your best experience in doing or writing philosophy? Briefly describe what you said or wrote there, or the point it made to you, and why you still find it important.

IC: Writing philosophy is hard. I tend toward creative writing, which is often incompatible with philosophical essays. But what I lost in creativity, I gained in technical skill. A program in philosophy trains you to think better—more clearly, more precisely, more concisely. That clarity of mind definitely trickles into your daily speech, allowing for better conversations and connections, and overall makes you a cooler person.

Everyone has deep thoughts, and everyone has the potential to express those thoughts, but not everyone actually does it. There's something to be said about joining the ranks of thinkers who can express their complicated thoughts in an uncomplicated way. It has helped me in every communicative aspect of my life.

DL: The most rewarding experience I had in writing philosophy was my senior thesis with Professor Jennifer Lackey. The project allowed me to leverage my background and interest in group dynamics with rigorous philosophical discourse, and my adviser pushed me to make the thesis my best piece of writing ever. The project discussed when a group or organization justifiably believed something, and I think I came to a well-reasoned

and well-argued conclusion. Out of this process, I was excited and also at times a bit discouraged to find many theories in social science are a little slippery when subjected to the analytical tools of philosophy. Group relations theory is still valuable in understanding real phenomenon, but it would seem to me that a lot more work needs to be done to ground this kind of theory in real metaphysics and epistemology.

More generally, what is the best of philosophy for you—in life, in academics, as something simply great?

IC: The best of philosophy is its widespread application, beyond the ivory tower. One of the secret skills gained through the study of philosophy is the ability to engage the principles of your readings in the pressing conflicts in your life. I do not understand people who refuse to intermix the two; it seems like a wasted resource. I use philosophy to solve personal problems (and my friends' personal problems). For example, in a sticky relationship, I consult Sartre's "bad faith" arguments. Confronted with ignorance, I channel what I know about *ideologiekritik*, and sometimes, although problematically, I reflect on Kant's universal imperative as a social standard.

DL: Some of my favorite experiences in philosophy were as president of the Undergraduate Philosophy Society. Explaining a philosophical problem such that someone unfamiliar with it can feel the "pinch," and then leading a conversation around that topic, have been a lot of fun. It is exciting to see the power of a philosophical problem click for a younger student and then facilitate their engagement in philosophy.

Can you think of a situation where you thought, "Wow, I would not have been able to do/understand this had I not known philosophy?"

IC: Every human relationship.

DL: Without philosophy I can enjoy art, music, and theater; I can notice skillful execution and speak to how the art made me feel or think. After studying a bit of aesthetics, however, I can start to talk about whether the work was or was not a good work of art. More generally, philosophy helps me see a level deeper than what I otherwise would have experienced.

What would you say about philosophy that might interest people who aren't into it?

IC: There's something in philosophy for everyone. What baited me were the personal, moral aspects of philosophy like identity, power, and phenomenology, but there are also fascinating problems in areas of math, logic, science and, loosely understood, "left-brain" activities. You have to love a puzzle, though.

If there is a latent curiosity in any student at Northwestern, exploring that interest in the philosophy department is the best. The culture is that of unyielding support, constant encouragement, and positivity.

DL: I think studying philosophy has a lot of instrumental value in the cognitive and practical skills you learn. That said, instrumental value isn't what is going to make you interested in thinking about philosophy. Philosophy invites you to question what you think you know. It can point out your assumptions and give you the tools to think about them. I would encourage anyone who is interested in being interested in something to explore philosophy.

Do you have any warnings against philosophy for those same nonphilosophers?

IC: Prepare to spend four hours reading five pages of text and then find it impossible to explain what you read. Seriously, a common misconception about studying philosophy is that you are going to get it the first time around. No, it's hard! You have to work at cracking open these theories, but once you do, you're illuminated.

DL: Philosophy takes some energy and thought to even find it interesting in the first place. If you are more invested in taking the easy route and looking at the surface level of things, then you will probably end up lost in philosophy. On the other hand, I believe everyone is capable of thinking about philosophical questions. If you seriously engage with it, my hunch is that you'll find it rewarding.

Which three philosophical works should everyone read?

IC: Recommended reading for everyone: Nietzsche's aphorisms in *The Gay Science*, Schiller's *Naive and Sentimental Poetry*, and (not strictly philosophy) *The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge* by Carlos Castaneda. On my own reading agenda: Deleuze and Guattari, Derrida, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.

DL: First and foremost, I would recommend David Hume's *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* as something to frame the question "But what are we actually talking about here?" I would also encourage venturing into aesthetics. The topic doesn't need to be your specialization, but there is a lot in there that you can sink your teeth into.

What role does philosophy play in your life as you see it now? Do you expect that role to continue?

IC: There is no doubt that philosophy will continue to play a role in my life as a compass and a challenge. There's a mental database of interpretations of certain problems that I worry about—consciousness, identity, responsibility—that are constantly growing and competing, and they influence my decisions. It's nice to be able to have a library of practical advice to go to when I need it, and it's fun to put competing theories up against each other and really test their applicability. Northwestern will teach you how to judge a philosophical text based on cohesiveness and clarity, but I think you should always bring a philosophy into dialogue with your life for a real test of competence. If it doesn't work in real life, then why should it matter?

DL: As I mentioned earlier, philosophy helps me think critically about problems and not be satisfied with a surface-level description. Philosophy has also helped me become a better writer and, interestingly, a better storyteller. These are all capacities that I will certainly bring into my life wherever it takes me. Though I love philosophy, I plan on taking my career more in the direction of my interest in group dynamics. I hope to keep philosophy as a fun thing to think about whenever an opportunity presents itself. I also feel like I have enough of a background in the field now to notice these opportunities.

Graduate Student News



Graduate Students Drive Department Activities

Graduate students are active in the department, often organizing or helping run events and speaker series such as the annual Northwestern–Notre Dame Graduate Epistemology Conference, the Practical Philosophy Workshop, the Epistemology Brownbag, the Phenomenology and Perception Workshop, the Ancient Philosophy Workshop, the annual NUSTEP conference, and PhLing talks. They regularly participate in reading groups and hold a weekly tea for faculty and students.

In recent years they have been active in cultivating a more inclusive environment, an effort spearheaded by two groups, the Inclusiveness Committee and WiPhi (Women in Philosophy). The Inclusiveness Committee, made up of four elected philosophy graduate students and a faculty sponsor, is charged with providing an annual report on the inclusiveness of the department environment and organizing the annual Inclusiveness Lecture. WiPhi, a group organized by and for women, serves as a support group and organizes activities and events, including the annual Gertrude Bussey Lecture, which brings in a high-profile woman philosopher.

News Briefs

Raff Donelson presented “Practical Deliberation without Practical Reasons” at the Atlantic Region Philosophers’ Association Conference at Dalhousie University.

Three students presented papers at the Third Colombian Conference in Logic, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science in Bogotá: **Amy Flowerree**, “Epistemic Normativity: Authority and Guidance”; **Nick Leonard**, “Eliminative Individualism” (this paper also won the Philologica Prize for Young Scholars); and **Lauren Leydon-Hardy**, “Non-Factive Conjectivism for Reasons.” Flowerree also presented “Epistemic Agency: Some Hope” at the Doxastic Agency and Epistemic Responsibility Workshop in Bochum, Germany.

Deborah Goldgaber accepted a tenure-track position at Louisiana State University.

Derek Green presented papers at several recent conferences: “The Normativity of Mental Content: A Defense” at York University’s Sixth Graduate Conference in Philosophy; “The Normativity of Mental Content and the Source Objection” at the First Chicagoland Graduate Philosophy Conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago; and “Belief and the Normativity of Mental Content” at a colloquium session of the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association Central Division in Chicago. He accepted the position of visiting assistant professor at Oakland University.

Morganna Lambeth presented papers at Emory’s Graduate Conference and National University of Ireland’s “Conceptions of Causality” Workshop, and she studied German in Berlin with the help of a DAAD intensive language course grant. She was named a Graduate Writing Fellow at Northwestern’s Writing Program for 2014–15.

Seth Mayer presented talks at the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin–Parkside and is attending an intensive summer course, Human Rights, International Law, and Cosmopolitanism, at the University of Oslo. He will join Auburn University as a visiting instructor this fall.

Incoming Graduate Class Largest in Recent Years

This coming fall the philosophy department will welcome eight students—its largest entering graduate class in recent years—who were selected from more than 250 applicants (an acceptance rate of just 9 percent). Their research interests range from ethics to epistemology, ancient philosophy to European philosophy, and they come from as nearby as Milwaukee and as far away as Shanghai. They are **Abigail Bruxvoort** (BA, Houghton College), **Andrew Hull** (BA, Emory; MSt, Oxford), **Joshua Kissel** (BA, Wisconsin–Madison), **Hao Liang** (BA, Fudan University; MA, Wisconsin–Milwaukee), **Blaze Marpet** (BA, Eckerd College), **Alex Papulis** (BA, Washington in St. Louis; MA, Wisconsin–Milwaukee), **Kathryn Pogin** (BA, St. Thomas; MA, Notre Dame), and **Kyle Scott** (BA, Tufts).

Students and Alumni Reflect on Their Paths into and through the Field

Raff Donelson

“My interest in philosophy began when I was a first-year student at Williams College. I took a course on philosophical issues in death and dying—morbid, I know, but that wasn’t the only draw. I really liked thinking about how to come up with principled answers to guide behavior and to make evaluations in difficult situations.

“This specific interest in the ethics of end-of-life care blossomed into more general interests in ethics, practical reason, and the primary means by which we collectively instantiate our ideas of rightness and reasonability: the law.

“Northwestern has proved a wonderfully nurturing place to develop my ideas about these matters over the past three years, especially by affording me the opportunity to earn a JD at the law school while pursuing doctoral studies in philosophy.

“My dissertation argues for a new way to approach the ‘What is law?’ question. Instead of looking for the essence of law, I argue that we should investigate the features of law that make it normatively important to us.

“In addition to doing my research and coursework, I am a graduate fellow in legal studies, and I cochair both the Practical Philosophy Workshop and the Law School’s Faculty Relations Committee.”

Rebecca Mason

“As a college freshman, I enrolled in an introduction to philosophy class on a whim. Little did I know that I had been pondering philosophical questions for years: Do I freely choose to do my homework, or was my decision predetermined? Are colors in the world or in my head? Why is there something rather than nothing? When I discovered that there was a whole discipline devoted to answering these questions, I was hooked.

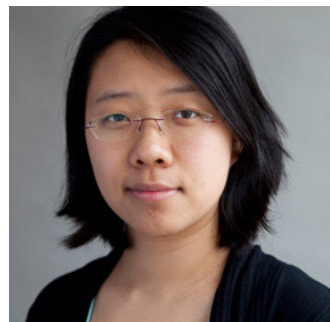
“I now work primarily in the philosophy of language, but my research extends to issues in metaphysics, epistemology, and feminism. Early on I had interests in each of these areas, but it wasn’t until I began my PhD at Northwestern that I began to see how they fit together.

“Being a PhD student in the Northwestern philosophy department has afforded me the opportunity to learn from faculty with expertise in a wide variety of areas, and this has significantly enriched my dissertation research. I am also fortunate to have mentors and colleagues who are both enthusiastic about my research and deeply committed to my philosophical and professional development.

“My dissertation is about the nature of social reality and the words we use to talk about it. Social kinds like money are supposed to be different from natural kinds like water in that the existence of the former depends in some way on what humans do, say, or believe, whereas the existence of the latter does not. In my dissertation, I argue that social kinds do not depend on us in any interesting or important sense. Indeed, social kinds are more like natural kinds than previously thought. This metaphysical argument paves the way for a semantic one. I argue that reference to social kinds, like reference to natural kinds, is secured by a causal relation between a speaker’s use of a social kind term and the social kind itself. Finally, I argue that the causal theory of reference, once applied to social kind terms, reveals new forms of epistemic injustice. These injustices help to explain why, for instance, partner rape is the least-reported violent crime and why, when it is reported, it is rarely prosecuted.”

Sisi Wei

Alumna Sisi Wei (journalism, philosophy, and legal studies 11) worked after graduation as a graphics editor at the Washington Post, designing and developing interactive graphics. She is currently a journalist,



designer, and developer at ProPublica, writing articles and creating public-interest news apps.

“I’m really happy to be working at ProPublica. Every day I feel the importance of our watchdog accountability mission in the work I and my colleagues do. It’s pretty amazing. I believe that trans-

forming complex information into easily comprehensible parts can be a beautiful thing.

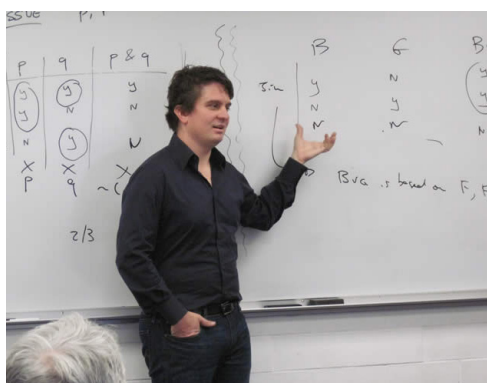
“A major in philosophy has been useful to me every day. When I code, I am often writing the same types of logic proofs we did in our first logic course. When I’m narrowing down the scope of a visualization, my philosophy background helps give me the conceptual clarity to find and tease out the key points of a story for visual representation.

“Three of my teammates also double-majored in philosophy, and once in a while we find ourselves debating anything from Kant to the Übermensch to the Ship of Theseus.”

Faculty News

Mark Alznauer's first book, *Hegel's Theory of Responsibility*, will be published by Cambridge in January 2015. He is coediting a collection of essays, *Theories of Action and Morality*, with José Torralba (Navarra) and writing an essay on Hegelian social theory. His next project will be on Hegel's concept of absolute spirit. Last year he taught courses on post-Kantian ethics and critical theory.

Fabrizio Cariani submitted this update with a day-old daughter in his arms. During the last year he spoke at conferences in such gorgeous places as Croatia and Costa Rica. He worked hard on a foursome of papers and focused a lot of energy on conditional "if-then" statements and on the meaning of evaluative adjectives like "good." He also helped organize three major conferences: the 2015 Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association, the 2014 Formal Epistemology Workshop, and the DEON conference on deontic and normative systems.



For two months **Penelope Deutscher** was the Marie-Jahoda Visiting Chair in International Gender Studies at the Institut für Medienwissenschaft Ruhr-Universität Bochum, where she held an Alexander von Humboldt Renewed



Research Fellowship. She gave talks at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry in Berlin, the University of Frankfurt, and other German universities; the University of Strasbourg; Columbia University; and a number of conferences in Paris, New York, and elsewhere. Another highlight was keynoting the annual Feminist Theory Workshop at Duke University. At Northwestern she was codirector of the Critical Theory Cluster in 2013–14. She published essays and articles on Beauvoir, Wollstonecraft, and feminist political philosophy. She has been coediting a collection of essays on Foucault and Derrida, forthcoming from Columbia University Press, and completing the manuscript *Foucault's Children*.

Kyla Ebels-Duggan visited the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in the spring through a research fellowship. The fellowship provided her time to work on a project concerned with Kantian views of moral psychology and virtue and associated accounts of moral development and moral education. In addition to the time to write, Ebels-Duggan enjoyed being in the university's philosophy department and in the beautiful ancient town of St. Andrews and attending the annual Edgecliffe Cup football match. She has completed a paper on Kant's philosophy of religion, to be published in *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion*, that offers a new interpretation of Kant's claim that morality leads to religion. In other activity, she presented work on the philosophy of education at two conferences in summer 2013. In a paper that will soon appear in *Social Philosophy and Policy*, she argues that it is confused and misleading to contrast traditionalist approaches to education that communicate a particular normative outlook with progressive approaches that develop skills of critical reasoning. Implementing the goal of teaching students *how* to be good thinkers requires substantive normative stands on *what* good thinkers think. Ebels-Duggan taught the proseminar for second-year graduate students on the topic of Kantian ethics; an undergraduate seminar in the Brady Program in Ethics and Civic Life; and a new advanced undergraduate class in philosophy of education, integrating with her research in that area.

Sean Ebels-Duggan taught his usual introductory logic class in the fall, as well as a seminar for first-year students on moral philosophy. In the winter he taught a new class on philosophical paradoxes. In spring he went to Oslo to present joint work (with Sean Walsh, UC Irvine) on logicism. He also read Harry Potter in a variety of accents to his children while his family was in Scotland.

David Ebrey gave talks at Humboldt University (Berlin), Central European University (Budapest), Oxford, and the American Philosophical Association Central Division meeting in Chicago. He published papers in the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Apeiron*, and *British Journal of the History of Philosophy* on Aristotle's logic, material causes in Plato and Aristotle, and a Platonic puzzle about how inquiry is possible. He also organized the Northwestern Junior Faculty Ancient Philosophy Workshop.

Michael Glanzberg is continuing his research on the nature of linguistic meaning and its connections to cognition and on theories of truth and paradox. He also began a project with Ezra Cook (Northwestern) and Jeffrey C. King (Rutgers) on the nature of binding and composition in natural language. He published papers on explanation in semantics, the concept of truth, and the place of logical consequence in natural language. He gave talks in Croatia, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, and several universities and conferences in the United States. He is an associate editor of *Linguistics and Philosophy* and serves on the board of the Center for Cognitive Sciences and Semantics at the University of Latvia, the *Perspectives in Logic* book series for the Association

for Symbolic Logic, and other journals. He serves on the organizing committees for the sixth Graduate International Summer School in Cognitive Sciences and Semantics (July 27–29, 2014); the 10th Symposium on Cognition, Logic, and Communication (September 13–14, 2014); and Philosophy of Linguistics and Language Interuniversity Center events held in Croatia and Latvia.

Sandy Goldberg spent the year worrying. He worried about whether his views on philosophical matters (epistemic luck; culpable ignorance; our dependence on others) were defensible; whether the Yankees would ever start playing good baseball; whether he would find his warm gloves in time for next winter; and whether life really is a story full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. He worried while lecturing in front of audiences, as well as in the privacy of his own office (where his anxiousness was enhanced by the joy of being able to mutter to himself). And he worried at various times throughout the day, including lunchtime, dusk, but perhaps most of all at 3 a.m. (often in a hotel room in a city far, far from home). While he wasn't worrying, he took great pleasure in pacing back and forth. One thing he no longer has to worry about: his book on assertion is complete and is due to be published in 2015. (Or is it?)

Among **Richard Kraut's** publications in 2013 were two in the field of ancient Greek philosophy: "Aristotle and Rawls on the Common Good," in *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle's Politics*, edited by Marguerite Deslauriers and Pierre Destrée; and "An Aesthetic Reading of Aristotle's Ethics," in *Politeia: Essays in Honour of Malcolm Schofield*,

edited by Verity Harte and Melissa Lane. He also presented "Against Democracy: Plato's Argument Revived" in a conference at Santa Clara University on Plato's *Republic*. Outside of ancient philosophy, he was published on "Happiness, Suffering, and Death" in *Oxford Handbook of the History of Ethics*, edited by Roger Crisp. He was keynote speaker at the Swedish National Congress in Stockholm and defended his book *Against Absolute Goodness* against three critics in an issue of *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

Jennifer Lackey is writing a book, *The Epistemology of Groups*; coedited *The Epistemology of Disagreement: New Essays*; and is editing *Collective Epistemology*, all with Oxford University Press. She published papers in various journals and collections on testimony, group epistemic states, religious epistemology, assertion, and lies. She took over as editor-in-chief of *Episteme: A Journal of Individual and Social Epistemology* and became an editorial board member of *Oxford Studies in Epistemology*. She continues work as associate editor of *Philosophical Studies*, epistemology subject editor for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, and editorial board member of *Thought, Epistemology and Philosophy of Science*, and *Studies in Epistemology*. She was elected an at-large member of the board of officers for the American Philosophical Association in the first-ever association-wide vote for the position. She won a fellowship through the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities and (with Sandy Goldberg, Fabrizio Cariani, Steven Epstein, and Uri Wilensky) a Mellon Foundation Grant for a Sawyer Seminar in social epistemology. She was the keynote speaker at

Continued on next page

conferences at the University of Texas at Austin; the University of Missouri–St. Louis; the University of Edinburgh; and the Third Columbian Conference in Logic, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science in Bogotá. She also has presented or will present her work at a number of conferences and institutions in the United States as well as Bled, Slovenia; Salvador, Brazil; St. Andrews, Scotland; San José, Costa Rica; Oxford and Bristol, England; Mainz, Germany; Moscow; Barcelona; and Melbourne.

Returning from a year as a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, **Cristina Lafont** resumed teaching at Northwestern on democracy after globalization and other topics in political philosophy. She published articles on her research in contemporary democratic theory and the role of religion in the public sphere; they included “Deliberation, Participation, and Democratic Legitimacy: Should Deliberative Minipublics Shape Public Policy?” in the *Journal of Political Philosophy* and “Religious Pluralism in a Deliberative Democracy” in *Secular or Post-secular Democracies in Europe? The Challenge of Religious Pluralism in the 21st Century*, edited by F. Requejo and C. Ungureanu. She was invited to speak at conferences in Oslo, Hamburg, Macau (China), Rio de Janeiro, Yale University, Princeton University, the New School for Social Research, and Boston College, where she delivered the Clough Distinguished Lecture in Jurisprudence. A high point of her academic activities was coorganizing (with Penny Deutscher) the international conference “Critical Theory in Critical Times” that gathered distinguished critical theorists.

After a year of teaching, academic work, and conference participation in Germany as DAAD Professor and Affiliate at the Wissenschaftskolleg (Berlin), **Axel Mueller** resumed his work as the department’s director of undergraduate studies and honors convener. He was glad to see how many undergraduate initiatives (such as Women in Philosophy, the honors program, the course structure, the Barcan Marcus logic clinic) are living autonomously and are helpful resources. He was busy writing grant proposals to support these and organizing and reforming student representation at the college level. He has learned an enormous amount about the importance of Title IX for academic freedom. He has two articles forthcoming. One in press is about the structure of democratic legitimation in supranational organisms like the EU; the other, being finished for the *Zeitschrift für Semiotik*, criticizes Robert Brandom’s conception of demonstratives and their semantics. He continues work on an article on Jane Addams’s anticipation of pragmatist themes in political philosophy and on articles on Kant’s semantic externalism and position on skepticism.

Baron Reed gave papers at the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow and in Bled, Slovenia. He published papers on fallibilism, skepticism, and epistemic agency and epistemic possibility. He edited a volume on epistemic agency for *Philosophical Issues* and for Bloomsbury is coediting (with Diego Machuca, National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina) a volume on the skeptical tradition. He taught a graduate seminar on epistemic and undergraduate classes on the history of early modern philosophy and on skepticism.

Kenneth Seeskin continues to serve as chair of the Department of Religious Studies. His recent research has taken him into the relation between Maimonides and Spinoza. He is also at work on philosophical interpretations of the Hebrew Bible, including such questions as “Can God be the subject of a contingent proposition?” “Can love be commanded?” and “Does *ought* really imply *can*?” He is scheduled to be on leave in 2014–15.

Mark Sheldon serves as chair of the board of ethics of the city of Evanston, continues to provide clinical ethics consultations at Rush University Medical Center, and meets with third-year Feinberg School of Medicine students who do their internal medicine rotation at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in downtown Chicago. He was recently elected to the executive board of the International Center for Academic Integrity and presented the talk “A Model for Inter-Institutional Cooperation on Academic Integrity for Online Consortium Classes” at the center’s yearly meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. The paper identifies ways in which partnered universities, with different approaches to and processes for dealing with academic integrity, can work together in relation to certain fundamental values. Sheldon is associate editor of the *Philosophy and Medicine Newsletter* of the American Philosophical Association.

Stephen White developed a new course on the modern social contract tradition in political philosophy, focusing on the work of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Hume. He also taught a graduate seminar about how we explain the intentional

actions of human beings. He delivered papers on rationality and action at the American Philosophical Association annual meeting and at York University in Toronto and was an invited participant at a workshop on a book manuscript by moral, political, and economic theorist A. J. Julius. He helped organize the NUSTEP conference in March, where he delivered comments on an excellent talk by Ohio State's Abraham Roth.

Rachel Zuckert enjoyed teaching three new courses in 2013–14: an introductory philosophy of art course, a first-year seminar on the philosophy of work and money, and an upper-level course on Hegel's and Adorno's aesthetics. She says the students were wonderful, exemplifying the great rewards of working at Northwestern. She gave a talk at an idealism and naturalism workshop at Columbia University in fall 2013 and has been working on a book project on the aesthetic theory of J. G. Herder, an 18th-century German philosopher.

University of Illinois Scholar Will Be Brady Visiting Professor

The Brady Distinguished Visiting Professor in 2014–15 will be Helga Varden, associate professor of philosophy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The visiting professor presents a series of public



lectures on a topic about which he or she is conducting research, teaches a sophomore seminar, and helps seniors with their collaborative service project. Varden specializes in legal and political philosophy, Kant's moral philosophy, feminist philosophy, and applied ethics.

The previous Brady Distinguished Visiting Professor, Steven Kelts, lectured in April and May on "Covetousness and Capitalism: John Locke's Republican Ambivalence to Money." He is planning a book-length treatment of the subject. Kelts received a PhD in political science from Stanford University in 2002 and taught at George Washington University before joining the Brady Program. He has accepted an appointment at Princeton University.

A three-year undergraduate program, the Brady Scholars Program has important ties to the philosophy department. Professor Richard Kraut became program director in 2013; philosophy graduate students Seth Mayer, Lee Goldsmith, and Amy Flowerree have mentored program undergraduates; faculty members Kyla Ebels-Duggan and Cristina Lafont have taught sophomore seminars; and Ebels-Duggan and Mark Sheldon serve on the program's faculty advisory board, as did Sandy Goldberg for many years.

The program aims to help undergraduates become reflective, cosmopolitan, and resourceful democratic citizens. Sixteen first-year students are admitted and as sophomores take three seminars designed to ground them in moral and political philosophy: *The Good Life*, *The Moral Life*, and *The Good Society*. As juniors they spend at least 10 weeks studying abroad. As seniors they take what they learned in the sophomore seminars and time abroad and apply it to a service project in Evanston. Twelve graduate students mentor seniors planning their service project.

The program was established in 2008 in consultation with Laurie Zoloth of the religious studies department and funded by a donation from Deborah and Larry Brady.

PHILOSOPHY

NORTHWESTERN

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What's on the Minds of Undergraduate Philosophy Society Members?

Do I really know anything? Is anything real? Am I a bad person for murdering those Sims I was taking care of?

Such questions are discussed in the laid-back setting of the weekly Undergraduate Philosophy Society meetings at the Celtic Knot, a bar/restaurant in downtown Evanston. The student-run group doesn't care if you see yourself with a PhD in philosophy down the road or have never taken a single philosophy course: everybody interested in fun and thought-provoking conversation is welcome. Along with a lot of interesting, accessible conversations, there are guest speeches throughout the year. This past year's topics were drawn mainly from ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology.