RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences

2013-2014

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
NEWSLETTER

(Double Feature: Fall & Spring!)

The Philosophy Department Gets a New Home

Out with the old, in with the new! The philosophy department's former home on Seminary Place was demolished (dilapidated porches, oddly plentiful doorbells and all), and the philosophy department took up a new residence on the fifth floor of the shiny new Gateway Transit Village Building. Reflecting on the new digs, Jeff King stated, "The place looked like a rather poorly managed warehouse for weeks, with boxes piled everywhere. However, now that the boxes are gone, the new furniture has arrived and we are all settled in, there is broad agreement that it is awesome!"

Inside:

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Get to know our undergraduate community!

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Meet the first years and discover our grads' secret talents!

Pg. 10 Conference Craze
Get the run down on some of the conferences the philosophy department has hosted this year!

Princeton-Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

By Jimmy Goodrich

On March 8th eight undergraduates representing eight universities from around the United States and Canada presented papers on a wide variety of philosophical topics at the Princeton-Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (PRUPC). After each presentation, a graduate student from either Princeton or Rutgers provided comments. From Rutgers, these were generously given by Georgi Gardiner and Rodrigo Borges, both of whom offered indispensable insights which led to numerous stimulating group discussions. At the end of the first day, Professors Stephen Stich of Rutgers and Michael Smith of Princeton delivered keynote speeches to a packed house on the role of intuitions in philosophical methodology.

The conference was a greater success than I or my co-organizer – Max Siegel, a senior undergraduate at Princeton – could have hoped for and this is no doubt due to the support of Rutgers' Department of Philosophy at every level (administrators, professors, graduate students, etc.). The conference will continue as an annual event to be organized by a new group of undergraduates each year and held on either Rutgers or Princeton's campus on alternating years. A special thanks is owed to Mercedes Diaz for her invaluable help in putting this event together.

Left: Sheng-Yao Cheng, Paul Musso, Brina Breitbart, Paul Jones, Joe Ebbinger, Mercedes Diaz

RU Day

By Peter Klein

For the sixth year, the Philosophy Department – faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students – greeted visitors to our "Philosophy Café" on the Voorhees Mall. We deemed a 20' x 20' tent to be a café! (Philosophers can do that!) We served a total of over 400 free cups of coffee and glasses of lemonade to the guests, and we challenged them to play chess, to solve riddles (you know: There are three prisoners with blue or red hats and . . .), to come to understand the Trolley Problem, and to determine whether an Evil Genius could have the alleged power to deceive us about virtually everything. Some of the people who came this year had been to the Café in previous years and they wanted to continue the conversations started then. One visitor, an RU undergraduate alumna, had studied the Trolley Problem over the last year and argued for her solution.

The weather was perfect. The guests were pleased. We all had fun. That's the point of RU Day. It's an open house for everyone: kids, potential students, parents of current students, alumni, and people who just want to come to a 'carnival on the campus.' We want the guests to explore the wide range of programs and opportunities at Rutgers, and to do so in a fun and entertaining way.

This was the biggest and best RU Day so far– over 86,000 people attended events on the College Ave. Campus, Cook-Douglass Campus, and the Busch Campus. RU Day is among the biggest single events in NJ each year!

We hope that next year you come to visit us at the Café!

Above: Brina Breitbart, Peter Kivy, and Mercedes Diaz at RU Day

Below: Cherie Braden plays chess with a visitor

Above: Caitlin Reid at the PRUPC

Philosophy Club

Our undergrads have organized a Philosophy Club for many years now at Rutgers. This year, the club gathered on Friday evenings from 5:00-6:30 in Scott Hall to eat pizza and do philosophy. Each week, a faculty member or graduate student from the department came to the club to present some of their own research with our undergrads, prompting many lively discussions! For example, in the Spring semester alone, Doug Husak presented an argument against the criminalization of drugs, Justin Kalef explained why he is sympathetic to moral relativism, Stephanie Leary argued that there are practical reasons for belief, and Georgi Gardiner discussed the role of intuitions in epistemology. The undergrads who participated in the club this year were very enthusiastic and had many fruitful discussions.

Thanks to all of those who participated in the philosophy club this year (undergrads, grads, and faculty alike), and a special thanks to Matthew Menchaca, who acted as this year's president of the philosophy club!

Above: Lisa Miracchi gives a grad talk, "Getting Things Done", at the prospectives visit

And the incoming class is...

We have 5 new grad students joining the department in the fall of 2014: Anna Baker, Nathaniel Flores, Veronica Gomez, Christopher Hauser, and Eli Shupe. And James Goodrich will also be joining the department in the fall of 2015. Our incoming class is an exceptionally talented group and we look forward to them joining our grad student community!

Our admissions director, Martin Lin, and our visit organizers, Will Fleisher and Marilie Coetsee, did an excellent job at making this year's prospectives visit a huge success! Highlights included a party at Dean Zimmerman's house, complete with midnight-waffles, and Lisa Miracchi's grad talk, which exemplified and explicated how to get things done at Rutgers. Thanks to the admissions committee who helped select a great new group of students, and to all the grad students and faculty who made this year's visit a warm and welcoming one!

Below: (left) *Pamela Robinson, Lisa Miracchi, Veronica Gomez Sanchez, Jimmy Goodrich, Ruth Chang, Daniel Munoz, Eli Shupe, and Mercedes Diaz talk philosophy at the prospectives visit banquet; (right) Dean Zimmerman makes waffles for prospectives in the basement o' sound.*

Talks, Colloquia, and More!

Colloquium Lineup

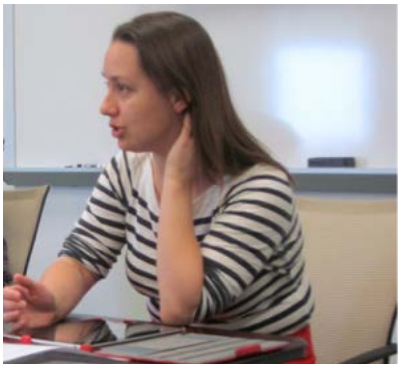
This year we had an impressive lineup of colloquia speakers. Angelika Kratzer kicked the fall semester off in September with her talk "Modality and the Semantics of Embedding", followed by Mike Titelbaum's "Rationality's Fixed Point" and Lara Buchak's "Risk and Rationality" in October. In November, David Wallace made strides towards a substantive understanding of symmetry, and Robert Adams gave the Inaugural Sanders Lecture, supported by the Marc Sanders Foundation, on pantheism. Carolina Sartorio rounded off the fall semester by presenting a new form of moral luck.

Galen Strawson kicked off the spring semester with a talk on panpsychism in February. Frank Jackson then delivered the Mesthene Lecture on the word-world problem in March, followed by Shelly Kagan who discussed the opposite of well-being for the Class of 1970's Lecture. Finally, Francis Kamm gave the final colloquium on torture. Thanks to the grad student committee who organized a great colloquium series this year!

Above: Doug Husak breaks down the philosophy of criminal law

Break it Down For Me

This year, our department chair, Jeff King, initiated a brand new talk series called *Break it Down For Me*. The idea of these talks is for one of our faculty members to spend a couple hours providing an overview of the state of play in some area of philosophy. So far, it's been a hit! Break it Down for Me provides a great opportunity for grad students and faculty to learn about other areas of philosophy and become familiar with their colleagues' work. In the fall semester, Susanna Schellenberg broke down perception, and Thony Gillies broke down conditionals and modals. And in the spring semester, Doug Husak broke down the philosophy of criminal law, and Dean Zimmerman broke down property dualism.



Above: Daniel Rubio and Simon Goldstein work out some formalism with Mike Titelbaum after his talk.
Below: Brandon Fitelson takes a group of grad students to New York to meet with Isaac Levi.
Right: Lara Buchak discusses risk and rationality

Above: Tim Campbell gives a grad talk, featuring Simon Goldstein and Pamela Robinson stick figures to demonstrate symmetrical threats in his slide presentation. Below: Lucy Jordan answers questions during Q&A.

Spring Semester

Simon Goldstein "Preface Paradox for Intentions"

Peter van Elswyk "The Life Fundamental"

Daniel Rubio "Against Conditional Excluded Middle"

Rodrigo Borges "How to Moore a Gettier: the dark side of knowledge",

Stephanie Leary "The Real Problem on Moral Twin Earth"

Robbert Beddor "An Attitudinal Semantics for Moral and Epistemic Evaluations"

Thanks to Simon Goldstein, Pamela Robinson, and Anton Johnson for organizing!

Grad Talks

One of the great traditions in the Rutgers philosophy department is the Graduate Student Talk Series. These talks provide a great opportunity for our grads to practice for the job market or work out new ideas in a supportive, casual environment. Here is this year's lineup:

Fall Semester

Rodrigo Borges "On Inferential Knowledge"

Mike Hicks "Vagueness and Credal Dilation"

Marco Dees "Reducing Quantities"

Tim Campbell "The Problem of Symmetrical Threats"

Lucy Jordan "Reassessing the Metasemantics of Indexicals"

Marcello Antosh "Where the Normativity Objection Goes Wrong"

Climate Update

By Kelsey Laity-D'Agostino

Every year the Rutgers Climate Committee hosts two events: a Women in Philosophy dinner for the undergraduates and a talk on a climate related subject. The dinner is open to all undergraduates with an interest in philosophy, but is organized especially to give women philosophy majors the chance to meet and talk with the women graduate students and faculty. This year's dinner featured Middle-Eastern food and an open discussion about our undergraduates' experiences in their philosophy classes and what it is like to pursue philosophy. And this year's climate talk was given by Fran Sepler, an expert on improving workplace climate. She discussed the nature of implicit bias and some strategies to combat it. Attendees also got the chance to take a short implicit association test —a version of the one developed for experimental study.

Rutgers Philosophy has also joined Minorities and Philosophy, a network across universities run mostly by graduate students with the aim of increasing the participation and improving the experience of the members of groups with minority representation in philosophy. MAP allows graduate students to share ideas for improving the climate in philosophy and cooperate to organize climate related events.

Meet the First-Years!

The news bureau tracked down the department's five first-year students to try and find out a bit more about them. We asked them to answer the following questions:

1) Where did you receive your degree(s) before coming to Rutgers?
2) What areas of philosophy are you interested in?
3) If you were stranded on a desert island, what philosophy paper or book would you most like to have with you?
4) What are your non-philosophical interests or hobbies?

Ben Bronner

Institution: BA from Oberlin College
Areas: ethics and philosophy of mind
Desert Island Pick: Derek Parfit's *Reasons and Persons*
Hobbies: humor writing (see my blog: http://fauxphilnews.wordpress.com/)

Eddy Chen

Institutions: BA from Calvin College
Areas: metaphysics, language, epistemology, and philosophy of physics
Desert Island Pick: Plato's *Republic*
Hobbies: Playing the piano, badminton, swimming, watching movies, and persuading non-philosophers to study philosophy

Nico Kirk-Giannini

Institutions: BA from Harvard, MA from Oxford
Areas: philosophy of language, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of religion
Desert Island Pick: Kripke's famous "How to Signal Passing Aircraft"
Hobbies: reading and writing poetry, teaching myself German, and tutoring SAT prep

GRAD LIFE

Graduate Student Update
Here's a look at what our grad students have been up to this year:

Bob Beddor
Publications:
1) "Process Reliabilism's Troubles with Defeat" in *Philosophical Quarterly*
Presentations/Talks:
1) "Justification, Permission, and Obligation" at the 16th Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference
2) "Expressivism, Index-Shifting, and World Sensitivity" (w. Simon Goldstein) presented at the NY Philosophy of Language Workshop

Rodrigo Borges
Publications:
1) "How to Moore a Gettier: Notes on the Dark Side of Knowledge" in Logos and Episteme

Ben Bronner
Publications:
1) "Burge's Defense of Perceptual Content" in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (with coauthors Todd Ganson & Alex Kerr)
2) "Assertions Only?" in *Thought*
3) "Representationalism and the Determinacy of Visual Content" in *Philosophical Psychology*

Tim Campbell
Publications:
1) Review of Nils Holtug's Persons, Interests, and Justice, forthcoming in Mind
Presentations/Talks:
1) "Practical Reasoning Without Transitivity" at UC Davis
2) "The Problem of Symmetrical Threats" at the 2014 Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference

Eddy Chen
Presentations/Talks:
1) "Humean Supervenience, Bohmian Mechanics, and Wave Function Realism" at Princeton's Workshop in Technical Philosophy of Physics
2) "Humean Supervenience, Bohmian Mechanics, and Wave Function Realism" at the 2nd International Summer School in Philosophy of Physics in Saig, Germany

Lucy Jordan
Presentations/Talks
1) *"Metasemantics and Demonstratives" at Beijing Normal University and Shanghai University*

Meet the First-Years!

Olivia Odoffin

Institutions: BA from Emory University
Areas: philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of cognitive science
Desert Island Pick: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (not because I like Kant, but because it would provide endless entertainment - I could spend a week dissecting one page).
Hobbies: music production, coding, other techie things

Stephen Woodside

Institutions: BA from Boston College, MA from UMass Amherst
Areas: applied ethics, normative ethics, political philosophy.
Desert Island Pick: G.E.M. Anscombe's "Modern Moral Philosophy"
Hobbies: running and Army stuff

Above: Grad students play games after feasting at a Thanksgiving potluck

GRAD LIFE

Georgi Gardiner
Publications
1) "Teleologies and the Methodology of Epistemology" forthcoming in *Epistemic Evaluation: Point and Purpose in Epistemology*, eds. J. Greco and D. Henderson
2) "The Commutativity of Evidence: A Problem for Conciliatory Views of Peer Disagreement" in *Episteme*
Presentations/Talks:
1) "A Problem for Intellectualism about Knowledge-How" at the Joint Session Postgraduate Sessions, University of Cambridge
2) "Teleology, Thought Experiments and The Methods of Epistemology" at the Pacific APA, San Diego
3) "Defending Non-Summativism about Group Belief: A Response to Lackey" at the Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop

Nico Kirk-Giannini
Presentations/Talks:
1) "Truth Conditions Not Required" *at OZSW Graduate Conference in Theoretical Philosophy, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*
2) "Truth Conditions Not Required" at the Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, UC Boulder.
3) "Skeptical Theism is Self-Defeating" at the Pacific APA, San Diego.

Stephanie Leary
Presentations/Talks:
1) *"Why Internalists Shouldn't Be Relativists" at the Austin Graduate Ethics and Normativity Talks, University of Texas, Austin*
2) *"Believing for Practical Reasons" at the Southern Normativity Conference at the University of Kent, Canterbury, England*

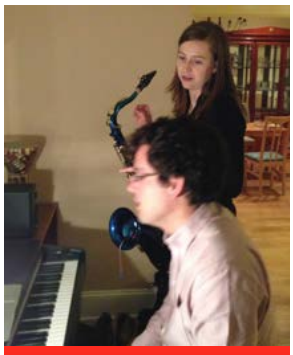
Lisa Miracchi
Publications:
1) *"Competence to Know" in Philosophical Studies*

Ron Planer
Publications:
1) "The contributions of J.J.C. Smart, U.T. Place, and Herbert Feigl to the Identity Theory of Consciousness," in A. Bailey (ed.), Philosophy of Mind: The Key Thinkers, New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014, pp. 103-128. (authored with Brian P. McLaughlin)
2) "Replacement of the 'genetic program' program", Biology and Philosophy

GRAD LIFE

Rutgers Philosophers Have Talent!

Every semester, our grads show off their non-philosophical talents at the departmental talent show. As usual, this year's talent show did not disappoint! Lucy Jordan demonstrated a number of ways a yogi can stand on her hands, Simon Goldstein played Bach on piano, Kathryn Goldstein played her own arrangements of popular songs on piano, Pamela Robinson and Stephanie Leary sang a duet, David Black told elephant jokes and shaggy dog stories, Stephanie Leary performed original compositions, and Kurt Sylvan lip-synced David Bowie songs. There were also many great poetry recitations of both serious and satirical flavors. Christian Blum recited part of a German ballad and Cherie Braden read an original poem, while Peter Van Elswyk composed a poem entirely out of sentences commonly used as examples in the philosophy of language, and Nico Kirk-Giannini recited poetry written by the brother of an infamous philosopher. Thanks to Simon Goldstein for organizing and hosting these fun-filled events!



Above: Marco Dees and Stephanie Leary learn how to play a jazzy duet

Above: Lucy Jordan, Una Stojnic, Simon Goldstein, and Alex Anthony scale the Great Wall of China after teaching Chinese students all about philosophy of language
Below: Daniel Rubio, Will Fleisher, and David Black meet up with Ben Levinstein (former Rutgers grad) in Amsterdam for a logic workshop

(...continued from previous page)
3) "Are Genetic Representations Read in Development?" forthcoming in The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science.

Presentations/Talks:
1) "The genome and the stored program concept" at the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Montpellier France

Mary Salvaggio
Presentations/Talks:
1) "Justification and Reconstructive Memory" at National University of Singapore

Kurt Sylvan
Publications
1) "What Apparent Reasons Appear to Be" in Philosophical Studies (published in Early View)
2) "Reasons in Epistemology" published in Oxford Bibliographies Online (winner of the OBO graduate student award)
3) "The Place of Reasons in Epistemology" (with Ernie Sosa) forthcoming in the Oxford Handbook of Reasons and Normativity

Presentations/Talks:
1) "Rationality and Justification: Reasons to Divorce?" at the Early Career Forum at Edinburgh in November
2) "Why Be Rational?" at the Early Career Forum at Edinburgh
3) "Reasons: Right, Wrong, Normative, Fundamental" at the Southern Normativity Conference at the University of Kent, Canterbury England

Peter Van Elswyk
Publications:
1) "Humean laws and circular explanation" in *Philosophical Studies* (with Mike Hicks)

Chris Weaver
Publications:
1) "Evilism, Moral Rationalism, and Reasons Internalism" in the International Journal for Philosophy of Religion

Stephen Woodside
Publications:
1) "Unintentional Terrorism?: An Objection to David Rodin's 'Terrorism without Intention'" in Journal of Military Ethics

Presentations/Talks:
1) "Summativism Defended" at the Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop

GRAD LIFE

Above: Grads chat at end of the year backyard party

Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference

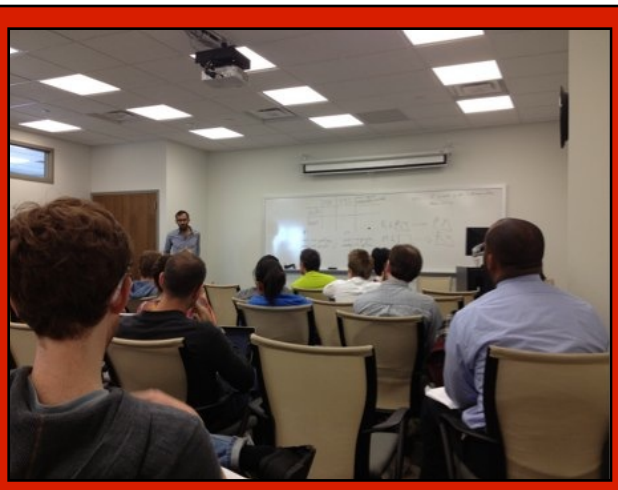
By Megan Feeney

This April 5th and 6th, grad students at Princeton and Rutgers hosted the annual Rutgers-Princeton Graduate Conference. The call for papers drew around 130 submissions in practically all areas of philosophy from students across the US and UK. After a careful selection process, the conference committee selected six papers (seven presenters): Zach Barnett (Brown), Damon Crockett (UCSD), Nicholas Laskowski (USC), Han Li (Brown), Yael Loewenstein (Arizona), Rebecca Millsop (MIT), and Matthew Mandelkern (MIT). We enjoyed presentations on a wide range of topics, including the semantics of epistemic modals, color perception, art concept pluralism, peer disagreement, free will, and the semantics of "good." Sarah McGrath (Princeton) gave the opening keynote address on the possibility of moral perception, and our own Andy Egan closed the conference with a talk on decision theory and time travel (complete with fun movie examples). We heard excellent comments from both Princeton and Rutgers grad students, including Emad Atiq, Ashley Atkins, David Black, Daniel Rubio, Simon Shogry, and Peter van Elswyk. Discussion was lively and flowed into dinner after each day of the conference. Finally, a big thanks to the other members of the organizing committee: Emad Atiq, Kezia Chaqui, Will Fleisher, Brennan McDavid, and Daniel Rubio.

Above & Below: Grad students go on hiking expeditions with friends

Above: Grads gather to say good bye and congrats to Kurt and Kate Sylvan in January 2014

CONFERENCE CRAZE



Left: Shamik Dasgupta leads the second day of Metaphysical Mayhem on ineffable ignorance
Right: Metaphysical Mayhem participants gather at a barbecue hosted by Simon Goldstein

Metaphysical Mayhem 2014

(by Jonathan Schaffer)

Metaphysical Mayhem ran amok through Rutgers from May 19th-23rd. This biannual graduate student metaphysics workshop was created and for many years organized by Dean Zimmerman, but this year Jonathan Schaffer, Georgi Gardiner, and Peter Van Elswyk took the reins. Twelve graduate students were invited to attend from an international pool of applicants, and local NY/NJ area graduate students were invited to attend as well. Professors Karen Bennett, Shamik Dasgupta, L.A. Paul, Jonathan Schaffer, and Ted Sider led five successive days of nonstop 10am - 5pm discussions, which spilled over into various evening parties and banquets. It was an intense and intensely rewarding intellectual and community-building experience.

Religion on the Raritan

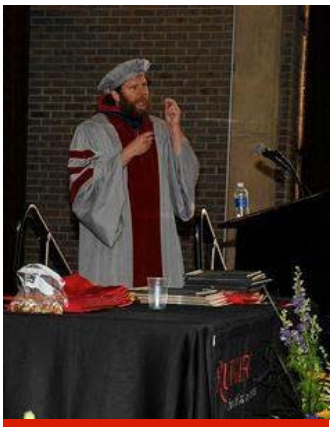
Dean Zimmerman, with support from the Templeton Foundation, hosted a religious epistemology conference this May 6th and 7th, entitled Religion on the Raritan. The conference featured a stellar group of epistemologists and philosophers of religion from the US and the UK, including Charity Anderson, Miriam Schoenfield, Matthew Benton, Keith DeRose, Jennifer Lackey, Bryan Frances, Yoaav Isaacs, Brandon Fitelson, Lara Buchak, Daniel Greco, Jonathan Kvanvig, and Louise Antony. There were talks and comments from theists and skeptics alike, which sparked lively discussions on faith, testimony, skeptical theism, and much much more!

2014 Rutgers-Lund Conference

This April 17th and 18th, the philosophy department hosted the 2014 Rutgers-Lund Conference, which featured talks from faculty and grad students from the two partnering universities. On the Rutgers side, there were talks from Robert Beddor, Marilie Coetsee, E.J. Green, Alvin Goldman, Jonathan Schaffer, Holly Smith, and Stephen Stich. And on the Lund side, there were talks from Catherine Felix, Martin Jonsson, Erik Olsson, and Jeroen Smid. Thanks to David Rose for organizing!

Second Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy

On April 11th, the department hosted the Second Rutgers Workshop on Chinese Philosophy, on the theme of Xunzi's philosophy of authority. The workshop featured presentations from Erik Hutton (University of Utah), Amy Olberding (University of Oklahoma), Aaron Stalnaker (Indiana University, Bloomington), and David Wong (Duke University), with comments from Martha Bolton, Ruth Chang, Alvin Goldman, and Dean Zimmerman. Thanks to Ruth Chang, Tao Jiang, and Stephen C. Angle for directing the conference!



Above: Andy "Dumbledore" Egan speaks at the philosophy department's convocation

Philosophy Convocation

By Andy Egan

The Philosophy Department convocation was held on May 18th. The ceremony took place in the Rutgers Multi-Purpose Room, with approximately 250 students, friends, and family members in attendance. The excellent turnout spoke to the pride and enthusiasm of philosophy undergraduates here at Rutgers.

There were 11 students receiving honors in philosophy. Jimmy Goodrich (graduating senior and incoming first-year graduate student) gave the class speech. Jimmy worked with Jeff McMahan on his honors thesis.

The following students received awards:

W. J. Norton Alumnae Prize (female senior with highest GPA in philosophy): Emily Black

Sanford Doolittle Philosophy Prize (outstanding achievement in philosophy): James Goodrich

Jacob Cooper Philosophy Logic Prize (outstanding achievement in logic): Jiayu (Joy) Li

Emily F Mitchell Prize (awarded to an outstanding major who exemplifies a genuine love of learning and enthusiasm for thinking philosophically about the world around them.): Abdul Abad, David Sorenson

Highest Honors in Philosophy:
Abdul Abad
James Goodrich
Paul Jones

High Honors in Philosophy:
Emily Black
Michael DeVivo
Zain Haq
Ryan Liu
Isaac Woodward

Honors in Philosophy:
Michael Albalah
Joshua Casto

JOB MARKET NEWS

This year's job market was very competitive. But with help from Jonathan Schaffer, who did an excellent job at preparing our grad students for the job market this year, our grads rounded up the following jobs:

Thomas Blanchard: 2 year postdoc at UC Berkeley and TT position at Wesleyan University, Illinois

Ricardo Mena: TT position at UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico)

Lisa Miracchi: NYU Bersoff Fellowship for 2014-2015, and TT position at the University of Pennsylvania

Kurt Sylvan: 2 year postdoc at the University of Southampton, UK

Job news for past Rutgers graduates:

Richard Dub - 1 year postdoc at Center for the Affective Sciences at the University of Geneva

Tom Donaldson - TT position at Stanford University

Jenn Wang - 3 year visiting professor at Standford University

Evan Williams - TT position at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Below: Lisa Miracchi defends her dissertation
Above: Kurt Sylvan and his committee after his dissertation defense

A Letter From the Chair

With the arrival of spring comes the Chair's letter summing up the wild and wonderful year Rutgers Philosophy had in academic year 2013-14. First, there was the incredibly smooth move to our new digs. NOT! It was incredible chaos for weeks, with the added blessing of no phones or email for a while (actually, it really was a blessing for yours truly... but I digress). The place looked like a rather poorly managed warehouse for weeks, with boxes piled everywhere. However, now that the boxes are gone, the new furniture has arrived and we are all settled in, there is broad agreement that it is awesome!

In other huge news, the department has secured two endowed chairs, the first for Rutgers Philosophy. One of the chairs was endowed by Mellon together with an anonymous donor. The other, the Walter P. Alston Chair for the Philosophy of Religion was secured by the blood, sweat and tears of Dean Zimmerman. It was endowed by an anonymous donor together with university funds that will be freed up by the Templeton Foundation's support of Rutgers' new Center for the Philosophy of Religion. We hope to fill at least one chair this coming year and both by 2016. To paraphrase Woody Allen, two more chairs and we'll have a dining set!

This academic year saw the arrival of Liz Camp to the Department. I know, I know: I mentioned it last newsletter too. But what the heck: welcome again Liz!!

We had a bit of change (we can believe in!) in Department administration. Jonathan Schaffer took over from Jeff McMahan as Placement Director and was universally thought to be continuing Jeff's practice of kicking butt and taking names on the job market. Nice work Jonathan. Andy Egan took over for Ruth Chang as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Again, Andy is universally thought to be filling the large shoes left by Ruth. Shout out to Andy.

Last but not least, I am stepping down as chair after serving in that capacity for three years (was it really only three years?? Maybe three dog years??). Larry Temkin foolishlsy—I mean graciously has agreed to be my successor. On a slightly serious note, I'd like to thank those who have supported me over these last three years and to wish Larry the very best.

As always, stay classy Rutgers Philosophy! (You knew this was an homage, right?)

Best,
Jeff

Would you like to donate to Rutgers Philosophy?

http://philosophy.rutgers.edu/donate

Newsletter Credits

Photos: Mercedes Diaz, Georgi Gardiner, Lucy Jordan, Stephanie Leary, and Peter Van Elswyk

Editor: Stephanie Leary

Many thanks to all contributing writers!