PHILOSOPHY NEWSLETTER

In Memory of Three Rutgers Faculty

It is with great sadness that we report that three of our most distinguished faculty passed away during this past semester: Peter Kivy (1934-2017), Derek Parfit (1942-2017), and Marilyn McCord Adams (1943-2017). To honor them and their impact on their students and colleagues, we share some tributes from the students and faculty who knew them best.

Peter Kivy Memorial By Larry Temkin

After earning a BA and MA in Philosophy from Michigan, an MA from Yale in the History of Music, and a PhD in Philosophy from Columbia, Peter taught briefly at Brooklyn College, before moving to the Rutgers Newark campus in 1967. In 1978 Peter moved to the Rutgers New Brunswick campus where he remained until his retirement in 2015. Over the span of his 49 year career, Peter's countless lectures, 90 articles, numerous reviews, and 23 books established Peter as a giant in the field of aesthetics and as the world's greatest Philosopher of Music. Peter's books were known for their clarity, insight, and depth of understanding, as well as their biting criticisms and sarcastic wit. Peter often commented on how much he loved to write philosophy. Indeed, Peter's zeal for writing philosophy was almost an addiction, and he would become noticeably upset if he hadn't written anything for a few days.

Peter was a real mensch. He had a great sense of humor and a big heart, especially, for the many students that he mentored over the years in both Philosophy and Music. Peter was rightly proud of the fact that a number of philosophy graduate students landed jobs in part because they developed a competency in aesthetics under his guidance.

Peter was an erudite scholar and lover of music. (He even kept a clavichord in his office at the Philosophy Department). He was also an accomplished oboist who studied under the tutelage of the great Ronald "Ronnie" Roseman, a faculty member of the Mannes College of Music, the Julliard School, and the Yale School of Music, and acting principal oboist of the New York Philharmonic in the late 1970s. Peter played the oboe with many groups in venues in both New York City and Cape Cod (where he took up summer residence).

Besides writing philosophy and playing the oboe, Peter loved a great scotch and Manhattans (or two!). He was a cherished member of the Department and a personal friend. I shall miss his endless supply of jokes and dinners at Tumulty's Pub with Peter Klein and him.

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In Loving Memory of Derek Parfit

I think that maybe fewer people knew the person behind the intellect. Derek was a loving and deeply kind person, always finding the intellectual best in everyone he met. It didn't occur to him that people around him might act from less than noble motives. He was oblivious to power dynamics, manipulation, and some of the uglier aspects of professional academic life. He was in many ways a profoundly innocent person.
—Ruth Chang (Rutgers colleague, dissertation supervised by Derek)

He is, in my view, the most insightful, imaginative, and rigorous – in a word, the best – moral philosopher of the twentieth century. It was the greatest privilege of my life to have known him and to have been his friend.
—Jeff McMahan (Oxford colleague and former Rutgers colleague, dissertation supervised by Derek)

Derek Parfit was, in my judgment, the greatest moral philosopher since Kant. His three volume work, *On What Matters*, is a masterpiece. His first book, *Reasons and Persons*, is breathtaking and unrivaled in its originality, insight, power, and importance. Parfit didn't merely shape the field of ethics. He permanently altered it. I had the great honor, and privilege, of having Derek play a central role in my life for more than 40 years. Derek was my teacher, thesis advisor (and I his first thesis advisee), mentor, inspiration, editor, biggest supporter, colleague, and collaborator. More importantly, Derek was my oldest, and dearest, friend in the profession. He left an indelible mark on me and countless others. I miss him terribly, as do all who knew and loved him well.
—Larry Temkin (Rutgers colleague, dissertation supervised by Derek)

I have encountered two ideas which have changed my view of the world most, since embarking upon a formal education so late in life. The first was Kant's exposition of our "Peculiar Fate," i.e. how we can't help but wonder and attempt to understand that which (it seems) may be outside the capacity of reason. The other was Derek Parfit's work in support of the existence of objective moral truths. I am so grateful to have had the chance to learn from Derek and see first-hand that no matter how far an idea may seem to be beyond our ability to reason, moral progress can be made by never giving up.
—Antoinette Armocida (former undergraduate student)

What stands out from my experience in Derek's class was his complete and utter commitment to undergraduate students. This was reflected in how much it mattered to him that we found his views convincing, which in turn, made us all feel like we mattered. I remember how in our last class, after we had finished discussing the final parts of his soon to be published *On What Matters*, he polled the class with a show of hands to see how many of us were now committed moral realists. What struck me was how anxious he was about the results, going as far as covering his eyes and asking Larry (his co-teacher) to count the votes for him.
—Marcos Picchio (former undergraduate student)

Derek Parfit was more than the greatest moral philosopher of our time. He was a genius by any standard, a mythically humble educator, the biggest believer in objective reasoning and coming to moral agreement, the kindest, most beloved thinker in philosophy, and more than all this, a friend to everyone he ever met.
—Matt Rohal (former undergraduate student)

Marilyn McCord Adams

In Loving Memory

Bringing her and her husband, Robert Adams, to Rutgers was a dream come true for me. Marilyn's contributions to the brand new Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion were deep and absolutely crucial to its inaugural success.

During her three years as a senior fellow of the Center, Marilyn taught us a lot of things — about evil, about medieval metaphysics, and about the beauty of filling cookies with chocolate chips and nuts. She became a friend and mentor to several of our graduate students and to the three post-doctoral fellows she helped select. We were hoping for many more years of fruitful interaction with Marilyn, of one sort or another, as she finished the exciting projects she had been teaching in seminars. It's hard to believe she won't be dropping in on our reading group in the Fall.
—Dean Zimmerman (Rutgers colleague)

I had the good fortune to begin at Rutgers just before Marilyn Adams began teaching here. I spent many hours in seminars and reading groups with her, and those interactions have shaped so many aspects of how I think - especially about God, evil, ethics, religion, and society. Her body of work is rich and deep, and the philosophical-theological project of her books *Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God* and its sequel *Christ and Horrors* is beautiful.

I have many fond memories of her. Her forceful and insightful contributions to philosophical discussions; spending time at the APA, discussing talks we'd both been to; enjoying the delicious cookies she'd bring to seminars and reading groups; getting her advice on designing my high medieval philosophy class, and emailing with her whenever a student asked about something I didn't understand; meeting to talk through my work; helping her locate restaurants in New Brunswick that measured up to her standards (we only found a few); her last visit to one of our seminars, where she defended her view that God has no obligations to creatures (I think I was the only one in the room on her side). She was an excellent philosopher and a wonderful person. I will miss her greatly.
—Daniel Rubio (graduate student)

I met Marilyn briefly when Bob and her were in Oxford, but it was when they started to teach in the Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion that I was fortunate to get to know them both better.

From reputation, and our earlier meeting, I had expected Marilyn to be a rather distant and even difficult person. Nothing could have been further from the truth, according to my experience at Rutgers. The combination of learning, humour and lucidity of argument – with chocolate chip cookies that I tried unsuccessfully to resist thrown in – made for sessions that were illuminating and a great joy.

A particularly memorable moment was when Bob dared to speak a word in defence of Nestorius. Marilyn, laughing, threw her hands in the air, exclaiming 'It's bad enough he's a Presbyterian – now he 's a Nestorian!' It was a while before the laughter subsided.
It is a very sad loss that we shall have no more such sessions.
—Howard Robinson (Rutgers colleague)

Marilyn was a tremendously gifted philosopher. She took on topics about which she cared deeply, and she taught others to see their importance as well. Marilyn will be remember by many for her work on Ockham, the problem of evil, Christology, and more, but, to those who knew her - students, colleagues, parishioners - I expect she will be remembered as much or more for her humility, kindness, and generosity. Her work is a great inspiration, but even more so is Marilyn herself.
—Chris Hauser (graduate student)

Conference Review

The 2nd Latinx Philosophy Conference

Rutgers hosted the 2nd Latinx Philosophy Conference on April 27th and 28th, bringing together over 30 Latinx philosophy professors and students. The conference aims to celebrate and engage with philosophical work by Latinx philosophers and philosophical work on issues of particular relevance to Latinx people. All manner of philosophical topics were discussed, including moral philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of mind, epistemology, and Mexican philosophy. The conference featured keynotes from Carlos Alberto Sanchez, Andrea Pitts, and our very own Ernie Sosa.

The Philosophy Department sponsored the conference, as did the Rutgers Department for Latino and Caribbean Studies. Special thanks are owed to Alex Guerrero (Associate Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers) for organizing the conference.

Rutgers Epistemology Conference

Epistemologists from all over the world arrived in New Brunswick on May 5th and 6th for the 12th biennial Rutgers Epistemology Conference. The first Rutgers Epistemology Conference was held in 1999 and subsequent conferences were held each year until 2003. In 2005, the committee switched to biennial meetings, making 2017's "REC" conference the 12th since the idea's inception.

As always, the conference brings together both younger scholars and the profession's most famous epistemologists for a few days of intensive epistemological exploration. This year's conference featured discussion of topics such as the nature and value of rationality, the nature of wonder, the nature of understanding, and the duty to object when others share false information. Rutgers hosted five invited speakers: Juan Comesana (Arizona), Roger White (MIT), Jennifer Lackey (Northwestern), Robert Audi (Notre Dame), and Gillian Russell (UNC Chapel-Hill), along with the two winners of the biennial Young Epistemologist Prize: Christoph Kelp (KU Leuven) and Miriam Schoenfield (NYU/UT Austin).

The former group of speakers has the option of publishing their papers in either *Episteme* or *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, while the Young Epistemologist Prize papers will be published in the latter journal.

The conference also featured Alex Byrne (MIT), Jane Friedman (NYU), Kathrin Gluer-Pagin (Stockholms Universitet), and Peter Grahamn (UC Riverside) as invited discussants.

Climate Talk featured Nancy Bauer

by Beth Henzel

On April 20th the climate committee hosted its annual climate lecture. Nancy Bauer, Dean of the School of Museum of Fine Arts, Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Philosophy at Tufts University, gave a talk entitled "On Making Progress in Philosophy (All Other Things Not Equal)." She discussed how what we view as intellectual progress in philosophy may impact how welcoming and diverse the profession is. Specifically, she advocated for expanding our understanding of "progress" (and "philosophy") and discussed some ways of recognizing the cornucopia of philosophical endeavors. The committee thanks her for this wonderful talk and the department for its continued support of this lecture series.

Departmental Events

An Update from the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion

In the mere four years since its inception, the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion has turned Rutgers into one of the foremost places in the world to study the philosophy of religion. As usual, this past semester was abuzz with activity. Here's an update from the Director, Professor Dean Zimmerman:

Nicholas Wolterstorff (Yale University) delivered this year's Sanders Lecture in the Philosophy of Religion, which was entitled "Repetition and Reenactment in Liturgy."

A two-day workshop on "The Fine-Tuning of the Cosmos" featured physicist Luke Barnes (Sydney Institute for Astronomy) and philosophers of physics Tim Maudlin (NYU), Alexander Pruss (Baylor), Hans Halvorson (Princeton), David Albert (Columbia/ Rutgers), and Barry Loewer (Rutgers).

The weekly reading group welcomed Irem Kurtsal, Andrew Moon, Alexander Pruss, Mark Steen, and Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P, as visiting presenters.

Senior Fellow Howard Robinson co-taught a course for Rutgers students on physicalism and idealism with Barry Loewer.

We co-sponsored with the Rutgers Chapter of the Thomistic Institute two campus-wide lectures by Alexander Pruss ("Infinity and Paradox: A New Take on an Old Argument for God's Existence") and Fr. Thomas Joseph White ("Why God Became Man: Aquinas on the Logic of the Incarnation")

Finally, we report with sadness that Marilyn McCord Adams passed away this year. She was deeply involved in the activities of the RCPR during the previous three years; many graduate students and visiting scholars benefited immensely from her presence here.

Review of Talks

Class of 1970 Lecture

"In Search of the View from Nowhere: Meditation and Ethical Objectivity" by Sharon Street (New York University)

Mesthene Lecture

"Aesthetic Responsibility" by Susan Wolf (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Sanders Lecture

"Repetition and Reenactment in Liturgy" by Nicholas Wolterstorff" (Yale University)

Colloquium Speaker

"Extracting Belief from Knowledge"by Jennifer Nagel (University of Toronto)

Break It Down For Me

"Pragmatics" by Liz Camp (Rutgers University)

"Assigning Deontic Values to Fulfilling and Violating Duties" by Holly Smith (Rutgers University)

Faculty Updates

After 43 years of teaching at Rutgers, Robert ("Bob") Matthews has decided to begin a well-deserved retirement. Bob first came to Rutgers in 1974 and has been with us ever since. In addition to publishing many influential articles in the philosophy of mind and language, Bob has been active member of our department. Over the years, he has served as department chair, director of undergraduate studies, and the faculty mentor for the undergraduate students who each year organize the annual Class of 1970 Lecture. Before saying farewell, we sat down with Bob and asked him some questions about his philosophical career at Rutgers.

1. Why did you choose to become a philosopher?

The major impetus was probably the turbulence of the Vietnam War which disrupted my graduate work in continuum mechanics and applied math. But two things stand out: while in the Marine Corps I happened onto a journal, *The Archives of Rational Mechanics*, which at that time focused on formal axiomatizations of different branches of mechanics, leading me first to attempt a rather naïve, axiomatization of magnetohydrodynamics, my field of interest, and then from there somehow on to Russell and Carnap. At about the same time I discovered Chomsky's Syntactic Structures as well as his theorems defining the so-called Chomsky hierarchy of formal grammars. From there I made a brief foray into French Literature, but soon realized that as much as I loved Paris, I had little patience for the silliness of much French critical theory, and so I settled in Philosophy, eventually focusing on language and mind.

2. What are some favorite memories from your 43 years at Rutgers?

Maybe the (small) part I played in developing mind and language at Rutgers. When I first arrived, mind and language had no real presence in the Department; there was no Linguistics Department and no Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science (RUCCS). My solution in those early years was to fly up to MIT each week to talk to linguists and attend a small Mind discussion group (which included Fodor, Dennett, and Block). Eventually it became clear that a better solution was to bring the relevant parts of MIT to Rutgers, so Ernie Lepore, Brian McLaughlin, and I worked on bringing Fodor to Rutgers (my part being to convince him that no one really interested in opera should live anywhere but directly across Columbus Ave. from the Met). While Ernie and Brian worked on creating RUCCS – a precondition for Fodor's coming, I was appointed Director of the newly minted Rutgers Program in Linguistics, charged with constructing an undergraduate curriculum in Linguistics and making the initial hires in what then became the Linguistics Department.

3. Can you briefly explain some of the key ideas in your work and why these ideas are important?

A recurring theme in my work has been that contrary to what representationalists (and philosophers of mind more generally) suppose, one cannot 'read off' the metaphysical nature of propositional attitudes and other mental states from the predicates by which we attribute them. (We philosophers are forever mistaking contingent features of our representational schemes for features of the things represented.) Reflection on these matters led me to develop a measurement-theoretic construal of propositional attitude predicates, a construal that explicitly rejects this 'reading off' assumption. This, to my surprise, has led me both to a kind of dispositionalism about the attitudes and to a normative, largely culture-specific construal of the role of propositional attitude attribution in our social lives.

4. What do you plan to do after the retirement?

Having slipped the (not so onerous) traces of academic life, in the short term I intend to continue working on a couple of writing projects now underway, while pursuing other long-time interests (sailing, ranching, traveling, opera, sporting clays, etc.). But newly discovered interests have a way of crowding in, so maybe I'll wake up one morning and head off in a new direction.

Faculty Updates

Jean Urteil, the Philosophy Department's administrator for undergraduate students, also retired this June. Jean was a much beloved member of our community. Her kindness was often remarked upon by the undergraduate students who visited her office, and the instructors for our undergraduate courses have benefited immensely from her diligence and organization. Before saying goodbye, we want to remember her contribution to the successes of our department during the past five years.

1. How long have you been at Rutgers? In what position(s) have you worked at Rutgers?

I have held the position of Undergraduate Administrator since Sept, 2012; I've been working here for almost five years. I perform all of the administrative functions required to run the philosophy undergraduate program under the direction of the Undergraduate Director & Associate Undergraduate Director. My duties include scheduling, certifying seniors philosophy majors and minors for graduation, meeting with students to go over requirements, and many other tasks too numerous to mention! In support of the Business Manager, I pay the Department's bills, prepare check requests, tabers, travel order forms, cash transmittals, journal entries, etc.

2. What has been the most rewarding part of your work?

What I will miss the most is working with the undergraduate students - the most rewarding part of this position! It's been my pleasure to help them in whatever way I could. Seeing many of them develop and grow over the years has been an uplifting experience, and it is reassuring to know that we can be proud of so many of the next generation who were Rutgers philosophy majors and minors.

3. What do you look forward to most about living in Ocean County?

I have had a home at the Jersey Shore for more than 10 years and always dreamed of living there permanently. Now that dream will come true! I look forward to spending time outdoors (beach!), continuing my family history research, mastering the Italian language, traveling, and catching up on reading and resting!

4. Do you have any parting words of advice for our future philosophy majors and minors?

These age old adages are my advice to our students:
1) think before acting, 2) learn from your mistakes, 3) do what you love and you will succeed; be true to yourself, 4) never give up on your dreams.

Faculty Achievements

Barry Loewer was invited to give several talks this summer. He was a guest on a philosophy and cosmology panel at the World Science Festival in NYC, delivered a talk at a conference on Fine-Tuning in Crete, and is due to give two talks at the annual philosophy of physics workshop in the Black Forest in Germany.

Alec Walen presented his paper "Deontology and Distributive Justice: A Two-Way Connection," at the Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association.

Martha Bolton wrote an entry on Mary Shepherd for the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. She was also invited to give the keynote address at the Princeton-Penn Graduate Student Conference in Early Modern Philosophy and a paper at the meeting of the Hume Society in Providence, RI.

Frankie Egan has been invited to give a lecture "Naturalizing Intentionality: Putting Ourselves in the Picture" at the Human Mind Conference at the University of Cambridge.

Faculty Achievements

Jonathan Schaffer was honored by the University of Leeds' conference "Schafferfest: A Conference on the Metaphysics of Jonathan Schaffer." He also published several pieces, including "Folk Mereology is Teleological" (with Rutgers graduate student David Rose) in *Nous*, "Laws for Metaphysical Explanation," in *Philosophical Issues*, and "The World for Explanation" in *Philosophy*.

Ruth Chang was invited to speak in several prominent public venues. She was invited to give a TEDx talk on hard choices at the CIA Headquarters in Virginia.

Ruth also spoke at the National Geographical International Science Festival in Rome, an event with an estimated attendance of 25,000 people. Ruth's fellow speakers included Jane Goodall and Patti Smith. She was also invited to speak on the National Geographic's Television channel about the dangers of technological change without ethics and on Italian Radio 3, the Science Channel, about choice-making.

Jeff King has seven papers which are forthcoming: "Unstructured Content" (in *Unstructured Content*, OUP), "W(h)ither Semantics!(?)" (in *Nous*), "Strong Contextual Felicity and Felicitous Underspecification" (in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*), "The Metaphysics of Propositions" (in *Oxford Handbooks Online*), "Propositions" (in *The Oxford Handbook of Truth*), "Singular Thought, Russellianism, and Mental Files," and "Propositions and Fineness of Grain (Again!)" (in a special issue of *Synthese*). He also delivered invited lectures at the University of Hamburg, University of Chicago, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, University of South Hampton, and the second annual PHILOsurfer Convergence in Torfino, Canada.

Alvin Goldman was awarded the first Rutgers University Chancellor's Professorship in the Arts and Humanities and will delivered the associated honorary lecture at Rutgers during the Spring Semester in 2018. Alvin was also honored by the College of William & Mary, which hosted a conference on his influential book *Epistemology and Cognition* on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its publication. Alvin also delivered an invited lecture "God and Cognitive Science" at the Cohn Institute of Tel-Aviv University and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute in Israel.

Steve Stich and Ernie Sosa, winners of the American Philosophical Association and Phi Beta Kappa Society's prestigious Lebowitz Prize, delivered their prize lectures ("Philosophy, Intuition, and Culture" and "Insight and Understanding") at the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Steve also published his paper "Nothing at Stake in Knowledge" (co-authored with Rutgers graduate student David Rose and others) in the journal *Nous*. The paper reports a study conducted at 19 sites in 15 countries! Meanwhile, Ernie delivered the Tang-Chun-I Lecture at the University of Hong Kong and the keynote lecture at an epistemology conference at Saint Louis University.

Holly Smith gave a lecture on abortion to the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Chapter of Medical Students for Choice, presented her paper "Graham vs. Zimmerman on Prospectivism" at a workshop on Moral Responsibility, and will present the lead keynote lecture ("Asymmetric Assignment of value to Fulfilling and Violating Duties") at the Inaugural University of Michigan Philosophy Alumni Conference, May 12-14, 2017.

Dean Zimmerman published "Evil Triumphs in These Multiverses, and God is Powerless" in the online science magazine *Nautilus*.

Undergrad Corner

The Fourth Annual Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

The Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference was started in 2014 by the Rutgers Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the philosophy honors society. This year Rutgers hosted the Fourth Annual Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. The competitive conference invites submissions from students across the country. Submissions are reviewed by members of the Rutgers Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, and the few students whose papers are selected are invited to present their paper at Rutgers with a graduate student commentator.

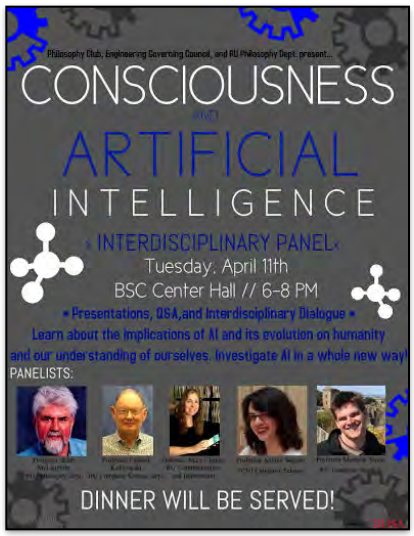
This year's conference featured three student presentations and two keynote speakers:

Student Papers:
"The Art of Translation" by Charly Santagado (Rutgers);
Comments by Lavaris McCellion (California State)
"The Tribesman Analogy Revisited: A Challenge to Skeptical Theism" by Luke Tucker (Baylor);
Comments by Chris Hauser (Rutgers)
"Ontology of American Sign Language Poems" by Tyler Pugeda (California State, Northridge);
Comments by Ting-An Lin (Rutgers) and Claire Becerra (Washington)

Keynote Speakers:
Trip McCrossin (Rutgers) presented "Some Related Ideas Regarding the Principle of Charity and the Problems of Personal Identity & Evil"
Alexander Skiles (NYU) presented "Is Everything Empty? Some Metaphysical (and Anti-Metaphysical) Themes from 'the Second Buddha'"

The three students who presented papers will be invited to publish their papers in Rutgers undergraduate philosophy journal *Arete*. Special thanks are owed to Rutgers philosophy major and Phi Sigma Tau member, Frank Wu, for his work organizing the conference.

Philosophy Club Presents Two Interdisciplinary Events



The Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Club organized two interdisciplinary events during the Spring Semester. One event (left; bottom) brought together five panelists from the philosophy, computer science, and communications departments to discuss consciousness and artificial intelligence. The second event (right) featured a discussion with Rutgers psychology professor Louis Sass about the relevance of certain philosophical ideas to our clinical psychological understanding of schizophrenia.

Undergraduate Convocation

The following students received awards at the Philosophy Department's undergraduate convocation:

Emily F. Michell Prize (outstanding major who exemplifies a genuine love of learning and enthusiasm for thinking philosophically about the world around them): Jonathan Finnerty and Matthew Menchaca

W.J. Norton Alumnae Prize (female senior with highest GPA in philosophy): Charly Santagado and Daisy Lee

Sanford T. Doolittle Philosophy Prize (outstanding achievement in philosophy): Noah Gordon and Aaron Jaslove

Highest Honors in Philosophy: Noah Gordon, Daisy Lee, Charly Santagado

High Honors in Philosophy: Aaron Jaslove

Undergraduate Achievements

Jonathan Finnerty (senior, philosophy and classics double major) was awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship. This national scholarship is awarded to just 30 students a year and provides $50,000/year for students to pursue graduate studies. Jonathan will attend a MA/MPhil program with a focus on Ancient Philosophy and Philosophy of Language. He eventually hopes to pursue a PhD in Ancient Philosophy.

Charly Santagado (senior, philosophy major) won the Rutgers Evelyn Hamilton Award in Poetry and the Rutgers Julia Carley Award in Poetry. On top of this, her dance choreography was accepted into the KoDaFe Dance Festival.

Sam August (senior, philosophy & comp. lit. double major) participated in the Compass Undergraduate Philosophy Workshop at Princeton, an initiative of the Princeton chapter of MAP (Minorities and Philosophy).

Naimi Patel (junior, philosophy, religion, and journalism/media studies triple major) had the first chapter of her honors thesis "Rediscovering Anne Conway and Margaret Cavendish's Metaphysical Theories of Substance" accepted for publication in the undergraduate journal *Yale Philosophical Review*.

Alyssa Delal Kocak (senior, philosophy and public relations double major, digital communications minor) had her paper "A Solution to Gaslighting Based on John Locke's Notion of Appropriation," accepted for publication in the undergraduate journal *Yale Philosophical Review*. Alyssa's paper was originally written for Professor Martha Bolton's History of Metaphysics course.

Max Albert (sophomore, philosophy major) and Pavel Temkin (junior, philosophy major) earned the American Parliamentary Debate Association's Team of the Year award for best cumulative season-wide performance for the 2016-2017 debate season, winning the Harvard, George Washington, and Swarthmore tournaments. They are the first Rutgers team to win this award, the first non-Ivy league school to win since 2011 (and the second in the past 10 years), and the youngest ever Team of the Year, as both are second-year debaters.

A Letter from the Chair

Dear Rutgers Philosophy Community,

As this is my final "Letter from the Chair," I beg your indulgence for this lengthy and yet still utterly inadequate letter.

I begin with sad news. This past semester has been the most difficult one that I can remember, as we have lost three valued members of our philosophical community since the beginning of January: Derek Parfit, Marilyn McCord Adams, and Peter Kivy. Ours hearts go out to all those who mourn their losses with us, and especially the spouses they left behind, Janet Radcliffe Richards, Bob Adams, and Joan Pearlman.

I would also like to mark the departures of our Administrative Assistant for Undergraduates, Jean Urteil, who has been with us since 2012, and our long-time colleagues and friends, Alvin Goldman, Holly Smith, and Bob Matthews, who have been with us since 2002, 2001, and 1974, respectively. To say that they will be sorely missed is a vast understatement and doesn't begin to do justice to the impact that they have had on our students, our Department, and our University. We wish them all the best as they turn to the next chapter in their lives, and we hope that they will always regard Rutgers fondly and return frequently to visit us.

On a happier note, our undergraduates continue to thrive. Besides doing another great job organizing and hosting this year's Class of 1970 Lecturer, Sharon Street of NYU, many of them participated in our very active Philosophy Club and/or ran our outstanding undergraduate Philosophy journal, *Arête*. This year, many participated in our first-ever Philosophy Game Nights (the brain-child of our enterprising Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, Justin Kalef), and many also participated in our first Annual Philosophy Department Spring Hike at Cheesequake State Park (also the brain-child of Justin Kalef). A number of our top majors were elected to the Philosophy Honors Society Phi Sigma Tau, and between them our majors gained

Graduate Achievements

Laura Callahan presented "Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding," at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association.

Eddy Chen presented several papers at a variety of venues:

(1) "An Intrinsic Theory of Quantum Mechanics: Progress in Field's Nominalistic Program, Part I," presented at Rutgers, UC Irvine, and Stanford

(2) "Our Knowledge about the Past: Some Puzzles about Time's Arrow and Self-Locating Probabilities", presented at the Annual Meeting of the Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP), the Stevens Institute of Technology's Time and Causality in the Sciences Conference, the History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium (California Institute of Technology), and UC Riverside's Workshop on Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind

(3) "Space-Time Emergence: A Representational Theory," invited presentation at the Philosophy of Cosmology Workshop (CUNY Graduate Center)

(4) Invited Comments on Alan Hajek's "The Revenge of Pascal, Petersburg, Pasadena, and Paul," at the Workshop on Cognitive Value, (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Megan Feeney presented "On the Scope of Immediate Perceptual Justification" at grad conferences at UT Austin, Notre Dame/ Northwestern, Edinburgh, ASU, and the University of Waterloo.

Will Fleisher presented "Rational Endorsement" at the Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference.

Georgi Gardiner published "Is Virtuously-formed True Belief Sufficient for Knowledge?" in the *Routledge Handbook of Virtue Epistemology*, edited by Heather Battaly. She also presented two papers:

(1) 'Salience and Virtue," at the Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills Conference (Bled, Slovenia)

(2) "Understanding and Emulation," at the University of Houston, at Underwood International College (Yonsei University) and the "Freedom from all Sides" Seminar (University of Tennessee).

A Letter from the Chair

admission to a host of premier graduate programs and garnered a boatload of honors and awards, including the extremely prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship awarded to Jonathan Finnerty (way to go Jonathan, you make us proud!!!). Our heartiest thanks to all of our undergraduate philosophy students, but especially to our majors and minors, who fill our classes with excitement and curiosity and make it such a pleasure to teach at Rutgers. And a special congratulations to all our graduating majors and minors. May the training that you received in your philosophy classes serve you in good stead and help you to flourish in all the ways that matter most, whatever path you eventually find yourself on.

As for our graduate students—I'm obviously partial—but they are, quite simply, *the best*! This year, Rutgers once again had *the best job placement record in the world*. I say once again, because since 2007 our overall placement record is the best in the world in terms of both the total number of philosophy positions and the total number of tenure track positions. This is a testament not only to the brilliance of our grad students and their many academic accomplishments (honors, awards, conference talks, publications, etc.), but also to their outstanding characters. The philosophical world is acutely aware that we have one of the world's best Philosophy Departments (tied with Oxford for second best, behind only NYU), but what most people outside of Rutgers don't realize is that our philosophical *community* is *second to none*. This is largely owing to the wonderful personalities and supererogatory efforts of our graduate students. I note that following in the proud tradition of some of their predecessors (who launched the first U.S. Chapter of the Effective Altruism Charity *Giving What We Can* right here at Rutgers*), several of our graduate students spearheaded an international Philosophers Against Malaria Fundraiser which raised more than $14,000 at*

Graduate Achievements

Sam Carter presented several papers:

(1) "'Now' in Subordinate Clause Constructions," at Topics in Semantics (UMass-Amherst); PLC (UPenn), SALT (University of Maryland), and Subordinate Clauses in Generative Linguistics (UCL)

(2) "Higher-Order Ignorance inside the Margins," at Yale's Graduate Conference, the Ockham Society (University of Oxford), and The Joint Session (University of Edinburgh).

(3) "The Dynamics of Loose Talk," at the NY Philosophy of Language Workshop (NYU)

(4) 'Counterfactual Donkeys' (w/ Simon Goldstein), at ESSLLI (University of Toulouse)

Chris Fruge published "Unbunking Arguments: A Case Study in Metaphysics and Cognitive Science," in *Metaphysics and Cognitive Science*, eds. Alvin Goldman and Brian McLaughlin (Oxford University Press).

Adam Gibbons presented "Moral Disagreement and Conciliationism," at PRPSEW (UPenn) and "Hate Speech and the Conceptual Ethics of Harm" at Bridging Divides: Dublin Graduate Conference (UCD)

Chris Hauser presented "Fundamental Entities, Fundamental Facts, and Essences," at the 3rd Epistemology of Metaphysics Workshop (University of Helsinki), "Human Persons and Their Natures" at the 2nd Triennial Dominican Colloquium: Person, Soul, and Consciousness (Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology), "Souls and Subjects in Aristotle" at the Seventh Annual Conference on Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition: Soul and Nature in Aristotle (Marquette University), and "Aristotle's Epistemology of Essence," at the 2nd Annual University of Chicago Graduate Student Conference in Ancient Philosophy

Cameron Domenico Kirk-Giannini presented "Maximally Insensitive Theists" at the University of Oklahoma Graduate Philosophy Conference, "Uniformity Motivated" at the UT Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference and at the ESSLLI Student Session, and "Slurs are Imperatives" at the ESSLLI Workshop on Integrating Approaches to Social Meaning

A Letter from the Chair

Rutgers alone, and more than $52,000 worldwide!!! Well done, graduate students! You continue to make us proud !!!

Our faculty continues to set a significant portion of the global philosophical agenda. In the past few years alone, our faculty published 13 books and over 100 articles with major presses and journals. Faculty gave hundreds of lectures at conferences and universities around the world, including 25 keynote and special lectures in Finland, Turkey, Canada, Portugal, England, Scotland, Germany, China, Israel, and elsewhere. In addition, there were 12 books or workshops devoted to the work of our faculty. Many faculty received grants that supported research, summer schools, lectures, and post docs, and the faculty continued to garner numerous honors and awards including four distinguished Phi Beta Kappa-APA-Lebowitz Prizes, one Locke Lecture, the American Society for Aesthetics Monograph Prize, a TED talk, a TEDx talk, a Philosophy Bites Interview, several Humboldt Awards, and multiple Visiting Positions and Scholarships at outstanding institutions around the world (including in China, Israel, Australia, Scotland, Germany, and England, among others). Thanks to our stupendous faculty, Rutgers ranks tops in the world in epistemology and language, second in mind and metaphysics, and in the top 10 in value theory, applied ethics, philosophy of law, 17th century philosophy, philosophy of religion, and philosophy of race. I am constantly in awe of, and lucky to have, my truly world-class colleagues.

Our alumni are more involved than ever before. Alumni gifts to the department have increased both in terms of the total number of contributions and the total amount of the contributions and, believe me, in this time of drastic cuts in state and federal funding for higher education, never have such contributions been so needed and appreciated. Many of our annual lectures, as well as many of our undergraduate events, are supported by, and dependent on, the generous contributions of our alumni. Beyond financial assistance, our alumni have been a positive source of support and encouragement with

Graduate Achievements

Ting-An Lin presented "Is the Combination Problem Easier than the Hard Problem?" at the Science of Consciousness's Annual Meeting and the Society for Philosophy and Psychology's Annual Meeting

Eli Shupe published "Instrumental Reasoning in Animals" with Elisabeth Camp in *The Routledge Handbook of the Animal Mind*, edited by Kristin Andrews and Jake Beck. She also presented "Retributivism and the Animal Kingdom of Ends" at the Canadian Philosophical Association and "Comparative Cognition and the Cognitive Penetration Debate" at the Bochum-Rutgers Workshop in Philosophy

Carolina Flores presented “Spinoza’s Account of Self-Knowledge" at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association and at The Human Mind Conference in Cambridge, UK.

Grad Talks @ Rutgers

Jimmy Goodrich presents “Harming Mere Members”

Laura Callahan presents “Permissivism and Epistemic Existentialism”

Peter van Elswyk presents “The Familiar Theory of Assertion”

Pamela Robinson presents “How Not to Be a Defeatist About Higher-Order Defeat”

Daniel Rubio presents “Logic in a Post-Modal World”

A Letter from the Chair (continued from previous page)

many alumni taking the time to write me and one alumnus (Warren Kessler, who is both a Philosophy Professor and an artist) even sending the Department a *Think Outside the Box* sculpture which we were grateful to receive and proudly display in our Philosophy library! To all of those alumni who have sent gifts or letters, my sincere thanks on behalf of the entire Department. Your contributions and letters do more than honor your former teachers. They keep them alive for the rest of us. (See, for example, http://www.nytimes.com/1981/05/20/obituaries/houston-peterson-professor-dies.html for a fascinating obituary of Houston Peterson, a former Rutgers Philosopher who had a major impact on many of his students and about whom I first learned of, indirectly, via our most generous alumnus donor.)

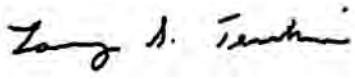
As I come to the end of my three years as Chair, I can't believe how quickly the time has flown by. In addition to major innovations, like the Rutgers Lectures in Philosophy, we now have a number of smaller innovations to further advance the collegiality of our great Department, such as weekly teas for the graduate students and faculty, monthly get-togethers for the entire philosophical community, and family-friendly start times for our colloquia. We also now have a "Hall of Fame" plaque to remember some of our important predecessors which reads:

TRAILBLAZERS AND MENTORS
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION
OF THEIR LOYAL SERVICE AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE RUTGERS PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT AND ITS STUDENTS

The inaugural 2016 Class of Inductees recognized Peter Klein (46 years of service to Rutgers), Peter Kivy (45 years), Seymour Feldman (44 years), Bruce Wilshire (40 years), Martin Bunzl (40 years), and Jerry Fodor (26 years). This year's 2017 Class of Inductees recognizes Robert Matthews (43 years), Houston Peterson (34 years), Alvin Goldman (18 years), and Holly Smith (18 years). (Alumni: please be sure to contact our next Chair with your suggestions for who else deserves to be recognized on this plaque!)

My hope is that all of us who are affiliated with the Department will be inspired by the Trailblazers and Mentors who devoted much of their lives to Rutgers, and who helped make the Department what it is today. An incredible legacy has been established in Philosophy at Rutgers, and those of us who are fortunate enough to teach here and learn here have a great responsibility to uphold that legacy.

It has truly been an honor to be the Chair of this amazing Department. I step down knowing that our Department is in good hands, as our next Chair, Dean Zimmerman, is both an excellent philosopher and a man of outstanding integrity. I am confident that under Dean our Department will continue to flourish for years to come. Finally, I want to end this letter by thanking Chris Hauser and Ting-An Lin for producing this terrific newsletter. I always want to deeply thank *everyone* who has helped me during my three-year term—our undergraduates and graduates, our administrative staff, our loyal alumni, our administration, and my incredible colleagues. My debt to you all is much greater than I can express here.



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