



Philosophy

Fall 2010

Department Newsletter

University of Colorado at Boulder



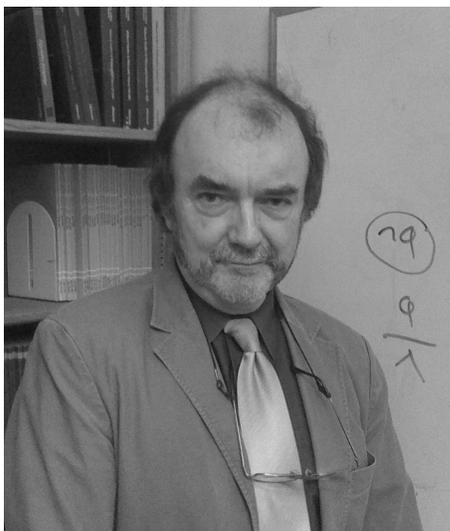
Letter from the Chair Graeme Forbes

This letter does not come to you from the pen you might have been expecting. Our former Chair, David Boonin, was only one year into his second term when he was called to Higher Things, and stepped up a rung on the administrative ladder. He is now the Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities within the College of Arts and Sciences. I am sure you will join me in wishing him every success in his new position.

His elevation, however, created a vacuum in the Philosophy Department. I wouldn't say that people rushed to fill it, but it did, in the end, get filled, and it is a new Chair who brings you these greetings. Unfortunately, this is not in every way an auspicious time to take on the job. As many of you know, the university is losing state support precipitously. In the last fiscal year the campus suffered nearly \$11 million in budget cuts, and this year it loses another \$9.4 million. State appropriations for UC Boulder have fallen to 6% of the campus budget. As some compensation for the cuts, the state has loosened its leash on higher education, which will allow us to make fairly substantial increases in tuition. The good news is that this will cover some of the appropriations losses. The bad news is that public education in Colorado will have become less accessible to the public.

Not only the bread, but also the circuses, will be less accessible. Despite the economic climate, the university has confidently surrendered nearly \$7 million in revenue from its current athletics conference, which is the price (or as much of it as has been so far revealed) for exchanging ball games against relatively nearby opponents for ball games against opponents much further away. The counterintuitive strategy of making it harder for Coloradans to attend away games, and concomitantly shrinking the number of visitors per game who come here, is part of a grand plan to increase revenues through joining the Pacific Conference. Of course, we have been solemnly assured that no tuition, taxpayer dollars, general fund or state support dollars will be used to keep the ship afloat when the accounting turns out to be delusional. Maybe they'll try telethons.

Despite the backdrop of financial uncertainty,



Graeme Forbes, Department Chair

the Department of Philosophy flourishes intellectually. In the last Philosophical Gourmet Report (the most influential ranking of philosophy departments), done in Spring 2009, we ranked twenty-sixth in the nation. The Gourmet is a lagging indicator, and given the way the department has grown since 2006, we have a reasonable expectation of making the top twenty next time around. This isn't just my own view. We recently underwent a review of our program (by the Academic Review and Planning Advisory Committee), as part of which we hosted a group of distinguished external reviewers from philosophy departments at other universities. In their report, the external reviewers wrote, "The faculty, judged as a whole, is equal to or better than a number of departments usually ranked ahead of CU-Boulder in reputational surveys, including Cornell University, Brown University, the University of Texas at Austin, Columbia University, and the University of Chicago," which are, indeed, all ahead of us in the current Gourmet list. This assessment was echoed by the internal reviewers (drawn from other departments at CU-Boulder), who wrote, "Within the humanities departments, the College of Arts and Sciences recognizes Philosophy as being at the forefront, and the external review of that department supports the sense that it has a very strong national profile."

The intellectual atmosphere here befits this

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Faculty Activities 2009-2010

David Barnett published a paper in the journal *Noûs* that explains the nature of counterfactual statements – statements, not about how things actually are, but about how things would have been, if the world had been different in some respect. He presented papers on consciousness, counterfactuals, and vagueness at Oxford University, Columbia University, and the Central and Pacific Divisions of the American Philosophical Association. He rode his bicycle across the Rockies and survived the Four Mile Fire.

David Boonin, after serving four years as Chair of the Philosophy Department, stepped down to take up the position of Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities. He also began putting the final touches on his forthcoming book on applied ethics and race and started working on a new project on a puzzle about our obligations to future generations.

Eric Chwang had two papers appear in print: "Futility Clarified" in the *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics* and "Against Risk-Benefit Review of Prisoner Research" in *Bioethics*. He also presented "Cluster Randomization and Political Philosophy" at the Center for Human

assessment. We have several ongoing series of talks, such as the Department Colloquia, the Center for History and Philosophy of Science series, and the Center for Values and Social Policy series. In addition, we've recently seen a number of conferences of very high quality: the recurring CHPS conference, the Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, the Kayden mini-conference that was held on David Boonin's recent book, *The Justification of Punishment* (occasioned by the book's winning a Kayden Prize), and the annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. The latter has become one of the most significant events on the calendar of ethicists of all stripes, and all these series and annual meetings combine to bring a spectacular collection of prominent thinkers to campus.

Besides the Kayden Prize, there were many other outstanding faculty accomplishments, which you can read about elsewhere in this Newsletter. And we have the students to match

the faculty. Our graduate program grows steadily stronger, with a recent improvement in stipends being followed this year by the creation of first-year fellowships for incoming Ph.D. students, as recommended by the ARPAC external reviewers. Our majors have also excelled, producing honors theses and achieving *summas* in numbers much greater than would be expected from the size of the class. Indeed, last spring one of our majors, Katherine Hermann, was given the award for being "The Outstanding Graduate in the College of Arts and Sciences." Ms. Hermann was a joint major and was awarded a *summa* for honors theses in both Philosophy and History.

So while the economic outlook is not great, the intellectual life of the department gets stronger. It is unclear how long the two trends can continue to diverge. I hope next year to be able to tell you a tale in which we do even better intellectually against a background of stabilized financial support. □

Interview with Kathrin Koslicki

Professor Koslicki is a flourishing metaphysician who joined CU Boulder in 2007. She recently spoke with Graeme Forbes about her exciting life and work.

Graeme Forbes: I hear you're just about to depart on a six-week climbing trip to Central Asia. That sounds adventurous. What mountains are you aiming to climb?

Kathrin Koslicki: Our goal is to climb Peak Communism, also known as Ismoil Somoni Peak, in the Pamir region of Tajikistan. At 24,590 feet, Peak Communism is the highest peak in Tajikistan and the former Soviet Union. To get there involves flying to the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe (of Dushanbe Teahouse fame in Boulder). We then take a Russian helicopter from a small town about a day's drive from Dushanbe into basecamp, which is at around 14,000 feet. We'll spend several weeks acclimatizing and climbing lower peaks that are accessible from the same basecamp. Once we're ready to go up to above 23,000 ft, it should take about a week to climb Peak Communism.

GF: What about academic plans for this coming year? You've won a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is very hard to get. What will you be doing?

KK: Yes, I'm very pleased about winning the fellowship. I've been submitting fellowship applications to the NEH at a rate of about one every other year for the past twelve years! So I'm



Kathrin Koslicki, neo-Aristotelian metaphysician

thrilled that my application was finally selected for this year. I will be on leave for the whole year and will be able to work on my current research project full time. My plan is to spend the year here in Boulder, except for a few short trips to give talks or attend conferences at other universities.

GF: And what is your current research project?

KK: In 2008, I published my first book, *The Structure of Objects*. In it, I develop a neo-Aristotelian theory of parts and wholes. In my new project, I will continue to work out my neo-Aristotelian approach to metaphysics, this time with a focus on what it means for one thing (e.g., a smile) to depend on another (e.g., the mouth that is smiling). During this coming year, I will begin a new book manuscript in which I examine the "dependence" relation, along with such related concepts as "fundamentality" and "grounding."

GF: In March of 2009, you organized a very successful conference on the topic of dependence near Boulder. Could you tell us a little bit

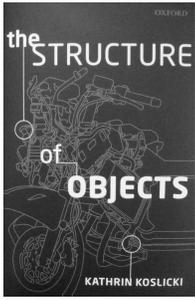
Values in September and was supposed to go to Beijing for a fancy bioethics conference in the fall, but the organizers kept changing the dates around up to the last minute, so eventually Eric had to cancel. He continues to struggle with Dance Dance Revolution: Hottest Party 2 and would appreciate any help in achieving 50 combos in the Danceteria (Groove Arena Mode).

Carol Cleland's anthology *The Nature of Life* (with Mark Bedau) was published by Cambridge University Press. She also has articles forthcoming in *Synthese* and the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. During 2010, she gave invited talks on "Ethical Considerations in Space Exploration," "Epistemic and Methodological Differences between Historical Science and Experimental Science," "Common Cause Explanation and the Asymmetry of Overdetermination," "Historical Science and the Scientific Method," and the "Concept of the RNA World."

John Fisher spent the fall semester on leave, becoming partially bionic when he had a knee operation. He revised his article on "Popular Music" for the *Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music*. In May, he read a commentary on Ned Hettinger's "Evaluating Positive Aesthetics" at the conference on Environmental Philosophy held in Allenspark. Also in the spring, he collaborated with Jeanette Bicknell on a proposal to guest edit a special issue of the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* on the topic of "Song, Songs and Singing."

Graeme Forbes gave a keynote address on "Context-Dependence and the Sorites" at a workshop on vagueness in Bordeaux in July. In February, he spoke on "A Scopial Theory of Presupposition" at the Institut für Kognitive Linguistik in Frankfurt. In February, he gave a keynote address on "Content and Theme in Attitude Ascriptions" at the conference "A Matter of Attitude" at the University of Göttingen. His paper "Identity and the Facts of the Matter" appeared in *Cuts and Clouds: Vagueness, Its Nature and Its Logic* (Oxford University Press 2010).

Ben Hale published articles in *Sci-*



about this conference?

KK: I really learned a lot from it. I invited about twenty philosophers, all of whom have been thinking and writing about dependence. They came from all over the world – Australia, the U.K., Europe and Canada – and from all over the U.S. as well. We sequestered ourselves for several days in a beautiful setting, at the Gold Hill Resort near the town of Ward, with breathtaking views of the Indian Peaks, and talked non-stop about dependence during the sessions and during the meals as well. I also taught a graduate seminar on the same topic this last spring, which was really enjoyable and helped me formulate a lot of my ideas on dependence more clearly. The timing was great, too – to have the chance to work through this literature with a group of really smart and motivated students right before the beginning of my fellowship was a great way to lead into this next academic year.

GF: You mentioned that you will be traveling a bit next year to give talks and attend conferences. What's on the calendar so far?

KK: In the fall, I'll be giving talks at DU, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and at the University of Manitoba, in Canada. I'll be presenting a new paper I have been working on this summer called "Essence, Necessity and Explanation," which is scheduled to come out in a collection on neo-Aristotelian themes in metaphysics. The paper is about my two favorite philosophers, Aristotle and Kit Fine [a contemporary philosopher who teaches at NYU] who really have been the two biggest influences on my work in recent years. In the spring, I've been invited to present papers at the University of Toronto, at Columbia University, and at the 2011 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, which will be held in Boise, Idaho. I'm also going to participate in a session on fundamentality at the Pacific division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in San Diego. My plan is to use these opportunities to present work from my new book manuscript.

GF: Sounds like the neo-Aristotelian approach to metaphysics is gathering momentum. Since you joined our Philosophy Department in 2007 from Tufts, what has it been like teaching at CU?

KK: One of my most enjoyable teaching experiences here at CU was a small introductory undergraduate course I taught in the Spring of 2009 called "The Death of Socrates." Two years

earlier, I had taught a similar course at Tufts called "The Trial and Execution of Socrates." In this course, we examine texts that shed light on the circumstances of Socrates' death in 399 B.C., both from ancient sources (such as Plato, Aristophanes and Xenophon) as well as from contemporary scholars and commentators (such as the very provocative account in *The Trial of Socrates*, by I. F. Stone, the journalist and former editor of *The Nation*). As many people know, Socrates was convicted by a jury consisting of 500 Athenian citizens on charges of "impiety" – in particular, for not respecting the gods of the city, for inventing new divine entities, and for corrupting the youth. But it's tempting to think that the official charges that were brought against him were trumped up and that the real reasons for his conviction were political: even in the ancient world, some writers already suggested that Socrates had a reputation for being anti-democratic and for teaching subversive doctrines to his associates, some of whom went on to become notorious troublemakers (like Alcibiades, who incidentally is also thought to have been Socrates' lover). So there are lots of unanswered questions about the circumstances surrounding Socrates' death which are still interesting to debate today: Why was Socrates really brought to trial by the Athenians? Why did the jurors, who were after all members of the world's first democracy, find him guilty? Why did Socrates refuse to accept the opportunity to escape from prison (arranged by his friends) and instead submit to a verdict that he thought was unjust?

GF: Besides the teaching, what's been your experience as a member of CU's Philosophy Department?

KK: One thing I really enjoy about being a member of CU's Philosophy Department is how athletic many of my colleagues are. For example, two of my colleagues, David Barnett and Dan Sturgis, came with me on a backcountry skiing trip to the Eiseman Hut near Vail, this past April. I've gone climbing, hiking, kayaking, bike riding, motorcycle riding and backcountry skiing with some of our faculty and students. I just can't see doing that in very many other places besides Boulder!

GF: Well, it's been fun talking to you. Have a great trip to Tajikistan and I wish you all the best for your projects for the coming year.

[Added two months later: Professor Koslicki returned safe and sound from Central Asia, after climbing Peak Communism and Peak Korzhenevskaya, and visiting the Dushanbe Cyber Café and Friendship Center, Boulder's disappointing gift to its sister city in return for the Dushanbe Teahouse.] □

ence, Technology and Human Values; Health Education Research; and Public Health Ethics. He gave talks at Lewis and Clark College, the Eastern APA, and the UNFCCC climate conference in Copenhagen, among other places, and he again coordinated the ROME conference with Alastair Norcross. He continues editing *Ethics, Place & Environment* (which will re-launch in 2011 as *Ethics, Policy & Environment*) as well as with his blog (cruelmistress.wordpress.com). He is currently writing a book titled *The Wicked and the Wild: Why You Don't Have to Love Nature to be Green.*

Bob Hanna finished a book ms. called *The Rational Human Condition*, published five papers, and did invited talks in Colorado Springs, New Orleans, Cologne, Luxembourg, San Francisco, São Paulo, Oxford, Sydney, and Melbourne. He also walked back and forth between his home in South Boulder and his office at CU approximately 300 times.

Chris Heathwood gave talks at the Metaethics Workshop at UW–Madison and at the Workshop in Philosophy at Stockholm University. He had three articles accepted for publication: one on Kant's objection to Anselm's ontological argument, one on how questions of personal identity bear on the abortion debate, and one on the relations among desire-based theories of reasons, pleasure, and welfare. He helped launch our new team-taught ethics proseminar and developed an online version of his applied ethics course. But his greatest achievement was crushing Alastair Norcross in this year's West End 3K.

Adam Hosein gave a paper on contractualism at Boston University. He spent the year as a fellow in law and philosophy at the University of Chicago Law School, where he co-taught a course with Martha Nussbaum. He gave a paper on the doing-allowing distinction and its application in criminal, constitutional, and international law, and another paper on campaign finance. He spoke about immigration on a local radio show in Chicago. In the summer, he drove from Chicago through endless fields of corn until

Graduate Student Accomplishments

2009-2010

CU has a nationally ranked graduate program in philosophy. Last year the department was awarded a research assistantship program, to allow us to admit PhD students with full funding and no teaching for the first year. We received close to 300 applications for the PhD program this past year.

Last year, several of our students won awards or fellowships:

- Kelly Vincent won the Devaney Fellowship, a two-year fellowship awarded to the most promising graduate student applicants to the College of Arts and Sciences. She also started her three-year fellowship/mentorship awarded by the national Lilly Graduate Fellows Program.
- Pamela Lomelino received the Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship for Fall 2009, for her dissertation, "Revising the Philosophical Foundation for Informed Consent Guidelines for International Research on Human Subjects."
- Scott Wisor was a winner of the campus-wide Graduate Teaching Excellence Award.
- David Meens won a Beverly Sears Grant, for travel to the Pancho Villas in Mexico City to conduct research on their history, practices, and relationship to the Mexican State.
- Amandine Catala received an Emerson dissertation fellowship from the College of Arts and Sciences for 2010-2011.
- Kristin Demetriou won a Lowe Dissertation Fellowship for 2010-11.
- Barrett Emerick won a Lowe Dissertation Fellowship for 2010-11.
- Christian Lee was selected by our department and the Graduate School to receive a 2010-2011 Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship.
- Noel Saenz won this year's Jentsch Prize.
- Annaleigh Curtis received a \$2,000 scholarship/grant from the American Business Women's Association for fees and books.

Many of our students presented their work at academic conferences:

- Amandine Catala presented "Breaking Up is Hard to Do: The Morality of Redrawing State Boundaries" with Alison Jaggard at the Philosophical Collaborations Conference. She presented "Self-Determination, Justice, and Flourishing: A Hybrid Theory of Secession" at the North American Society for Social Philosophy conference. She was also selected for the APA/AAPT Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy.

- Annaleigh Curtis presented "Have We Shorted the Zombies Their Phenomena?" at the University of South Florida Graduate Conference on Mind. She presented "The Pursuit of Happiness: Utilitarian Obligations to Immigrants" at the Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, and again at the North American Society for Social Philosophy conference, where it won a prize for best graduate student paper.
- Joey Stenberg presented "Rule-Consequentialism, Inconsistency, and the Right" at the Michigan State Graduate Student Conference.
- Andrew Winters presented "Miracles and the Underdetermination of the Supernatural" at the Mardi Gras Philosophy Conference at Louisiana State University.
- Todd Grassman presented "Asymmetry" at the Princeton-Rutgers Grad Philosophy Conference.
- Tyler Hildebrand presented "The Nomological Argument for the Existence of God" at the Mountain Pacific Conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers, "The Semantic Dilemma of Metaphysics" at the University of Miami Graduate Epistemology Conference, and "The Explanatory Weakness of Humeanism" at the conference of the Society for Exact Philosophy.
- Ryan Jenkins presented "My Father and His Father and His Father: Generational Codes in Hooker's Rule-Consequentialism" at the Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference and "The Paradox of Indiscriminate Warfare: The Battle of Fallujah and the Charge of Genocide" at the Institute for Genocide Awareness and Applied Research Conference.
- David Barnes presented "Should Private Security Companies be Integrated into Counterinsurgency Operations?" at the International Symposium for Military Ethics. He presented "An Argument for Belligerent Equality" and "Challenge of Military Privatization on the Military Profession" at the International Studies Association Convention. He was also a discussant/panelist for "Civilian Protection During Violent Conflict," "Soldier Diplomats, Counterinsurgency, and Peacebuilding," and the "Jus in Bello: The Norms for the Conduct of War" workshop.
- Michaela McSweeney was invited to participate in the week-long seminar known as

he finally came to the lovely mountains of Boulder.

Mike Huemer's recent paper on immigration was accepted by *Social Theory and Practice*, emboldening him to start a controversy on the subject with the mentally challenged readers of a local newspaper. Various older papers finally appeared, on inductive logic, theoretical parsimony, deontological ethics, Peter Singer, and moral realism. In the spring, he started a book on the basis for political authority (he rather doubts there is any). He now edits this year's newsletter in exchange for a king's ransom in service points.

Alison Jaggard guest-edited an issue of *Bioethics* (with Annette Dula, Ben Hale, and Dayna Matthew) addressing the use of prisoners and other vulnerable populations in medical research, and co-authored the introduction to the issue. She guest-edited and contributed two articles to an issue of *Philosophical Topics* on global gender justice. Her edited book *Pogge and his Critics* may appear in 2010. Alison gave several papers at international conferences. She continued her work as Research Coordinator at the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature at the University of Oslo and gave two talks in Oslo.

Dan Kaufman continues editing the Routledge *Companion to 17th Century Philosophy*. He has/had recent and upcoming talks at the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, University of Western Ontario, UMass, UNC-Chapel Hill, and a conference at Barnard in honor of Eileen O'Neill. He is working on Hobbes' theory of parts and wholes, and on individuation in the Cambridge Platonists. For his sabbatical he will travel to Amsterdam, Utrecht, Berlin, Prague, Paris, and Oxford. In Oxford, he will be rockin' with Pasnau at Chris Shields' place. Dom Bailey may join them.

Kathrin Koslicki completed articles on ontological dependence, mereological sums, and essences, for three edited volumes. She was a keynote speaker at a conference at Auburn University; was a plenary speaker for the Society for Christian Philosophers; participated in an author-meets-critics session on her

Metaphysical Mayhem.

- Barrett Emerick presented “Privileging the Experience of Victims: A New Feminist Critique of Traditional and Poststructuralist Epistemology,” at the Meeting of the Society for Women in Philosophy, and again at the Society for Analytic Feminism session at the APA. He presented “Can State-Required Apologies be Successful?” at the North American Society for Social Philosophy conference.
- Matthew Pike presented “Aikido and the Role of the New Warrior” at the Pacific APA meeting and “Sextus Empiricus: Ancient Epistemology and the Fuzziness of Truth” at the CU Humanities Cross-Disciplinary Consortium. This paper was also printed in the accompanying Consortium Journal.
- Thomas Metcalf presented “Deontology Monsters, Particularism, and Counterexamples in Normative Ethics” at the Saint Louis University Graduate Philosophy Conference.
- In April 2010, Dave Hysom and Michaela McSweeney organized the annual Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, a graduate philosophy conference attracting submissions from graduate students across the nation. The keynote speakers were Nathan Salmon and Penelope Maddy.

Our students publish their work in nationally recognized journals:

- Andrew Winters, “Man is the Most Dangerous Animal of All” in *Serial Killers & Philosophy* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).
- Kristin Demetriou, “The Soft-Line Solution to Pereboom’s Four-Case Argument,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2010). [The *AJP* is one of the top five or six journals in philosophy. –Ed.]
- Jason Wyckoff, “Rousseau’s General Will and the Condorcet Jury Theorem,” *History of Political Thought* (forthcoming); “On the Incompatibility of Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom,” *Sophia* (forthcoming).
- Pamela Lomelino, “Reconceptualizing Autonomy to Address Cross-Cultural Differences in Informed Consent,” *Social Philosophy Today* 25 (2009).

Some recent PhD graduates are at their first teaching posts after CU:

- Thomas Metcalf defended his dissertation, “Rational Intuition,” in December. He will be continuing his teaching appointment at Baker Residential Academic Program at CU, in addition to teaching at Metro State University in Denver.
- David Barnes defended his dissertation,

“Close Combat Privatization: Exploring Ethical Dimensions of the Armed Contractor Phenomenon,” in the Spring. He starts in fall, 2010, as a tenure-track assistant professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

- Mary Krizan defended her dissertation, “Metaphysical and Explanatory Implications of Aristotle’s Elements in *On Generation and Corruption*,” in May. She will be a visiting assistant professor at California State University, Fullerton for 2010-11.
- Scott Wisor defended his dissertation, “Developing a New Global Poverty Metric: Toward a Pro-Poor Approach,” in December. He was awarded a prestigious three-year post-doc position at the Australian National University for 2010-12.
- Jonathan Peeters will be a visiting assistant professor at the University of Washington–Seattle for 2010-11.
- Jason Wyckoff was a Senior Lecturer at CU in 2009-10 and will be a visiting assistant professor at Marquette University in Wisconsin in 2010-11.
- Ryan Mott (PhD 2009) will be a visiting assistant professor at Marquette University for 2010-11.

Several masters students have recently graduated:

- Amber Arnold defended her MA thesis, “How To Be Blameworthy” [a subject on which her expertise is unparalleled –Ed.] in May 2010.
- Chelsea Haramia defended her MA thesis, “Praise Without Blame: Moral Asymmetry Within Determinism” in May. She enters the CU PhD program this fall.
- Emma Kobil defended her MA thesis, “Happiness is a Warm Gun: Why We Should Reject Sophisticated Consequentialism and Strive to Be Moral Saints” in May. This fall, she is teaching three classes at Metro State University, and beginning the MA program in Counseling Psychology at UC Denver.
- Shawn Williams defended his MA thesis, “Spatiotemporal Monism and Region Theory: A Non-Standard Account of Spacetime,” in the spring.
- Andrew Winters defended his MA thesis, “Two Follies of Justification for the Belief in God’s Existence” in April. He was accepted to the University of South Florida’s PhD program for the fall.
- Rebecca Chan graduated from the CU law school in the spring, where she has been pursuing a JD concurrently with her MA in philosophy. □

book, *The Structure of Objects*, at the APA; participated in the first Carolina Metaphysics Workshop; and spoke at the University of Geneva and the University of Southern California. She won an NEH fellowship for 2010-11 to pursue research on ontological dependence. She taught courses on logic, ancient philosophy, Aristotle, and metaphysics.

Mitzi Lee spent much of last year working on “The Distinction between Primary and Secondary Qualities in Ancient Greek Philosophy” for a forthcoming anthology with Oxford. She continued work on Aristotle and justice, concluding the year with a talk on the subject at the Conference on Ordinary Virtue in Greek and Roman Philosophy, Northwestern University. She was also very proud to see her first Ph.D. student, Mary Krizan, successfully defend her dissertation.

Claudia Mills won the graduate school’s “the Best Should Teach” Gold Award for outstanding classroom teaching and for service to the Graduate Teacher Program. She is teaching a newly created course this fall, Philosophy through Literature, focusing on the search for utopia. She is working on an essay on Rousseau for an edited collection on romanticism and children’s literature.

Brad Monton published “Design Inferences in an Infinite Universe,” “McTaggart and Modern Physics,” and “Prolegomena to any Future Physics-Based Metaphysics.” (The last paper was rejected by one journal in part because they found the title too pretentious, but Brad thinks it’s funny.) He gave a talk on time travel at the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art. He spent a lot of time working on a paper criticizing solutions to the problem of evil that postulate multiple universes. He also went climbing in Kentucky, kayaking in Utah, and hiking in Alaska.

Wes Morrison’s paper, “What If God Commanded Something Terrible?” was published in *Religious Studies*. He gave two vigorous commentaries at a conference on the moral character of God (watch the videos: philreligion.nd.edu/conferences/video/my_ways/). He gave a ple-

Prizes and Awards

Jentsch Prize

The Jentsch Prize is awarded each year for the best paper written by a graduate student. This year, Noel Saenz won the prize for his paper, "Is Modal Fictionalism a Fiction?" The topic of Noel's paper is the philosophical treatment, not of the actual world, but of other "possible worlds" (or other ways the world could have been). Some philosophers have suggested that talk about possible worlds is nothing more than a useful fiction, and that there really are no such things as possible worlds. Noel proposes a very clever argument that this suggestion is self-refuting.

Stahl Prize

The Stahl Prize is given to recognize philosophy graduate students who have combined philosophy with community work. This year's winner is David Meens, who traveled to Mexico with a group of CU students last year. There he facilitated first-hand encounters with diverse voices on issues of international trade, immigration and human rights. His encounter with the Pancho Villas (an autonomous community in one of the poorest districts of Mexico City, organized according to egalitarian and democratic ideals, and in open conflict with the Mexican Government) inspired the master's thesis that he is presently writing. David has also helped to redesign INVST's domestic service-learning trip, spending 2008-09 as the chair of the INVST Curriculum Committee, taking on the charge of updating this learning experience to address the most relevant and crucial issues currently affecting the American Southwest. In collaboration with Prof. Ben Hale, the Center for the American West, and the Governor's Energy Office in Denver, David worked with students and alumni to create a cutting-edge, 5-week experience focused on issues of Energy and the Environment in the Southwest.

Outstanding Graduate

This past spring, Katherine Hermann was selected as the Outstanding Graduate in the College of Arts and Sciences for May 2010. She graduated with Distinction, and with *Summa Cum Laudes* in both Philosophy and History. Her philosophy thesis, advised by Eric Chwang, was titled, "It Isn't Wrong To Deprive An Early-Term Fetus of a 'Future Like Ours.'" The thesis raised an objection to Don Marquis' argument that abortion is immoral. Marquis claims that the reason it is wrong to kill people is that it deprives the victim of a valuable future; he infers from this that killing a fetus must also be wrong, since it deprives the fetus of a future like ours. Katherine argues that even if the fetus has a future like ours, it can still be permissible to kill it. She considers an analogy of a rock with a future like ours, arguing that it is as permissible to smash such a rock as it is to smash one without a future like ours. She considers and rebuts several objections in her thesis, including the thought that perhaps



smashing a future-like-ours-rock is wrong after all and that rocks with futures like ours are not relevantly analogous to fetuses with futures like ours.

Katherine is now a research assistant at Josh Greene's Moral Cognition Lab at Harvard University. □

nary address on "Divinely Mandated Genocide and the Limits of Human Knowledge" for the Society of Christian Philosophers. He also gave a Think! talk on the subject, after which a sad-faced man told Wes that he would have a long time to "think" about the matter in Hell. He nominated David Barnett for a BFA Teaching Award and helped select a new Editor for *Religious Studies*.

Alastair Norcross spent most of the year drunk, but still managed to publish several vaguely coherent articles and give various talks, including the keynote talk at the Midsouth conference in Memphis. He halted the progress of several runaway trains by pushing fat men (thank you McDonald's) off bridges. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the APA Pacific Division. He organized the Think! lecture series, the third RoME Congress (with Ben Hale), and the Bled ethics conference. At the Bolder Boulder, he beat everyone over 69, except for one annoying 73-year-old woman. She's going down next year.

Graham Oddie ended an eight-year stint as Associate Dean for Humanities and the Arts and returned to being a full-time scholar and teacher. He won the BFA Award for Research Excellence, plus a College Scholar Award. The latter, in combination with a long-deferred sabbatical, will let him spend the year catching up on recent developments in philosophy. He will divide his time between Boulder and Oxford, where he will be the William Starr Visiting Fellow, and will continue thinking and writing about issues in the metaphysics and the epistemology of value.

Bob Pasnau lived in Morocco throughout 2010, studying Arabic and developing new philosophical projects. The two-volume *Cambridge History of Medieval Philosophy*, which he edited, appeared in January, and his 700-page *Metaphysical Themes 1274-1671* will appear in December.

Rob Rupert published papers in the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Philosophical Psychology*; the *Journal of Mind and Behavior*; *Cognitive Systems Research*; and an edited book, *The Extended Mind*. He gave talks at Cornell, Pittsburgh, Utah, Bielefeld, and the University of Osnabruck (at a conference in his honor). He defended his work at a book symposium of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. He taught six courses, led an independent study, and co-lead a reading group. He did more service than any sensible person would, yet he did not get a raise.

Michael Tooley served as Vice President of the Pacific APA, and as the Cecil and Ida Green Honors Chair Professor at Texas Christian University in the spring. He published articles on divine foreknowledge, critical thinking about religion, causation, personhood, and laws of nature. He gave talks on such topics as abortion, presentism, three-dimensionalism, time, the existence of God, and euthanasia. He debated William Lane Craig on the existence of God, and the debate was published as a DVD by the Southern Evangelical Seminary.

Ajume Wingo made a presentation at the United States Mission in Geneva at a Transformation Education Forum. He was interviewed on ABC Radio ("Being a Person in West Africa," *Philosopher's Zone*, Sept. 4, 2010). He continues working on "Electoral Corruption in Nomos," as well as inventing new forms of elections that work for the developing world.

Michael Zimmerman published "The Final Cause of Cosmic Development" in *Integral Theory in Action* (SUNY Press), and "Including and Differentiating among Perspectives: An Integral Approach to Climate Change" in the *Journal of Integral Theory and Practice*. He was also a keynote speaker at the *Aufklärung und Erleuchtung* conference in Berlin in June. □

Philosophy Graduation, 2010

The spring graduation ceremony was held on May 7, 2010. The department honored six students receiving Doctorates, ten receiving Masters of Arts, and 76 receiving Bachelor of Arts degrees. The department acknowledged twelve BA students who graduated with honors and nine who graduated with distinction. Department Chair David Boonin presided over the ceremony.

The graduation address was given by Professor Graham Oddie. Oddie, a native of New Zealand but recently a US Citizen, graduated with a BA in Philosophy from Otago University in 1976, and a PhD from the London School of Economics in 1979. He held academic positions at Otago and Massey Universities before moving to CU-Boulder. He was Department Chair at CU from 1997 until 2002, when he became Associate Dean for Humanities and the Arts. A main focus of his research over the past thirty years has been realism in metaphysics, science, and value theory. Professor Oddie has authored two books (*Likeness to Truth* and *Value, Reality and Desire*), co-edited two books

(including *What's Wrong?* with David Boonin), and published sixty papers on a variety of topics, from the value of freedom, to the nature of abstract entities, to the distinction between killing and letting die. He has held visiting fellowships at the Australian National University, Helsinki University, the Czech Academy of Sciences, the University of London, and the Tantur Institute in Jerusalem, as well as visiting Professorships at the Universities of Sydney and Canterbury. In the coming academic year, he will be on sabbatical at Oxford University on the Starr Fellowship, thinking about the value of art.

David Boonin and Undergraduate Advisor Sheralee Brindell presented the undergraduate degrees. Mitzi Lee, Director of Graduate Studies, presented the graduate degrees. Awards were presented to the winners of departmental prizes. David Meens received the Stahl Prize for Community Service, and Noel Saenz received the Jentzsch Prize for the outstanding graduate student paper. □

Philosophy Department Graduates

Bachelor of Arts

Jeffrey Adams
Serra Akgun
Leslie Allen
Marzouq Alnuf, *magna cum laude*
Annmarie Banchy
Alexander Beal
David Blaz
Etan Brandt–Finell
Gareth Brown–Hebert
Dylan Burns
Benjamin Classen
Harry Clayman
Kevin Cummiskey
Patrick Decker*, *summa cum laude*
Ryan Devereaux
Thomas Doctor
Mathew Feldman
Timothy Flemming
Nathan Gallagher
Scott Gallagher*, *summa cum laude*
Scott Garner
Melanie Gillman*
Seth Gitner
Sergio Gutierrez, III
Brendan Harrison, *magna cum laude*
Alex Hathaway, *cum laude*
Katherine Hermann*, *summa cum laude*
Cassie Houtz*
Anne Howard
Cameron Huggins
David Humphreys
Joshua Jaffe, *cum laude*

Seamus James
Travis Johnson, *magna cum laude*
Kodi Kassell
Alexander Kelly
David Kirch
Brian Knab, *magna cum laude*
Jon Wesley Lafferty*, *summa cum laude*
Richard Long
Michael Lopes
Tram Mai
Ryan Martin
Paulo Martinez
Jordan Mazer
Christopher McCormick
Kimberly McDevitt
Christina McPherson
Jeffrey Meyer
Ryan O'Mara
Benjamin Pacyga
Naoshi Pfeffer
Caleb Pilon
Hollis Ploen
Sabrina Renteria
Neal Robbins
Matthew Roberts
Scott Rogers
Michael Rutledge
Robert Ryden
Evan Sandsmark*, *summa cum laude*
Ariel Scheimann
David Schneider
Chlöe Scott
Devon Sigler
Amanda Slyter

Christopher Smith
Ashley Steele*
Cariann Stevens, *cum laude*
Joshua Taylor
Edwin Teran, III
Melissa Thompson
William Troxel*
Michael Walker
Torri Weese
William White

* with Distinction

Master of Arts

Yulya Adeshchenko
Amber Arnold
Joseph Garcia
Chelsea Haramia
Emma Kobil
Beth Seacord
Katriel Statman
Chad Vance
Shawn Williams
Andrew Winters

Doctorate of Philosophy

David Barnes
Mary Krizan
Ben Pageler
Matthew Seacord
April Shaw
Scott Wisor



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