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For more information on the Colorado High School Ethics Bowl, head to <https://www.colorado.edu/cvsp/programs/ethics-bowl>

If you'd like to support the Ethics Bowl with a gift, do so at <https://www.colorado.edu/cvsp/supporting-center>

Letter from the Chair



Dear Students, Colleagues, Friends, and Alumni:

This year, I'd like to focus on a special event our Center for Values and Social Policy (<https://www.colorado.edu/cvsp/>) has been sponsoring for the past three years: the Colorado High School Ethics Bowl.

An Ethics Bowl is a debate-like event, competitive yet collaborative, in which students discuss real-life ethical problems and dilemmas. They are organized into teams that defend whichever position they think is correct on a certain ethical issue and provide each other with constructive criticism. The winning team has demonstrated best that they have thought carefully and systematically about the problem cases and discussed them respectfully and supportively with the other participants.

The National High School Ethics Bowl is run by Dominique Déry, the program's Director, and supported by an Executive Committee consisting of faculty members of the Philosophy Department and the Parr Center for Ethics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The 2018-19 season started on

September 7th with the release of the cases to be discussed and ended on February 4th, by which time all the regional events had to be completed. The winners of the regional competitions move on to the Nationals in April on the UNC campus. The regional organizer of the Colorado High School Ethics Bowl is our very own David Boonin, who in the fall of 2016 reached out to several high schools in the area and inaugurated the Colorado High School Ethics Bowl with the first annual competition in February 2017. In this year's event, five high schools participated, fielding eight teams: Peak to Peak High School (Lafayette), Boulder High School, Vanguard Classical School (Aurora), CEC Parker, and Colorado Academy (Denver). The Colorado Academy team came out on top and then won in the playoff round against the winner of another small regional tournament. They are now qualified to compete at the national tournament in North Carolina on April 5-7. (Update: the national competition was won by Jesuit High School from Beaverton, OR, while Colorado Academy came a very praiseworthy fourth – Ed.)

Here is what three of my colleagues who served as judges say about their participation. Iskra Fileva: "The day of the Ethics Bowl is one of the most enjoyable days in the year for me." Bob Pasnau: "I've participated in each of the last three years, and it's no exaggeration to say that it's one of the highpoints of my year in philosophy. It's wonderful to see young people who have thought so deeply about ethical questions,

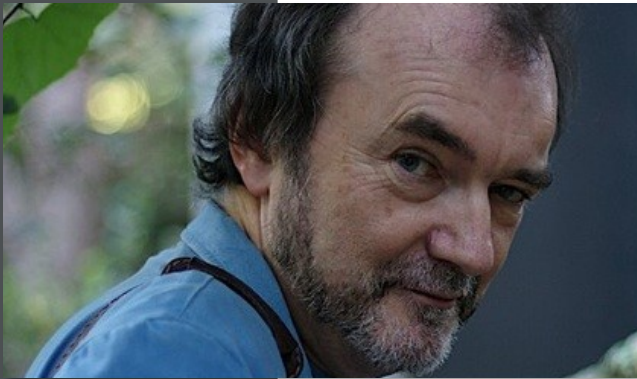
and then listen to them work as a team trying to articulate their insights." Brian Talbot: "I was impressed by how engaged and excited the students were. It seemed to me that this event had brought out in the students a love for doing philosophy and working through difficult ethical issues. Given how much time and effort these students clearly put in to prepare, and how motivated they were during the competition, it seems to me that this will have a life-long impact on most of them."

In conclusion, I wish to thank David for his leadership in organizing this fantastic example of philosophical outreach, as well as the many judges and moderators (too many to name) who have helped make these competitions a success. I also wish to express my gratitude to the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at the Leeds School of Business for their financial assistance, and to the parents and coaches who have supported the Colorado Ethics Bowl with donations. The goal of each High School Ethics Bowl is to teach and foster ethical awareness, critical thinking, civil discourse, civic engagement, and an appreciation for multiple points of view. If you share my enthusiasm for this goal, please consider supporting the Colorado High School Ethics bowl with a gift.

Cheers,

Matthew Stapp

Letter from the Editor — GRAEME FORBES



Graeme Forbes

“Any journal with the word ‘philosophy’ in its title will get papers from people who are out-and-out lunatics...and will also attract papers from authors who simply want to let the journal readership know what their philosophy is.”

It’s not that I have a compulsion, but I started editing the department newsletter immediately after my term as the philosophy editor-in-chief of *Linguistics and Philosophy* ended. It isn’t very useful to compare the two periodicals – we don’t require double-blind peer review for newsletter contributions, though there’s an idea – but I thought I might pass on some observations about my *L&P* experience that could be useful, particularly to those at the start of the road I’m reaching the end of.

One of the most intimidating aspects of writing papers for refereed journals is the very high rejection rates the top journals all have, even specialist ones like *L&P*, where you might hope that the smaller pool of researchers would improve your chances of success. At first sight, you’d be wrong: in the six years I was editor-in-chief, the rejection rate at *L&P* ranged from 85% to 95%. But behind these daunting numbers the reality isn’t quite so bad, since a

fair proportion of submissions aren’t really competitive, and this is true for generalist journals as well.

First, any journal with the word ‘philosophy’ in its title will get papers from people who are out-and-out lunatics. For many years *L&P*’s rejection rate was boosted by a Russian who continually submitted papers claiming that the personal computer revolution was all his own work, and Intel, Xerox, Apple and Microsoft has simply stolen his ideas. ‘Philosophy’ will also attract papers from authors who simply want to let the journal readership know what their philosophy is. Rejection rates drop when this kind of material is subtracted from the pool of submissions.

Second, something which is particularly applicable to specialist journals: there may be a surprising number of submissions whose topic isn’t within the scope of the journal. For example, *L&P* received many papers on pure syntax, which had no chance of being published in a journal focused on semantics, pragmatics and philosophy of language. Every issue of *L&P* contains a list of relevant areas on the inside front cover, but it seems to have been too much trouble for some people to make the effort to read it. Rejection rates drop a bit more when such mis-targeted submissions are subtracted.

And third, there are the mediocre essays. The sorts of paper I’ve described above are easily spotted, but it’s the quantity of deadwood submissions that makes the life of a journal editor trying. You certainly don’t want them to proceed to the next stage, but it often takes time to weed them out. The fault here lies with universities that fancy themselves to be research institutions and impose publication requirements on their faculty without having the quality of faculty for there to be any point doing this. In many disciplines, a lower tier of journals has arisen to accommodate this extension of publish-or-perish, for where there’s demand, supply will follow if at all possible. But not everyone who should be submitting only to the lower tier understands the distinction, and even those who do may think, well, you never know, and take a shot at something out of their league. The rejection rate drops even more when submissions that shouldn’t have been are subtracted.

So the rejection rate you should be concerned about is not the one that journals advertise. Assuming you aren’t a lunatic, that you paid attention to the journal’s own description of its scope, and that the journal is at the right level for the work you do, your chances are probably in the one-in-three to one-in-five range, which allows for a little more optimism.

Department News and Projects

— Faculty —

David Boonin — My book *Beyond Roe: Why Abortion Should be Legal – Even if the Fetus is a Person* will be published by OUP in 2019. I also received a contract from OUP for a book on posthumous harm, which is almost finished. And *The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophy and Public Policy*, which I edited, was published last fall. I delivered the Florsheim Lecture in Ethics at Texas Christian University and spent a few days as the Crom Visiting Philosopher at Beloit College. 2018 also marked my first year as Editor of *Public Affairs Quarterly* and I continue to serve as Director of the Department's Center for Values and Social Policy.

Carol Cleland — I continue to serve as Director of the new Center for the Study of Origins. My book, *The Quest for a Universal Theory of Life: Searching for life as we don't know it*, is being published by Cambridge University Press; CUP is also reprinting an anthology of mine (with Mark Bedau). I gave talks to a life detection workshop at NASA-Ames (California) and also to NASA scientists at Goddard-Space Center (Maryland). I spent two weeks as a visiting researcher at the Center for Space and Habitability (Bern, Switzerland), where I gave 4 colloquium talks. I spent a week in Washington DC at the Carnegie Institution for Science. I gave a talk to climatologists at NCAR. I am currently working on several papers, including a joint paper with philosophy graduate student Daniel Coren on Aristotle.

Heather Demarest — I gave presentations at the Center for Philosophy of Time in Milan and at the Pacific APA; at a conference in Dusseldorf; at a summer school in Budapest; at a conference at the Central European University; at the Morris Colloquium at CU; and at a workshop organized by the Birmingham Framework for the Metaphysical Explanation in Physics; and as a commentator at the International Association for the Philosophy of Time's conference in Italy. As Chair of CU's Committee on the History and Philosophy of Science, I organized the 2018 CHPS conference, and hosted the 2019 conference for the International Association for the Philosophy of Time.

Iskra Fileva — I gave a keynote address on the nature of gender at an interdisciplinary conference in Germany. I had three papers appear, in *Synthese*, *Ratio*, and *Philosophy*, and wrote a book review for *Mind*. I am currently working on a paper on moral disgust and on a commissioned entry on planning ahead for the exorbitantly-priced (\$8,000 or so!) *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences*. Contact me if you would like a draft of my contribution for less than \$8,000.

Graeme Forbes — A paper fourteen years in the making at last appeared, in an edited collection. I gave a talk at a semantics conference in Frankfurt, took part as a journal editor in an APA roundtable discussion on diversity in publishing, and commented on papers presented at an APA session on modal paradox. After seven years as a Springer serf, I stepped down as philosophy editor-in-chief for *Linguistics and Philosophy*.

Chris Heathwood — I had three papers appear in 2018 and gave talks at Tulane University, the Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association in Montreal, the OSU/Maribor/Rijeka Philosophy Conference in Dubrovnik, and the Kansas Workshop on Well-Being. I also gave talks to audiences in Lahore, Pakistan, via Skype. I finished up a Faculty Fellowship at the Murphy Institute at Tulane and cleaned myself up quickly enough to take over as DGS at CU Philosophy.

Michael Huemer — In 2018, my book *Paradox Lost* was published, as well as some papers on jury nullification, constitutional design, evidentialism, and direct realism. I went on to write *Dialogues on Ethical Vegetarianism*, a series of philosophical dialogues that discusses the horrific immorality of almost everyone's eating practices, which will be published by Routledge in 2019. I spent the 2018-19 academic year on a research fellowship at the Murphy Institute at Tulane.

Department News and Projects

Alison Jaggar — In 2018, an article co-authored with former student Corwin Aragon, appeared in *The Journal of Social Philosophy*. I was a keynote speaker at four conferences, two in Birmingham (U.K.) and the other two in Boulder and at CUNY. I also gave a talk on immigration at the biennial conference of the Radical Philosophy Association in Lowell.

Mitzi Lee — I spent 2018 on sabbatical working on my book *Justice in Aristotle's ethics and political philosophy*, under contract with OUP. I gave talks at union college, the Aristotle's ethics workshop in Washington DC, and the Central APA.

Alastair Norcross — In 2018 my book *Morality by Degrees* was accepted for publication by Oxford University Press. I also became Director of Farrand Residential Academic Program, and began the appointment in July 2018. I organized the Eleventh Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. I stage directed, co-wrote, and acted in the Rocky Mountain Revels production of *Nordic Lights* at the Dairy Center in December.

Graham Oddie — I ran the third Boulder Workshop on Formal Value Theory in March—with speakers from the US, Australia and Sweden. This is threatening to become an annual event. I published papers on the value of truth and on Anselm's rather neglected ontological argument for the existence of God in Proslogion 3. I was awarded a Fellowship at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies in Uppsala, which I took up in the Spring of 2019 to pursue further research on a unified theory of value. I will also be editing, for posthumous publication, the last unpublished manuscript of Pavel Tichý. Tichý was a philosopher-logician who emigrated to New Zealand from Czechoslovakia after the Russian invasion in 1968, and died tragically in 1994.

Robert Pasnau — I saw the publication of a new book at the start of 2018, a history of epistemology entitled *After Certainty* (OUP). I direct the Center for Western Civilization, at least until the end of Spring 2019, after which I will take up a year-long position at the Institut d'études avancées de Paris.

Rob Rupert — In 2018, I continued in my roles as Associate Editor of the British Journal for the Philosophy of Science and, for the first half of the year, as Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy. I gave presentations at U. of Salzburg, SUNY-Brockport, Johns Hopkins U., NYU., the biennial meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, a meeting of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science, and a Morris Colloquium that I organized at CU-Boulder; and I participated in a round-table workshop on the implications of developments in machine learning for people with cognitive disabilities. I published an Oxford Bibliography on Situated Cognition as well as two papers. I held a College Scholar Award in Spring 2018, and then began a year's sabbatical, spent as a visiting scholar at NYU.

Matthias Steup — In 2018 four papers of mine appeared in print, in *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, *Synthese*, and two edited collections. I also wrote a paper for a forthcoming Festschrift for Peter Klein, and one for a forthcoming special issue of *Episteme* in honor of Ernest Sosa, while continuing my term as the Department's Chairman.

Department News and Projects

— Graduate Students —

Cheryl Abbate — In 2018 I had three journal publications, in *Between the Species*, *Journal of Animal Ethics*, and *American Journal of Bioethics*, and one paper in an edited collection. I gave three presentations, one as a Think! talk and the other two at Chapel Hill. And I was a commentator at RoME and an invited participant in an ethics workshop at Washington University in St. Louis.

Cherie Braden — I achieved an Erdős rank of 5 by coauthoring, with Branden Fitelson, the introduction to *Themes from Klein: Knowledge, Scepticism, and Justification* (2019), whose truly perfect Chicago bibliography Springer demolished with a house-style wrecking ball.

Spencer Case — I presented papers at all three APA meetings, and finished my Ph.D. in May. I had papers published or accepted for publication in *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* and *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. And I have a paper and a reply forthcoming in an edited collection from OUP.

Daniel Coren — I had three papers accepted for publication, in *Ancient Philosophy*, *Res Philosophica*, and *The Journal of Philosophical Research*, and have two more conditional acceptances. I received a Graduate Research Award for Fall '18 from the Center for the Study of Origins at CU, and also gave a presentation at a Symposium at that Center.

Samuel Director — I received an Adam Smith Fellowship from the Mercatus Institute, a fellowship from the Institute for Humane Studies, and a graduate student fellowship from the Center for Western Civilization, Thought & Policy, for all for '18-'19. I was also awarded a Second Leg Summer Research Fellowship by the CHA. A paper of mine appeared in *The Journal of the APA*, a book review in *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, and another paper was accepted for the upcoming APA Central Division meeting. I gave a presentation at CWC and commented at RoME and at the 2018 GISME/CVSP Workshop on Current Issues in Ethics and Economics.

Cristian Laroulet-Phillipi — I presented a paper at the 8th Annual Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology Conference and at the 26th Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association. I gave another paper, "What could Scientific Pluralism be?", at the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Conference, where it was awarded The Hadden Prize for the best graduate student paper presented at the conference. I will give it again at the upcoming APA Central Division meeting. I was also selected as a participant for the Summer School of the Association for Social Economics.

Jasmine Straight — I received both an Adam Smith Fellowship through the Mercatus Center and a Humane Studies Fellowship through the Institute for Humane Studies for AY 2018-19. I have also been invited to be a panelist for the 'Institutional Analysis, Competition, and Labor Issues' panel at The Association of Private Education Enterprise's 2019 Meeting.

Alex Wolf-Root — I had my first journal paper published, in *Sports, Ethics and Philosophy*, and my Philosophy and Sports course is now officially on the books and currently being taught. There's an interview with me about it in the December 2018 *Colorado Arts & Sciences Magazine*.



Graduation: Spring 2018

Graduate Students

Doctorate of Philosophy

Spencer Case
Jay Geyer
Tyler Huismann

Master of Arts

Judith Carlisle
Jasmine Carter
John Christmann
Jules Guidry
Lenhardt Stevens Jr.

Jentzsch Prize

Zak Kopeikin

Stahl Prize

Maggie Taylor

Mills Teaching Award

(Best TA)

Alexandra Lloyd

Morrison Teaching Award

(Best GPTI)

Ben Kultgen



Undergraduate Students: Bachelor of Arts

Kevin Aliment
Maia Allen
Emily Anderson*
Alexander Barclay
Jules Blackwell
Toby Bollig* (*summa cum laude*)
Damian Borovsky
Christian Bruno
Charles Campbell-Harris
Jenasis Collier
Zachary Diamond
Miles Farmer
Dylan Flanders
Haley Gill*
Nicholas Gonyea*
Christine Hankins
Zachary Hoffman*
Kyle Howe
Nathan Kramer-Kurland
Dan Le
Ariel Lozovsky
Samuel Martens
Rachel Matthews-Knoche
Mattie McGarey

MacKenzie Meno*
Ellen Mueller
Evan Noyes
John Olsen
Conrad Ottem
Tyler Ponzo
Amir Qadri
Rafi Rahman
Alexander Ratcliff-Jones
Scott Reba
Justin Richards
Martin Ryeiss
Steven Santoro
Michael Satterelli
Yun Shao
Emmett Spence
Bryan Sullivan
Brandon Waddle
William White
Alex Zelmanowicz
Huiyuan Zhang*

*with Distinction
(GPA 3.75 and above)

Socrates Award

Toby Bollig

Morris Judd Scholarship

Mattie McGarey

CVSP Morris Judd Essay Prize

Toby Bollig