



Sisyphus' Boulder

Fall 2016



The Newsletter of the Philosophy Department

University of Colorado at Boulder

Letter from the Chair

Dear Students, Colleagues, Friends, and Alumni:

When, after eight years of being department head at Purdue University, I arrived on campus this past summer, I could immediately tell that CU Boulder's Department of Philosophy is a thriving place with an exciting future. Here are just a few events that I had the pleasure of witnessing first hand:

- The Summer Seminar for outstanding undergraduates, directed by David Boonin and team-taught by members of the Department, attracted as usual a group of highly motivated students. This year's topic was "Paradoxes and Puzzles." I myself taught a session on skepticism and had a wonderful experience discussing epistemology with these talented young philosophers.
- On July 10, the Center for Western Civilization, Thought and Policy, the Center for Values and Social Policy and our Department's new Minorities and Philosophy chapter jointly held a workshop on affirmative action that featured five specialists on the topic: Lawrence Blum (UMass Boston), Bernard Boxill (UNC Chapel Hill), Stephen Kershnar (SUNY Fredonia), Judith Lichtenberg (Georgetown), and George Sher (Rice).
- The 9th annual Rocky Mountains Ethics Conference (RoME), August 11-14, organized by Alastair Norcross and Benjamin Hale, was once again a stunning success. Larry Blum (University of Massachusetts at Boston), David Brink (University of California at San Diego), and Nomy Arpaly (Brown) gave the keynote talks.
- The Inaugural Workshop on the Study of Origins was held August 15-17. CU



Professor Matthias Steup

Boulder's Origins Project, directed by the Department's philosopher of science Carol Cleland, brings together scholars from a wide spectrum of specialties to investigate the origins of things like our planet, life, human beings, civilizations, and ideologies.

I am extremely impressed by the Department's Center for Values and Social Policy (CVSP), its Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science (CHPS), the Climate Committee, and the local chapter of the national Minorities and Philosophy group (MAP), and its newly instituted practice of hosting Visiting Fellows:

- The CVSP, directed by David Boonin, offers a regular Friday 12:00-1:00 well-attended talk followed by a faculty/graduate student lunch. The Center hosts several visiting fellows throughout the year and has recently begun a promising collaboration with CU Boulder's Law School.
- CHPS organizes a Distinguished Visitor speaker series and hosts an annual Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science. This year's conference, held from October 28-30, was on the topic of gravity from antiquity to the present.
- With the aim of ensuring a friendly and

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Faculty Activities 2015-2016

David Boonin spent the 2015-2016 academic year serving as Chair of the Department and as the Associate Director of the Department's Center for Values and Social Policy. He also found time to complete a draft of a book he has been working on on posthumous harm and to produce early drafts of a few short pieces on other subjects. He also developed a new undergraduate course on sexual ethics that he plans to begin teaching in 2017-18. During the summer of 2016, Prof. Boonin directed the Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy, which brought talented undergraduates from a wide variety of institutions to Boulder for an intensive, three-week course on the subject of "Paradoxes and Puzzles." His term as Department Chair also ended over the summer, at which point he took over as Director of the Center for Values and Social Policy.

inclusive environment for the Department's activities, the Climate Committee has articulated Best Practices for faculty and student conduct. This year, the committee will begin investigating why, when we look at the enrollment figures of 1000 through 4000 level undergraduate courses, the percentage of women students decreases. The purpose of this study is to find out whether there are ways, at the undergraduate level, to counteract the small number of women who earn Ph.D.'s in philosophy.

- Several of the Department's graduate students recently founded, with the assistance of faculty advisor Adam Hosein, a local chapter of MAP. This group will host reading groups, talks, and workshops on topics that fall under the umbrella of diversity and inclusion, such as philosophy of gender, race, sexual orientation, and disability.
- In the spring semester, the following philosophers will visit the Department, each for about three weeks: Nina Emery (Brown) in February, Julia Staffell (Washington University) in March, and Kris McDaniel (Syracuse) in April. In the fall of 2017, Peter Klein (Rutgers) will visit. Each visiting fellow will give one or more talks and visit several class.

All of this adds up to an amazing amount of intellectual energy and scholarly activity – a perfect scholarly environment, particularly

for our graduate students. I am extremely grateful to CU Boulder's administration, particularly Dean Steve Leigh and Associate Dean Valerio Ferme, not only for supporting these activities with generous multi-year funding support for the CVSP, CHPS, and the Climate Committee, but also for giving the Department the green light to hire Heather Demarest, who is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma. She received a B.A. in philosophy and a B.A. in physics from CU Boulder, a B.Phil. from Oxford, where she studied with Timothy Williamson and John Hawthorne, and then her Ph.D. from Rutgers University, with Barry Loewer, Jonathan Schaffer, and Branden Fitelson as her advisors. As a specialist in metaphysics and the philosophy of science, she will meet our teaching needs in the area of philosophy of physics and strengthen our profile in the metaphysics/epistemology area. We expect that she will take over as the new director of CHPS and bring valuable expertise to our Climate Committee.

I hope you are as impressed as I am by the array of activities, events and news I have described above. If you have any questions or would like to hear more about us, please don't hesitate to send me an email at matthias.steup@colorado.edu.

Matthias Steup
Chair, Department of Philosophy

Note from the editor

There are amazing changes in this year's issue. First: Matthias suggested that we come up with a new name for this newsletter, something more interesting than "Philosophy Department Newsletter." Cherie Braden suggested "Newsletter of the Philosophy Department," but this was deemed too wordy. I suggested "The Journal of Philosophy," but Matthias thought this could cause confusion with another periodical that he was aware of. I next proposed "The Journal of Philosophy" (this name derives from the Greek roots *sophia*, meaning "wisdom," and *phyle*, meaning "tribe" – hence, it would be the journal of the wisdom tribe). But Matthias still thought that this

could cause some confusion (presumably because readers could read it as the journal of tribal wisdom and would thus expect practical advice on premodern life). Finally, Cheryl Abbate suggested the winning title, "Sisyphus' Boulder," which aptly expresses the feelings of all those who undertake the seemingly endless task of editing this newsletter.

Also, we're now taking philosophical articles for *Sisyphus' Boulder* (department members can direct submissions to me). Members should of course list publications in *SP* on their curricula vita.

Michael Huemer

Carol Cleland co-authored an article on ethical issues in astrobiology in an edited collection from Cambridge University Press. She gave an invited talk to a workshop sponsored by the Joint Genome Institute & Boundaries of Life Initiative (Lawrence-Berkeley Lab). She spent the spring of 2016 on sabbatical as a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh, where she gave talks to the Departments of History & Philosophy of Science, and Geology & Planetary Science. Cleland gave the Dunbar Lecture at Millsapp College and an invited talk to the University of Mississippi Medical School. A Swedish geologist invited her to participate in a session on drumlins at the annual meeting of the European Geological Union, and she wrote a short essay on drumlins for the Philosophy of Paleontology Blog. She gave invited talks at the University of Bern (Switzerland) and at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. She is on the Program Committee for the biennial meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association and Director of CU Boulder's new multidisciplinary Center for the Study of Origins, which is part of the Grand Challenge Initiative.

Iskra Fileva's edited volume *Questions of Character*, to which she also contributed a chapter, was published by Oxford University Press in October 2016. This project took three years to complete, and Iskra is very pleased that it's all done now. Her article "Ontology of Personality" is forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences*. Considering how slow academics tend to be, this article will likely be listed as "forthcoming" on her CV for two more years. And when the encyclopedia does eventually come out, the price will be absolutely prohibitive. If you are

Interview with Matthias Steup

Matthias Steup is the newest member of the department. This fall, Mike Huemer asked him a few questions to help us get to know him better and verify whether he is a brain in a vat. His answers were as follows.

Personal Questions

Q: How did you get interested in philosophy?

In 1969, with anti-Vietnam demonstrations and the student movement in full swing, an older acquaintance (and self-appointed revolutionary mentor) at the school I was attending gave me a book, a heavy volume of several hundred pages, that covered the history of philosophy from Thales to Sartre. Crude and simplistic, the volume stated the Soviet party-line account, portraying the history of philosophy as the struggle between two forces, materialism and idealism – the former good, the latter bad. Democritus was praised, Plato condemned. As an idealist, Hegel was bad. Inasmuch as he prepared the ground for Marx's dialectical and historical materialism, he was good. Despite the book's obvious flaws, I found it fascinating, full of intellectual mystery and wonder. Afterwards I was hooked.

Q: Tell us about how you came to be in America.

In my third year as a philosophy major, I started reading Russell and Moore, Quine and Chisholm. At that time, I decided I should study for at least a year either in the U.K. or in the U.S. When I graduated from Frankfurt University, I received a scholarship from Brown for 1982-1983. This was a terrific experience, so I stayed on and received my Ph.D. a couple of years later. The following summer, St. Cloud State University in Minnesota offered me a job, and that was that.

Q: What is the biggest difference between Germany and America?

American culture plays a dominant role in Germany, as elsewhere in Europe. I grew up watching American TV shows (dubbed in German, of course), such as the *Flintstones*, *Bewitched*, *I Dream of Jeannie*, and *Get Smart*. Yet there are striking differences. Classical music, as well as Jazz, enjoys a fair amount of

mainstream exposure in Germany, much more than in the U.S. Publicly funded, Universities are tuition free, charging merely modest fees. All of Germany is covered with an excellent public transportation system. Nothing like it exists in the U.S. On the other hand, there is no German version of Silicon Valley. The U.S. develops and adopts new technologies much faster than Germany.

Q: What is the biggest difference between philosophy in Germany and philosophy in America?

At the time I was a student in Germany, to study philosophy was to study the history of philosophy. Interpreting and understanding the texts was the goal. Discussing them critically – to disagree, say, with Kant – was sacrilegious, not in the spirit of the hermeneutical tradition. You were supposed to learn, for example, what Kant had to say on the problem of freedom and determinism, not to reject his solution as mistaken.

Q: What made you want to come to the CU philosophy department?

It's an excellent department with a better fit for my philosophical interests [than Purdue]. And with eight years of experience as a department head at Purdue, hired through an external search, I thought I would be a good choice to help CU Boulder's philosophy department move past the troubles of the last few years towards a bright future. My experiences since I arrived in July already confirm that the department is well on its way to doing just that.

Q: What do you like about Boulder?

Well, what's there not to like? It's for sure one of the top five locations in the U.S. The climate is fantastic, it's an Eldorado for running, biking, hiking, and skiing. Though I'm not a runner, I like biking and hiking, and I grew up skiing. I don't know yet whether I'll have time for it, but I like the



eager to learn what personality is, email Iskra for a draft of her encyclopedia entry. On the bright side, her paper "The Duties of an Artist," in which she discusses the moral hurdles film directors face in trying to make movies believable, is scheduled to appear in the journal *Film and Philosophy* before the end of the year. Also, this summer, Iskra may have become the first philosopher to hold a pigeon in her own hands, and in the center of Warsaw, no less. She has a photo to prove this.



Chris Heathwood contributed an article to *The Routledge Handbook to the Philosophy of Well-Being*; was interviewed about his work by the radio program and podcast *Minerva*; gave presentations at the Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network, and the Tennessee Value and Agency Conference; and was invited to be a guest philosopher in a class at Washington University in St. Louis. His PhD student Shane Gronholz defended his dissertation splendidly, and he (Heathwood) continued serving as the Department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. He also became, for \$10.00, a Minister in the Universal Life Church and officiated his first wedding, in San Diego. For an extra \$5.00, he can

fact that I can do it here if I want to.

Q: What is the best thing about it?

It's not easy to settle on just one thing, but for me, it might be the beauty of the Front Range landscape.

Q: I heard you were interested in photography. Have you taken any cool photographs since coming to Colorado? Could you share one with us?

It's true, I like to go out with my camera and tripod and take pictures. Initially I was interested in the kind of black-and-white landscape photography of which Edward Weston and Anselm Adams are great examples, but eventually I found myself being more inspired by, for example, Stephen Shore and William Eggleston, as well as what's called the "new topography movement." Basically, I like to take pictures of anything, whatever and wherever, that strikes me as visually interesting. Here is a picture of one of the bathrooms on the second floor of Hellems (taken with my iPhone 6):



Philosophical Questions

Q: What is your favorite philosophical issue to talk about?

I have two favorites. The first is the question of how our beliefs are justified and what justifies us in rejecting skeptical scenarios. The second is the problem of free will and determinism.

Q: What is your view about free will?

Is the will free? I'm afraid I don't know. I find libertarianism more appealing than its alternatives (agent causation, compatibilism, hard determinism), but I'm not convinced libertarianism withstands the main objections to it. One is the intelligibility problem. If libertarianism is true, a free decision is

uncaused. Under the very same conditions, the agent could have decided otherwise. That makes it hard to explain the agent's decision. Perhaps she made decision *D* for reasons *a*, *b*, *c*. But if she could have decided otherwise under exactly the same conditions, there is a possible alternative situation in which she made a different decision *D** while having reasons *a*, *b*, *c* in support of decision *D*. This makes it hard to see why we should think that *a*, *b*, *c* explain why the agent made decision *D*. So it looks like free decisions cannot be explained. Not a consequence that's easy to accept.

Q: What is your view about how beliefs are justified?

In short, my answer is: seemingly reliable seemings. This view significantly overlaps with yours [Mike Huemer], though you would omit the first two words of my answer. On my view, without evidence of their reliability, seemings don't have justificatory power. Since evidence of reliability comes from memory, I must hold that memorial seemings receive their justificatory power from memories of memorial reliability. So I can't avoid what's called "source circularity." These days, the alternative to that is called "dogmatism." Dogmatists reject the evidence-of-reliability requirement I favor because they think that the kind of circularity it comes with is fatal. I'm inclined to think it is an inescapable feature of our cognitive situation.

Q: Are you a brain in a vat?

I'm not.

Q: Do you know that?

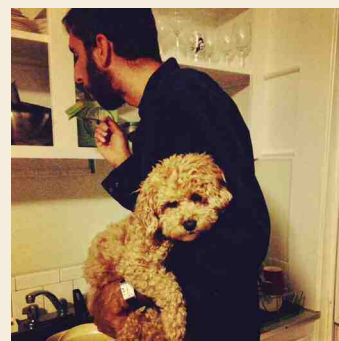
Yes.

Q: Can you tell us some of the evidence you have for that?

There are various candidates and serious worries about each of them. "Dogmatists" say that my experiences of my hands – I can see and feel them – are my evidence for rejecting the BIV hypothesis. The problem with this answer is that we would not accept an analogous answer in other cases. Consider a desert traveler believing himself to be seeing an oasis. Few would agree that he reasons well when he answers the question, "How do you know you are not hallucinating?" by saying, "Because I have

pick a special title from among many available. He is leaning towards "Universal Philosopher of Absolute Reality."

Adam Hosein returned to CU after a year away as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Harvard. He published papers in *Philosophical Studies* and *Law and Philosophy* and gave talks at Wellesley, Harvard, and Stanford. The American Philosophical Association awarded him a Public Philosophy Op-Ed Prize for his article "Prosecuting on Torture Isn't Politics, It's Human Rights" in *The Boston Review* and he also published public philosophy pieces on Hamas and on Daesh (the so-called "Islamic State"). Most importantly, he adopted a mini-poodle, Rory, into his family: his best decision to date.



Michael Huemer published his book about infinity, which for the first time solves most of the paradoxes of the infinite. He wrote a paper about the (mis-)use of ideal theory in political philosophy and wrote a popular piece on gun control for thecritique.com [you can have Huemer's gun when you pry it from his cold, dead hands –ed.]. His papers on the brain in a vat, inferential appearances, and moral realism all finally came out. He thinks that moral progress over history is evidence for moral realism. He did more of the usual talks, especially on libertarian themes, and this time, he got two grad students to help edit this newsletter, which is why it is so awesome.

visual experiences of palm trees and a pond.”

A better answer would be to list positive indicators of accurate, non-hallucinatory perception. The desert traveler could appeal to the clarity and distinctness of his perceptions and to recent memories suggesting that hallucination-inducing conditions do not obtain. When applied to the BIV hypothesis, the argument would be that a BIV has clear and distinct perceptual experiences and recent memories indicating the non-existence of envatment know-how and technology. In short, a BIV appears to have evidence that BIVs (at the present time) don’t exist.

Critics of this approach would say that this alleged evidence isn’t really evidence since one has it in the normal case *and* also in the envatment case. I don’t think this criticism convincing because it conflicts with fallibilism (the view that evidence for *p* need not entail the truth of *p*).

So, in short, my answer to the question is: I

know I’m not a BIV on the basis of a large number of seemingly reliable non-envatment seemings. For example, it seems to me, in a seemingly reliable way, that neuroscientists do not know how to keep a brain alive for an extended period. And it seems to me, again in a seemingly reliable way, that neuroscientists don’t know how to feed a brain all the sensory input needed for the illusion of a normal life. So, if I indeed know I’m not a BIV, I would say I know it on the basis of such seemings.



In the epistemology seminar I’m going to teach next semester, we will discuss how we know we are not BIVs. We will look at dogmatic and non-dogmatic approaches and examine influential theories such as those of Cohen, Dretske, Huemer, Pryor, and Wright. I’m looking forward

to finding out which of our graduate students are interested in epistemology and getting to know them better in the seminar. □

Approaching Infinity

Michael Huemer

Imagine that you drop a ball, expecting it to fall to the ground. To reach the ground, it must first go half the distance. Then half the remaining distance. Then half the remaining distance. And so on. There is an infinite series of halfway motions. But it is impossible to complete an infinite series of actions. Therefore, the ball can never reach the ground. Similar reasoning can be applied to any object, and any destination; therefore, no object can ever go anywhere. What is wrong with this reasoning?

Now imagine that you have a lamp that starts out on. After half a minute, you switch it off. After another quarter of a minute, you switch it back on. After another eighth of a minute, back off. And so on. There is an infinite series of switchings within the one minute. At the end of one minute, will the lamp be on or off?

The most tempting response to the *first* puzzle (Zeno’s Paradox) is that the ball can reach the ground because it *is* after all possible to complete an infinite series of actions. (What else could possibly be wrong

in the argument?) The most tempting response to the *second* puzzle (Thomson’s Lamp Paradox) is that it is metaphysically impossible to switch the lamp infinitely many times, as described in the scenario, because it is impossible to complete an infinite series of actions. Problem: the natural response to the first puzzle directly contradicts the natural response to the second puzzle. Why is the infinite series of halfway motions completable, but the infinite series of light-switchings impossible? Think about that for a while.



Dan Kaufman’s recent and upcoming talks: the University of Chicago, Yale, and Harvard. His “Cartesian Substances, Individual Bodies, and Corruptibility” was published in a special issue of *Res Philosophica* devoted to modern philosophy. *A Companion to Locke* was published, for which Dan Kaufman wrote the chapter on identity. His chapter on Leibniz’s theory of modality will appear soonish in *The Routledge Handbook of Modality*. In 2016-2017, he is on sabbatical and will be a visiting scholar at Yale in the fall and at UNC Chapel Hill in the spring. During that time he will be working on a book on seventeenth-century theories of material objects, individuation, and identity. He will continue to lay low and TCB.

Mitzi Lee was supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship for University Teachers in 2015-2016, and used it to work on her book, *Justice in Aristotle’s Moral and Political Philosophy*. She gave talks based on chapters of her book at the University of California, Riverside, the University of Michigan, and the APA Central Division Meeting in Chicago.

Alastair Norcross presented papers at several conferences, and by invitation at several universities. He organized the 9th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress in Boulder, which was the best yet, only to be surpassed by the next one. He was keynote speaker for the Kansas Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, where he instructed the assembled philosophers on “How to Be Good.” He wrote and published papers in ethical theory and applied ethics. He also ran two marathons, in Columbus, Ohio, and Eugene, Oregon. At the former, he qualified for the Boston Marathon, which he will be running in April 2017. He also ran a bunch of shorter races, and generally managed to beat the

Some people, following Aristotle, say that it is possible to have a “potential” infinity but never an “actual” infinity. But this view doesn’t seem to help. How is the series of lamp switchings any more actual or less potential than the infinite series of halfway motions?

Here is a better answer. Both series have an infinite *number* of stages, but only one series requires certain physical *magnitudes* to be infinite. In the Zeno series, the ball need only travel at a finite velocity, throughout a finite time interval, covering a finite distance. The total energy required is finite, as is every other physical quantity in the story.

By contrast, in the lamp switching story, multiple *physical magnitudes* (not just the number of stages) must be infinite. The light switch will have to be moved through an infinite total distance during the minute, which means that its *velocity* over the interval is infinite. The acceleration must increase without limit as the minute elapses, requiring unlimited forces. This in turn requires an

infinite amount of *energy* to be present within the vicinity of the lamp switch during that minute. The switch itself, to withstand these ever increasing forces, must possess infinite *material strength*. All of these requirements make the Thomson Lamp impossible.

Why can’t there be an infinite physical magnitude? Aristotle had an important insight: infinitude is not a determinate quantity. Every particular thing must be fully determinate. Therefore, no particular thing can possess an infinite magnitude.

Why doesn’t this rule out an infinite number of stages to some action or process? Because an infinite cardinal number is not a purported property of any particular individual. To say there are infinitely many of some things is just to say that for any natural number *n*, it is possible to find a group of *n* of those things. This doesn’t require any individual to exemplify infinitude.

These ideas are discussed at greater length in my recent (2016) book, *Approaching Infinity*. □

very young and very old. He acted in, and directed part of, the Rocky Mountain Revels Colorado pioneer show, for which he wrote in a special part for Alferd Packer, Colorado’s poster boy for recycling.

Graham Oddie was the 2015 Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Institute for Futures Studies in Stockholm in the Fall of 2015. He conducted research on the nature and value of happiness and gave a talk on that topic in the Institute’s colloquium series. While in Stockholm he gave two talks at the University of Stockholm – one in the Moral Philosophy Colloquium and one in the Theoretical Philosophy Colloquium – and a talk to the Philosophical Society at the University of Uppsala. He was invited to the Institute of Mathematical Philosophy at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. He was gratified when, in the discussion time, one of the Institute’s researchers declared that the talk “planted a nuclear explosive at the heart of the Institute’s research program.” In



January of 2016 Oddie was an invited speaker at a Role Ethics conference at the University of Auckland (New Zealand), at which he presented a paper on the metaphysics of roles. In June he was an invited speaker at a one-day workshop on moral perception at the University of Seattle.

Robert Pasnau continued to work on his book on the history of epistemology. He gave the Suarez Lecture at Fordham University, the Evans Lectures at the University of Nebraska, and published several papers on recent topics in epistemology. He said goodbye to his oldest of two

Student Accomplishments

2015-2016

CU has a nationally ranked graduate program in philosophy (number thirty-one in the nation, according to <http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com>). Our students distinguish themselves in many ways, winning awards and fellowships, presenting their work at conferences, organizing their own conferences, publishing academic articles, and taking academic posts around the country. Here are some of their recent activities.

Cheryl Abbate received the philosophy department’s Stahl Prize for AY 15-16, which is awarded to the graduate student who has made a significant contribution toward bringing the discipline of philosophy to bear on some demanding and crucial human problem. Her article “How to Help when it Hurts: The Problem of Assisting Victims of Injustice” was published in the *Journal of Social Philosophy*. Cheryl also became an Associate Editor for the journal, *Between the Species*.

Jasmine Carter was awarded an Adam Smith Fellowship through the Mercatus Center and Liberty Fund and won a Ph.D. Scholarship through the Institute for Humane Studies, both for AY 16-17. Jasmine

was also invited to participate in an IHS Advanced Liberty Colloquia during AY 15-16.

Spencer Case presented his paper “Rethinking Demandingness: Why Satisficing Consequentialism and Scalar Consequentialism Are Not Less Demanding than Maximizing Consequentialism” at the Pacific Division meeting of the APA in San Francisco in April. That same paper was published as a discussion note at the *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*. He also presented his paper “Michael Polanyi’s Argument for Moral Explanation” at the Polanyi Studies: Past, Present and Future conference at Nashotah Theological Seminar, WI, in June and is now a board member of the Michael Polanyi Society. His paper “A Limited Defense of the Kalām Cosmological Argument” was accepted for publication at *Res Philosophica*. His paper “Normative Pluralism Worthy of the Name Is False” has been published online in the *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*.

Daniel Coren had his paper “On Young’s Version of the Principle of Alternate



Typical students in Hellems after class

Possibilities” accepted for publication in *Philosophia: The Philosophical Quarterly of Israel*. Dan received an invitation to present his paper, “Making Sense of the Sentence: NE I.2.2094a18-22” at the Ancient Infinity and Infinite Regress Arguments in ancient philosophy workshop, hosted by the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Durham University in the U.K. His paper “Anthropocentric Biocentrism in a Hybrid” appeared in *Ethics and the Environment* in Fall 2015.

Jay Geyer has been invited to present his paper (which is also a chapter of his dissertation) “The Irrelevance of Moral Uncertainty to Moral Exculpation” at the Eastern APA in January 2017.

Tyler Huismann had his article “John Buridan’s Metaphysics of Persistence” published in the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. He has had his article, “Aristotle on Accidental Causation” accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*. Tyler has also won a Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, in association with the Mellon Foundation.

Anthony Kelley participated in the Bioethics Boot Camp at the University of Pennsylvania for three weeks during the summer of 2016. As a result of his participation in the Boot Camp, Anthony was invited to return to Philadelphia in January 2017 to present his paper on whether IRBs should count payment to research subjects as a benefit when evaluating the risk/benefit profile of a research protocol.

Dan Lowe won a James, Ann, and Jane Emerson (McCall) Arts and Humanities Fellowship for AY 16-17. Dan gave the talk “Minding the Gap: Skepticism about the Explanatory Value of Biology as a Parallel

with God of the Gaps Skepticism” at the 33rd International Philosophy Conference, put on by the North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) in Ottawa, Canada. Dan published “Common Arguments for the Moral Acceptability

of Eating Meat: A Discussion for Students” in *Between the Species*. He also published “Remembrance of Philosophy Classes Past: Why Cognitive Science Suggests that a Brief Recap Is the Best Way To Begin Each Class Day” in *Teaching Philosophy*, and his article was featured on the *Daily Nous* weblog. He also won the (University-Wide) Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award.

Matt Pike won the Morrision Teaching Award for best Graduate Part-Time Instructor for AY 15-16.

Jonathan Spelman presented his paper “Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation” at the Pacific Division Meeting of the APA during spring 2016. Jonathan was chosen to serve as the department’s Lead Graduate Student Teacher for the AY 16-17.

Heather Stewart presented a paper she co-authored with Dr. Lauren Freeman (U of Louisville) at the University of Kentucky Bioethics conference titled “Microaggressions at the Bedside: The Seemingly Small Things Clinicians Do That Erode Patient Trust” during fall 2016. She also presented her paper “Gatekeepers and ‘Deceivers’: Doubt, Denial, and Epistemic Injustice Towards Trans Patients in the Clinic” at FEMMSS 6 at the University of Notre Dame during fall 2016. Heather also presented a paper, co-authored with Dr. Lauren Freeman at the FEMMSS 6 Conference at the University of Notre Dame titled “Gender Microaggressions in Clinical Medicine: A Feminist Critique of Beauchamp and Childress’ Principle of Non-Maleficence.” This paper has been accepted for presentation at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division in January of 2017. □

children, who left home for college this fall.

Rob Rupert spent the past two summers as a Professorial Fellow at the University of Edinburgh; he also spent a month as a research fellow at the Ruhr Universität in Bochum. He gave talks at both institutions, as well as at the Universities of Stirling, Sheffield, and Macerata, at Heinrich-Heine Universität, Düsseldorf, and at a meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association. He published five papers or book chapters. He served as Chair of the Arts and Sciences Council and continued in his role as Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy and as an Associate Editor of the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. His research group – RARG (for Rupert’s Advisees Research Group) – has been a source of great intellectual pleasure for him and (he hopes) his graduate students.

Matthias Steup moved last summer from Purdue to CU Boulder to assume the position of Department Chair. He wrote a paper on destructive defeat that is forthcoming in *Synthese*, a critical study of *Scepticism and Perceptual Justification* (Dylan Dodd and Elia Zardini, eds.) that is forthcoming in *Analysis*, and he participated in an APA book symposium on Kevin McCain’s *Evidentialism and Epistemic Justification*.

Michael Tooley attended three conferences. The first was an “Axiology of Theism” conference, where he read a paper entitled “Axiology: Theism Versus Widely Accepted Monotheisms,” to appear in a book published by Routledge. He also attended the Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, reading a paper entitled “Temporal Asymmetry and the Laws of Physics.” Finally, he attended the International

News from the Center for Values & Social Policy

The Center for Values and Social Policy was established by the Philosophy Department in 1980 with two explicit objectives in mind: to support research about normative issues that are closely connected to matters of social policy and to support undergraduate and graduate teaching about such issues. During this past year, the Department amended its bylaws to make explicit two important further objectives: to support public outreach about such issues and to collaborate with other units on campus outside of the Department. With a recent infusion of financial support from the College and from the Department itself, and under the leadership of CVSP Director Ajume Wingo, the faculty affiliated with the Center began a determined effort to increase the Center's contributions to research, teaching, and public outreach about values and social policy, to expand the Center's presence outside of the Philosophy Department, and to help the Center become the central hub on campus for the discussion of matters involving values and social policy. Here are a few highlights from the Center's activities last year that help to illustrate these exciting recent developments.

First, the Center reached out to collaborate with a number of other units on campus to produce public events that brought philosophers together with other scholars to discuss issues of interest and importance to members of the general public. In October, for example, the Center co-sponsored a panel event with the Center for Western Civilization, Thought and Policy that brought four philosophers and legal scholars from other institutions to Boulder to discuss the moral and legal questions raised by conscientious objection to same-sex marriage. In January, the Center worked with CU's School of Education to produce a panel event on Parental Rights and School Choice that featured CU Philosophy Professor Adam Hosein along with three faculty members from the School of Education. And in March, the Center worked with several other units on campus to put together a panel event on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Justice that featured a visiting philosopher along with a faculty member from the CU Law School and an

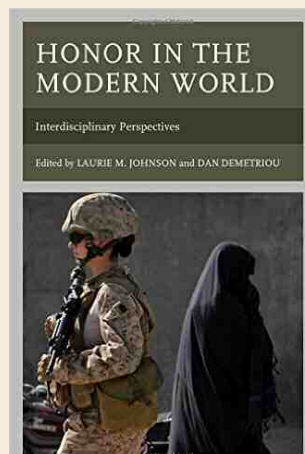
environmental anthropologist from the National Center for Atmospheric Research. All three events were well attended by people from both inside and outside the CU community (as were other events on such topics as the ethics of commodification and affirmative action in higher education) and all enabled the Center to help demonstrate the value of philosophical reflection on issues of public concern.

Second, the Center revived its long-dormant Visiting Fellows program during this past year, bringing two impressive young scholars to campus for extended visits during which they gave talks, did guest presentations in classes, and made themselves available for informal interactions with our faculty and students. Justin Weinberg (University of South Carolina), a recently tenured moral and political philosopher who also runs one of the most prominent philosophy news blogs visited for a few weeks in the fall, and Teresa Burke (Gallaudet University), a recently tenured philosopher working on issues related to deafness who is also the first signing deaf woman in the world to receive a Ph.D. in philosophy, visited for several weeks in the spring.

In addition, among many other things, the Center took over responsibility for overseeing CU's Ethics Bowl team, launched a new blog (<http://whatswrongcvsp.com/>) and Facebook page, and introduced a new Faculty Fellows program, reaching out to CU Boulder faculty outside of the Department whose teaching and research include a significant focus on issues involving values and social policy. Finally, the academic year ended with a transition in leadership: Ajume Wingo stepped down as Director over the summer, after seven consecutive years of providing valuable service in that capacity, and David Boonin took over as Director as he stepped down from his position as Department Chair. Professor Wingo left everything in excellent shape for Professor Boonin, who hopes to see the Center continue on its upward trajectory. If you have any questions or comments about the Center or would like to help support its activities in any way, please contact Professor Boonin at david.boonin@colorado.edu. □

Association for the Philosophy of Time Conference, where he was on a panel on the topic of causation and time, and also read a paper entitled "Tensed Properties and the Growing Block View of the Nature of Time: An Unsound Objection." He also completed the revisions of a book on causation, continued his work on a book on the problem of justifying induction, and finished two articles, one on evidential versions of the argument from evil, and the other on counterfactual approaches to causation.

Ajume Wingo's recent publications include "A Matter of Unbound Leaders in the Lives of Africans" (in *Theoria*), "Life in Death: Democracy and Civic Honor" (in *Honor in the Modern World*), "The Centrality of Gender Equality in Living Free" (in *Theories de la Justice: Justice Globale, Agent de la Justice et Justice Genre*), and "The Immortals in our Midst: Why Democracies in Africa Need Them" (in the *Journal of Ethics*). He also gave a number of talks, including "Civic Immortality," which he gave as a keynote Speaker at Yaounde Seminar on Utopia at the Catholic University of Central Africa in Yaounde, Cameroon; and "Human Dignity and Modern Democracy." This summer he traveled Cameroon with Boulder philosophy Ph.D. Daniel Demetriou to research their manuscript on civic immortality and civic honor. □



Department Welcomes Impressive New Students

We are pleased to welcome an incredibly smart and interesting incoming class this fall. Here are some of the new graduate students joining the Department.



Mark Boespflug studied philosophy at Geneva College and Biola University. He is interested in epistemology and its history, especially issues relating to belief control, epistemic or doxastic obligations, rationality, disagreement, and the nature and status of faith. The philosophers he is most interested in are Locke, Descartes, and some of their predecessors and successors. Apart from philosophy, he likes to hike, bike, play guitar and piano, do various forms of carpentry, and, most of all, spend time with his wife and daughter.

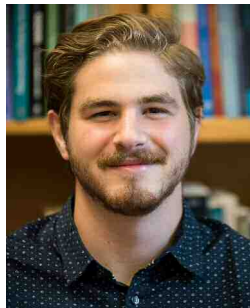
Cherie Braden was born on a Monday. Her maternal grandmother wanted her to be a famous novelist or poet. Her maternal grandfather, who was an actual genius, wanted her to develop a practical method for producing cold fusion, or at the very least patent a smash-hit board game and have Parker Brothers manufacture it. Cherie is approximately the 11th-great-granddaughter of Governor William Bradford of Plymouth Colony. When she was a child, she once traced an intricate illustration from a Shakespeare folio and pretended she drew it – she didn't have a good sense of what sorts of lies are believable. Cherie is an epistemologist.



Judith Carlisle joins the M.A. program this fall after completing a B.S. in Biology and Philosophy and Furman University. Her interests currently lie in philosophy of mind, and cognitive science; however, she is also interested in both metaphysics and epistemology. Her undergraduate

research in biology is forthcoming in the microbiology journal *Symbiosis*.

Sam Director joins the Ph.D. program this fall. He received his B.A. in Philosophy from Whitworth University in 2015. His primary interests include normative ethics, applied ethics, and political philosophy. Within normative ethics, he is



mainly interested in the debate between deontology and consequentialism. In applied ethics, he is interested in issues related to adoption of parentless children, lying, and abortion. In terms of political philosophy, his interests include public reason liberalism, libertarianism, and reparations for historic injustices. Some of his favorite philosophers are Robert Nozick, Immanuel Kant, Alvin Plantinga, and John Locke.

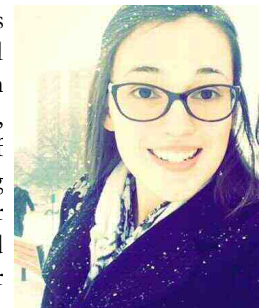
Ájené Robinson-Burris is a first-year Ph.D. candidate in the Philosophy program. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ájené's interests are in bioethics, applied ethics, feminist philosophy, and social and political philosophy. Ájené is especially interested in issues of health policy and research and the impacts on various minority communities.



Gagan Sapkota joins the Ph.D. program this fall and his interests include Ancient Greek Philosophy, Ancient Indian Philosophy, Normative Ethics, and Metaethics.

Lenhardt Stevens joins the M.A. program this fall. Lenhardt completed a B.A. from Leeds and an M.Sc. from Edinburgh. He is interested in questions related to philosophy of mind, language, and philosophical logic.

Heather Stewart joins the M.A. program as a transfer student from the Bioethics graduate program at the University of Louisville. She holds B.A.s in Philosophy and Biology from the University of Louisville. Her philosophical interests are primarily in applied ethics (especially bioethics and psychiatric ethics), social and political philosophy, race theory, feminist philosophy (especially feminist ethics and epistemology), and LGBTQ philosophy. She is currently working on projects pertaining to responsibility for global justice, epistemic injustices towards transgender patients in clinical medicine, and microaggressions in clinical medicine. In her uncommon, though deeply treasured moments of free time, Heather enjoys watching Hitchcock films, listening to her record collection, and enjoying a good glass of bourbon (to channel her inner Kentuckian).



Philosophy Graduation, 2016

The graduation address was given on May 6, 2016, by Josh and Lynn Lannin. Josh (1996) and Lynn Acker Lannin (1997) were both philosophy majors at CU-Boulder in the 1990's. Josh Lannin is now a Senior Director of Product Management for Workday, a cloud application software provider for HR and finance that is used by thousands of large enterprises around the world. Josh specializes in fostering innovation in the areas of mobile collaboration and social productivity tools for business, where software is impacting the ways people work together. Lynn is the Director of Professional Services at Vertiba, a Salesforce.com consulting firm that is now a part of Publicis.Sapient. She works with her clients to design and build highly specialized applications on the Salesforce.com platform. Lynn has spent 16 years as a technology consultant after earning her Master of Science in Telecommunications, also from CU-Boulder. Josh and Lynn live in Boulder, Colorado. They have two children, Sydney, age 10 and Sienna, age 9.

The following degrees and awards were presented.



Bachelor of Arts

Eric Badovinatz (*with Distinction*)
Arielle Berne (*magna cum laude*)
Kyra Binaxas
Kaitlin Brinton
Andrew Bryson (*with Distinction*)
Marjorie Burgeson
Scott Cerick
Jack Christie
Colleen Clay
Alexa Cluney
Christopher Collins
Rebecca Combest (*summa cum laude*)
Greg Connery
Jeffrey Drakos
Thomas Ferrari
Gabrielle Filter
Paul Frank
Russell Furth
John Gosnell
Austin Gragg
Alice Guinther (*magna cum laude*)
Jesse Ihns
Peter Jackson
Kayla Jankowski (*with Distinction*)
Patrick Kane (*with Distinction*)
Yune Kim

Jay LeCavalier
Alexander Mair
Evan Marks
Kevin McReynolds
Naomi Megory-Cohen
Eli Mogel (*with Distinction*)
Dakota Moran
Zen Ogsbury (*with Distinction*)
Steve Powers
Travis Russell
John Sherry
Katherine Siem
Victoria Smith
Elliot Spears (*magna cum laude*)
Richard Spinoso
Scott Splain
Olesia Stockhold
William Thompson
Alexander Tsankov
Summer Vaughn
Alexa Wach (*cum laude*)
Myles Webb
William Wehr (*magna cum laude*)
Marc Wilk
Atticus Yondorf
Eric Zarate
Thomas Zelvin

Master of Arts

Michael Carrick
Emilie Pagano

Doctor of Philosophy

Joseph Stenberg
Shane Gronholz
Rebecca Renninger
Ben Rohrs

Jentzsch Prize

Ben Rohrs

Stahl Prize

Cheryl Abbate

Mills Teaching Award (Best TA)

Zak A. Kopeikin

Morrison Teaching Award (Best GPTI)

Matthew Pike

Support the Philosophy Department

Philosophy is one of the most vibrant and generally awesome departments in the university. Help us continue with these efforts by making a tax-deductible donation. The items mentioned here are just a few of the many possibilities. For more information, contact the Department Chair, Matthias Steup, at 765-993-7803 or Matthias.Steup@colorado.edu.

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\$15,000 Graduate student fellowship	\$10,000,000 Naming rights for the department
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