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KANSAS Philosophy



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NEWSLETTER OF THE KU DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY VOL. 8 NO. 1

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

As you may have heard, the past year has been a time of transition for KU. Funding reductions from the state legislature have forced the university to make some tough choices about priorities, and the effects are being felt across campus. Moreover, the departures this past summer of several high-ranking administrators — including the chancellor, the provost, and the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences — left many in the KU community with a feeling of uncertainty. But we have a new chancellor, Bernadette Gray-Little, and her arrival has energized the university. Moreover, search committees have been formed for the hiring of a new provost and a new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Finally, the worst of the funding reductions might be behind us. We're hoping this next year won't be quite as tumultuous as the last one!

In the Philosophy department, too, we've had some changes. Tom Tuozzo concluded his term as chair, and he and Cindi Hodges have been very generous with their time and expertise in showing me the ropes. But the most notable change has been the retirement of Rex Martin this past summer. That concluded an impressive 41-year tenure here at KU, during which Rex was an influential teacher and productive researcher. We celebrated his career last fall with a conference that was described in last year's newsletter (still viewable on our web site, www.philosophy.ku.edu), but he's still active in the profession and we're delighted to have his continued participation in department events from time to time.

Other members of our faculty are also attracting favorable attention. Last spring Derrick Darby's book *Rights, Race, and Recognition* was published by Cambridge University Press, this past summer Richard De George received an award from the Society for Business Ethics "In recognition of a Career of Outstanding Service to the Field of Business Ethics," and this fall Ann Cudd delivered several lectures

in China on topics ranging from feminism to capitalism. Finally, our newest faculty members, Scott Jenkins and Dale Dorsey, continue to distinguish themselves with their publications, presentations, and departmental service. More details on each faculty member start on p. 4.



As you know, we rely on our alumni and other friends for financial support, and we are grateful for your contributions. By donating to the Philosophy department, you help us in concrete ways. Here I want to take a moment to describe two of these. First, each year at our spring banquet we give scholarships to outstanding undergraduates and graduate students. Some are for overall achievement, and some are specific to particular areas. The money doesn't just appear automatically, though. Every year, we look at our scholarship funds and see what we can afford, and donations largely determine that.

Second, we have started awarding funds specifically to help graduate students travel to conferences to present papers. As you may know, the job market is as competitive as ever, and presenting papers at conferences is one way our graduate students can get an extra edge. Traveling to conferences is expensive, of course, but we think it's important to supplement this activity, to the extent we can. As with the scholarships I mentioned, these awards are based on the level of our funds. Here, too, is a case in which donations translate directly into student support.

Because I've seen first-hand what a difference donations make, I make a donation to the Philosophy department every year. I hope you'll consider doing so, too, by going to the KU Endowment web site (www.kuendowment.org) and designating the Department of Philosophy as the recipient of your gift. Meanwhile, I hope you'll enjoy reading this newsletter and getting caught up on the department.

2009–2010 PHILOSOPHY LECTURE SERIES

The Philosophy Lecture Series continues and we have a very busy year planned. These lectures are free and open to the public, so if you are in town, do come join us.

- David Sobel, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, "Parfit's Case Against Subjectivism," October 2, 2009
Janice Dowell, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, "Flexible Contextualism about 'Ought'," October 5, 2009
Svetozar Stojanovic, University of Belgrade, "Lesson from the Demise of Communism and the Crisis of Capitalism," October 12, 2009
David Reidy, University of Tennessee, "How (Not) To Think About Human Rights," October 21, 2009
Paul Horwich, New York University, "Wittgenstein's Definition of 'Meaning' as 'Use'," November 5, 2009
Eric Posner, University of Chicago Law School, "Against Feasibility Analysis," November 12, 2009
Paul Hovda, Reed College, title to be announced, February 23, 2010
Harry Brighouse, University of Wisconsin, Madison, title to be announced, March 23, 2010

For updates concerning time, location, and additional information, please check the department website: www.philosophy.ku.edu/Events/visiting_lecture.shtml

2009 E. H. LINDLEY LECTURE

Allan Gibbard, Richard B. Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the University of Michigan, presented the 2009 Lindley Lecture on March 12, 2009. His lecture, "Evolving Moral Knowledge," addressed some of the possible implications of his theory for the notion of moral knowledge, among them, the question of whether his theory ultimately leads to relativism. Prof. Gibbard is the author of *Wise Choice, Apt Feelings: A Theory of Normative Judgment* and *Thinking How to Live*. The Department will soon publish the essay in pamphlet form, and will offer it for sale for the sum of \$6.00. Please contact Cindi Hodges to order a copy.

2010 E. H. LINDLEY LECTURE

James Griffin will present the 2010 Lindley Lecture on October 5, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. in the Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union. The title will be announced later (please check the department's web site for updates). Professor Griffin is the White's Professor of Moral Philosophy, Emeritus, Oxford University.

2009 UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

During the Spring 2009 Honors Banquet, the following undergraduate students received the following awards:

Robert Schmitt and **Joel Burnett** were each given Nelson Scholarships. **Michael Metcalf** received the Brownstein-Young Award and **Lamar Hunt** received the Brownstein-Skidmore Award. Warner Morse Prizes went to **Rob Boyle** for his work in ethics, **Nicole Tichenor** for her work in the history of philosophy and **Erik Lauridsen** for his work in metaphysics and epistemology.

The Brownstein-Young Award and Brownstein-Skidmore Award are in honor of former faculty members, J. Michael Young and Arthur Skidmore and are supported through the generosity of Don Brownstein. The Warner Morse prizes are also in honor of Warner Morse, former faculty member and set up through an endowment fund.

2009 BA/BGS DEGREES AND MA DEGREES

BA/BGS

Patrick C. Allen
Justin W. Atwater-Taylor
Dylan Black
Robert E. Boyle
Bradford G. Bray
Jonathan T. Even
Jason D. Gilchrist
Nathaniel P. Johnson
James F. Klein

Rion R. Martin
James P. McDonough
Christopher K. Mitchell
Gilbert Man Him Ng
Warren R. Parker
Nichole E. Tichenor
Satyasree Upadhyayula
Renee L. Whaley
Dean A. Whitten

MA

Micah Baize
Nathan Colaner
Stacy Elmer
Nathan Roser

2008–2009 PHD'S

Pelle Danabo, *From Africa of States to United Africa: Towards Africana Democracy*, 2008. Advisor: Ann Cudd.

H. David Carrillo, *Dialectical Humanism: An Ethic of Self-Actualization*, 2008. Advisor: Richard De George.

Anne Morgan, *An Ethic of Freedom*, 2009. Advisor: Ann Cudd.

Kara Tan Bhala, *Fortifying Virtue Ethics: Recognizing the Essential Roles of Eudaimonia and Phronesis*, 2009. Advisor: Richard De George.

DONOR SUPPORT

We wish to thank the individuals and businesses who contributed to the Philosophy Department Endowment funds between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. These contributions help fund the awards that are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. Your continued support is crucial and deeply appreciated and allows the department to acknowledge outstanding students and to continue our lecture series to enrich the learning and teaching environment.

Thanks go to the following:

*Brian Armstrong
Karen Reeder Bell
Larry Blackman
Dan Born
Don Brownstein
Heather Bussing
Ryan and Lyndsey Chamberlain
Shirley Christian
Kenneth W. Clark
Lee and Margaret Crawford
Jay and Rebecca Yost Curtis
Matthew D. Davis
Brian and Penny Filinger
FBL Financial Group, Inc.
Garvey Kansas Foundation
Dorothy Haecker
Janet Hallagin
J. T. Moore
Richard Newton
Michael Payne
William and Sue Oatman Roberts
Terry and Angela Sader
Christopher K. Tankersley
Carolyn Bryan Young*

Deborah Williams received the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence in Teaching Award. She also co-authored a laboratory manual for *Biol 131 Environmental Science Labs* at Johnson County Community College with Suzanne Metzler in 2009.

Stacy Elmer received a travel grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health for the summer of 2009 to complete a paper on Genetic Variation, Race and Forensics under the direction of Vence Bonham. She also received a Templin Fellowship for travel to South Africa in the Spring of 2009 for research purposes. Stacy presented a paper, "Health Disparities and Historical Injustice: Reconfiguring Transnational Duties and Obligations" at The Caribbean Philosophical Association Annual Conference in Miami this past August. She received a Morrison Award for travel to this conference. This fall, Stacy moved to Washington to take a position in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Ian McDaniel has two publications appearing in print shortly. The first is an article entitled "Multitude Against Empire: A Sin of Omission" which will be published in the journal *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, September 2009. The second is a monograph published by VDM Verlag Dr. Muller Aktiengesellschaft and Co. KG. The title is "Can The Multitude Overcome Empire?: The Impact of Religion Upon Globalization and the Post-Modern Global Revolution."

Russell Waltz gave a remunerated presentation titled "The Call for Contextualized Reporting: A Jamesian Critique on the Current State of News Presentation" at the American Philosophies Forum Conference: Pragmatism about Media and Democracy in April, 2009 at Emory University in Atlanta.

Bill Simkulet received a Summer Research Fellowship from the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. This competitive fellowship is awarded based on the student's proposal, academic performance, and departmental recommendation.

Shane Schauf received the departmental GTA Award at the 2009 banquet. This award recognizes excellence in teaching by a graduate student.

Aaron Dopf and **Matt Waldschlagel** received Templin Fellowships during 2009.

Nathan Colaner was the winner of this year's Robinson Essay Contest with his paper "A Very Old Problem of Induction: How Aristotle Refuted the Empiricist" and **Jeremy DeLong** was the runner up with his paper "The Ultimate Trial in the Education of the Philosopher-Kings: Deprivation of Pure Contemplation."

CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Nathan Colaner and **Bill Simkulet** each received Third Place Prizes in the Humanities and Fine Arts Category of the Graduate Student Research Competition held on February 23, 2009. Nathan's entry was "Other than Omniscient: An Interpretation and Defense of Kant's Rejection of Aristotle's Notion of Finite Reason" and Bill's entry was "The Morality of Objects."

FACULTY NOTES

Jack Bricke's paper 'The Clarendon Edition of Hume's Treatise: Book I', has just appeared in the most recent issue of *Hume Studies*. He is at work on a lengthy review of the second edition of *The Cambridge Companion to Hume* (eds. David Fate Norton and Jacqueline Taylor) for *Hume Studies*. He'll be party to a symposium on Hume's Moral Psychology at the Hume Tercentenary conference in Edinburgh, Summer, 2011. Jack continues thinking and writing about Davidson's Unified Theory of Meaning and Action, and is enjoying the challenge of teaching Phil 388 (Analytic Philosophy: Frege to Quine) for the first time in a good many years.

Ann Cudd just got back from China, where she presented a paper ("Truly Humanitarian Intervention") at the XXIVth World Congress of Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Beijing; she also presented a lecture ("Feminist Contributions to Political Philosophy") to the Political Science Department at Xiamen University in Xiamen, China, and another lecture ("A Feminist Defense of Capitalism") to the Institute for Philosophy at National Tsing Hua University in Hsin Chu, Taiwan. In Taiwan, Ann also visited with Pinfei Lu, who received her PhD from KU in 2006. In April she presented a paper at the Pacific APA in Vancouver, BC.

In the past year, Ann has published "When to Intervene: Atrocity, Inequality, and Oppression" in *Evil, Political Violence and Forgiveness*, edited by Andrea Veltman and Katherine Norlock, Rowman and Littlefield, 2009; and "Rape and Enforced Pregnancy as Femicide," *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, XIV(2008):190-199.

Ann continues to serve as the Associate Dean for the Humanities and teach in the Philosophy Department.

Derrick Darby's *Rights, Race, and Recognition* was published this year by Cambridge University Press. The theme of this book (and of Rex Martin's work on rights) will be the focus of an international conference at Cardiff University in November. The papers that were presented at the successful symposium on Law, Reparations, and Racial Disparities, which Derrick organized for the Law School last fall, have been published in the *Kansas Law Review* 59 (2009). Derrick's contribution to the symposium, "Educational Inequality and the Science of Diversity in *Grutter*: A Lesson for the Reparations Debate in the Age of Obama," is a paper, which lies at the intersection of philosophy, law, and social science, on his current research interests on race and educational inequality. The Spencer Foundation awarded Derrick a grant to research and write several papers related to this new research project. He presented some of this new work at a recent conference on world inequality in São Paulo, Brazil. Derrick launched a Hall Center for the Humanities seminar on Inequality this fall, which he is co-directing with economics professor Donna Ginther. This seminar brings together scholars and students in the humanities, the social sciences, and the law to study various aspects of social inequality. In addition

to having been selected to serve on the Hall Center Executive Committee, Derrick is also serving on the CLAS Dean's search committee.

Richard De George attended the annual meeting of the Society for Business Ethics this August in Chicago and received the "Best Conference Reviewer Award 2009." He was then surprised to receive the first Society for Business Ethics Award "In recognition of a Career of Outstanding Service to the Field of Business Ethics." Both plaques are on display in his office. His experience at the APA in Chicago was also memorable for another reason. He stood up in his room at the Palmer house and the second metatarsal in his left foot broke. So he infers that one should not stand up in Palmer House rooms. During the year he published "Two Cheers for the Pharmaceutical Industry," *Ethics and the Business of Biomedicine*, Denis Arnold, ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009, pp. 169-197; and "Intellectual Property Rights," George G. Brenkert and Tom L. Beauchamp, eds., *Oxford Handbook on Business Ethics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009, pp. 408-438. He also presented a paper "On Lee's 'Hate Speech in the Marketplace of Ideas'," at the meeting of the American Section of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy in Philadelphia, and an invited lecture at NYU on "Privacy and Non-Governmental Surveillance." He is presently finishing the index for the 7th edition of his *Business Ethics*.

Last year, **Dale Dorsey** published articles in *Noûs*, the *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, and the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. In addition, his article "Truth and Error in Morality" will be published in a volume co-edited by Cory Wright and Nicolaj Pedersen, titled *New Waves in Truth*. He also took over as Director of Graduate Studies this fall. Currently, he is polishing a book manuscript titled *The Basic Minimum: A Welfarist Approach*.

Ben Eggleston became chair of the department on July 1 and has been enjoying his new responsibilities. In research, his recent work has focused on the question of whether it is rational for a person to follow a rule that she has adopted for purely consequentialist reasons when better consequences would result from breaking it. Ben thinks the answer is no, and in a recent paper he argued against two reasons that are sometimes given for answering yes. (This paper was published in the March 2009 issue of the *Journal of Value Inquiry*.) He also discusses rule following in a paper he wrote for a collection of papers he is co-editing on John Stuart Mill's notion of the Art of Life. He argues that although Mill's moral theory seems to presuppose an affirmative answer to the question mentioned above, Mill also shows some sympathy, in his discussion of the Art of Life, for the reasons one might have for answering negatively. The volume that will contain this paper is under contract with Oxford University Press, and should be published in the next year or two.

Anthony (Tony) Genova, who received a sabbatical leave for Fall 2009, had his paper, "Transcendentally Speaking," appear in *Kant-Studien* (2009), and has another paper forthcoming in *Analysis* — the title is "Has Gemes Refuted Global Scepticism?"

In 2009 **Scott Jenkins** continued his research on Nietzsche and presented his work at three conferences, the Pacific APA in April 2009, the Nietzsche Society of Great Britain and Ireland conference in Oxford in September 2009, and the conference "Nietzsche and the Becoming of Life" at Diego Portales University, Santiago, in November 2009. His summer research project, entitled "Truth, Value, and History in Nietzsche's *Untimely Meditations*", was supported by a grant from the KU General Research Fund. This project grew out of his fall 2008 graduate seminar on Schopenhauer and Nietzsche, which considered Nietzsche's response to Schopenhauerian pessimism. In the fall of 2009 Scott returned to his work on Kant and German Idealism in conjunction with his graduate seminar on Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Scott's paper "Hegel's Concept of Desire" finally appeared in the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* in January, 2009.

Don Marquis was on sabbatical leave during the 2008–2009 academic year. In the summer and early fall of 2008 he worked on an essay titled "Why Abortion is Seriously Wrong: Two Views." The essay compares his account of why abortion is wrong to the best Catholic account. Although Marquis had regarded the essay as unpublishable, it will soon be published by Springer in *Bioethics with Liberty and Justice: Themes in the Work of Joseph M. Boyle*. In the fall he also completed an essay on the donation after cardiac death (DCD) protocol for obtaining vital organs for transplantation. This essay, titled "Are DCD Donors Dead?" will be published soon in *Hastings Center Report*.

In March Marquis gave his "Four Perspectives on Abortion Ethics" talk at Bryn Mawr. He gave that same talk in April at Community of Reason in Kansas City. Also in April he participated in a conference to honor Professor Bernard Gert on the occasion of his retirement after 50 years of teaching at Dartmouth College. At that conference he read a paper titled "Abortion and Bernie" which will, allegedly, be published as part of the proceedings of the conference. That same month he took part in a panel at the Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association on the topic of whether brain death is death. Marquis presented a short paper titled "Mental Essentialism and the Definition of Death" which was critical of mental essentialist strategies for defining death. This essay will appear in the Newsletter of the Committee on Medicine and Philosophy of the American Philosophical Association. Marquis has recently been working on objections to his abortion views that are based on some way or another on considerations of personal identity. This work resulted in a paper titled, unsurprisingly, "Abortion and Personal Identity". Most of this paper became a keynote address at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference at the University of Colorado at Boulder, August 6–9. This summer his essay "Singer on Abortion and Infanticide"

appeared, some years after it was written, in the anthology *Singer under Fire: The Moral Iconoclast Faces His Critics* published by Open Court Press. Peter Singer's reply is interesting.

The purpose of Marquis's sabbatical leave was to write a book on the ethics of abortion. Most people think that the ethics of abortion is simple. Either they believe that the value of reproductive choice is so obvious that the moral permissibility of abortion is clear, or they believe that the wrongness of ending innocent human life is so obvious that the moral wrongness of abortion is clear. Actually the issue is interesting and difficult. One would like, of course, to have a philosophically defensible account of the wrongness of ending human life that allows for reproductive choice, does not render the Holocaust morally permissible and is not just arbitrary. Finding such an account is more difficult than one might think. Furthermore, Marquis's view on this matter has attracted critics as a picnic attracts flies. Although the book project is going slowly, all of the work mentioned above will find its way into the book in some form or other.

Teresa Robertson participated (as a critic) in an "author meets critics"-session at the Central Division Meeting of the APA in Chicago in February. The session centered on Penelope Mackie's 2006 book *How Things Might Have Been: Individuals, Kinds, and Essential Properties*.

In the course of preparing her comments for that session, Prof. Robertson discovered a puzzle concerning kinds, which she then developed a bit in a paper that she gave at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in May. Prof. Robertson reports that the philosophers that she met there were wonderful. Their love of philosophy was evident, and the warmth of their hospitality was second to none. She was so glad that she went to Mexico City in spite of the H1N1 flu scare.

Tom Tuozzo is enjoying his release from the administrative chores involved in being chair. He has finished his monograph on Plato: *Charming Charmides: The Argument of Plato's Charmides*, and has submitted it for publication. He is now turning his research sights back to Aristotle, and is at work on a book on Aristotle's theory of change. He will be delivering a talk on an aspect of this work as a keynote speaker at the Ancient Philosophy Society's meeting at Michigan State University in April 2010 (<http://www.ancientphilosophysociety.org/>).

James Woelfel's paper, "Descartes and the Existentialists: The Continuing Fruitfulness of the *Cogito*," has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming volume of essays. He also presented a paper, "Cities of God: Augustine and Doctorow," at the fifteenth annual conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses in April of 2009. In June Prof. Woelfel taught a class, "Is Life Absurd? An Introduction to Existentialism," in the College's first "Mini College" for KU alumni. At the end of August he led off the Hall Center Philosophy & Literature seminar for 2009–10 with a paper entitled "'The Beautiful Necessity': Emerson and the Stoic Tradition."

AFTER THE LAST NEWSLETTER, WE HEARD FROM.....

Sue Atkins, BA, 1971, sent in a remembrance of Prof. Verdu.... "I'm so sorry to learn that Alfonso Verdu has passed away. I guess nothing good can last forever. His 4-course series in Asian philosophy was a high point of my undergraduate education and was probably the reason I ended up majoring in philosophy. His courses, and several others I took, gave me so many credits in philosophy that the only way I could graduate in 4 years was to declare a major in philosophy and take a few more courses in it. Dr. Verdu's classes, early in my learning career and early in his teaching career, gave me a valuable perspective on comparative religion and philosophy and inspired me to study Japanese and Chinese language and culture."

We received a press release from MacMurry College regarding **Eric Berg, PhD, 2005**. Eric, who is an assistant professor of Philosophy and Religion, and Khara Koffel, assistant professor of Art, provided opportunities for students to seek out the lives and philosophical work of Søren Kierkegaard and Knut Hamson in the countries of Norway, Denmark, and Sweden in May 2009. Next spring it is reported that Eric and another professor will lead a May Term Study Tour to Greece and Turkey to visit religious and historic sites of the Greco-Roman Classical era, early Christianity, the Eastern Orthodox tradition, and Islam.



Here is Berg with current PhD student Matt Waldschlagel in front of the Mona Lisa (not a KU Philosophy grad) this past summer.

Richard Buck, PhD, 2001, is an Associate Professor and the Department Chair at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg and received tenure and promotion in 2006. His most recent publication is "Religion, Identity, and Political Legitimacy: Toward Democratic Inclusion," in *Journal of Social Philosophy* (Fall 2008). He and his wife, Sharon, have two small boys and he sends his regards to everyone.

Paul Draper, BA, 1978, sent the following update after the last newsletter. "I read with interest that Rex Martin is retiring after 40 years of service. My own father retired this past May from the Microbiology Dept. after 40 years, also, and Rex had been a sufficient mentor to me as an undergraduate in the Philosophy Dept. that

he attended my wedding to Lois. (Lois and I still have and frequently use the pewter bread dish he gave as a gift.) I was also interested to see news of Jim Swindler, who graduated with his doctorate the same year that I graduated with a BA — I remember a seminar class or two with him.

I took a double major (physics and philosophy) BA in 1978, and then faced a hard choice between the two fields for graduate study — and the larger number of career options with physics eventually won the day — though I came *this* close to pursuing graduate studies in the philosophy of religion with James Woelfel. The odd twist is that there is a Prof. Paul Draper at Florida International University and Purdue whose academic interests are the philosophy of religion and the philosophy of science and confirmation theory — precisely where I would have ended up, I'm sure. He took his BA from UC Irvine in 1979, just one year behind me. I suppose there is some quantum mechanical rule that requires that only one Paul Draper take the road less traveled.

I eventually secured my experimental physics PhD from Indiana in 1987 and worked subsequently on projects at several major physics labs, including Brookhaven, Fermilab, and the stillborn Superconducting Supercollider. The SSC project in fact lured me to the University of Texas at Arlington, where I was assistant professor until 1998. While there, I got interested in digital and software-supported teaching materials in physics and started up a poorly funded, small educational research team including students from computer science, graphic design, and of course physics. This led to contact with publishers, who were busy making the gradual shift from paper to bits, as well. One thing led to another, and across the fence we went, and that's been my career ever since. I'm presently with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, one of the largest educational publishers in the world. My wife, two sons, and I live in the Austin, Texas area and have gotten completely acclimated to barbecue for lunch and TexMex for dinner, sometimes vice versa. My fond regards for everyone there and my congratulations for the long list of impressively obscure publication titles listed in the newsletter. There are still periods when I long to be writing papers on the intersection of Russell's science/faith dynamics in a Rawlsian theory of justice — where I'm sure I'd be making a seminal contribution."

Patrick Duff who graduated in 1979 with a BGS in Philosophy, a BGS in Religious Studies, a BGS in Psychology and a BS in Computer Science, sent us the following update... "I was one semester from also completing a BGS in Mathematics. I had three of the toughest Math courses left when I got a job offer that I couldn't refuse. I got married at about the same time, which was another factor in my decision to graduate with only four degrees instead of all five.

You may remember me as the student who took 40 to 50 hours each semester (but only a "normal" load in each department) and got A's in just about all of them. My worst grades were in Philosophy courses,

those were interesting but harder to get A's in because fewer were given out! I had to go to the Ombudsman and threaten legal action to get the Dean to issue the credits I had earned, and after I graduated I heard that new rules were passed to prevent good students from taking enough hours to be challenged. If so I suspect that your best students are now choosing to go elsewhere. That is a shame, I really enjoyed my time at KU and I would have been terribly bored with a "normal" course load.

I used everything I learned at KU to do Artificial Intelligence work for various government agencies and contractors, most of which I'm not allowed to talk about. But I can tell you that on several important occasions things I learned for the Philosophy and Religious Studies degrees helped me advance the field even more than what I learned in Psychology or Computer Science. Overall it turned out to be an excellent synergy but I never could have achieved any of that if I hadn't challenged your rules about maximum course load.

Anyway, I hope the BGS degree program is still available to students. You may or may not remember how I used it. At that time I wanted five BS degrees but you only offered that degree in the Computer Science department. So I made up my own BS program in each department which exceeded the BA requirements with more courses in each concentration, got it approved in each department without the Dean finding out, and fulfilled each of them. Then at the end KU (reluctantly) issued me BGS degrees instead of BA or BS degrees. I did not consider this to be the best solution and said so at the time — I wonder how you are handling this problem today?

I would have enjoyed my time at KU much more if I hadn't needed to be fighting with the Dean for every little bit of academic credit I deserved. That soured me on the entire KU experience. You were supportive of me when it came to my work in the Philosophy department but as far as I know you stayed out of the discussion when it came to granting me the credits I earned in other departments. So did each of the other department heads. That made it harder on me.

Jack Horner, MA, 1977, retired in October 2008 after 27 years with Science Applications International Corporation as a systems engineer and manager, because, he says, his "job got in the way of getting real work done." He had several papers accepted for publication in 2009: "A Bayesian network model of stromatolite origin", "A phylogenetic comparison of the Influenza A H1N1 and H5N1 neuraminidase-encoding genomic segments", and "Vioxx redux" (2009 International Conference on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology); "Some power-law scaling limits to computer memory architectures" (2009 International Conference on Computer Design); "An automated deduction of the relative strength of orthomodular and weakly orthomodular lattice theory (2009 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence); "A taxonomy of MPI-oriented usage models in parallelized scientific codes" (with Barrett R.F.,

Ahern S, Fahey M.R., Hartman-Baker R, Poole S.W., and Sandaran R, 2009 International Conference on Software Engineering Research and Practice); and "BFAT: a bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) forensic analysis tool" (Los Alamos National Laboratory Symposium on Risk Analysis of Complex Systems for National Security Applications). In March 2009, he completed an automated first-order-language deduction system for Aquinas's *On Being and Essence* but wonders why. For fun, he writes a monthly practical science column for the *Rio Grande Sun*, an Espanola, New Mexico, newspaper.

Bruce Keplinger, BA, 1974, is a lawyer and the managing partner of Norris and Keplinger, L.L.C. which focuses on representing physicians and hospitals. He is married and has five children, three of whom have graduate from KU (one lawyer, one doctor, one teacher) and two who are still in high school. His wife, Carol, owns and operates a Hallmark store.

He has a question, if one of the faculty has a moment to answer. He knows that "philosophy" means love of knowledge, "philology" means love of words, etc., but is there a term for the love or study of love? He enjoys rereading Plato's *Symposium* from time to time and wonders if the foci of that dialogue have been organized into a special area of inquiry. As he continues to stumble through life he finds that agrees more and more with the great thinkers Lennon and McCartney: "All you need is love." How much time is/should the KU Philosophy department be devoting to the study of love?

Evan Kreider, PhD, 2005, sent the following update earlier this year: "I'm halfway through my fourth year at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley. I'm happy here, if feeling a little overworked — I have a 4-4 course load in addition to service and professional development expectations, so I'm plenty busy. Since I started here, I've taught a wide variety of classes, including Intro, Ethics, Environmental Ethics, Business Ethics, Biomedical Ethics, Philosophical Ideas in Literature, and Philosophy of the Arts. I'm also trying to stay philosophically active. I presented a paper on J. S. Mill at the First Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress out in Boulder this summer, and yet another paper on Mill at the Tenth Conference of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies out in Berkeley this fall. Both the conferences were fun and productive, and also served as good opportunities to catch up with Ben Eggleston and meet Dale Dorsey. I'm also scheduled to present a paper on Aristotle at the spring meeting of the central division of the APA in Chicago in February, and I recently published a paper entitled "The Virtues of Horror Films" in the *International Journal of Applied Philosophy*.

Wisconsin is nice, quite a bit like where I grew up (northern New York), but I still find myself missing KU and Lawrence, not to mention all the great people I knew while I was there. I always knew that my stay there was temporary, but I didn't realize how much it had become like home to me until I left."

Scott Wasserman, BA, 1982, attended the conference for Rex Martin in November. Prof. Martin sponsored Scott's undergraduate honors thesis on "Rawls and Rights." After receiving his degree from KU, Scott studied law at Harvard where he worked directly with Rawls in the Philosophy Department. Scott now practices child advocacy law and his web site is www.yourchild1st.com.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The entire Department of Philosophy is now on the same floor and all in the same area of Wescoe that being the 3rd floor, southeast corner — a first for all of us. For those former GTAs who were housed in the basement of Wescoe or other places (I vaguely remember times where GTAs were housed Hoch and Snow), this is truly a good thing.

Changes continue, Rex Martin has retired. The conference the department held in his honor was a

great success. Pictures can be accessed at on our web page under the Recent Events link. Thanks to Heather Bussing for her photographic expertise.

I truly enjoyed working with Tom Tuozzo during his stint as Chair of the department. It is thanks to him that the newsletter went from black and white to color and my expanded learning of things like blackboard and other computer applications.

I look forward to working with our new chair, Ben Eggleston who, I'm sure, will also bring new ideas to the department in the future.

Thanks must go to Pam LeRow and her colleagues in CLAS Digital Media Services for using their talents year after year to get the jumble of files and notes that I collect over the year for the newsletter and putting it into the form that you have in your hands.

As always, please stay in touch via my email chodges@ku.edu so that we can include you in our next newsletter. —Cindi Hodges

The University of Kansas
Department of Philosophy
1445 Jayhawk Blvd.
3090 Wescoe Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045