



# UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

## *Department of Philosophy Newsletter Spring 2010, No. 43*

### *News from the Chair*

[Editor's Note: It is with much regret that we must report there will be no Chair's column in this year's newsletter. We offer below the redacted text of COURP's final transmissions from an undisclosed, secure location. The last confirmed sighting by a member of the public was on February 5<sup>th</sup>, near Union Station, on the eve of Snowmageddon. Speculation of a possible appearance at commencement can be neither confirmed nor denied.]

**4.7.09.** Dear Colleagues, I learned today that we and our dissertation year visitor [from Pitt.], Vanessa Wills, prevailed over candidates in Poli Sci, History, Anthropology, and English.... [Vanessa Wills was in residence in the Department through the 2009-10 academic year and taught an undergraduate seminar related to her dissertation on Marx and Morality. It was a delight to have her here. Our PhD alum, Todd Long, was also in residence as a fall instructor and spring sabbatical fellow, and it was good to have him back. – Editor]

**6.3.09.** ... Our colleague, Alyssa Ney, has been named James P. Wilmot Assistant Professor, an honor conferred on one assistant professor in each of the Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science, and Engineering divisions of the College. Congratulations, Alyssa!

**9.11.09.** Dear Colleagues, Please find attached the graduate program quality report submitted to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Note the following highlights: Our applicant pool grew from 36 in 2000/01 to 78 in 2008/09, and in

recent years the depth of its quality has allowed us to be very selective... [According to] comparative data that is easily obtainable ... our average time to degree is... 5.1 years, or third best of the 98 programs listed. ... The norm for all programs listed is about 8 years to degree.... UR Philosophy is listed as placing 66% of alumni in jobs at the time of completion of the degree (in 5.1 years), the same as USC (in 5.2 years) and CMU (in 7.2 years). Placement at Rice, Miami, UC-Davis, Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, Syracuse, and Colorado-Boulder is similar at 67%, 67%, 70%, 71%, 71%, and 72%, but with corresponding years to degree of 7.7, 7.9, 7.9, 7.2, 7.8, and 6.9. Placement at Wisconsin-Madison is worse at 51% (7.7 yrs. to degree), and perhaps better at Chicago 82% but 8.2 years to degree, and Hopkins at 92% but 9.7 years to degree.

**11.10.09.** ... Success! ... I'm delighted to report that Bill Fitzpatrick [UCLA 1995; Ethics/Moral Philosophy; currently at Virginia Tech] has accepted our offer [of an appointment as an Associate Professor, beginning July 1 of this year].

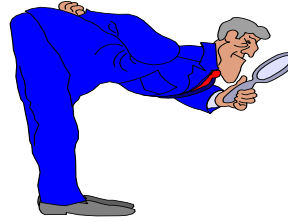
[A second senior search is still in process as this newsletter goes to press. – Editor]

**1.30.10.** ... [responding to Kevin McCain, who is organizing the fall 2010 Graduate Epistemology Conference] ... I'm glad to hear that Michael Bergmann has agreed to be the keynote speaker ... October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> should be ideal dates. We look forward to another great conference...

rrc

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**“Dedicated to the Truth,  
the Half-Truth  
and the Occasional  
Bald-Faced Lie”**

**2010 Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Essay Competition**

The late Professor and Mrs. Colin Turbayne established an International Berkeley Essay Prize competition in conjunction with the Philosophy Department at the University of Rochester.

The next deadline for submitting papers is November 1, 2010. The winner will be announced March 1, 2011 and will receive a prize of \$2,000. Copies of the winning essays will be sent to the George Berkeley Library Study Center located in Berkeley's home in Whitehall, Newport, RI. Submissions should be sent to: Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester, PO Box 270078, Lattimore Hall 532, Rochester, NY 14627-0078 or [phladmin@philosophy.rochester.edu](mailto:phladmin@philosophy.rochester.edu). Please see our website for details regarding essay specifications.

**COLLUQUIA 2009-2010**

**Guest Speakers:**

- John Bickle  
(Mississippi State University)
- Michael Stevens  
(New York University)
- Allan Hazeltt  
(Fordham University)

**FACULTY NEWS**

**Earl Conee**

Year after year, my entry in our department's annual newsletter tells of my having done the usual mix of teaching, research, and other

academic activities, culminating in the writing of the newsletter entry. This year is no exception. Last year was an exception, but not exceptional. I made no entry. But had I done so, the entry would have told of the same activities. This year's entry is exceptional only in its telling of last year's exception.

**Randall Curren**

I lectured this past year in Sapporo, Japan; Minneapolis and Morris, Minnesota; Arlington, Virginia. While I was in Minneapolis, I also recorded a one-hour interview for the Minneapolis television program, "Bat of Minerva." I had conference sessions at the Eastern APA's and the meetings of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, and I presented two commentaries at a workshop at Syracuse University in August. My most poignant memory from all of this was of flying over the fractured sea ice north of Siberia

on my way to give a keynote lecture at the close of the Hokkaido University Sustainability Weeks conferences. One of the most rewarding aspects of this past year was my work toward launching a collaborative HPE (History and Philosophy of Education) book series. My NYU historian series co-editor and I have brokered about a dozen historian-philosopher collaborations in the course of the past six months, and the early steps toward co-authorship have been very encouraging.

### **Richard Dees**

The new bioethics major that is part of the public health-related programs in the College is now up and running, and even though few students are eligible, we already have a few majors. As part of my effort to expand my range of knowledge in medical ethics, I have been spending this semester working with the Clinical Ethics Consult Service at the hospital, and so I have been learning how the hospital works and the nitty-gritty of patient-oriented ethics. I am now also involved in a number of stem cell projects: I am the co-principal investigator on a newly-funded grant from New York State to develop an innovative interdisciplinary course on the science and ethics of stem cells, I was recently named a member of the State of Connecticut's Stem Cell Research Advisory Board, which gives out state funds for projects there.

### **Alyssa Ney**

It's been a fun and rewarding academic year. With the support of the Mellon Foundation, Kevan Edwards from Syracuse and I were able to run a rewarding seminar on reductionism with some great visiting speakers. I finally got to delve into metametaphysics in my spring seminar. And I was fortunate enough to receive a two-year grant to introduce peer-led workshops into my Philosophy 101 class. That has gone really well so far thanks to some fantastic philosophy majors. I traveled to give talks at UC Santa Cruz, Vassar, the IHPST in Paris, Rutgers, and finally Lingnan University in Hong Kong this school year. This summer, I look forward to metaphysics conferences in

Syracuse and North Carolina, the Rochester Jazz Festival, and working on the book on quantum mechanics I'm co-editing for Oxford.

### **Edward Wierenga**

My first Ph.D. student, Greg Fowler, successfully defended his dissertation on the metaphysics of space. Then I presented a paper on Molinism at the conference on Formal Methods in the Epistemology of Religion, University of Leuven, Belgium and another paper on Augustine and Perfect Being Theology at The Concept of God and the Cognitive Science of Religion Conference, University of Birmingham, England. All of this happened in June. It's hard to recall the other 11 months of the year, beyond a blur of the usual teaching and administrative tasks.

## **GRADUATE NEWS**

### **Jonathan Matheson**

This year I had two articles accepted for publication: "Conciliatory Views of Disagreement and Higher-Order Evidence" in *Episteme*, and "Bergmann's Dilemma: Exit Strategies for Internalists" in *Philosophical Studies* (with Jason Rogers). I also presented papers at the Central APA, the 5th annual Baylor Philosophy of Religion Conference, the Western Conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers, the Knowledge, Belief and Normativity Conference, and the Justification Revisited Conference. I will be graduating in May and taking up at tenure-track position at the University of North Florida, in Jacksonville, FL in August.

### **Kevin McCain**

This past year I have continued to thoroughly enjoy great seminars and fantastic reading courses with various faculty members. Additionally, this past year was a big one for me with respect to fulfilling degree requirements. I completed both my primary examination and my writing seminar in the fall semester. In the

spring semester I passed my qualifying examination. Finally, this past year I was a participant in conferences at Fort Lewis College, Virginia Tech University, and the Central Meeting of the APA. I look forward to another exciting year at UR next year.

### **Placement 2009-10**

Gregory Fowler  
Indiana University South Bend  
(One-year Visiting Assistant Professor)

Shawn Graves  
Cedarville University  
(Assistant Professor, Tenure Track)

Jonathan Matheson  
University of North Florida  
(Assistant Professor, Tenure Track)

### **Ph.D. Graduate Admissions Fall 2010**

Matthew Baddorf (Covenant College)  
James Elliott (Bucknell University)  
Matthew Frise (San Jose State University)  
Henrik Lemos (California State, Sacramento)

### **M.A.'s Awarded 2009-10**

Brandon Carey  
Kevin McCain  
Jason Rogers

### **Ph.D.'s Awarded 2009-10**

Jacqueline Augustine

“Kant and the Moral Necessity of Civil Society”  
(Professor Randall Curren, Advisor)

Eva Cadavid

“Existence in a Way: Resolving a Tension in Aristotle’s Philosophy of Mathematics”  
(Professor Deborah Modrak, Advisor)

Gregory Fowler

“The Nature and Structure of Space”  
(Professor Edward Wierenga, Advisor)

Shawn Graves

“When Peers Disagree: An Essay in the Epistemology of Peer Disagreement”  
(Dean Richard Feldman, Advisor)

Jonathan Matheson

“Dealing with Disagreement: Uniqueness and Conciliation”  
(Dean Richard Feldman, Advisor)



### **UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI & FORMER FACULTY NEWS**

#### **Steven Davis (B.A. 1960)**

I am still the Executive Director of Academics for Higher Education and Development (AHED). AHED's mission is to support developing countries build capacity in higher education by sending professionals and academics on projects to developing world colleges and universities. [www.ahed-upesed.org](http://www.ahed-upesed.org). AHED now has projects in several countries and is looking for new projects and volunteers.

I am a professor emeritus at Simon Fraser University and Carleton University, a research associate at the Institute Jean - Nicod in Paris, and an adjunct professor in philosophy at McGill and the University of Montreal.

**Bernard Freydberg (B.A. 1969)**

After 2 1/2 wonderful years of teaching at Koc University in Istanbul, my wife Akiko and I have returned to the US. I am now affiliated with Duquesne University. There were many memorable aspects of those years in Turkey, but the most vivid are the respect that is automatically conferred upon professors and the hunger for philosophy on the part of students throughout Istanbul. I am now working on a book tentatively titled *David Hume: Socratic Philosopher, Continental Ancestor*.

**Steven Pink (Former Faculty)**

Steve Pink spent another academic year as a Professor of Computing at Lancaster University in the UK. For the last 25 years he has done most of his research on computer networks and operating systems. This year he has started research into a new topic for him, quantum computing. This has meant having to learn some quantum and condensed matter physics. He also has had the opportunity to read some key papers and books in the philosophy of quantum mechanics and is really enjoying doing philosophy again.

Steve is also helping to organize a celebration of J.L. Austin's Centenary in 2011 in his birthplace of Lancaster, UK, along with the Philosophy Department in Lancaster. We plan a conference on Austin's work as well as a plaque unveiling, marking the house where Austin was born and raised.

When not in the UK, Steve lives in rural New Hampshire, not far from Dartmouth College. Say hello at [spink007@gmail.com](mailto:spink007@gmail.com).

**GRADUATE ALUMNI  
NEWS**

**Andrei Buckareff (Ph.D. 2005)**

This year I completed my third year as an Assistant Professor at Marist College. I

underwent my mid-tenure evaluation without any surprises.

As for activities, I commented on a paper by Ruth Chang at the SOFIA conference on the philosophy of action in Huatulco, Mexico. I also gave a philosophy of religion paper at the Central Division Meeting of the APA in Chicago. Otherwise, I spent most of my spare time working on two volumes of original essays I co-edited on philosophy of action. One was for MIT Press and is devoted to the causal theory of action. The other volume is also on the philosophy of action and is coming out from Palgrave-Macmillan and is part of the *New Waves in Philosophy* series that features the work of younger philosophers.

**Charles E. Cardwell (Ph.D. 1972)**

Pellissippi State has steadily been growing its philosophy program over the past several years. We are now "bigger" than sociology and have been granted "independent" status. (I have been assigned the duties of program coordinator.) In addition to introduction to philosophy and introduction to ethics, we offer courses in critical thinking, philosophy and film, world religions, business ethics, and medical ethics. We have two full-time faculty and a dozen adjuncts. Ten of the fourteen hold the Ph.D. Two are ABDs. There are opportunities in community colleges if philosophers would just develop them.

In addition to teaching my classes and my new duties as Philosophy Program Coordinator, I have continued to serve as Secretary and Webmaster for the Tennessee Philosophical Association (TPAWeb.org). I also managed to publish one minor paper: Cardwell, Charles E. "THE DEMAND TO MEASURE: DESTROYING THE BLOOM OF LEARNING" NISOD Innovation Abstracts, Vol. XXXI, No. 29 (December 4, 2009).

### **Colleen D. Clements (Ph.D. 1981)**

2009 and How Far Beyond

When one gets older, the common temptation is to recycle and recycle previous work, until we die in a state of dizziness. To avoid this trap, it pays to keep reaching while integrating the concepts that went before. Since I decided 15 years ago that bioethics was a hidden political activism, and not philosophy or ethics, I've had time to try to sketch a real bioethics not trapped by liberal political theories that are culturally bound. My last book on bioethics was based on a naturalistic, humanistic ground that was restricted to solar system planet Earth. In the last chapter, I admitted this was still unsatisfactory as a grounding for a full ethical theory. And I stepped over the edge. Since, I've done a few articles on ethics and forensic psychiatry, but I think bioethics remains a lost cause as it is done.

The edge is much more creative. We need to stop being planet-centric in our naturalism, and move into Space. No, not be "spacey," but have our naturalistic ethics grounded in cosmology, cutting-edge science from reputable journals, and a little metaphysics thrown in for flavor. What comes up is a more comprehensive systems theory ethics. In my two academic books available on Amazon of all places (The Order of the Dragon, and The White Island and the Black Book) cosmology informs ethics, as it must. To have more fun with this message, I've also almost finished a biographical series on Lucifer (Vol. 1-3 are available, 4 is in press, and 5 is started). I have to hurry, because I have a spot on my pancreas that could (or could not) be cancer, and time might be limited. Oh yes, I also wrote a column for The Medical Post on the nature of medical information (probable at best) and how to deal with that. I think I will get the last 2 volumes of the Lucifer biography finished, but another academic book I'd like to write may or may not get done.

### **Trent Dougherty (Ph.D. 2009)**

2009 was an amazing year. It saw me graduate from Rochester, land a great job (2,2-TT) at Baylor University, and an exciting relocation

across the country. Baylor sits on the Brazos River along the Balcones escarpment marking the line between the lush greens reaching to Louisiana and the warm, dry Southwest: the best of both worlds. I am loving it here at Baylor; the students are smart and motivated, and my colleagues are fantastic! The family is thriving here as well, which has grown by a cat and a dog since moving into a large home across the street from campus. I'm especially enjoying teaching my first graduate seminar in Epistemology, working through a volume I'm editing for Oxford University Press, *Evidentialism and its Discontents*, which centers on the work of a pair of characters readers of the this newsletter will be familiar with. Living just north of Austin, we frequent Lance Armstrong's bike shop and ride the vineyard-strewn hills west of town that remind me of a cedar-covered version of the finger lakes area. I did, though, travel quite a bit in the Fall of 2009 giving presentations in locations as far flung as Amsterdam and Durango Colorado. And I've recently been invited to speak at the Midwest Epistemology Workshop at Purdue in the Fall as well as the Formal Epistemology Workshop in Konstanz, Germany the following month. So life is good, and I wish the best to my friends back in Rochester.

### **Loretta M. Kopelman (Ph.D. 1966)**

I am enjoying teaching at Georgetown University and my faculty affiliation with its Kennedy Institute of Ethics. While Professor Emeritus at Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, I am still very active. I am a member of the American Philosophical Association Committee on Philosophy and Medicine and we have been planning a session for the American Association of Bioethics and Humanities in October that I will chair on ethical issues raised by considerations of beauty and disability; we hope to repeat it for the APA's Eastern Division. I also serve on a variety of editorial boards including: *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, *Philosophy, Psychiatry and Psychology*, *Clinical Medical Ethics*, *ASBH Exchange*, *Medical Humanities*, *Cambridge Dictionary of Bioethics* and *Developing World Bioethics*.

A highlight for me this year was a conference that Michael Ruse just hosted in March called "Philosophical Lives." He invited Jim Leshner, Ray Martin and me as well as others to Florida State University to reflect on our lives as academic philosophers and give a paper that illustrated something about our careers. Ruse gave one on Darwin and evolution, Martin on philosophy of mind, Leshner on epistemology and ancient philosophy and I spoke on ranking the values of prolonging life and relieving suffering in the care of imperiled newborn infants. We were all chums in graduate school and it was surprising that, with roughly the same courses and encouragement, we had taken such different paths to find successful and satisfying careers in philosophy.

#### **James Leshner (Ph.D. 1967)**

Leshner reports from Chapel Hill that the town has declared a state of mourning for the remainder of the basketball season. He continues to teach in the Philosophy Department at UNC while trying three times a week to improve his tennis game. In April of 2009 he organized a conference on Aristotle's Posterior Analytics which brought ten acknowledged experts to Durham and Chapel Hill to discuss issues relating to Aristotle's accounts of scientific inquiry and explanation. The collected papers will appear this summer as a special issue of the journal *Aperion* entitled *From Inquiry to Demonstrative Knowledge: Essays on Aristotle's Posterior Analytics*. In March he participated in a gathering of former Rochester graduate students organized by Michael Ruse of the Department of Philosophy at Florida State University. His presentation, 'To the Presocratics and Back Again: Some Thoughts on the Study of Ancient Philosophy' can be found on his web page in the UNC Department of Philosophy. In July he will present a paper, 'Plato and Xenophanes' at the meeting of the International Society for Presocratic Studies' at the University of Edinburgh. In September he will present a paper 'Heraclitean Themes in Eliot's The Cocktail Party' at a conference on representations of antiquity in the visual and performing arts to be held at the University of Bristol.

#### **Todd R. Long (Ph.D. 2003)**

I've spent a wonderful year as a visitor in Rochester's philosophy department while on sabbatical from Cal Poly (where I was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor last September). The whole family has been here. My kids (now 6 and 3) have especially enjoyed the snowy activities—snow skiing, sledding, ice skating, snowman building and snowball fights—that they can't participate in on California's central coast. Sigrid and I have enjoyed revisiting our favorite Rochester attractions: The Old Toad (long may it thrive), the Dryden Theatre, Redwings (and Amerks and Rhinos) games, the RPO, Eastman concerts, Seneca Park Zoo, Ontario Beach Park, Seabreeze Amusement Park, Abbot's, Rocky's, The King and I, and Dinosaur Bar B Que; and we've discovered new gems, such as Dentico's, Chen Garden, and Donuts Delite (best donuts ever).

In the fall I taught three courses to earn my keep, and this spring I've been writing like crazy. During the year, I completed several referee reports, two of my papers have been accepted for publication, two are under review, and I expect to finish two more by June. In November I presented a paper at the 71<sup>st</sup> Southwestern Philosophical Society meeting in Dallas, in March I was the guest lecturer in Ed's Theistic Belief class, and I presented two papers in SUNY Fredonia's Young Philosophers Lecture Series and Podcast. In April I'll present a paper at Marist College. What a pleasure it's been to participate in the life of the department again: hallway discussions, weekday lunches, reading groups, colloquia, and hoops! My work has benefited greatly from my being around so many fine epistemologists (including a great crop of graduate students!), and it's been a gas sitting in on Rich and Earl's evidentialism seminar. I'm very thankful to Randy and the department for such a fine opportunity.

#### **Marc Lowenstein (Ph.D. 1975)**

I continue to spend most of my time on labor negotiations and related personnel matters as Associate Provost at Richard Stockton College.

On the side I write and speak about academic advising. My earlier article (see Bibliography) "If Advising is Teaching, What do Advisors Teach?" was reprinted by the NACADA Journal as one of thirteen "historical articles" in the field.

### **Raymond Martin (Ph.D. 1968)**

In Fall 2009 Ray Martin taught his last term. He is now on a terminal sabbatical (which he hopes is better than the expression sounds). His sabbatical project is to write a book entitled, *The Future of the Self*. He does not yet have any idea what the book will be about. Ray will retire formally, from Union College, in June of 2010. This is his second and last retirement (the first was eight years ago, from the University of Maryland). For his retirement he has both a plan and a meta-plan. His plan—his first retirement project—is to figure out what he would like to do in retirement. His meta-plan—what he will do while he is waiting for his retirement project to yield an answer—has three parts. First, he will play golf; second, he will go fishing; and, third, he will go on a hike. After the hike, if he still hasn't figured out what he will do in retirement, he will play golf again, and so on (who said there can't be a chain of infinite causes?). One of the great things that happened on his sabbatical was to give a talk to the History and Philosophy of Science group at Florida State University, where he reunited with Michael Ruse, who organized the conference, Jim and Eleanor Leshner, and Loretta and Arthur Kopelman. Michael, Jim, and Loretta were classmates at Rochester.

### **Gary Merrill (Ph.D. 1974)**

At the end of February, I retired from GlaxoSmithKline -- thus ending my third career. Ostensibly I am to devote time to such pursuits as woodworking, fishing, and home improvement. However, I am also, to at least some degree, returning to my first career, since I have been appointed as a Visiting Scholar at North Carolina State University. Indeed, I have created a new course there titled "Practical Ontology" that initially will be taught in the fall 2010 semester. It would not be totally incorrect

to view this as a philosophy course pretending to be a scientific informatics course or, alternatively, an informatics course pretending to be a philosophy course. Either way will work. It is in fact a course in applied metaphysics, logic, and philosophy of language - - offered at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and as both a traditional classroom course (video-recorded) and a distance learning course (with serious technology to facilitate its delivery). Please take a look at it via the link <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~ghmerril/PracticalOntology/>. If you have any students who might be interested in such a course, please encourage them in this direction. Or if you are interested in seeing any of the course details yourself, let me know and I'll make all of that accessible to you. I'd appreciate any comments or critiques that anyone would care to give.

A bit over a year ago I also acquired a new (titanium!) right knee and have returned to playing tennis (which I'm sure van Cleve will regard with some humor). Otherwise I have been trying to get back into writing papers of a more philosophical stripe, have one out for review, and am working on the revision of another to return to the editors. I found it surprisingly difficult to start writing in the philosophical/academic style again, but I think I'm getting the hang of it.

### **Bo Mou (Ph.D. 1997)**

This is a summary report of some updates of mine during the past two years. To save space, let me give them in a dry list. (1) Publications in 2009. There came out three books formally labeled '2009' as publication year: two authored books, *Substantive Perspectivism* ("Synthese Library" monograph series, vol. 344; a monograph in philosophy of language and metaphysics, whose electronic version available at <http://www.springerlink.com/content/978-90-481-2622-4>), and *Chinese Philosophy A-Z* (Edinburgh University Press), and one edited volume, *History of Chinese Philosophy* (Routledge; <http://www.routledge-philosophy.com/books/History-of-Chinese-Philosophy-isbn9780415356886>), although the last one already appeared in late 2008. It just

happens that the three were published roughly in the same year; actually each of them results from multiple-year efforts, especially the first one (over a decade of work). (2) Service to the profession. <1> One major project carried out in 2009 is formally establishing a peer-reviewed, open-access international journal Comparative Philosophy (subtitle: An International Journal of Constructive Engagement of Distinct Approaches toward World Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy, which highlights the emphasis and orientation of the new journal). This journal is edited by its international Editorial Board and published on the World Wide Web jointly by the Center for Comparative Philosophy (<http://www.sjsu.edu/centercomphil>) and the University Library at San Jose State University. I serve as its editor. (For the emphasis and orientation of the journal and its current issue, see the "Home" and the "Current" parts at the journal website: <http://www.comparativephilosophy.org>) <2> I've been invited to be a member of the Editorial Board of the journal History and Philosophy of Logic (<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/thpl>). (3) I was promoted to a full professor (an early promotion) at San Jose State University last year.

### **Robert Muhlnickel (Ph.D. 2008)**

I am teaching FT tenure-track at Monroe Community College. I have an article "The Vulnerability Thesis and the Peacemaking Virtues" coming out this year in *Practicing Peace*, Rodopi Press. I have a project on Peter Singer's vegetarianism under consideration for *Just the Arguments*, with Wiley-Blackwell.

### **Nathan Nobis (Ph.D. 2005)**

This has been a year of great change for me: important personal changes have enhanced my capacity to do philosophy and so I've been getting busy, philosophically, these days.

I've given some conference presentations on abortion and embryo experimentation (arguing, following Earl Conee, that metaphysics is irrelevant to these moral issues, as well as

supporting moral conclusions) and these papers are under review. I've had a few commentary pieces published in a bioethics journal, one on primate experimentation and another on trans fat bans and slippery slope objections. I've given some public talks on bioethics topics, one of which was in a bar with an audience of 100+ (my talk likely got better as they drank more!). I have an adjunct position in a medical school, trying to help out with bioethical aspects of a cancer health disparities study. I teach a summer unit on bioethics for a public health program. I've developed and soon will have twice taught an ethics and animals course for an online university. At the end of the summer I will give a presentation on "Moral Progress and Moral Argument Analysis" at a philosophy teaching conference. I've been invited to be a distinguished speaker at a bioethics conference in the fall, perhaps "debating" a senior philosopher on a controversial issue. I've started doing online surveys to try to solicit non-philosopher's views about various moral issues. I have two books in progress: both involve developing a very basic version of Rich Feldman's *Reason and Argument* text. In one book, I apply these logical skills to a range of moral issues, resulting in a logic and moral issues "workbook" of sorts; the other is a logic and animal ethics monograph geared towards non-philosophers. Finally, I am working on a review of African American responses to various atheological arguments from evil. These are just a few things I have been up to. I also have a four year old daughter and a house that's often in need of repairs, so I am keeping very busy, but have never been better!

### **J.B. Post (Ph.D. 1960)**

Good People,

The past year, with its economic woes, meant that nothing of philosophical import was accomplished by this graduate beyond survival. Still awaiting the publication of some things delayed by the economy.

**Carl Steen (Ph.D. 1987)**

This past year I read a paper on the concept of moral hazard to members of the Downtown Economists Club of NYC, of which I am the president.

**Joseph B. (“Josh”) Stulberg (Ph. D. 1975)**

After serving as Associate Dean for Faculty for 5 years, I returned to full-time teaching in Fall 2009 following my first academic sabbatical (January-June 2009). I am dedicated to remaining in good health and employment for another 25 years so that I can take several more professional leaves!

My academic year has focused heavily on service and teaching. I was asked by the Association for Conflict Resolution, an international organization of scholars and practitioners in dispute resolution, to Chair its national Task Force to develop a report examining the proposed Arbitration Fairness Act of 2009. I am hopeful that our 95 page report, issued in October 2009, makes a valuable contribution to public discussion of the pending Congressional action. I continue to teach courses in negotiation and mediation; last fall, I team taught our Civil Litigation clinic. In December, I taught a course for students from Western and Central Europe pursuing a Master’s Program under a European Consortium arrangement; the classroom portion of the program is conducted at the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain. In Summer 2010, I will be teaching, in June, a 2-week course on democratic theory and institution-building at the Central European University in Budapest. In July, I will direct our law school’s 5-week program at Oxford University (St. Anne’s College); 60 U.S. law students will be in residence and I will be teaching a course on Comparative Dispute Resolution.

**Peter vanInwagen (Ph.D. 1969)**

In February, I gave the Presidential Address (“The New Anti-metaphysicians”) at the meeting of the Central Division in Chicago.

In March, I gave the Keynote Address at the Rocky Mountain States Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy in Boulder, CO.

In April, I gave a public lecture at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point

In May, I delivered the four Mangoletsi Lectures at the University of Leeds (England).

While in England, I gave invited lectures to the Oxford University Philosophical Society and the C. S. Lewis Society of Oxford University.

In July, my tenure as President of the Central Division ended and I became “Past President.” As Past President, I was the chair of the Nominating Committee, the Committee that puts together the ballot the Divisional elections the following year. As President and Past President of the Central Division in 2009, I traveled to attend meetings as a voting member of the Executive Committee of the Central Division and as a voting member of the Board of Officers of the A.P.A.

In October, I was elected President of the Society of Christian Philosophers

I gave papers at the following conferences:

—The Arizona Ontology Conference (Tucson, January)

—Workshop on Vagueness and Indeterminacy (Leeds, May)

—Conference on Philosophical Theology (Leeds, May)

—The Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference (Bellingham, WA, August)

—Conference on Ontology (North Carolina State University, October)

—“Dio Oggi,” a conference sponsored by the Italian Conference of Bishops (Rome, December)

(And I commented on a paper by Ed Curley at the conference “My Ways are Not Your Ways” at Notre Dame in September.)

I was scheduled to deliver a series of three lectures on science and religion in November at Tsinghua University in China. I did not make the trip owing to my not being fully recovered from surgery in September. My lectures will, however, be printed in the proceedings of the larger series of which they were to be a part; these proceedings will be published by Oxford.

I read papers to departmental colloquia at the following universities

The University of Virginia (April)  
Rutgers University (April)  
The University of York (May)  
The University of Nottingham (May)  
Sheffield University (May)  
The University of Durham (May).

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## DEPARTMENTAL FUNDS

**The Henry E. Kyburg, Jr. Fellowship** is being established to support graduate student research in an area related to Henry's work: foundations of probability and statistics, reasoning under uncertainty, non-monotonic logic, etc. If we meet the requirements for a Fellowship, the interest will be used to "top off" the annual stipend of a promising graduate student in philosophy, computer science or a related discipline.

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