First, greetings to our alumni, former colleagues, and friends. We have been talking about an annual newsletter for some time, and have finally produced one. It is intended that this be a yearly production, and we hope to improve its quality and usefulness to you as time goes on. Please send your responses and suggestions to us, and we will do what we can to produce a continually better instrument of communication.

I am stepping down as department head on August 1, after 15 years of serving in this position. A lot has occurred over this time. 55 graduate students have received their M.A. degrees, and more than 225 undergraduate students have received their B.A. degrees in Philosophy. Murry Duevel-Banoub resigned after 19 years as our office manager, and was replaced in 2012 by Sarah Mutschelknaus. Becky Eytcheson remains as a stabilizing influence and as a half-time staff member. Qingie Wang, John Shook, Mui Sim, Michael Rhoades and Angela Potochnik resigned from the faculty during this period, and Ed Lawry and Mike Taylor retired. All but three of the current faculty were hired during this period, and all but the newest hires have gone through the promotion and tenure process over the same time period. We also moved from Hanner Hall to Murray Hall in 2009, and shortly thereafter established the ‘Lawry Fund’ for all matters pertaining to our students. We are also set to hire an additional faculty member next Fall, bringing the total number of tenure-track faculty to eleven. Faculty publications and professional presentations have been at an all-time high over these years, and increased again over the last five years. So, there has been a lot of change.

Much, however, remains the same. The faculty recommitted itself to supporting the Ethics Center last Fall, and we continue to be dedicated to excellence in classroom teaching as well as to bringing our areas of expertise to bear on issues of public concern. We are still a very congenial department, and there is still much of the same ‘feel’ about the department as there was fifteen years ago (in fact, as there was twenty-five years ago). I also continue to send messages with ‘attachments’ that I forgot to attach, and wonder why people aren’t falling all over themselves to respond. On the other hand, I see nothing wrong with this exercise in doing the impossible—anyone who can properly respond to an attachment that wasn’t there is someone to be reckoned with (or, perhaps, someone to be avoided). Friends of the Forms is still an active organization, and we still bring in an annual Philosopher in Residence. We have been able to supplement the latter activity by bringing in additional scholars in various areas. In April 2014, for example, Dr. Bill Durham, Bing Professor of Human Biology at Stanford, will be providing public talks on evolutionary theory and Galápagos ecology. So, in spite of the new space and new faces, most of you would still be able to recognize the OSU Philosophy Department if you visited for any length of time.

On a more personal note, I was able over the past couple of years to fulfill a longstanding dream. During the Fall, 2012 semester, I was invited to accompany an expedition to the Galápagos Archipelago sponsored by Stanford University. This was enabled by Bob Graalman and the Office of Scholarly Development & Recognition and Student Research, and much of the information gathered was also used in the 10th Anniversary Cambridge course on Darwin during July, 2013. All in all, we visited nine islands between September 12 and September 22, and...yes, saw lots of finches!
Greetings from the Department Head Continued

We also saw remarkable plant and animal diversity, and marveled at the complete change in flora and fauna as we moved from lower to higher elevations on the younger islands. The chance to walk where Darwin walked, feel the tropical sun and be constantly aware of the ever-present Pacific and its importance as a great barrier to animal and plant migration —well, it refocused everything I had read about this remarkable place.

Nancy and I also moved into a new house in January, 2013, and have begun to put our stamp on it—planting roses, etc. And, unbelievable as this is to me, Laurel (some of you will remember... 'little Laurel') received her Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Davis last summer. So, there’s now another ‘Dr. Recker’ to haunt the dreams and nightmares of students for generations to come! Laurel and I also have exchanged notes on modernism to be used in our respective courses (I can remember when it was, “Dad, what’s a brief explanation of ___?”). So, things have been changing on the home front as well as within the department. Fifteen years is simply a long time.

Anyway, I am looking forward to being able to devote more time to research, with projects on Descartes and Darwin already stacked up and whispering to me during times of quiet. The position of department head will soon be in the capable hands of Scott Gelfand, and, while that will be another important change, I also expect a fair amount of continuity. In any event, again, I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter, and please do drop us a line letting us know what you’re doing, and what we might do to improve communications. This is still very much your department.

Faculty News and Updates

Dr. Rebecca Bensen-Cain: During the Fall, 2013 semester, Dr. Bensen-Cain team-taught the Philosophy of Art and Literature course (with an Architectural component) with Dr. Tom Spector from the Architecture department, who is in the process of starting a new interdisciplinary journal in applied philosophy, Architecture & Philosophy, hopefully with OSU as its institutional base. Dr. Bensen-Cain will serve as one of its coordinating editors. Dr. Bensen-Cain also presented a paper at the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association meeting in Chicago in March, 2014, “Malice and the Ridiculous as Self-Ignorance: A Dialectical Argument in Philebus 47d-50e.” She is currently at work on a longer version of this paper.

Dr. James Cain: Dr. Cain taught the first offering of our new course in Medieval Philosophy during the Spring, 2013 semester, and a seminar in Free Will during the Fall, 2013 semester. He also has presented papers on free will at the Central States Philosophical Association meetings and at the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association meeting in Chicago. The latter paper was also published in the March 2014 issue of Philosophia.

Dr. Scott Gelfand: Dr. Gelfand is on Sabbatical leave this year. He was invited to present a paper, “The Moral, Legal and Social Implications of the Artificial Womb,” at an international conference in Manchester, England during the Fall, 2013 semester. This conference brought together both bioethicists and physicians from around the world who were interested in reproductive ethics. He is also completing his three-year NSF grant on ethics education, and has recently published a paper on randomized clinical trials.

Dr. Mary Gwin: Dr. Gwin continues to serve as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the department. In 2013 she presented “The Virtues of a Naturalistic Approach to Epistemology” at the Mid South Philosophy conference in Memphis, and at the Central States Philosophical Association in Tulsa. She presented another paper, “Irrational Analysis,” at the Northwestern Philosophical Society meetings in Fredericksburg, Texas. In 2014 she presented “A Worthy Conception of Virtue for Sport” at the Central Meetings of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago, and will be presenting another paper dealing with philosophy of sport at the New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society in El Paso, Texas. She has also developed new upper-level courses in Philosophy of Sport, and Animal Ethics.

Dr. Marty Heitz: Dr. Heitz continues to teach most of our Asian and Indian Philosophy classes. He also continues to be interested in Dialogue and Self-Inquiry, and is currently working on the teachings of David Bohm (in collaboration with Dr. Bruce Ackerson from Physics) and Iain McGilchrist. He also adds that he continues to be seriously committed to the notion that no commitment or belief should be taken too seriously.

Dr. Justin Horn: Dr. Justin Horn is a new hire from the University of Wisconsin who will become a faculty member at OSU next Fall. He specializes in metaethics and ethical theory, and his current research focuses on evaluating challenges to contemporary versions of moral realism. In particular he is interested in the ways in which empirical facts about our moral psychology bear on the question of moral objectivity. He has also investigated questions within philosophy of language concerning whether moral realists can provide a plausible account of how moral terms could come to refer to objective moral properties.

Dr. Apple Igrek: Dr. Igrek’s research explores and critiques influential ideas in 20th century continental philosophy, especially its cultural, political, and ethical
Faculty News and Updates Continued

Dr. Doren Recker: Is stepping down as Department Head on August 1st, and looks forward to devoting more time to research. His most recent work involves “Embodied Cognition and Theory of Mind.” Forthcoming in Lawrence Shapiro, Ed. Boundaries of Mere Reason: An Interpretation and Defense (Routledge, 2013). In addition, he has recently published articles on Kant’s epistemology in a variety of professional journals (e.g.: Kant-Studien, Rethinking Kant, Society and Politics), and has a paper on Kant and The Bible forthcoming in the Journal of the History of Philosophy. This summer he plans to write a paper on Kant and Pelagianism as well as a paper on Kant and Virtue Epistemology.

Dr. Lawrence Pasternack: This Spring, Dr. Pasternack is busy with various invited talks and articles stemming from his recent book, God’s Final Victory: A Comparative Philosophical Case for Universalism, was released in the Fall of 2011. He also has an article on the problem of Evil forthcoming in Faith and Philosophy, and is currently working on a paper on the concept of revelation and a new book exploring the implications of the Christian love ethic for same-sex marriage.

Dr. Shannon Spaulding: Dr. Spaulding works within the philosophy of psychology and cognitive science, particularly on issues concerning social cognition and imagination. Her paper, “Imagination, Desire, Rationality,” won the Richard M. Griffith Award at the 106th meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy of Psychology conference in February, 2014. Other recent examples of her research include: “Mirror Neurons and Social Cognition” in Mind and Language (2013), and “Embodied Cognition and Theory of Mind.” Forthcoming in Lawrence Shapiro, Ed. Handbook of Embodied Cognition (Routledge).

Dr. Timothy Weidel: Dr. Weidel joined the faculty as a Visiting Assistant Professor during the Fall, 2013 semester. He will be teaching a graduate course on Ethics and Global Justice during the Fall, 2014 semester. His research interests are in social and political philosophy, and is currently working in the area of global poverty. His article: “The Ugliness of Economic Efficiency: Technology, Species-Being, and Global Poverty” is currently under review at the Journal of Social Psychology conference in February, 2014. Other recent examples of her research include: “Mirror Neurons and Social Cognition” in Mind and Language (2013), and “Embodied Cognition and Theory of Mind.” Forthcoming in Lawrence Shapiro, Ed. Handbook of Embodied Cognition (Routledge).

Graduate Student News and Updates

Heath Allen's general research interest is in the history of analytic philosophy. Specifically, his main interest is in the study of W.V.O. Quine’s place within the analytic tradition, identifying influences between Quine’s work and that of other philosophers and philosophical movements (e.g., Russell, logical positivism, pragmatism). Heath expects to graduate in the Spring of 2014, and intends to continue his studies in a PhD program, after which he plans teach philosophy at the university level. Failing that, Heath will spend his time rescuing dogs and teaching philosophy to them instead, since they are better listeners than people anyway.

Michael Carver is currently interested in the philosophical roots of Cognitive Science as well as Mathematical Logic. He expects to graduate this semester (Spring 2014). He's currently in the application process to Philosophy PhD programs and plans to attend one such program this Fall.

Ross Gerke did his undergraduate work in history and philosophy at IUPUI in Indianapolis, and after graduating in 2015 he plans to pursue a PhD. He is most interested in philosophy of mind, especially the nature of consciousness and personal identity. He also has interests in philosophy of language, especially pragmatics.

Amanda Goeringer expects to graduate in the spring of 2015. Her interests include ethics/morality and issues pertaining to philosophy of religion, such as the problem of evil and the nature of evil. After she completes her Master’s degree, she plans on completing a doctoral degree in rhetoric and literature.

Shonda Goss has an interest in the Metaphysics of Martin Heidegger, in Daoism and the cosmology held of the Sankya School of Hinduism. She is also interested in how film can express phenomenal experience where language fails. She plans to graduate this summer and is on the Creative Component track. Following graduation she plans to work with film, animation, continue to learn the German language and continue her work on Heidegger.

David Highfield is a second year graduate student and is planning to graduate in Spring 2014. His research interests include: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Time, Epistemology, and Logic as well as Cryptography and Topology. His future plans are to complete his B. A. in mathematics at OSU and then continue on to graduate studies in mathematics.

Tristan Hill’s research interests are feminism and Ancient Philosophy (specifically Plato), and she expects to graduate in May of 2015 and plans on furthering her education by pursuing a PhD and eventually teaching at the college level.

Kevin Snelson’s research interest include aesthetics, ontology, and East/West comparative philosophy. He expects to graduate Spring of 2014. Future plans include continuing his work with music and art, and working on a book with a friend and cohort. Eventually Kevin plans on pursuing a PhD from the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIS) in ecological consciousness.
Dr. Theodore Kisiel, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of philosophy at Northern Illinois University, a well-known translator of and commentator on the works of Martin Heidegger and will be the 39th annual Philosopher-in-Residence. Every spring semester, the Friends of the Forms, an undergraduate student philosophy club, hosts a special “Philosopher-in-Residence” program inviting a philosopher of national reputation to come to OSU for three days, give two lectures, and meet informally with students. He will be coming to OSU in April.

Books by Dr. Kisiel:
- The Genesis of Heidegger’s Being and Time (Mar 1995)
- Heidegger’s Way of Thought: Critical and Interpretive Signposts (Jun 2002)
- Phenomenology and the Natural Sciences: Essays and Translations (1970)
- Reading Heidegger from the Start: Essays in His Earliest Thought SUNY Series in Contemporary Continental Philosophy (Dec 1994)

End of the Year Meeting and Election of Officers
April 14 at 5:00 pm in 239 Murray Hall

As always, the meeting will include an introduction of graduates, philosophy awards presentation, initiation of new members to Phi Sigma Tau and pizza. All philosophy majors, minors, graduate students, faculty, and emeriti are welcome!

Friends of the Forms/Phi Sigma Tau Officers for the 2013-2014 year are Calvin Warner and Brayden Eastham. Calvin is a Philosophy/Spanish major and Brayden is a Psychology/Philosophy major. Calvin will be graduating from OSU this Spring.

Dr. Marty Heitz, Associate Professor, has been the advisor for the Friends of the Forms for the past two years. Dr. Eric Reitan, Professor, has been the advisor for Phi Sigma Tau for the past several years. We’d like to thank all of them for their participation and the time and work that has gone into these organizations.

Friends of the Forms, our student philosophy club, was formed in 1975 by Dr. Edward Lawry, who retired from the department in 2006, as a group of students seemed to be forming a group to carry on extra-curricular discussions. The name alludes to Plato’s Sophist. The group has scheduled bi-weekly talks and discussions by on campus faculty from a wide variety of Colleges and Departments. Every Spring semester, they host a special “Philosopher-in-Residence” program.

Phi Sigma Tau is an International Society in Philosophy founded in 1930 with over 200 chapters throughout the United States and Canada. The purpose of their organization is to encourage interest and activity among students and promote ties between philosophy departments in accredited institutions. Phi Sigma Tau, like any honor society, provides not just recognition of academic excellence but is also a means for furthering scholarship and academic communications. Undergraduate students are eligible for membership if they have completed three semesters or five quarters of the college course, rank in the upper 35% of their class and have completed at least two semester courses or three-quarter’s of the courses in philosophy with an average grade of over the second highest grade of the working scale.

Graduate students are eligible for Phi Sigma Tau membership if they meet the requirements established for undergraduate students, or if they have completed at least one-third of the residence requirements of the master’s degree with a grade average of at least half on the highest grade of the working scale and half in the second highest grade.

We hope to see everyone at the meeting and look forward to installation of new members and the election of new officers for these organizations!

Panel Discussion: “Critical Conversations: Race, Gender, and the Normative Gaze”
March 27th at 6 pm at Room 317, Engineering South, OSU Campus, Stillwater

The Friends of the Forms and the Philosophy Department will be hosting a panel discussion on Race and Gender March 28th at 6:00 pm in Room 317, Engineering South. The panel consists of Lawrence Ware, Lecturer in the Department and Dr. Elon Darcy, Associate Professor, OU African American Studies Program. Lawrence Ware is a frequent contributor to the publication The Democratic Left and Co-editor of the forthcoming progressive publication RS: The Religious Left. He has also been a commentator on race for the Huffington Post Live and NPR’s Talk of the Nation.

If you would like to donate to the OSU Philosophy Department or the Edward G. Lawry Philosophy Student Fund, please visit the OSU Foundation website at http://www.osugiving.com/sslpage.aspx?id=1175 The Edward G. Lawry Philosophy Student Fund was established in conjunction with OSU’s Branding Success Campaign in honor of Ed Lawry, OSU Professor Emeritus, and founder of the Friends of the Forms with the hope that Dr. Lawry’s enthusiastic teaching, research and service will continue to benefit OSU, its students and alumni for many years to come. The funds are used for undergraduate student support, scholarships, conference travel, hosting undergraduate student conference and colloquia, Friends of the Forms support, lectures, receptions, Phi Sigma Tau support and discussion groups.

Donations
Alumni

Stewart Clem
stewart.clem@gmail.com
After finishing my philosophy M.A. program in 2007, I taught at Providence Hall (now The Academy of Classical Christian Studies) in Oklahoma City for three years. In 2010, my wife (Molly) and I, along with our two daughters, packed our bags for Durham, North Carolina, where I completed a M.Div. degree at Duke Divinity School. I was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church in 2012. Still feeling like I hadn't been in school for quite long enough, we moved again to South Bend, Indiana in the summer of 2013, where I began a Ph.D. program in moral theology at the University of Notre Dame. When I took Dr. Cain's Aquinas seminar in 2005, I didn't realize that it would send me on a never-ending quest to study the thought of Thomas Aquinas!

Kyle Ray
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Currently residing in DC, looking for full time work.

Joe Ross
joeryoss.55@gmail.com
Graduated 2008. Currently at Abilene Christian University finishing a Master’s of Theology

Todd Shaw
Toddshaw@gmail.com
Graduated 2012
After graduation, my plan was to pursue a law degree at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. That summer, however, I pursued an opportunity as a research assistant for the Washington Post columnist George F. Will. I now live in DC and act as the primary in-house researcher, fact-checker and copy-editor for Mr. Will. I have plans to stay in DC for a few more years and eventually pursue a law degree. Eventually I hope to litigate civil issues within the realm of economics and liberty. I had a great time in the Philosophy Department at OSU and credit Dr. Scott Gelfand with fantastic advice since my freshman year. I'm always interested in contact with other Phil grads and can be reached at 903-203-5944 or by email.

Peter Stravlo
psstravlo@psinstallationsinc.com
Received a BA in Philosophy in 1982.
MA program 1982– through a couple different stints, Took a year off to hitchhike around the country and came back. Spent 3 years living out of my van planting trees around the country. Played Ultimate Frisbee competitively in US and internationally 33 years. Married 20 years to artist Peggy McGivern - peggymcgivern.com. Owned Genre Artisans Centre (Gallery, Community Center, Coffee House) in Denver, CO for 9 years. One son, Matt Burdt - 2 grandchildren, Olivia (9) and Xander (7). Stepdaughter Teri Sloan - granddaughter Stella (6). Stepson Nathan Schoonover - 2 grandsons, twins Hady and Otto. 15. President of: PS Installations, Inc. and Shelf Image, Inc. Main Occupation now, other than work, is Writing Fiction - currently finished one novel and one collection of short stories.

Jeffrey Trissell
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Employed as a Law Clerk at the Watkins Firm, APC in La Jolla, CA. Awaiting the June 2013 CA Bar results

Anthony (Tony) Valentine
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After spending a couple of years in Seattle working in help desk support for AT&T Wireless, I moved to Platteville, WI, to be somewhat closer to my family in Iowa. I worked at UW-Platteville as an academic technologist for 10 years. While there I spent the last 4 years lecturing in the Philosophy department as an overload. I took a M.S.E. in adult and community counseling with hopes of returning to OSU as an academic advisor for A&S. Eventually a position opened and I was hired in the College in March of 2008. Since that time I have been advising new freshman in the College and lecturing each semester for the department as an overload. Last October (2012) I became the undergraduate adviser for philosophy majors and minors, as well as religious studies minors. Such scholarly activity, when I find time, is primarily focused on improving my course lectures, and occasionally plotting possible special topics courses. The rest is quite contemplation, movies, games, and friends.