Greetings from the Department Head

Philosophy — Preaching to the Choir

Never in my lifetime has philosophy been so culturally relevant. There are now two television shows on NBC that feature philosophers, and I regularly read articles that discuss the classic trolley problem and self-driving cars. In fact, if you are interested, MIT’s Media Lab launched The Machine Platform, which invites users to make decisions about which ways automated cars should swerve when lives are at stake. The last time philosophy received so much media attention was two and a half years ago, when Marco Rubio, a U.S. Senator from Florida, infamously asserted in a debate: We need more welders and less philosophers.

Around the same time that Rubio made the aforementioned comment, I noticed an increase in the number of articles praising degrees in the liberal arts, especially degrees in philosophy. This was a little surprising, given all the attention focused on STEM degrees. Forbes, a business magazine, ran an article entitled: “That ‘Useless’ Liberal Arts Degree Has Become Tech’s Hottest Ticket.” The article discusses Stewart Butterfield, the CEO of a new, but thriving, tech firm, Slack Technologies. Butterfield, who earned an undergraduate and master’s degree in philosophy, explained: “Studying philosophy taught me … how to write really clearly [and] how to follow an argument all the way down, which is invaluable in running meetings.”

In another article about philosophy majors that was published in the Huffington Post – “The Unexpected Way Philosophy Majors Are Changing the World of Business” – Carolyn Gregoire discusses how Dr. Damon Horowitz, who quit his technology job and earned a Ph.D. in philosophy, returned to the tech world and became Google’s in-house philosopher/director of engineering. “His own career makes a pretty good case for the value of a philosophy education.”

Our own department of philosophy is attempting to make it easier to earn a degree in philosophy for those interested in business, the ministry, law and other careers. We recently added two degree plans, pre-law and pre-ministry, and are currently developing two more degree plans, philosophy/business and philosophy/public affairs. In addition, we developed a presentation (which can be found on the landing-page of our website) explaining why philosophy is a good major for just about anyone. This may explain why the number of philosophy majors has increased by 81% during the last four years.

Articles extolling the benefits of philosophy and the liberal arts warm my heart, but I have to admit that I am more excited, or excited in a different way, that philosophers are now the main characters in two television shows on a major network (NBC). The first, and most popular, is a show called The Good Place. Although the show is a comedy, it explores moral philosophy and the issue of what it takes to be a good person. The Good Place introduces the classic trolley problem to mainstream Americans and makes mention of numerous philosophers, including Plato and Aristotle and contemporary philosophers, such as Judith Thomson and Philippa Foot.
Greetings from the Dept. Head cont.

A more recent addition to television culture is NBC’s A.P. Bio, a show about a former Harvard philosophy professor who’s teaching advanced placement biology at a Toledo high school. Without giving too much away, the former philosophy professor, rather than focusing on biology, uses the students to exact retribution on those who have wronged him in the past.

I imagine that several new philosophy courses, focusing on these shows, will be popping up on college campuses in the not too distant future. More importantly, I hope that all the media attention focused on degrees in philosophy will result in more students reaping the benefits of studying philosophy.

Have a great year!

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A&S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

2017

Kimberly K. Hays-Souter is an attorney in Tulsa, where she practices family law. She attended Oklahoma State University, from 1986–1990, where she received her B.A. in Philosophy, in 1990. While attending OSU, Hays was an active member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, serving as Chapter President in 1989-1990. She received the 1990 Philosophy Department-Outstanding Senior award. She graduated in 1993 from the University of Kansas School of Law with her Juris Doctorate Degree. Ms. Hays is the 2017 Oklahoma Bar Association President-Elect and she will serve as the 2018 President of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

Hays served on the OBA Board of Governors, District 6 Tulsa, in 2012-2014. She has served as Chair of the OBA Section Leaders Council, Chair of the OBA Family Law Section, Chair of the Women in Law Committee. She was member of the 2009 OBA Leadership Academy. Ms. Hays is active in the Tulsa County Bar Association, having served as a Director-at-Large, Chair of Family Law Section, and other committees.

She is a volunteer attorney for Legal Aid Services, DVIS and Oklahoma Lawyers for America’s Heroes. Ms. Hays is the recipient of the OBA FLS Family Law Attorney of the Year, Mona Salyer Lambird Spotlight Award and OBA FLS Chair Award. Ms. Hays is married to Alan Souter, OSU 1989, and they have two children, Noelle and Parker.

Undergraduate Advising

Anthony Valentine

As another academic year ripens, stirring dull roots with spring rain, thoughts turn to the path ahead, and new programs and options. This spring Dr. Gelfand and the faculty are discussing some exciting proposals. Sarah, and I will be working with Dr. Gelfand to develop a new minor or certificate in Ethics. Additionally, an option for Philosophy and Public Policy is in the works, as we continue to consider other options to promote Philosophy as a great pre-professional major. This year at Senior Day, I spoke with a couple of new students interested in Philosophy for Pre-Law. I’m excited to meet this year’s new freshmen at Orientation, too, to see how our new options for Pre-Law and Pre-Ministry could encourage growth in the program.

The department’s recruiting efforts over the last couple of years seem to have some lasting effects. My most recent review of numbers shows 43 primary undergraduate majors in Philosophy, and 13 secondary majors. Presently we have 64 declared minors and 43 minors in Religious Studies. As graduation approaches I know I will be speaking to a few more seniors with undeclared options, who will be eager to get certified in their minors for May commencement. I’ve been known to say it’s a great time to advise for Philosophy, and it remains true. Department talks, events, and growing interest are great to share with prospective students.

On a related topic I suspect a number of students in the humanities and liberal arts can feel somewhat overwhelmed and underprepared for finding careers after university. One extremely valuable resource is OSU Career Services. Visit hireosugrads.com to see the tremendous variety of events each semester, and to learn about and access the services offered. Make an appointment and introduce yourself to Chelsea Armstrong, Career Coordinator for Arts and Sciences. Chelsea is a great guide to meet with early and over the course of your academic career. She helps with career exploration, résumé development, cover letters, personal statements, interviewing, preparing for career fairs, and so much more. In CAS Career Services, Chelsea and Lawrence Richardson plan and facilitate informative sessions, promoting awareness, skill development, and networking strategies and advice. Don’t make the all-too-common mistake of asking for their help right before graduation.

Finally, a reminder to those who have students or friends inquiring about major or minor requirements and sequencing: please ask them to call (405) 744-5658 or to e-mail anthony.valentine@okstate.edu for an appointment.
Outstanding Undergraduates

Every year the Philosophy Department selects an outstanding Junior and Senior for recognition. The Department is proud to announce this year’s award recipients.

**Mehrzad Moin, 2018 Outstanding Senior**

I am proud to say that I have accomplished a great deal while studying at Oklahoma State University. I arrived here in the fall of 2015 with the intention of studying Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in order to pursue my childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor. During my first semester at OSU I took an honors general education course with Dr. Reitan, titled “Philosophies of Life.” I became enamored by the study of philosophy and by the end of that semester the subject consumed almost all of my free time. The following semester I took a course titled “Biomedical Ethics” with Dr. Horn, which made it clear to me that I should pursue philosophy further. This led me to declare a minor. The next semester, in the fall of 2016, I was knee deep in an organic chemistry course when I realized that something was wrong. I was supposedly a student of biochemistry and yet philosophy was the subject that constantly had my attention. Upon this revelation, I decided to change my major and will now be graduating this spring with a BA in Philosophy. I will have finished this degree before my 21st birthday, thus graduating a year early. I plan to attend graduate school with the goal of becoming a university professor. In this role I believe that I can pursue the object of my intellectual interest, while potentially having the same effect on students that my professors have had on me. I am currently in the process of deciding where I wish to continue my education and I hope to specialize in 19th century German philosophy.

Aside from graduating in only three years, I am proud of several other things that I have accomplished at OSU. I have maintained at 4.0 GPA in my major, been elected vice president of the philosophy honors society (*Phi Sigma Tau*), the Ethics Team, and the Undergraduate Philosophy Club (Friends of the Forms). I have also been honored to be included on the Dean’s Honor Roll my first two semesters at OSU and the President’s Honor Roll every semester after that. I have maintained active status in the Honors College as well and will be graduating with the general honors award. In addition, I have received enough money from various scholarships to completely fund my education at OSU without the need for any student loans. Now, at the culmination of my undergraduate work, I am honored to be recognized by the Philosophy Department as 2018’s Outstanding Senior. I am truly thankful for all that this department has afforded me. In addition, I am thankful to the College of Arts and Sciences for their contributions to my education and to all of the professors that have helped me and continue to help me as I pursue my dream.

**Luise Schoenknecht, 2018 Outstanding Junior**

As a graduate of Stillwater High School, pride in my town and in this university has been a part of my life for years. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to attend OSU and study philosophy and graphic design, and feel honored to have been chosen as the 2018 Outstanding Junior by the philosophy department. I would like to say thank you to all the wonderful professors I have had at OSU, who challenged me and furthered my love for philosophy. Without them none of my accomplishments would have been possible.

What life holds in store for me after I graduate I do not know, but I am confident that I will leave OSU fully prepared to take on the world.
**Faculty News and Updates**

**Dr. Rebecca Bensen Cain**
During the Spring 2017, I accepted an invitation to comment on a paper in the plenary session for the Southwest Philosophy Society (SWPS) meeting at Baylor in November. This project led me to pursue a research topic on Socratic parhresia (practice of truth-telling). The topic of the speaker’s original proposed paper on Socrates was expanded to include contemporary politics, the recent writings of Ta-Nehisi Coates (*Between the World and Me, 2015*), and Cornel West’s book, *Democracy Matters* (2004). I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in a very important plenary session for the SWPS, and have my comments (and the comments of my co-commentators), published in the upcoming issue of *Southwest Philosophy Review*, Vol. 34 (1), January 2018, along with the speaker’s expanded paper. Recently, I worked with a colleague from Bucknell University to re-organize a four-person panel session on comedy and the limits of transgression. We submitted the new proposal to the American Society of Aesthetics to present at their annual conference in Toronto, Canada of this year (Oct 10-13, 2018). The proposal was accepted!

**Dr. Megan Burke**
Dr. Burke spent much of the year working on a book on gender, time, and sexual domination, which is under contract with University of Minnesota Press. Dr. Burke also developed a new interdisciplinary class, LGBTQ Lives in the U.S, taught during the Spring 2018 semester, which is a politcized philosophical consideration of the experience of oppression endured by LGBTQ individuals, LGBTQ conceptions of gender, sexuality, desire, and identity, and the forms of resistance to oppression imagined by LGBTQ communities. These topics will be central to Dr. Burke’s future research project.

**Dr. James Cain**
This year Dr. Cain is teaching Logic & Critical Thinking, Symbolic Logic, an Honor's College class on free will, and a graduate seminar on free will. He has been working on papers on free will and is engaged in research in logic.

**Dr. Marty Heitz**
Dr. Heitz had another full year of teaching and was excited to teach an Honors Add-on in Mindfulness for the first time. He has been invited to create a full course in the topic for the Honors program and has also teamed up with music professor Laura Talbott Clark to develop a center on the OSU campus dedicated to studies in mindfulness, the Center for Mindful Inquiry. He continued leading both Tai Chi and meditation for the OSU community and has taken over advising the Buddhist Association. With his article “Truth Bound and Unbound” for a commemorative volume dedicated to the teaching career of Roger Ames accepted for publication, he hopes to turn attention to his book, “In Wonder, I Am.”

**Dr. Justin Horn**
Dr. Horn continues to work on a range of issues in metaethics. This year, his paper “Moral Realism, Fundamental Moral Disagreement, and Moral Reliability” was published in The Journal of Value Inquiry and his essay, “Evolution and the Epistemological Challenge to Moral Realism” was published in the Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Ethics, edited by Michael Ruse and Robert Richards. Dr. Horn organizes the First Friday Pizza Forum, a monthly discussion series aimed at cultivating philosophical discussion among undergraduates. This year he taught a graduate seminar on Metaethics, an honors *add-on* course on Evolution and Morality, Philosophies of Life, and Biomedical Ethics.

**Dr. Apple Igrek**
Dr. Apple Igrek's manuscript *Entropic Affirmation: On the Origins of Conflict in Change, Death, and Nothingness* has been accepted for publication with Lexington Books. In this work, Dr. Igrek proposes that the infinity of change and the nothingness of death are relevant to the orientation of our values despite the fact that what is limitless cannot be measured in terms of our openness to it. This idea therefore gives rise to a new methodological approach that diverges from 1) any view suggesting that such relevance has to do with a moral responsibility to be more open to what is infinitely other, and 2) all other views that conclude that infinity is therefore irrelevant to cultural values. This approach ultimately gives rise to a new explanation for the agonistic aspect of social life, an explanation that is not equivalent to what can be found in the likes of Nietzsche, Freud, or Mouffe, given various flaws in their respective theoretical assumptions.

**Dr. Brian Kim**
I've been completing some papers and an edited book on pragmatic encroachment in epistemology. This area of epistemology explores the relationship between the practical (what we should do and what we care about) and the epistemic (what we know and what we have evidence for). In the coming year, I will begin two new research projects. The first project explores the importance of our epistemic lives for our lives in general. The second project explores various philosophical issues surrounding recent developments in artificial intelligence.
Dr. Lawrence Pasternack
Lawrence Pasternack completed five papers for various Cambridge UP collections, completed the manuscript for his-co-edited collection on Pascal’s Wager for Cambridge UP, wrote three journal articles, and accepted a contract from Routledge for his next book. He organized and chaired a session at the Central APA, presented a paper at the Pacific APA, and hosted a workshop on the problem of divine hiddenness, funded by the Norris Foundation. He also received a H.A.D. grant to help fund work on his next book.

Dr. Doren Recker
2017 was an interesting year. My daughter Laurel was married in September in Santa Cruz at a lovely location. I worked most of the year on the 2nd paper (on Demarcation) related to my proposed Creation v. Evolution book, and finally submitted it to a journal in late Fall (it is still under review at this point). I introduced a new course, Hon 1000 which is an add-on course for students in World Religions who seek Honors credit. It is an enrichment course called “Head & Heart in Relation to Human Religions,” which investigates general topics that are applicable to issues within virtually all religions (Religious Language, Religious Belief, Religious Faith, Relationships between Faith and Reason, Faith and Science, etc.). These are related to my research over the last four years on the two articles I’ve finished. I have also begun work on the book I’ve planned on Creation v. Evolution. Finally, I’ve been leading a graduate seminar each semester for the past two years, which will finally come to an end next Fall with the Descartes seminar. I’ve explored numerous topics related to evolution and religion in these seminars, and the students and I have chewed on a great deal of information. I plan to get a chapter or two written on my book this year, and begin to search for a publisher. I am also thinking about articles on Religious Truth, Descartes, and Evolutionary Explanations.

Dr. Eric Reitan
In the summer of 2017 Eric Reitan saw one of his long-term research interests culminate in the publication of his most recent book, The Triumph of Love: Same-Sex Marriage and the Christian Love Ethic (Cascade Books, 2017). He has since then started giving public talks on the core themes of the book to church, university, and community groups. He also wrote two book chapters in 2017: “Personal Pacifism and Conscientious Objection” for the Routledge Handbook of Pacifism and Nonviolence; and “Martin Luther King, Jr., Scripture, and the Ethics of Love,” for the forthcoming Signs and Wonders: American Philosophers Read Scripture (Lexington Books). He continues to write fiction, with his young adult novel manuscript winning first place in its category in the 2017 Oklahoma Writers’ Federation, Inc., Annual Writing Contest, and two short stories appearing in print (with a third accepted for publication in a forthcoming anthology). When he’s not writing, he can be seen playing his violin with the Oklahoma State University Community Orchestra.

Dr. Shannon Spaulding
Dr. Spaulding has spent the last year writing a book on how people understand and interact with each other. In the book, she argues that our methods for understanding others are diverse, complex, and very often subject to all sorts of biases. The book is to be published by Routledge Press in 2018. In addition to this book, in 2017 she published an article in Synthese on how social interpretations of contentious events sharply diverge and an article in Mind & Language on implicit bias. She is working on two invited articles: a Philosophy Compass article on mindreading and a book review of “Implicit Bias and Philosophy” (OUP) for Philosophical Review. She is enjoying her role as graduate coordinator, helping to mentor and advise graduate students in the Philosophy MA program. In addition, she continues to serve as a member of the APA’s committee on Lectures, Publications, and Research and recently helped to write and edit the APA’s Good Practices Guide. She reviews for about a dozen journals each year and is an associate editor at Ergo.
Diversity

Oklahoma State University’s philosophy department continues to push for conversations about race and inclusion. Over the last academic year, we discussed topics as diverse as the complexity of the psychological effects of white supremacy on marginalized communities to the question of identity politics through the lens of black feminism. We also held the Oklahoma Premiere of the film *Whose Streets?*.

Teaching Assistant Professor, Diversity Coordinator, and Co-Director of The Center for Africana Studies Lawrence Ware gives leadership to this series of events. Critical Conversations are panel discussions, film screenings and invited talks from scholars, activists, and students about issues centering around inclusion found in the news, while Critical Colloquia are academic talks from scholars doing work that touches upon diversity. The average attendance of conversations is around 150 while the attendance for colloquia is just under 100.

Critical Conversations

Documentary Screening:
*Whose Streets?*
10/19/2017

“Insidious Trauma: Exploring the Mental Health Implications for Experiences with Oppression” by LaVonya Bennett
10/23/2017

“Twice as Hard: Race, Religion and the Politics of Black Education” by Dr. Ray Owens
01/30/2018

“Identity Isn’t Destiny” by Kimberly Foster
03/01/2018

Screening: *Set it Off*
03/08/2018

Screening: *Free CeCe!*
03/15/2018

“Heavy: An American Memoir” by Kiese Laymon
4/19/2018
In Memoriam

Robert Radford was born on August 8, 1932 and died at home on January 26, 2018. After receiving his bachelor and master’s degrees from Baylor University, Radford first taught sixth-grade in Charlestown, Indiana, and then philosophy, history and the humanities at Caney Junior College (now Alice Lloyd College) in Kentucky.

In 1963, Radford began teaching at OSU, while concurrently working on his Ph.D., which he received from the University of Texas, Austin in 1970. Radford retired from OSU at the rank of Associate Professor in 1994, though he continued to spend most of his days on campus for another decade. In addition to his contributions as a teacher, and various positions on Faculty Council, Radford participated in a National Science Foundation grant examining the moral dilemmas of university scientists preparing environmental impact statements. He also served as a consultant for several publishers on introductory ethics textbooks, and from the early 1960s until his retirement, he was active in the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, the Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, and the Southwestern Philosophical Society.

Radford’s publications and professional lectures include papers on Aristotle, freedom and determinism, character-trait theories, philosophy and parapsychology, the belief in survival of death, and various case studies in ethics. In addition to his 1971 article in the Personalist (later known as Pacific Philosophical Quarterly), Radford was most proud of his monograph on Cicero’s political philosophy, published in 2002 by Rodopi. He is remembered by the department as a person of eclectic interests, a follower of current news, and fascinated by parapsychology.

Ethics Internship

After a very successful two year run, the OSU Philosophy Department will continue to team up with Payne County Youth Services to offer a summer ethics internship.

The summer intern will shadow Payne County Youth Services employees, observe ethical issues in the PCYS employees’ work, and talk with the PCYS employees about any ethical issues or situations that they regularly face. PCYS may request a particular ethical issue or area for the student to focus on, depending on current situations and needs. In addition, the intern will interact with residents in the emergency shelter and participate in evening activities. The intern will keep a journal and meet with the faculty advisor each week. Two weeks after the last meeting at PCYS, the intern will submit a final report to the faculty advisor and to Payne County Youth Services.

Interested students can apply by submitting their resume, cover letter, and references to philo@okstate.edu. Applications are due April 1st.
Friends of the Forms

Friends of the Forms, our student philosophy club, was formed in 1975 by Dr. Edward Lawry, who retired from the department in 2006. The organization arose from students interested in extra-curricular philosophical discussions. The name alludes to Plato’s Sophist. The group schedules 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. We invite a philosopher of national reputation to come for three days, give two lecturers, and meet informally with students.

2017-2018 Officers

Alex Garcia, President
Mehrzad Moin, Vice-President
Michael Jamaleddine, Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Christopher Drohan, Faculty Advisor

43rd Annual Philosopher in Residence

Karma Lekshe Tsomo is a professor of Buddhist Studies at the University of San Diego. She holds a doctorate in Comparative Philosophy from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, specializing in Buddhist feminist philosophy, Buddhism and bioethics, Buddhist social theory, concepts of death and afterlife, and Buddhist transnationalism. Dr. Tsomo gave a public lecture titled, “Living and Dying in Buddhist Cultures” on Tuesday, March 27.

2017-2018 Friends of the Forms Talks

Is Morality Real?
Justin Horn, OSU Philosophy 9/21/2017

Where is Music? Some Thoughts about the Ontology of Musical Works and Performances
Jeffrey Swinkin, OU School of Music 10/17/2017

Christianity & the Problem of Ineffective Witnesses
Justin Rice, OSU Philosophy and Religious Studies 11/16/2017

Love the Sinner but Hate the Sin? Homosexuality and Christian Love
Eric Reitan, OSU Philosophy 2/1/2018

What Does Food Have to Do with Justice?
Anna Zeide, OSU History 3/7/2018

Living and Dying in Buddhist Cultures
Karma Lekshe Tsomo, Philosopher in Residence 3/27/2018

Visit our Events page to watch recorded lecturers online!
philosophy.okstate.edu/events/events
Dr. Christopher M. Drohan,
Student Organization Faculty Advisor and Undergraduate Liaison, & Teaching Assistant Professor

Dr. Chris Drohan teaches Philosophies of Life, Logic & Critical Thinking, and Biomedical Ethics in the department. As Faculty Advisor, Dr. Drohan works with both our Undergraduate Philosophy Club, the Friends of the Forms, as well as our Ethics Club. This past year the Friends of the Forms organized a monthly series of philosophic speakers on a variety of topics, including: tolerance, instrumental reasoning, cyber attacks, ethical realism, divine hiddenness, and the phenomenology of music. In 2018, this monthly tradition will continue, in addition to a variety of new events including philosophic movie nights, off-campus debate & coffee meet-ups, as well as our first foray into charitable, community outreach. The Friends will also be sponsoring a Philosopher-in-Residence in the spring semester, Dr. Karma Lekshe, who is a Buddhist monk and scholar. During her visit, Dr. Lekshe will be giving several public talks in addition to meeting with professors and students individually.

Ethics Club

The OSU Ethics Club had another successful year, and developed its membership to the point where we were able to send two full teams to both the state and regional ethics bowl competitions. Out of the 30 teams competing, our teams placed 10th and 12th, respectively at regionals. This is only the third year that our Ethics Club has sent teams to these competitions since the Club moved from the Business College to the Philosophy Department in 2015. We are extremely proud to see that our teams not only competed well, but were able to add many new younger members that plan on helping the team grow next year. Moreover, both teams led a Philanthropete fundraising drive that brought in over a thousand dollars in contributions!
Dr. Anna Zeide discusses morality and food. March 7, 2018

Philosophy Faculty in Disguise. October 31, 2017

Dean Danilowicz and Michael Jamaedine. Michael was recognized for his outstanding academic performance at the 2017 Awards Ceremony

Dean Danilowicz and Brian Deer — Brian received the 2017 A&S Distinguished Teaching Award

Dr. Reitan reads from his latest book The Triumph of Love

Justin Rice for Friends of the Forms. November 16, 2017

Who do you picture as an average Whole Foods or organic food shopper?

Dr. Anna Zeide discusses morality and food. March 7, 2018

Philosophy Faculty in Disguise. October 31, 2017
Graduate Student News and Updates

Trevor Adams
I am a second year student in the graduate program and I am currently researching some solutions to Kripke's puzzle about belief. I am currently applying to PhD programs in philosophy and I hope to continue researching topics in philosophy of language or epistemology.

Syed Abu Musab
I'm hoping to do my thesis on Philosophy of Science concerning evolution and its implication on religion. Future plans are to get into a PhD program also related to philosophy of science and teach.

Daniel Carr
My research interests include the interaction of science and faith, theistic evolution, theistic arguments, virtue ethics, and the history of philosophy. I plan on submitting papers for conferences and publication sometime this year. I anticipate starting a PhD program in the fall of 2019.

Geoff Dargan
I have really been enjoying my first year in the MA program at OSU. I was a TA for Dr. Spaulding in the fall semester and I am TA'ing for Dr. Reitan this spring. Both of them are great to work with. My main areas of interest are epistemology, philosophy of religion, and several issues in applied ethics. It's been great to find myself in such a collegial environment, where both faculty and fellow students are eager to take part in valuable discussion both in and out of the classroom. I'm looking forward to a busy but fruitful semester.

Shonda Goss
I begin writing my Final Report this spring semester and hope to finish in May 2018. I am presently investigating Buddhist meditative practices that are utilized in Western Psychology as a modality to assist clients to better cope with anxiety and depression disorders. I find this work compelling due to the rise in these disorders, especially in America. Some would say the rise in anxiety and depression disorders has risen to near epidemic proportion. The focus of my Final Report is to trace and examine the benefits that Western Psychologists have observed and documented and to research what others are saying about Buddhist meditation and mindfulness techniques utilized in Western Psychology. Also, during my investigation and completion of my Final Report this spring, I have the opportunity to gain more experience as a grader for Dr. Drohan's online Philosophies of Life course.

My present and future plans are to continue my research on mindfulness techniques through the Master of Science Program in the Leisure Department here at OSU, with an emphasis on Recreational Therapy. My Masters of Science research, through the Recreation Department, is focused on the effects of mindfulness modalities, as studied in Western Psychology, and how the meditative practices from the East affect patients who are diagnosed with anxiety and depression disorders, as well as for violent offenders. My hope is to graduate with an MA in Philosophy and an MS in Leisure Studies with an emphasis on Recreational Therapy by the fall of 2020.

Kyle Morgan
My projects center around Epistemology and the relation between knowledge, belief, action and truth. I am currently researching the relationship between our honestly stated belief and unreflective action. I am interested in exploring the ways in which stereotypically "practically inoperable" beliefs such as skepticism may be consistently held and acted upon. Finally, I plan to work on understanding the epistemology of our institutions (such as science) with an eye towards finding shortcuts by which they can more efficiently and accurately approximate truth.

I have no explicit future plans at the moment, currently considering Phd programs in philosophy or pursuing math-education.
ALUMNI UPDATES

Susanne Claxton
I currently reside in ABQ, NM. I am an adjunct professor of philosophy at Santa Fe Community College and Southern New Hampshire University.

Kevin Jobe
After completing my MA in 2009 at OSU, I went on to complete a PhD in Philosophy at Stony Brook University in 2014. After teaching two years as a Lecturer at Morgan State University in Baltimore, I was appointed as Assistant Professor and Program Head of Philosophy at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, TX as of Fall 2017. My new institutional email is <ksjobe@ollusa.edu>, and my department homepage can be found here. My current project is a manuscript titled "The Coloniality of Homelessness", which will appear as a chapter in the 2nd Edition of "The Ethics of Homelessness", edited by G. John Abbarno and Naomi Zack (forthcoming). In Spring 2018, I will be teaching a graduate seminar and workshop on Social Justice.

Diane Odeh
Diane L. Odeh, MPA resides in Fort Myers, Florida with her husband and two cats. Since graduating from OSU in fall 2009, she has earned a Masters of Public Administration degree from Florida Gulf Coast University in spring 2016. She is engaged in research concerned with civic engagement and empowerment in low-SES communities. Diane currently works at Florida Gulf Coast University as an Academic Success Coordinator where she provides one-on-one academic counseling to at-risk student populations. In addition to this, Diane teaches a college-level course called Effective Learning and is actively involved in promoting diversity and inclusion efforts at the institution (with emphasis on advocating for low-SES students and Islamic students). She is currently pursuing admission to PhD programs with an emphasis on studying public policy related to ameliorating inequities.

Support

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  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.

Please Keep in Touch! We would love to hear from you!

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