

## Chair's Letter

Dear Friends and Alumni,

Welcome to the first ever UWM
Philosophy Newsletter! Many of you
have taken courses with us in the
past. Some of you are former UWM
Philosophy majors or MA students.
A few of you are former colleagues.
But no matter your connection to the
Department – past or present – we
hope that you are positively disposed
towards us and are interested in what
we are up to these days. By means
of this newsletter – to be distributed
annually henceforth – we hope



Blain Neufeld, Associate Professor and Department Chair

to keep you apprised of what we are up to, how things fare for philosophy in Milwaukee, and so forth.

I first joined the Department in the autumn of 2008. While I was sad that my time at Trinity College Dublin had come to an end (my three-year contract there had expired), I was relieved to have landed a tenure-track position in a vibrant and supportive Department. It truly has been, and continues to be, a great place to teach and 'do' philosophy!

Over the past decade, though, we have faced some daunting challenges: a decline in the university's student population (from roughly 30,000 students when I joined to about 24,000 today) due to long-term demographic changes, and (until recently) a state government hostile to higher education. Consequently, the Department has shrunk quite a bit. We have lost a net seven permanent faculty members during my time here (ten departures due to retirements or moves, offset by three hires).

Despite these challenges, the quality of our teaching – both undergraduate and graduate – and research remains top-notch. We attract many of the strongest undergraduate students at UWM. And our MA students continue to find places in top PhD Philosophy programs (in recent years, Brown University, New York University, Pittsburgh University, Rutgers University, the University of Arizona, the University of Chicago, the University of California – Berkeley, and the like).

We recently introduced a new interdisciplinary program: the Certificate in Ethics, Values, and Society (CEVS). Our faculty continues to turn out ground-breaking work in philosophy in top journals and academic presses. And, thanks to a generous gift from Brad and Glenna Brin, we are hosting more conferences and special events than ever. So despite the challenges that we have faced – and continue to face – the future looks bright here on the sixth floor of 'beautiful' Curtin Hall.

My thanks to Bill Bristow, Josiah Lopez-Wild, and Farhad Taraz for their hard work on this newsletter.

Sláinte!

BL Nefer



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## **Contact Us**

In future issues, we hope to report alumni news in this space. If you are an alumna or alumnus of our programs, and you have news from your professional life, please contact us!

Send your news to Georgette at gjaworsk@ uwm.edu. She'll keep it in a folder, and, when it comes time to publish the next issue, we'll report your news to the community in this space. Thanks!

## **News and Notes**

### **Berkeley Workshop Fall 2018**

Distinguished Professor Margaret Atherton, one of the world's top authorities on the philosophy of George Berkeley, hosted a workshop on Berkeley's philosophy at UWM this past fall. Over three days in October, international scholars discussed various aspects of Berkeley's thought. Papers were presented by Samuel Rickless (University of California - San Diego), Kenneth Pearce (Trinity College Dublin), Manuel Fasko (University of Zurich), Scott Harkema (Ohio State University), Geoffrey Gorham (Macalester College), Seth Bordner (University of Alabama), Melissa Frankel (Carleton University (Ottawa)), Graham Clay and Michael Rauschenbach (Notre Dame University), Takaharu Oda (Trinity College Dublin), and Peter West (Trinity College Dublin). Commentators were: Keota Fields (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth), Michael Jacovides (Purdue University), Ed Slowik (Winona State University), Benjamin Hill (Western University), Sophie Cote (New York University), Lisa Downing (Ohio State University), Ericka Tucker (Marquette University), Jennifer Keefe (University of Wisconsin - Parkside), and Chloe Armstrong (Lawrence University).



Bradley M. (right) and Glenna Cose Brin (left) "Philosophy keeps a smile on your face!"

### **Brin Philosophy Enhancement Fund**

Bradley M. and Glenna Cose Brin are longtime friends and supporters of the Department. Brad has for many years audited our seminars. He is always a welcome presence, and he and Glenna often host a dinner for seminar participants at their home at the end of the seminar. They have given generously to the Philosophy Fund on an annual basis. Last year, they outdid themselves. They funded - at the level of \$50,000 - a

Philosophy Enhancement Fund, to be spent over a four-year period to support philosophy at UWM. We have used the fund so far to subsidize the conferences that are described in this newsletter (you may notice that we are hosting more conferences than we ever have in the past thanks to their generosity!) and in other various ways to enhance our mission, including by subsidizing this newsletter. In this period of austerity and downsizing in the Department, this donation is especially valuable and encouraging to us, and we are very grateful.

### Seidler Scholarships

Longtime benefactor of the Department, William (Bill) **J. Seidler**, passed away in early 2017. Many years ago, Bill funded an annual award for distinguished undergraduate philosophy majors at the level of \$500. It has been our pleasure to celebrate the award winners every December at our end-of-term Seidler Scholarship ceremony. Upon Bill's passing, we learned that he had named us as a beneficiary of one of his life insurance policies. We are very grateful for Bill's extraordinary generosity, both in life and in death, toward our students. We are now able to support excellent philosophy students at a much higher level. We now recognize one to three "Seidler Scholars" every year, with a stipend varying from \$2,500 to \$6,000. Last year, the first year of the new scholarship, we were able to recognize undergraduates Anya Athan and Ashveer Singh, and this year we are recognizing Bronwyn Belgum. The selection criteria includes high academic merit, of course, but also financial need. We continue to celebrate our Seidler Scholars at our December ceremonies.

## Atherton-Schwartz Fest in Spring 2019

In April, the department hosted a one-day philosophy conference in honor of Distinguished Professors Margaret Atherton and Robert Schwartz to mark their retirement (in December 2018). Four prominent philosophers presented papers: Professor Gunther Abel (Technical University, Berlin) spoke on "A New Orientation in Knowledge"; Professor Richard Glauser (University of Neuchatel) spoke on "Desire, the Good and the Will in Locke"; Professor David Rosenthal (City University of New York) spoke on "Qualities and Consciousness"; and Professor Kenneth Winkler (Yale University) spoke on "Locke and the Scope of Sensitive Knowledge". The papers were followed by a celebratory reception and dinner. We express appreciation to the Brins for the funding, to **Michael Liston** for the organizing, to Marianna Cecere for media and publicity, to Georgette Jaworski for all her indispensable work in making it happen (as always!), and to the presenters and attendees for making it all a success.



Margaret Atherton (left) and Robert Schwartz (right) with Professor Michael Liston (middle)



Anya Athan (left) and Ashveer Singh (right) celebrate winning the Seidler award in December 2018

#### **Kudos to our Award Winners**

In December we honored undergraduate Philosophy majors **Anya Athan** and **Ashveer Singh** as the first set of Seidler Scholars at our annual Seidler celebration.

In early spring we learned that first-year graduate student **Tom Ladendorf** had been awarded a 2019-2020 UWM Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship.

We also learned that first-year graduate student **Risha Narayan Kuthoore** received a 2019-20 UWM Graduate Student Excellence Fellowship.

First-year graduate student **Josiah Lopez-Wild** was recognized for presenting the "Best Graduate Student Paper" at a Philosophy Conference at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

In our May ceremony, we honored the recipients of the 2019 Richard W. Peltz Memorial Awards:

- undergraduate Philosophy Major Sydney Maxwell, for her paper titled "Nicotine and Akrasia: How Aristotle can help us understand the modern day smoker"
- second-year Master's student John Muller, for his paper "Philosophy without Title: Hume's Sceptical Principles in the Treatise."

The Richard W. Peltz Award for Excellence in Philosophy was established by Cissie Peltz in honor of her spouse, Richard Peltz, who was a vital member of the Philosophy Department from 1957 until his passing in 1975.



Tom Ladendorf (left), Risha Narayan Kuthoore (middle), and Josiah Lopez-Wild (right)



Sydney Maxwell (right), Undergraduate recipient of the Richard W. Peltz memorial award for her paper titled "Nicotine and Akrasia: How Aristotle can help us understand the modern day smoker."



John Muller (right), Graduate recipient of the Richard W. Peltz Memorial Award award for his paper "Philosophy without Title: Hume's Sceptical Principles in the Treatise."

# **Comings and Goings**

#### Farewell Bob and Margaret



Margaret Atherton



Distinguished Professor Emeritus Robert Schwartz

**Distinguished Professors** Margaret Atherton and Robert Schwartz retired in December, after 38 and 36 years of outstanding service, respectively. Each has contributed immeasurably to our mission over the years. As indicated by the "Distinguished Professor" titles, each has established an international reputation within their research areas. Each has taught, mentored, and influenced a great number of undergraduate and graduate students

over the years. Both have

contributed in too many ways to mention to the University and the Department in service roles. We are profoundly grateful for their contributions. They've also hosted in their happy home on Hackett countless memorable Department get-togethers over the years. They will be, both individually and collectively, sorely missed. Hopefully, their grandson Henry – the attractive power of whose cuteness cannot be over-estimated - will not pull them away from us, and we'll see them regularly at Department events in the future.

### Farewell Steve

Distinguished Professor Stephen Leeds, who has been a member of our Department since 2002, retired in August of this year. Steve has had a very distinguished career in academic philosophy. He has published work in the best journals in a large number of areas: mathematical logic, philosophy of mind and cognitive science, philosophy of physics, philosophy of probability and decision making, and general philosophy of science. His work has been extremely



Distinguished Professor Stephen Leeds

influential in more than one of these areas, but he is best known for his seminal work in philosophy of language on deflationary truth and reference. He has given a great deal to our programs in various ways over the last 17 years. We are grateful, and we very much hope that Steve will continue to attend departmental events, including colloquia, where his questions are always appreciated.

## Rachel Goodman, hello and goodbye

This past year was Assistant **Professor Rachel Goodman's** (PhD, University of Chicago) first, and unfortunately also last, year with us. After joining us, Rachel, who works in philosophy of mind and language, accepted a position in the Philosophy Department at the University of Illinois -Chicago, where her partner also holds a position. We are sorry to see Rachel go. We



Professor Rachel Goodman

thank her for her contributions in her time here and wish her all the best in the future!

### Welcome Peter van Elswyk



van Elswyk

The department is excited to welcome Peter van Elswyk, a recent PhD from Rutgers University (2018). Peter works primarily in the philosophy of language and metaphysics, although he recently has begun a new project on hedging that will take him into epistemology. This past year, Peter taught courses in the philosophy of language, epistemology, and the philosophy of science; his teaching will generally fall into the philosophy of language or

epistemology, often with overlap. He is particularly excited to be in a program with a terminal MA program, especially at a university with a Linguistics Department. Outside the classroom, Peter spends most of his time exploring Milwaukee with his 2.5 year old son, Pim, and has become a big fan of the Bucks. Welcome, Peter, we're glad you're here!

## Welcome new Masters of Arts (MA) students

- Brita Ager-Hart (Carroll University)
- Jie Bao (Shandong University, China)
- Jingyi Chen (Rutgers University)
- Mark Dickson (*Liberty University*)
- Zachary Ferguson (Vanderbilt University)
- Austin Fraser (*University of California Berkeley*)
- Selorm Ohene (Harvard University)
- Selum Otku Ogut (Koc University, Turkey)
- Kevin Korczyk (Ohio State University)
- Jacob (Yasha) Sapir (Reed College)
- Abhiraj Singh (*University of Delhi*)

# Congratulations 2019 Masters of Arts (MA) graduates!

- **Steven Canet** (Thesis: "Maximally Contiguous Simples") is joining the PhD program at the University of California Santa Barbara.
- **JP Cordero Rojas** ("Defending a Modest Semantic Brutalism") is joining the PhD program at the University of Massachussets Amherst.
- Jason DeWitt ("Nominalization and Interpretation") is joining the PhD program at Ohio State University.
- Owen Forbes ("Explanation and Prediction: Strategies for Extending Scientific Realism to Mathematics") is joining the PhD program at the University of Colorado Boulder.
- **Danilo Linares** ("Humean Constructivism and Deliberative Coherence") is joining the PhD program at the University of Arizona, and is deferring enrollment at Harvard Law School.
- Savannah Marcieczyk ("Poetics, Not Pragmatics: Understanding Metaphors in a Poetic Context") is joining the English PhD program at Duke University.
- **Jordan Martin** ("Taking the Other to Be Itself: The Struggling Self-Consciousness's Motivations in Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit") is joining the PhD program at the University of California Riverside.
- Dennis Moore ("Reasonableness and the Means of Production") is re-entering "the real world" in Pittsburgh.
- **John Muller** ("Philosophy without Title: Hume's Sceptical Principles in the Treatise") is joining the PhD program in Philosophy and the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago.
- **Sofia Paz** ("The Role of Contradiction in Hume's Conception of Geometry") will be applying to PhD programs in the falll.
- **Taojie Wang** ("This is simply what I do: primitive normativity in following a rule") is joining the PhD program at Brown University.

Congratulations to all! Remember that we knew you before you became famous!

# **Faculty Updates**



**Margaret Atherton**, Distinguished Professor, Emerita

In 2018-19, I coordinated a conference on Berkeley, retired in January, my book *Berkeley* was published by Wiley-Blackwell in their Great Minds series, and I served as a mentor in the Mentoring Workshop for Early Career Women in Philosophy. I continue to be busy:

I am working out some ideas about Berkeley on agency, I will be an Opponent for a dissertation defense at the University of Oslo, a critic at an Author-meets-critics session at Central Division APA, and will give a talk at the University of Toronto.



Miren Boehm, Associate Professor
I have a paper forthcoming in Synthese on
"projectivism." I am working on another
paper for an Oxford University Press
collection on Hume and another paper for
another Oxford University Press collection
on Mary Shepherd. Last year I published two
book reviews, and the collection The Humean

Mind came out with my chapter on Hume on causation in it. In the summer of 2018, I was one of the Hume conference organizers in Budapest. This year, 2019, I started as member of the UWM Ombuds council and served in the listening

sessions for women faculty in underrepresented fields. I just finished my year as a Fellow at the Center for Twenty-First Century Studies (2018-19).

Bill Bristow, Associate Professor
I continue with what is becoming a life-long effort to understand Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit. (Hope springs eternal, I guess.)
I am currently finishing up a paper on the role and place of the individual's critical attitude in that work, written in opposition to interpretive claims advanced



by John McDowell. I'm still at the beginning of a project that focuses on the relation of experience and philosophy in the *Phenomenology*. I aim to put the question of that relation in Hegel's work in the context of the moralist tradition, from Montaigne to Emerson and Nietzsche, instead of the context of the epistemological tradition of Hume, Kant and Fichte in which it is usually understood.



Stan Husi, Associate Professor

My current research projects focus on moral progress, especially in connection to the abolition of Atlantic slavery, the nature of poverty, the philosophy of money, the philosophy of history, moral nihilism, subjectivism about value, and constructivism in metaethics. In the summer of 2018 I was awarded the RACAS

fellowship for my project "The greatest landmark of willed moral progress in human history? The Abolition of Slavery and its Implications for Moral Philosophy." I have presented papers on the subject of moral progress at LMU university Munich, The University of Colorado at Boulder, and the Philosophy/Politics/Economics (PPE) congress in New Orleans; on money and on poverty at the PPE congress in New Orleans; on moral nihilism at the Rocky Mountains Ethics Congress. I'm working on a book project on moral nihilism. I have developed several new courses in the interdisciplinary field of PPE, the philosophy of law, and the philosophy of freedom.

John Koethe, Distinguished Professor, Emeritus My book, Walking Backwards: Poems 1966-2016, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux late last year, and has received some wonderful reviews in the New York Times Book Review and the New York Review of Books.





Matt Knachel, Senior Lecturer I have been active lately in the production of OER (Open Educational Resources) freely available, openly licensed texts, which provide students an alternative to the increasingly expensive offerings of traditional publishing houses. I recently contributed a chapter—"What Is Logic?"—

to an upcoming *Introduction to Philosophy* series, and my open logic text, Fundamental Methods of Logic, has been downloaded nearly 7,000 times by people all over the world.

Michael Liston, Professor

I published a review of Mark Wilson's Physics Avoidance (Oxford University Press 2017) in the British Journal for the Philosophy of Science Review of Books. I presented a paper on indispensability arguments in the philosophy of mathematics at the 46th Annual Conference in Philosophy of Science, Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik



in April, and will present another paper on indispensability arguments at the American Mathematical Society Meetings in Madison in September. I also gave a talk on problems in philosophy of mathematics to the UWM Philosophy Club and organized the UWM Philosophy Department Conference in honor of Margaret Atherton and Robert Schwartz. I continue to work on projects on Pierre Duhem's philosophy of science and on philosophy of mathematics.



Agust Magnusson, Lecturer

My book Kierkegaard and Eastern Orthodox Thought: A Comparative Philosophical Analysis was published by Gorgias press this year. I have also been invited to present a paper based on selected research from the book at the annual conference of the Soren Kierkegaard Society in November.

Blain Neufeld, Associate Professor and Chair I continue to engage in 'Rawls plumbing'fixing various 'leaky parts' in the grand (and broadly correct) political philosophy of John Rawls. Over the past two years I have published a number of articles and chapters on political liberalism and justice as fairness: "Shared Intentions, Public Reason, and



Political Autonomy" in the Canadian Journal of Philosophy (2019); "Non-domination and Political Liberal Citizenship Education" in C. Macleod and C. Tappolet (eds.) Philosophical Perspectives on Moral and Civic Education (Routledge, 2019); "'The Kids are Alright': Political Liberalism, Leisure Time, and Childhood" in Philosophical Studies (2018); "The Tyranny—or the Democracy—of the Ideal?" (with Lori Watson) in Cosmos + Taxis (2018); "Money, Freedom, and Justice as Fairness" in *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* (2017); and "Why Public Reasoning Involves Ideal Theorizing" in M. Weber and K. Vallier (eds.) *Political Utopias: Contemporary* Debates (Oxford University Press, 2017). An essay intended for a non-academic audience—"Just Leisure?"—was posted at the London School of Economics' Forum for Philosophy website last summer (https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/theforum/just-leisure/).



Nataliya Palatnik, Visiting Assistant Professor Last academic year I continued as a Visiting Assistant Professor at UWM and maintained an academic affiliation with the Department of Philosophy at Harvard. I published "The Ideal of the Highest Good and the Objectivity of Moral Judgment" in Kant Yearbook (De Gruyter), prepared

for publication two other papers on Kant's and Kantian moral philosophy (focusing on Kant's critical methodology, justification of morality, and the nature of moral agency), and refereed articles for the British Journal of the History of Philosophy and Kantian Review. I also presented a paper at the Bechtel Reunion conference at Northwestern University and gave a talk on Kant's conceptions of moral personhood and freedom (concerning, in particular, questions about what justifies our view of others as moral persons capable of free choice) at UWM. I am currently scheduled to present work at the annual meeting of the Central States Philosophical Association in St. Louis in October, at the History of Philosophy Workshop at UW-Madison in December, and at the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, in Chicago in February.



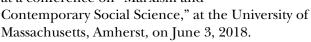
Robert Schwartz, Distinguished Professor Emeritus
My book Pragmatic Perspectives;
Constructivism beyond Truth and Realism
(Routledge) is in press. There was a conference on my work and that of G. Abel at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid

in December. I published "Berkeley's

Account of Extension and its Place in Visual Science" in *The Senses and the History of Philosophy* (Routledge) and "Berkeley and Austin on the Argument from Illusion" in *Interpreting J.L Austin: Critical Essays* (Cambridge University Press).

#### **Julius Sensat**, Professor, Emeritus

I presented a paper, "Estrangement and Exploitation" at a conference entitled "The Intertwining of Exploitation and Domination," at Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main, on March 2, 2018, and a paper, "Rawls and Estrangement' at a conference on "Marxism and





Joshua Spencer, Associate Professor
I am now in my eighth year as the resident
metaphysician in our Department. I
continue to enjoy living in Milwaukee
and philosophizing with my colleagues.
I had a couple of papers published this
last year. "Conceivability and Possibility"
was published in Ontological Arguments,

a wonderful book edited by Graham Oppy. "Necessity of Origin and Multi-Origin Art", a paper that I co-authored with Chris Tillman, was published in *Inquiry*. And a paper that I am very excited about called "On the Explanatory Demands of the Special Composition Question" is forthcoming in *Synthese*. I am currently putting the finishing touches on a (hopefully) soon to be published paper called "The Limits of Neo-Aristotelian Plenitude" and I am working on a paper on the nature of poverty (a topic a bit outside of my comfort zone). I went to two conferences in Vancouver, BC, this last year and I hope to attend the (roughly) biennial Metaphysics on the Mountain conference next year. I have also been coorganizing a conference with Peter van Elswyk for October, which will include a lot interesting philosophy and should be a lot of fun!



Beth Silverstein, Senior Lecturer
I recently earned certificates in Online
and Blended Teaching and in LGBTQ+
Inclusivity Teaching from UWM's Center
for Excellence in Teaching and Learning,
and am currently working towards a
certificate in Teaching for Multicultural
Inclusivity and Equity.



Richard Tierney, Associate Professor

I have been patiently awaiting a decision on my paper "Aristotle on the Natural Motions of the Elements"—it's only been in the editor's hands for more than 15 months!

Meanwhile, I have been working on papers on "Aristotle's Metaphysics of Motion", and "Plato's Theory of Recollection in the Meno

and the Phaedo". Yes, that's right, it's a paper on Plato.

#### Kris Tym, Lecturer

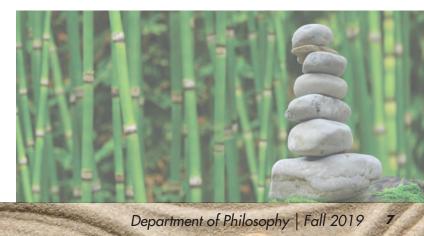
I joined the academic teaching staff in the UWM Philosophy Department in 2001, assuming responsibility for teaching the course "Ethical Issues in Health Care," which I have continued to teach every fall and spring semester. Since joining the Department, I also have continued my work with the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at the Medical College of Wisconsin. In my role at MCW, I serve as a consultant to and member of several ethics committees throughout the area including Froedtert Menomonee Falls and Froedtert West Bend hospitals, Curative Care, Saint John's on the Lake, and Community Care Organization. It is this work— engaging with frontline health care providers on ethical issues across the healthcare landscape—that continues to inspire and inform my teaching at UWM. Infusing this real-time experience into the classroom each and every week provides students with a unique opportunity to witness what it might mean to live what they are learning.



Peter van Elswyk, Assistant Professor
I landed four papers this year: "What
the metasemantics of know is not" is
forthcoming in Linguistics and Philosophy;
"Deceiving without answering" is
forthcoming in Philosophical Studies;
"The linguistic basis for propositions" is
forthcoming in the Routledge Handbook for

*Propositions*; and "'That'-clauses and propositional anaphors" is forthcoming at *Philosophical Studies*.

William Wainwright, Distinguished Professor, Emeritus Since retiring in 2003 I have edited one book, published two (the most recent in 2016), as well chapters in 21 different books. I am currently finishing a chapter on "Jonathan Edwards's Ontology" which will be published in the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Jonathan Edwards, and am working on a monograph entitled "Monotheism and Hope," which will be published by Cambridge University Press.





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