It has been a year of transition for the Department of Philosophy. When final exams ended in May, the Departments of Philosophy, Political Science, and History quickly packed and moved to temporary summer quarters, allowing teams of workers to renovate the second and third floors of ten Hoor Hall (just as these teams had done to the other two floors between January and May). In August, days before the fall semester began, the Department returned to ten Hoor Hall, and we and our students are now enjoying terrazzo floors, a reconfigured lobby, a new HVAC system, remodeled bathrooms, fresh paint, and electronic wall directories. If you visit campus, come have a look at ten Hoor Hall... and do stop by the Department of Philosophy or visit one of our classes.

Not without a large measure of sadness, the Department has undergone a more dramatic transition: with a stellar reputation for research, teaching, and service, Norvin Richards retired in May after forty-three years on UA’s faculty. Most of those who read Agora will have fond memories of classes with Norv, so I will share here some of the details of Norv’s life that I shared at his retirement celebration last April.

Norv was born in Princeton, West Virginia on December 6, 1943, and soon after the Richards family moved to Brilliant, Ohio. Making the move were his parents, his older sister, and Norv. Within a year or two, the Richards family moved back east to Fanwood, New Jersey. Soon after, Norv’s mother found herself a single mom. Being a
I wrote an essay for a volume called *Consciousness Inside and Out: Phenomenology, Neuroscience, and the Nature of Experience*; a longish book review for *Mind*; and co-wrote (with Robert J. Howell) a draft of an essay for a volume on Russellian monism, which I’m co-editing (with Yujin Nagasawa). I gave a talk at a conference on phenomenal concepts in Rio De Janeiro. And because Hurricane Sandy stranded Frank Jackson in Tuscaloosa, I had the pleasure of spending a week talking philosophy with—and showing off my excellent students to—one of my philosophical heroes.

I gave a paper on justice in Plato’s *Republic* at the Alabama Philosophical Society’s meeting in October and at Pacific APA in March. In June, I was a Scholar in Residence at Whitehall Museum House in Newport, RI, former home of philosopher George Berkeley. On the research front, my paper on officiating errors in sports is forthcoming in the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*, as is my chapter in the *Continuum Companion to Berkeley*. I continue to make progress on a series of papers related to my research on Berkeley’s philosophy of language, as well as a joint paper (with Jamin Asay of Lingnan University) on radical empiricism in philosophy of science. Again this year, I helped lead two teams to the Southeast Regional Ethics Bowl where, despite not qualifying for the national competition, we were the only school to beat the Regional-winning U.S. Navy team. I am also a Faculty Fellow in the Alabama Program in Sports Communication and the new Associations Coordinator of the International Berkeley Society.

Professor Ehrenberg has been adjusting well to warmth of the South during his first year with us. He has had four articles accepted or published in the past year, “Law as Plan and Artifact,” in *Jurisprudence*, “Functions in Jurisprudential Methodology,” in *Philosophy Compass*, “Law’s Authority is not a Claim to Preemption,” in *Philosophical Foundations of the Nature of Law*, and “Pattern Languages & Institutional Facts: Functions & Coherence in Law,” in *Coherence: Insights from Philosophy, Jurisprudence and Artificial Intelligence*. He continues to prepare his manuscript, *The Functions of Law*, which is already under contract with Oxford University Press. He also participated in a roundtable discussion on the question “Is there a (Single) Concept of Law?” at the annual Law and Society Association meeting in Boston, and travelled to Antwerp to help supervise the dissertation of a graduate student for whom he is serving as a core Ph.D. committee member. He has also organized a round table discussion on jurisprudential methodology to take place at the Eastern APA meeting in Baltimore this December.
Scott continues to think and write about time and space. This past summer, he served for the third time as a reviewer of grant applications for the National Endowment of the Humanities. He was honored to serve as marshal for the August, 2013 commencement. This fall, Scott begins his seventh year as chair.

Michael delivered two talks in 2012-2013: “Remarks on Causal Screening and the (alleged) Heterogeneity of Truth” at the Alabama Philosophical Society last October, and “Pluralism About Truth Revised” at a Philosophy Department Colloquium in April, and is finishing up a paper based on the latter talk. This summer he completed two century (100-mile) bike rides.

Jeremy continues to teach primarily introductory level courses, having joined the department in the Fall of 2011. Since, he has contributed a paper, “Toward a Humanized Theory of Truth,” to a Festschrift for Ghanian philosopher, Kwasi Wiredu (forthcoming), and published a paper on “Frege and Russell on Assertion,” which explores the logical and semantic aspects of assertion, in Logic, Epistemology and the Unity of Science. He currently reads and writes about Frege’s theory of functions, exploring that work as a source of insights into the development of realism in 20th century philosophy.

Last year I taught several courses in introductory philosophy, ethics, and bio-medical ethics. When I wasn't teaching, I devoted time to the pursuit of several long-term research interests, including work on some structural and metaphysical issues surrounding ethical properties like goodness and better-ness, and a defense of the desire-satisfaction theory of well-being. Last, but not least, my family is happy and healthy. Our son, Emmett, will turn two this fall, and is keeping us on our toes and in top physical condition.
My paper “Overcoming Polarization: Why and How?” won the Alabama Humanities Foundation 2013 essay competition. I was awarded a UA RGC grant that will support my research starting this summer on a new project, “Reconceiving the grounds and scope of social equality.” I recently completed a paper “Against Institutional Luck Egalitarianism,” and I am working on a paper on individual responsibility in the face of large-scale collective injustices. In Spring ’13, I taught the department’s first ever service-learning course, “Social Justice in Practice.” It was a great success, with students concurrently enrolled in my Political Philosophy course participating in a discussion section and working with different community partners in Tuscaloosa: Temporary Emergency Services, the Druid City Garden Project, and Tuscaloosa One Place’s after-school mentoring program. And I completed my third year as Faculty Advisor to the Philosophy Club, which sponsored several well received events, such as a Valentine’s Day discussion on love and philosophy, facilitated by Norvin Richards. This summer I participated in the National Endowment of the Humanities Summer Institute, “Development Ethics: Questions, Challenges and Responsibilities,” at Michigan State University.


Norvin published an encyclopedia article on forgiveness and a book review, and accepted invitations to contribute to an anthology on parenthood and to present to a conference in Sheffield, England, a talk on whether there is anything inherently valuable about childhood, as a stage of life. He retired May 31, after 43 years at the university, but hopes still to teach from time to time and will continue to write.
Prof. Richards has signed a contract with Cambridge University Press to write a book titled *Biological Classification: A Philosophical Introduction*. He gave a talk in July on Darwin and the Scientific Revolution at a conference in Montpellier, France, sponsored by the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science. He will be giving the plenary talk at the Alabama Philosophical Society meeting in October on “Are Species Real?” In November is an invited talk at Weber State University. Along with his wife, Rita Snyder, he is currently finishing an online textbook chapter for McGraw-Hill on Social Dance.

The manuscript of my book, *Truth*, has been completed, and it served as the main text for the seminar on truth I taught in the spring. I expect to have the revised version to the publisher, Polity Press, later in 2013. I gave papers at the Southeastern Epistemology Workshop in Jacksonville, FL, and the annual meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology in Austin, TX, as well as giving an invited commentary on a paper at the Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association.

Just before his senior year, Norv began dating the future Mrs. Richards, nursing student Janet Marple, a junior from Clarksburg, West Virginia. A year later, after graduation, Norv left Janet in Buckhannon to finish her final year of nursing school while he moved six hours away to Charlottesville to begin his first year of graduate work in philosophy at the University of Virginia. (At the time, analytic philosophy did not have the foothold that it has today, but the University of Virginia was one of the centers for such work.)

When Norv finished his doctorate several years later, he and Janet moved to England where Norv pursued a post-doc with Bernard Williams at Cambridge University. Toward the end of his post-doc, Norv received an invitation from then-chair Iredell Jenkins to join the philosophy faculty at The University of Alabama. Norv accepted the invitation, moved into UA’s Rose Towers with Janet, and began what would be a distinguished
scholarly career. Norv became one of UA’s finest teachers, and his impressive research record includes many essay and two books, Humility (Temple) and The Ethics of Parenthood (Oxford).

Norv and Janet raised two children and have enjoyed wonderful trips to Australia, South Africa, and Switzerland trips that involved professional presentations for Norv. When not thinking about philosophy, Norv is a serious baker of bread, an avid photographer, and a juggler of balls, clubs, and the occasional torch. He maintains a rigorous exercise schedule that includes kayaking on the rivers of Alabama. In the years to come, the Department will remember him each spring when it presents a deserving student with The Norvin Richards Award in Philosophy and the Law, an award established by his mother; Thelma Richards — a mother who had every right to be proud.

Many philosophers retire from regular classroom schedules and from attending those interminable committee meetings, but I myself know no philosopher who has retired from philosophy. There is always a philosophical problem to contemplate, another argument to construct, another objection to entertain. Though Norv will take time this fall to travel with Janet to Tibet, he continues to work on essays on privacy, a presentation for the American Philosophical Association’s 2014 meeting in San Diego, a paper on “The Intrinsic Goods of Childhood” to be presented at a 2014 conference at the University of Sheffield (UK), and an invited anthology essay on “The Nature of Parenthood.” Janet may not know it yet, but Norv will be spending part of his time in Tibet contemplating philosophy of law: unable to abandon the classroom, he returns to campus next spring to teach “Philosophical Problems in Civil Law.” The Department is grateful: the transition to a Norvinless department is a transition that we and our students do not wish to make.
A Retirement Celebration

On April 12, the Department held a ceremony in Smith Hall marking Norvin Richard’s retirement.

At right, Prof. Hestevold reveals Norvin’s secret past as Wesley Andy, the exemplar for freshmen at West Virginia Wesleyan.

Below, from L to R: Ross Boone, Michael Grierson, Hannah Hicks, Prof. Norvin Richards, Anthony Rivera-Rodriguez, Amanda Buxton, Ellen Coogan
Greetings,

This is Korey McLeod. I’m a 2009 graduate of the Philosophy Department and I’m writing to let everyone know what I’m doing now.

After graduating I worked for a little over a year as a bilingual caseworker at a Hospital near my hometown. While working there I applied to the U.S. Peace Corps and I’ve been serving in Ethiopia since May 2011. The bulk of my work involves teaching English, and recently I was elected to a committee which focuses on Gender Inequality. I will complete my service in August 2013, and afterwards I’m interested in continuing to work in Africa. I’m not sure which field I want to go into, but I’m interested in Diplomacy and also Business.

I had a chance meeting with a Philosophy Department alumnus earlier this year. I was attending a training in a small town called Ambo, and a few other volunteers and I woke up in the wee hours of the morning to watch the National Championship game. Afterwards we went to listen to the first speaker who was from the Center for Creative Leadership. I was wearing a University of Alabama T-shirt and he asked me about it. Turns out he was a former student of Dr. Hestevold, and he talked about how much he loved the Department and how much his philosophy classes had

Above, Korey at the Rock-hewn Churches in Lalibela, Ethiopia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

At right, recently constructed Orthodox Christian Church in Dessie, Ethiopia. Construction began in the 1980s and finished in 2011. Dessie has a long history of peace and intermingling between Christians and Muslims. They’ve even been known to intermarry. It was reported that Muslims stepped up to help finance the construction of this church. Things have started to change in recent times and after a few incidents the Peace Corps decided not to replace me at the college I worked at.

Photos & captions by Korey McLeod
benefited him. After graduating and working these last few years, I feel much the same way. My classes in philosophy have undoubtedly changed how I view myself and the world, and no matter where I'm at the ideas and arguments I studied always seem to come up in some form or another. I look forward to reading the next Agora and seeing what the department and everyone else are up to.

Regards,
Korey
Carl Sosnin (MA Program) and Margie Brooke (MA 1977) made it down for one of the Philosophy Today talks, and also for the event celebrating the retirement of Norvin Richards, where Carl spilled the beans about (some of) Norv’s (many) younger days.

Craig Alexander (1977) spilled more of the same beans, in his own inimitable fashion. Craig and Elsie’s daughter Emily has begun work as a nurse at Children’s Hospital in Birmingham, in the hematology and oncology unit.

Ann Coyle (1988) warmed Prof. Richards’ heart at this same event, with her kind words. Ann’s son Dylan has transferred to the university from North Alabama, and will begin his junior year here this fall.

Amy Henry (1998) has come back to her home town of Anniston, where she is teaching dance 4 hours a day. “My dad is having trouble wrapping his mind around the idea that I would rather live cheap and work less than work 50 hours a week and bring home a huge paycheck. Dancing is good exercise, but sometimes I come home really sore and achy. I get to work with some really smart people and make sure at least part of their day is challenging, fun and interesting.”

Shane Weldon (2001) is Attorney Advisor at Social Security Administration, in Mobile.

Gabriel Walvatne (2003), screen name Gabriel Voss, continues to be our man in Hollywood. His latest movie is “Tall Grass” which wrapped initial production in May.

Matthew Satcher, MD (2006) finished his residency and opened Tuscaloosa Family Medicine not far from the UA campus; he is in practice with Scott Kemp, DO. For aches, pains, and persistent philosophical crises, give Matthew a call.

Hugh Thompson (2007) will enroll this fall in a Masters program in Mathematics Education at the University of South Carolina.

Deborah Anderson (2009) completed her MTA in Tax Accounting at UA and has been admitted to Oxford (with a Clarendon Fellowship!) to begin work on a DPhil in Accounting with a specialty in ethical and philosophical issues related to accounting.

John Cockrell (2009) is entering his final year at the Law School at the University of Alabama pursuing a Masters in tax law.

Alonso Heudebert (2009) completed in 2012 his Masters in Public Health at UAB. He has just finished his first year of medical school at the University of South Alabama.

Robin Preussell Phillips (2003) and her husband Tim welcomed their first child, Grace Marie, on June 5, 2013.
Alana Crowe (2010) and Scott Frederick were married on December 29, 2012 at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham. At their wedding, Scott Hestevold served as lector, reading of marriage from the works of Bertrand Russell and Kahlil Gibran. This fall, Alana begins her final year of law school at Alabama, and Scott will clerk for Judge Ed Carnes on the Eleventh Circuit.

Cheryl Hurley (2009) is pursuing an MBA at the University of Memphis while working as a Social Media Marketing Executive at SQ Modern Media and TNT Productions.

Jared Culver (2010) earned his JD from UA in May 2013 and will be working in Washington, DC.

Ben Hohman (2010), after two years in China, will begin work in Fall 2013 on a Masters at the Boston College School of Theology, where his tuition will be covered by a fellowship and his living expenses by a graduate assistantship in the continuing education department. In addition to BC’s own excellent offerings, the school belongs to the Boston Theological Institute, which grants Ben immediate and unqualified access to 8 different theological schools, representing Orthodox, Jewish, Islamic, and Christian faith traditions in a truly ecumenical effort. He writes: “I am on fire with a new passion for learning. It was an incredible experience to visit the school and be in a room full of people my age who are all at the tops of their respective programs and who all share my passion for obscure theological texts, medieval papal councils, and real attempts to understand the world through philosophical and theological investigation. I think that graduate school will be a singular joy in my lifetime.”

David Lindsay (2010) is enrolled in law school at the University of Texas.

Barrett Lyle (2010) received his J.D. from the University of Georgia Law School in May 2013.

Chris Nicholson (2010) earned in May 2013 his J.D. from Yale and will enter the University of Michigan’s graduate program in philosophy in Fall 2013.

Will Schildknecht (2010) completed two years with Teach for America in 2012 and has just completed his first year of law school at Berkeley.

Josh Quick (2011) is pursuing a Masters in statistics in UA’S College of Commerce & Business Administration, after which he is hoping to do more graduate work, hopefully in a discipline related to cognitive science.

Sam Arnold (2011) is a Sales Associate at Profitable Ideas Exchange in Great Falls, Montana.

Emily Brait (2011) is working toward her LLM at China University of Political Science and Law.

Adam Mills (2012) was one of the university’s nominees for a Rhodes Scholarship this fall. He then served as an intern with Southwest Airlines in Dallas, and is now in Fayette working and preparing for the LSAT.

Let us know how you’re doing! Send your updates to hhostevo@tenhoor.as.ua.edu
• **Kaiya Arroyo** graduated summa cum laude and will begin law school at the University of Pennsylvania.

• **Ross Boone** graduated magna cum laude and will begin law school at American University in Washington D.C.

• **Amanda Buxton** graduated magna cum laude and will begin law school at Emory.

• **Bryant Cassidey** will begin law school at Tulane where he hopes to specialize in Maritime Law.

• **John Copus** has been admitted to UA’s masters program in political science.

• **Jared Downing** graduated magna cum laude and has an internship with The Birmingham News. Later, he hopes to travel gathering material for a career as a writer.

• **Maurice Foster** has been accepted into the PNC Retail Banking Development Program where he will begin in August.

• **Michael Grierson** will live in Huntsville where he will be developing a career as an on-line movie reviewer.

• **Madaline Hargrove** graduated summa cum laude. She will begin the Master’s level Nurse Practitioner program at Vanderbilt this fall specializing in Women’s Health.

• **Mike Heitz** graduated cum laude. He is choosing whether to begin law school at Alabama, Cornell, Texas, or UCLA (and, if it is one of the latter three, whether to pursue a PhD in philosophy as well as a JD).

• **Hannah Hicks** graduated summa cum laude. She and Matthew Smith married on May 25 at Camp Sumatanga. Hannah will begin law school at Alabama this fall.

• **Chisholm Ifediba** will begin working this fall on her MS in Microbiology and Immunology at Tulane University. After completing her MS she anticipates applying to medical school.

• **Austin Lafferty** graduated summa cum laude. He will teach for the next two years in Teach for China after which he will attend law school with a specialty in international law.

• **John Ross Massey** will work in Honoraville, AL while preparing for the LSAT

• **Anthony Rivera-Rodriguez** graduated cum laude in only three years. He will work in Florida while preparing for the LSAT.

• **Christian Smith** will work for a year or a semester while exploring the possibilities for graduate work in philosophy and for law school, and learning “how to handle being on my own.”

• **Doug Weathers** graduated summa cum laude. He is off to the University of Maine to pursue a Master in Theoretical Mathematics. His long-term plan is to teach high school math.

• **Jeff Goozee and Brad Holmes** also graduated but we do not know their plans.
An extremely short philosophy joke: “Zeno walks halfway into a bar ...”
At age 92, James W. Clark died July 26, 2013. Dr. Clark served many years as associate dean in UA’s College of Arts and Sciences. He returned to full-time teaching in the Department of Philosophy several years before he retired.

Born in Cleveland, TN, Dr. Clark earned his BA in philosophy from the University of Tennessee, his MA from Tulane University, and his PhD in 1956 from the University of Michigan. He was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. After serving as a reporter for Nashville's The Tennessean, Dr. Clark joined the UA faculty in 1947, rising from philosophy instructor to full professor. He was a former president of the Southeastern Academic Affairs Administrators and was also active in the Tuscaloosa Exchange Club.

Dr. Clark was preceded in death by his wife of more than 50 years, Dr. Kathryn Bullington Clark, who served as chair of the business department at Stillman College. He is survived by two sons and two brothers.

James W. Clark 1920–2013

In Memoriam

The Department is pleased to announce that a new website is in development. We expect it to go live by January and to feature a snappy new promotional video with appearances by students and faculty. Visit us at philosophy.ua.edu and check back regularly for updates on this year’s Philosophy Today series featuring talks by Ned Markosian (Western Washington), Ned Block (NYU), John Searle (UC Berkeley), and Pamela Hieronymi (UCLA).
Understanding Skepticism About Climate Change

“What we have, over and over again in Einstein’s thinking, is this sort of idea where there’s this absolute truth, but it’s not accessible to us directly.”

Simon Keller (Victoria University of Wellington), September 25, 2012

The Problem of Consciousness Revisited

“Our trouble is ... the best theory about the causal history of behavior in general, its causal origins, is entirely physical.”

Frank Jackson (Australian National University & Princeton University), October 30, 2012

Einstein’s Jewish Science: Physics at the Intersection of Politics and Religion

“What we have, over and over again in Einstein’s thinking, is this sort of idea where there’s this absolute truth, but it’s not accessible to us directly.”

Steven Gimbel (Gettysburg College), January 24, 2013

Why the Abortion Issue is So Difficult

“Fetuses occupy a gap in moral space, and that’s why we can’t agree on what to do about them.”

William G. Lycan (University of North Carolina & University of Connecticut), March 7, 2013
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