

Philosophy News

The University of Alabama

College of Arts & Sciences

Fall 2004

Issue 2



Norvin Richards, Chair

Reflections

My mother once told me that she had seen her adult life fall into three stages. In the first, men rushed to open doors for her. In the second, she appeared to have become invisible to them. In the third, they started opening doors again—she liked that, despite knowing perfectly well what it meant.

I bet women's lives still fall into stages. The same is actually true for men. Young women call me "Sir," now, and I don't think it's because they have forgotten which knight I am. The other day when I arrived at the men's locker room of the Student Recreation Center, a student who had already come through it turned around, went back, and held the door for me. So I gave him a right to the jaw...

I've been at this university long enough to see a lot of changes in it, as well.

The obvious ones involve new buildings, but the place has also changed in two more fundamental ways. One involves the faculty. There have always been professors here who were serious scholars and there have always been professors here who had PhDs from elite institutions, but both were relatively unusual when I arrived in 1970. In 2004, Alabama's faculty is very well-credentialed indeed, the norm is definitely to try to make good scholarly contributions to your subject, and many are succeeding at that.

The second substantial change is in the students. There have always been excellent students here, too, but in the old days they were exceptions. The university accepted them if they were inclined to come, but made no particular effort to recruit them. Now the university tries very hard to recruit good students, offering much more by way of scholarship money and also offering an array of special honors programs in which to enroll. It works. There are a lot more very good students here than there used to be.

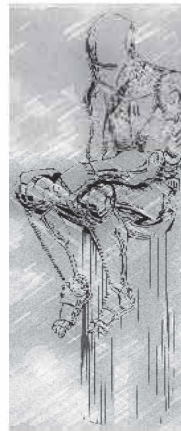
Those are two measures of how good a university is. We are better in these ways than we were. Personally, I think if a student who comes to Alabama wants a good education, he or she can get one here that is every bit as good as the one available at schools that are thought to be much better academically. Our student doesn't get the same credential as the one who goes to the elite school, though. The degree doesn't bring the same instant esteem or open the same doors.

I suspect that a reputation is changed only very gradually, if it changes at all. Here is a related observation Jeff Tilden made in the course of a very enjoyable exchange of e-mails. (Jeff was from Huntsville, a philosophy major who graduated in 1977 and then took a law degree at Virginia.)

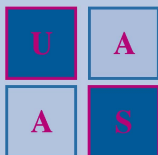
"Time is not movement... But neither does time exist without change."

Aristotle, *Physics*

"I do think Alabama was a phenomenal bargain, and it was clear to me at Virginia that my college education was as good as the Ivy League education of my classmates. The one thing I did learn at Virginia was that the world was run by people just like us. At Alabama, I always had the sense that it was run by people who were qualitatively different. This may have just been me, and it may have been a function in large part of the South's self-perception at the time. Whatever, it turned out to be untrue. I'm guessing the self-perception of Southerners has gotten a lot more positive over the last 30 years (as opposed to just nationalistic, as it was)." I might survey my current students to see if Jeff is right, if I can figure out how to ask the question. Perhaps it shouldn't, but it would surely help this sense of yourself if you thought you were enrolled in a first-rate university, and one that the rest of the world recognized as first-rate.



Our department is doing what it can to help. Everyone in the department has good philosophical work underway, but here are some highlights:



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Some Of Our Distinguished Faculty

Chase Wrenn, our newest member, won the Richard Griffith Award from the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, for submitting what the Society judged to be the best paper in philosophy by someone who earned his or her PhD less than five years earlier.



Richard Richards published one article on philosophy of science, had a second article in that field accepted for publication, and has an article in the very different area of aesthetics "in press" and awaiting publication.



Stuart Rachels published an article, edited the ethics section of an Oxford book called *Introducing Philosophy* (ed. Steven Cahn), and had two other articles accepted.



Torin Alter had a paper accepted for the international interdisciplinary conference called "Toward a Science of Consciousness 2004," and also made presentations at both the Eastern and the Pacific divisions of the American Philosophical Association.



James Otteson spent a year's sabbatical-leave in Scotland. During the fall semester he was a Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh; during the spring semester he was Elphinstone Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen. His book, *Adam Smith's Marketplace of Life* (Cambridge, 2002) was named an Outstanding Academic Title 2003 by the American Library Association.



Scott Hestevold's paper on "Pity" was published in July. He is finishing two papers on identity, the nature of the present, and the existence of times. Scott conducted two seminars on judicial reasoning this past year for the American Academy of Judicial Education, one in Otter Rock, Oregon, the other in St. Petersburg.



Teaching

As a department, we offered forty-one classes in philosophy. Twenty-eight of those were at the 100 and 200 levels. These had an average enrollment of 39.

Six of our classes were seminars, with an average enrollment of 17. These included Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Law, Symbolic Logic, Aesthetics and Special Studies in Ethics. Seminars for next fall are Knowledge, Truth and Error; Language, Mind and Reality; Philosophy and Evolution. Next spring we will offer Metaphysics: Philosophy of Cognitive Science, and a seminar in political philosophy, as yet untitled.

In addition to the thirty-four classes that were taught as part of a professor's assigned teaching load, we provided seven other classes *gratis*, for students who needed something special, a tradition you might remember! Finally, philosophy faculty offered three classes in the Blount Undergraduate Initiative, which is a special enrichment program for students in Arts and Sciences.

— Prof. Norvin Richards

Philosophy

At Work

News of the Department

Not What it Used to Be

This just in: Logic is not what it used to be! Not that what used to be bad reasoning is now good, many of us are sorry to hear. What's not the same is PHL 101, Introduction to Deductive Logic.

Like mathematics, logic is a subject that many students find terribly difficult. For a long time we've wanted a better way to teach it. Now we have one, developed by Prof. Chase Wrenn.

The course now allows those enrolled to proceed at their own pace. Their course grade reflects the number of units they master, rather than whatever combination of scores they make on a semester's worth of tests (perhaps without managing to master much of anything.) By using the World Wide Web, the students now learn logic "hands on," working practice problems and receiving instant feedback concerning not only their mistakes, but how to avoid them in the future. They take quizzes when they feel they are ready to take them, and their grades are determined by how much material they master over the course of a semester. They receive individualized tutorial help from the instructor and undergraduate teaching assistants, instead of trying to learn logic through cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all lectures.

This use of technology has measurably improved student learning in the course. In the standard format, it was typical

for at least a third of those enrolled either to fail or to withdraw. In the summer offering of the computer-assisted course, *no one* failed. The fall offering included an attendance requirement to try to help procrastinators: some students failed by not showing up, but only one failed by not mastering enough material. Moreover, contrary to a number of psychological studies that purport to show that training in formal logic does not improve formal reasoning, a study of our course conducted by the Institute for Social Science Research showed that this course *does*.

The Curse of Many Talents

We relatively untalented types lead simple lives. It's different for those who are cursed with talents of many kinds. That would include two philosophy faculty.

Torin Alter is a musician as well as a philosopher. This is



Lying Angels: "we are an alt-country band for which a philosophy major, Tommy Sorrels, does some singing. Our first album, *Blood Orange*, was released on January 1, 2004, and is available at www.torinalter.com; go there for pictures, MP3 samples, etc. In Tuscaloosa, we've played at Hale's Tavern, the Jupiter, and 600 Studios, and in Montevallo we've played at the Eclipse Cafe."

Richard Richards was a professional dancer for some sixteen years, before reinventing himself as a philosopher. His wife, Rita Snyder, is now an Assistant Professor of Dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance, and from time to time Richard lends the Department his talents. (This is



repeatedly evident when any of the college's male dancers are called upon to lift a female dancer. What once looked truly perilous for all concerned is now very professional.) Richard and Rita have decided their performing careers in ballet have come to an end. So they have now taken up the Argentine Tango.

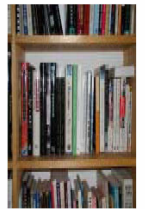
According to Richard, "Tango started at the end of the 19th century in the brothels of Buenos Aires, and has Spanish, Italian, German, African and Caribbean influence. It has also been banned at various times by the Argentine government, even recently because it was dangerous politically." Predictably, he and Rita do it very well, performing at the regional awards banquet for the National Society of Arts and Letters in Birmingham, in Barcelona at the XXI Marato de L'Espectacle, and in Madrid at La Maraton de Danze de Madrid.

This past spring, they also attended the "Congreso Internacional de Tango Argentina" in Buenos Aires, the largest gathering of Tango dancers in the world.

Looking for a Good Book?

Here is a sampling of what critics are saying about Adam Smith's Marketplace of Life, by James Otteson, Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy at Alabama:

I think that [Adam Smith's *Marketplace of Life*] is the best piece ever written in Adam Smith's Scholarship. First when I read it I was a little bit disappointed since I thought that [Otteson has] written the book that I would have liked to write. There is nothing left for others to write about.



—Margit Sutrop, Professor of Moral Philosophy and Head of the Centre for Ethics, University of Tartu, Estonia.

This is an excellent book. It raises, and offers answers to, all the "standard" questions about Smith. It is always insightful and provocative. This is also an extremely well written book. Otteson's prose is clear, smoothly flowing, and engaging. His explication of Smith is masterly. It should be essential reading for Smith specialists, as well as the general historian of economics.

—Jeffrey T. Young, A. Barton Hepburn Professor of Economics at St. Lawrence University, in *Economic History Services Book Reviews*, April 28, 2004.

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<http://www.as.ua.edu/philos>

News of the Department

Otteson's original contribution is to have identified that core [that unites Smith's work] and how Smith saw it playing out in the moral realm. In making this contribution, he displays virtuoso scholarship. Otteson assiduously examines the points of view of others who have studied this issue without ever letting the reader lose sight of his own argument. Moreover, for nearly every question this thought-provoking work raised in the mind of this reader, the author provided a satisfying answer within a couple of pages.

Not only will Smith scholars find much food for thought in these pages, but the newcomer to the works of Adam Smith will not leave the table intellectually undernourished. The author lets his arguments build systematically, almost in the manner of a programmed text, and provides recaps of his main points that leave no room for confusion. If Professor Otteson teaches the way he writes, his students at the University of Alabama are getting more than their money's worth.

—Robert Batemarco, vice-president of a marketing research firm in New York City and instructor of economics at Pace University, in *Ideas on Liberty* (November 2003).

This book is important for economists because it provides a readable philosophical perspective on Smith's work in moral theory. Using the marketplace concept of natural organization as an overarching metaphor, Otteson (philosophy, Univ. of Alabama) skillfully examines those innate ingredients of Smith's moral philosophy. Otteson evaluates the arguments presented with

reference to the broad scope of Smithian scholarship. This book is a valuable addition to that scholarship. Summing Up: Highly recommended.

—James Halteman, Carl R. Hendrickson Professor of Business and Economics, Wheaton College, in the American Library Association's *Choice Reviews Online*; the book was named by the ALA "Outstanding Academic Title 2003"

I strongly recommend Otteson's book. It is a clear and engaging work, suited to both advanced students of Smith and those seeking an introduction to his moral theory. The author has produced a thorough and convincing interpretation of the central themes of Smith's body of work. One leaves the book with a sense of Smith's enduring legacy, his insight into the many ways our lives are shaped by unintended systems of social order.

—Jonathan Crowe, in *Policy* 19, 3 (Spring 2003).

Past Faculty

Russ Daw (1995-1999) spent this past year in a PhD program in Applied Statistics at UC Santa Barbara. He and Michelle attended a job fair for overseas schools at which they interviewed with every school of interest to them that had appropriate openings, including "top tier" schools in Bangkok, New Delhi, Sao Paulo, Abu Dhabi, Taipei, and Seoul.

After the interviews, their top choices were The American Embassy School - New Delhi, and The Graded School - Sao

Paulo. After a second meeting with those, they decided to sign with New Delhi. Michelle will teach 7th grade Humanities and World Geography. Russ will teach the full range of high school math, including AP Calc.

"The financial package and benefits are incredible, and the administrators who interviewed us were among the nicest, warmest, most interesting people we've met in education. I'm sure we made a great choice." For our part, we're sure the school did, and we envy Russ the adventures to come.

Russ and Michelle were married this June, on a bluff overlooking the ocean just north of Santa Barbara. The ceremony was performed by Michelle's father and Russ's sister.



News of Philosophy Alums

The University of Alabama

College of Arts & Sciences

It was great to hear from these folks. Please continue to send us news of you. It warms our otherwise cold, cold hearts, and we will put it in the next issue so old friends can hear about you.

Jim Reynolds (1966)

"From Alabama, dodging Vietnam, I went to Vanderbilt, getting my PhD in English there in 1971. From VU I came here to Texas A&M-Commerce (then, East TX St U) in the fall of 1970. I made full professor in 1981 on the basis of a knack for program innovation and development (and not traditional research). I've won the requisite teaching awards, had a good career and a fine life here in a small east Texas town. I'll probably retire in the next couple of years (though the idea still scares me a bit)."

Charles Myers (1967) reports that he is in jail. After 1967, Charles picked up a second undergrad degree at UA and then an MS in Technical Writing from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY. He then worked at McDonnell Aircraft, St. Louis, for five years designing fighter aircraft. He returned to Birmingham to work for Southern Company Services and, while there, taught night adult classes at UAB, worked as a Patrol Lieutenant for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and re-joined the U.S. military. Charles then moved to Georgia Power Company (Southern Nuclear) to build Plant Vogtle nuclear power plant. He's now retired from

Southern Nuclear and also from the U.S. military.

To occupy retirement free time, he is "employed full-time at Burke County Georgia Sheriff's Department as 'Corrections Officer,' and that's why I'm in jail five days a week. Finally, to answer that age-old question - - 'and that's what you can do with a philosophy degree'."



Sheldon Perhacs (1972) took his law degree at the Cumberland School of Law. He has been in practice in Birmingham as a criminal defense attorney for some 28 years, during which time he has also taught legal issues at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Academy and been an Adjunct Professor at Cumberland. This past spring, he offered the students enrolled in my course, Philosophical Issues in Criminal Law, the benefit of all that experience by conducting one class session on the idea of a victimless crime. We hope to make this a regular feature of the course.

Woody Woodruff (1974) Served on active duty in the U. S. Army as an officer in the Field Artillery including a three-year tour of duty in Germany. The Army selected him to attend law school under the Funded Legal Education Program, and he did so at Alabama from 1978 to 1981. While in law school, he was a Hugo Black

Scholar, an M. Leigh Harrison Scholar, and a member of the Order of the Coif.

Following law school he served as a Judge Advocate in the Army for six years at Ft. Benning and at Ft. Rucker. During this time he published "Practical Aspects of Trying Cases Involving Classified Information" in The Army Lawyer. He left active military duty in 1987 to take a position in Nashville, as an

Associate with Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, becoming a partner in 1992. His personal practice concentrates in the area of civil commercial litigation, representing a number of financial institutions, bank holding companies, and companies in the healthcare industry. In 1994 and 1996 he was legal counsel to Sen. Fred Thompson's election campaign committees, "proving that philosophy majors CAN be Republicans."

He and his wife Beth have a blended family of four children. The oldest is a rising senior at Belmont University, the next two are in High School, and the youngest is a 7th grader.

Craig Alexander (1977) took a Juris Doctor degree from George Washington University in 1981 and returned to Alabama to practice law. He is a partner in the Birmingham office of Adams and Reese, LLP, where he specializes in civil litigation. He has also

served as an adjunct professor at Cumberland School of Law, teaching a course on mass communications law.

Craig and his wife (Elsie Helms, B.A. 1977) have two children, Emily, age 14, and Alan, age 12. In his spare time, he enjoys reading books on World War II and accessorizing his computer. This fall, he will do two class sessions for my class in Philosophical Issues in Civil Law, one on the idea of an unconscionable contract and another on how the system should deal with cases in which the defendant has been negligent but so has the plaintiff.

Kelly Cloud (1983) After graduation Kelly did technical writing, software engineering, and software testing. Now she is Vice President of Quality Assurance at EPL, Inc. in Birmingham, managing a staff of 15. She finds it very strange indeed to have grown up to be an authority figure, given her former views of such people.

Neal Flum (1985) took an M.A. in Speech Communication in 1988, and is now Assistant Director of Athletic Bands here at Alabama.

Donald Hornby (1986) Donald stopped on his way through town, after having gotten the newsletter: good idea, people! He did some graduate work in philosophy at Florida, but found himself obsessing over it and stopped. He is a lifeguard at South Beach and "a part-time professional gambler."

News of Philosophy Alums

Russ Daw (1987) For news of Russ, see "Past Faculty."

Pedro Gonzalez (1987) did graduate study in phenomenology, German Idealism and Continental philosophy at DePaul (M.A. 1989, Ph.D 1995.) He was Adjunct Professor at Miami-Dade College from 1991-1997. For the last five years he has been Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Barry University in Miami.

His translation and introduction of Ortega y Gasset's article "Medio Siglo de Filosofia" appeared in *Philosophy Today* journal as "Half a Century of Philosophy" (Vol. 42:2, Summer 1998.) He has also published several articles in *Philosophy Today*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Miami News*, *January Literary Magazine*, *Chiricu Literary Journal*, *Explorations: Journal for Adventurous Thought*, *Providence: Studies in Western Civilization* and *Edge City Review*.

Pedro and his wife Anne have been married for ten years and have two children: Marcus Julian(4) and Isabella Sophia (2).

Richard Nix (1988) moved to Leesburg, Virginia after graduation, where he and two other carpenters formed a remodeling company primarily engaged in repair and renovation of Victorian townhouses in the Capitol Hill area of Washington D.C. Five years later, Richard went to law school, and graduated *magna cum laude*

from Jones School of Law in Montgomery in 1996. He then joined his father's practice in his hometown of Evergreen, Alabama, where he says "I remain and intend to stay."

He is married to the former Zebbie Brazier (1988). He has a 17-year-old son, Jacob Elias Wade, an 8-year-old daughter Kelsey Francis Nix, and a 5-year-old son, Richard Davis Crozier Nix ("Davis").

Marc Warner (1991) is a surgeon in Richmond, Virginia. Heather reports that he was made "early partner" of his group this past December. She and Marc have taken up horseback riding, which she describes as "an interesting education—It's a LOT harder than it looks." Their son Jacob now has a baby sister, Zella. Marc and Heather plan to home-school them.

Amy McManus (1993) spent the past year in Portland, Maine, clerking for a judge of the Federal Appellate Court. Well, not all the time: "We go kayaking almost every weekend in our backyard, which is facilitated by the fact that we live on a big gorgeous bay of the Atlantic. Bald eagles and osprey and a colony of harbor seals literally live right behind us, so we have a great

time. Plus cranes, herons, and hundreds of rash-causing, respiratory-stress-inducing brown-tail moth caterpillars."

For the next two years, Amy will be teaching in the first year program at Harvard Law. She'll teach Legal Writing both years, and the second year she is hoping to add a substantive seminar or two. "It's obviously not a tenure track position, but it's part of a new program for people like me looking to move into academia (which I might indeed be looking to do), so it provides time to write and publish, as well. It's a great opportunity, and I'm pretty excited about it. Plus, we loved living in Boston for the five years... we're really looking forward to returning".

Allison Boylan Belan (1995) had "three good years at Cygil, custom software consultancy," but has now left them to return to the world of publishing. In her new job, she manages the Journals department at Duke University Press.

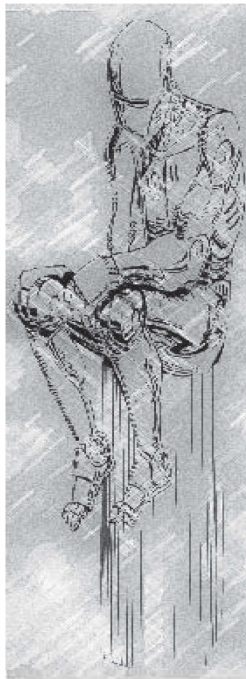
She and Scott continue to dwell happily in Durham.

Michael Casiday (1997) and Rachel Harrison Casiday "announce with thanksgiving to God and boundless joy the

birth of Anthony Joseph, June 9 in Durham, England. Anthony was 8 lbs 15.5 oz and 23 inches, and joins his sisters Helen (4 ½), who begins school this autumn, and Bea (2 ½), who is thriving at the nursery." Michael writes that things are going well. He has been awarded a two year fellowship to write a book at Durham and a research stipend he will use to underwrite an international conference. He says that "Rachel's doctorate is proceeding apace and it is entirely possible that she will still finish on schedule."

Shane Weldon (2001) has just completed his second year of law school at Cumberland. Shane kindly sent a wonderful story about the *Palsgraf* case, and I am now using it in my classes so as to appear much more in the know than I am. I will e-mail it to anyone who cares to hear it.

Monica Free (2002) Monica celebrated her 25th birthday in Germany. "I have been in Germany for nearly two years. The first year was particularly difficult, since not only the culture and the people were foreign to me, but of course the language as well. People were generally very patient and friendly with me, but sometimes the language barrier is something you can almost physically feel. You sit across from someone, you know what you want to say, and you cannot communicate this idea to him. You try, they get bored or impatient, you get frustrated, and you eventually give up, retreating to your inner sanctum..."



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But now it is different, I still can't speak perfect German. I still make big mistakes sometimes like the other day when my friend Anita asked me if I could tell she lost 5 kg, and I said "no," having understood something totally different. But the decisive battles have been won, I can't tell you how much it means to me after all my struggle with the language, to fill my apartment with people who have all gotten to know me in German. At one point when I wasn't in the middle of conversation, I just kind of looked around the room and felt an immense pride."

Cole Mitchell (2002) We hear through colleagues that Cole is the best of the first-year students in the PhD program at Arizona. That's no surprise to us, nor somehow, is it a surprise that Cole would be present when a student who believes certain philosophers have control over the Iraq war showed up for a seminar stark naked, in protest. The seminar simply continued discussing the Gettier problem until the police arrived.

Cole sent this note: "I'm in my second semester here in Arizona. I'm doing well so far, or so they tell me. I just got invited to one of those Liberty Fund things, this one's about Shaftesbury, Mandeville, and Adam Smith. This summer, I'll be teaching my own class; it's a standard class called "Mind, Matter, and God", but I get to teach more or less whatever I want. Later on this summer, I'll also be teaching kids how to get the high scores on the GRE, the Kaplan way! I imagine that, when it comes time for exams (two years from now), I'll be focusing on meta-ethics and political philosophy."

Nathan Bruner (2003) finished first in his class at Regent's University in the fall term (and, for all we know, also in the spring term. Certainly wouldn't surprise us.) He and Faith plan to marry this July 17.

Alex Joyce (2003) is living on the north side of Chicago, pursuing comedy writing at the Second City Theater Training Center's comedy writing school. This is a "48 week program designed to teach students everything from developing character driven sketches to how to pitch a screenplay to a studio. It should be great fun.

At the same time I am selling what's called 'sandtraps', a chemical used to line golf course bunkers. It is a liquid polyurethane that glues the soil together forming a permanent barrier between sand and dirt that essentially ends sand contamination. It is a relatively new product that my dad's company needs pushing in the Chicago area. It should say 'Boss's son' on my business card. I am extremely lucky.

I feel that majoring in philosophy was one of the best decisions I made at Alabama. The faculty taught me to think analytically, write persuasively, and argue logically. I went into the major thinking philosophy was what theology is. One lecture of Dr. Hocutt's Intro class cleared that misconception right-up.

I enjoyed my time at Bama very much. I hope to make a fortune one way or the other so that I can give back to the department. We could name

a room at ten Hoor the Joyce room. I am after all the best C student the department has ever had. Just barely. Hope all is well in the South."

James Kornegay (2003) is at the University of Georgia, pursuing a master's degree in political science with a dual concentration in international affairs and political theory.

Robin Preussel (2003) is a first-year law student at Yale Law School, doing fairly well in her legal studies although she is still trying to adjust to the fast pace, cold weather, and lack of football in the Northeast. She is still studying basic courses, but beginning a concentration in International Law. This summer she will be traveling to Santiago, Chile for a one month law school exchange program, in which she will study the Chilean legal system while interacting with law students in the city. In order to fund her travel and study, she has been awarded the John Jay Fellowship by the Federalist Society. For the remainder of her summer, she will work at the District Attorney's Office in Birmingham, Alabama as an intern.

Recently, she has been selected as a submissions editor for the *Yale Journal of International Law*, in which she participated as a first-year editor this year. Additionally, she is a first-year editor of the *Yale Journal on Regulation*, a member of the Federalist Society, a member of Yale Law Women, a coordinator for the Yale Law Public Interest Initiative, and a member of Yale Law School's acappella group, Habeas Chorus.

Katie Terry (2003) found classes in her first year of law school at UVA tough and the work seems endless, but it's all so fascinating. "I knew from the first day that I picked the right profession, and I sometimes feel as though I want to start practicing law tomorrow! The feeling might also be fueled by a general desire to stop living like a poor, sleep deprived student, however, I'm also pleased I went to UVA, it has definitely been a great match for me. Everyone is committed to school and excellence, but still willing to play softball on the weekends for a desperate attempt at a social life.

Charlottesville is a beautiful town in the fall and spring, although as a southern girl I could do without its winter snow. It amazes me that they expect you to still go to school with four inches of snow on the ground!"

She is spending the first six weeks of the summer working for a law firm in Birmingham, Haskell Slaughter, then two more in Huntsville working for a different firm, Balch and Bingham.

Gabriel Walvatne (2003) finished in December. He and Val headed for Baltimore in May, where he will attend law school at the University of Maryland in the fall, and she will be a graduate student in social work at the same school. Between December and May, Gabe supported himself by working as a clerk for Office Max. This was so enthralling that he occasionally attended sessions of the class in Philosophical Issues in Criminal Law, despite not



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being enrolled. Maybe the university could improve attendance by requiring all its students to hold full-time minimum wage jobs?

J. C. Zannis (2003) has completed his first year of graduate study in Economics at Florida. He writes that he is "currently attempting in a summer paper to separate the deterrent and facilitating effects of public gun ownership on crime rates. I am also in the very early planning stages of a much more difficult paper studying the educational outcomes of home schooling. In addition I am still grading for an undergraduate class."

Lindsay has a new job working with the study abroad program in the business school. She is working out the details with contacts overseas (Paris this fall) and helping to promote the program to undergraduates. She also plans to start work on a Masters degree in Educational Technology.

Class of 2004

Eight students graduated with degrees in philosophy this December, and this May seven more did so. We will miss them all, but are pleased to be keeping the ACHE-viability wolf so far from our door. Here are the plans some of our new graduates have.

Josh Bell is one of ten Rural Medical Scholars at UAB Medical School. In addition to the regular med school curriculum, Josh will take a course each semester related to the practice of primary care in rural areas, conduct health

fairs and health screenings in rural areas and participate in special seminars and community service projects.

Annie Donaldson spent her last semester in Washington, D.C. interning at The White House with the First Lady. "It's amazing to get to walk in and out of the White House on a regular basis and meet some wonderful people, and I'm having a great time in D.C. I've now been offered a position with the Massachusetts Governor's Fellows program, which means I will be moving to the Boston area on June 1. I will be flying up to Boston for 5 weekends over the next 7 weeks to be trained by the top campaign strategists in the state, to prepare to take over a key state senate/representative race in the fall. From June until November, I will have the position of campaign manager. My competitive spirit is alive and well already.

I just spent an amazing weekend in Cape Cod at the Governor's Kick-off weekend for the candidates, campaign managers, incumbents, party staff, and the other Fellows. They're a young, motivated, and vibrant bunch that I'm excited to get to work with. I'm an oddity with the Southern drawl and a little different background from everybody else, but I'm sure we'll all learn a lot from each other. If you can't tell, I'm very, very excited about my new job, and eager to get started trying to meet the challenges it will bring."



Larry Pender will attend Manchester University in the United Kingdom, in pursuit of an M.A. in Sociology.

Parker Sweet will attend the University of Alabama School of Law, with a full tuition academic scholarship. Parker chose Alabama over George Mason, Miami, and William & Mary. He plans to continue to be the local instructor in the Kaplan review courses for the LSAT, and to serve as Vice-President of our Philosophy Club.

Brett Talley will attend law school at Harvard University. Brett chose Harvard over Georgetown and Texas.

Honors & Awards

Four members of this year's graduating class earned a B.A. with Honors in Philosophy. This degree requires 36 hours in philosophy rather than the 30 for the standard B.A., 18 or more of those hours at or above 300 rather than 12, a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all courses in philosophy and at least 3.3 overall, a completion of a senior essay and oral defense of that essay before a committee of the faculty. We applaud them.

Josh Bell
Senior paper: "Infinite Divisibility, Infinitesimals, Instants, and the Nature of the Present"

Advisor: Prof. Scott Hestevold
Committee: Prof. Scott Hestevold
Prof. Richard Richards
Prof. Torin Alter

Larry Pender, Jr.
Senior paper: "Magic, Gods, and Religion"

Advisor: Prof. Scott Hestevold
Committee: Prof. Scott Hestevold
Prof. Richard Richards
Prof. Chase Wrenn

Brett Talley
Senior paper: "Practical Ethics: A Comparison of the Obligation to Give and Free Trade"

Advisor: Prof. Richard Richards
Committee: Prof. Richard Richards
Prof. Scott Hestevold
Prof. Norvin Richards

Parker Sweet
Senior paper: "Ethics and the 'Standards of Evidence' Factor: A Comparison in Terms of Internal Verifiability"

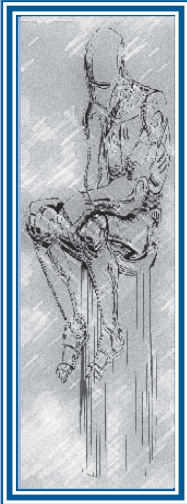
Advisor: Prof. Richard Richards
Committee: Prof. Richard Richards
Prof. Stuart Rachels
Prof. Norvin Richards

Parker Sweet a double major in Philosophy and English, was the University's nominee for a Rhodes Scholarship this year.

Parker won second place in the Humanities and Fine Arts Division of the College's first Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Presentations.



News of Philosophy Alums



THANKS TO...

Craig Alexander for his gift of \$150. It enabled us to provide honor cords to be worn at graduation by the four students graduating with Honors in Philosophy and by members of the department's chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the national honorary in philosophy.

Charles Myers for his gift of \$200. Since Charles told us he was a member of the first philosophy club ever at the University of Alabama, we used his gift to fund a Charles Myers Lecture in Philosophy, given to members of the current Philosophy Club by James Montmarquet, Professor of Philosophy at Tennessee State. Prof. Montmarquet's talk was entitled "Loyola, Descartes and the Project of Internalism."

Richard Nix for his gift of \$100. Since we had two students we thought deserving of the ten Hoor Prize this year and its endowment yielded only a hundred dollars, Richard's gift enabled us to give both students the prize.

Jeff Tilden for his gift of \$300. We added Jeff's gift to the principle for the ten Hoor Prize, increases in which will make it all the more handsome to win.

Can I Help?

You bet. You can bring us great pleasure by sending us news of you. We'd love to know what you are doing and how things are going. We will brag shamelessly about you to the Dean, and we will pretend your successes are all our doing when we talk to him and to prospective majors. With your permission, we will also put your story in our glass display case to show where a major in philosophy can lead, and we will pass your news on to others via this newsletter.

You could also send us money. We would use it in any way you like. If you'd rather we choose how it is spent, here is what we might do:

- Increase The ten Hoor Award (A hundred dollar prize isn't what it use to be!)
- Help fund outside speakers
- Support a worthy undergraduate

The e-mail address is nrichard@tenhoor.as.ua.edu, or write to:
Prof. Norvin Richards, Dept. of Philosophy, The University of Alabama
Box 870218, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0218

Donations for any of these purposes would be very welcome, as would unrestricted gifts. Really big ones would make it the (Your name here) Lecture, Fellowship, or Lecture Series. Don't allow modesty to get in your way; please fill-in and return the card below.

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