

AGORA

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The University of Alabama College of Arts & Sciences Fall 2009 Issue 7



Prof. H. Scott Hestevold
Chair

Greetings and welcome to the seventh edition of *Agora*, the Philosophy Department's Annual Newsletter!

Searching

During the 2008-2009 academic year, the recession beleaguered universities, and many announced hiring freezes to shrink their faculties through attrition. Some laid off employees while others instituted pay cuts ranging from 3% to a brutal 20%. Administrators at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill received orders to cut programs and staffing by 5%, and Washington State University is eliminating three academic programs, including its Department of Theater and Dance.

Given the Alabama legislature's track record for education funding, you may have assumed that UA and its Department of Philosophy have not fared well over the past sixteen months. Not so! This past spring, the Department successfully completed a search for a new tenure track Assistant Professor. You and other friends of the Department may be interested in what an academic search involves.

The Proposal. Because of President Robert Witt's extraordinary stewardship, the Dean Robert Olin announced in June, 2008, that although no new faculty positions would be created, departments were invited to apply by July to hire replacement faculty members. Having lost James Otteson at the end of 2007, I submitted a proposal, making clear the substantial impact that a replacement professor would have on the Department's teaching and research missions. For more than a month, the Department waited for the Dean's verdict.

With a formal letter in late August, 2008, Dean Olin notified the Department that the Provost and he had approved the Department's proposal. The search for a new philosopher was underway!

Philosopher Wanted. Within ten days, the six members of the permanent philosophy faculty met to draft an advertisement. After intense discussion, the faculty agreed that we should hire someone with expertise in at least two of three subareas that would benefit the Department and our students: political philosophy (to cover certain courses that Dr. Otteson taught), applied ethics (to develop a course on business ethics or leadership ethics), and metaphysics (to cover certain areas of metaphysics not covered by the current faculty).

Following the meeting, I sent the recommended advertisement to the Dean along with the required justification for the specialties listed. The Provost and the Dean approved the Department's advertisement, and the Department moved quickly to meet advertising deadlines for October. We placed advertisements in both the online and hard copy editions of the American Philosophical Association's hiring publication, "Jobs for Philosophers." Advertisements also appeared in publications that target groups of young scholars under represented in the profession.

Will Think for Food. Our 2008-2009 search coincided with the debut of UA's job website. The advertisements directed applicants to apply online for the assistant professorship, uploading their curricula vitae, writing samples, and various documents providing evidence of teaching excellence. Several days after our advertisements appeared, a short list of applicants materialized on our job website, and the list grew daily. Within a week, the Department began receiving confidential letters of recommendation from at least three of each applicant's graduate school professors. As these letters arrived, our secretary, Dorothy Bazemore, created a file folder for each applicant, and I wrote to each applicant to acknowledge receipt of the dossier.

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News Of The Department

The Review. The Department received 156 applications. (After the search ended, I learned that, although 22% of the applicants identified themselves as female, only 1.9% identified themselves as African American.) Some members of the philosophy faculty began reviewing applications steadily in early November; others invested long hours during the last two weeks of December. With most of each applicant's dossier available online (password-protected and restricted to members of the Department), we could review applications day or night, at the office or from home, anytime and anyplace one had internet access to UA's job website.

One could eliminate certain applicants quickly. Desperate for an academic post, some applied who lacked the advertised specialties; others provided little evidence of teaching excellence or research potential. Reviewing other dossiers, however, was arduous: one read carefully confidential letters of recommendation, one reviewed the writing samples and graduate school transcripts, and one carefully evaluated and compared teaching and research records. All the while, each of us ranked the 156 applicants from one to five from "definitely do not interview" to "definitely do interview."

The Short List. Before classes began in January, 2009, Chase Wrenn averaged our rankings, producing elaborate comparisons that clearly exposed the top 20% of the applicant pool. The rankings were distributed just before Norvin Richards began driving to Seattle for his semester-long sabbatical leave. Two weeks later, after everyone had time to study the rankings and review the top applicants' dossiers, the Department met for two hours; Dr. Richards attended the meeting virtually from Seattle via Skype. The Department discussed, one by one, each of the top couple dozen applicants. Though the meeting was long and tiring, faculty members could not have been more cooperative and conscientious; we enjoyed an air of excitement that we would be welcoming to the Department a new colleague, someone with whom we could be working for many years.

By the end of the meeting, there emerged only five candidates about whom there was no serious disagreement among the six of us. These included one metaphysician, two mainline political philosophers, and two with expertise in applied ethics/ethics whose research clearly straddled political philosophy. The faculty voted to invite all five to campus.

On-Campus Interviews. Within two days, I had contacted the finalists, and all accepted an invitation to visit. To evaluate the

candidates' abilities regarding both research and teaching, the Department asked each candidate to offer both a colloquium for the philosophy faculty and a presentation for a student group. For the colloquium, the candidates sent ahead a work in progress so that we could read it carefully, preparing questions and objections. Each candidate opened the colloquium with a brief overview of the submitted work and then opened the floor for discussion that would last sixty to ninety minutes and often through supper. In addition to the colloquium and student presentation, candidates met with an associate dean, and we took turns giving the candidates tours of the campus and Tuscaloosa.



On-campus interviews are important. We want a close look at one who could become a researcher within this Department, a teacher of our students, and a colleague with whom to do philosophy; but we also want the opportunity to sell our department to the candidate. We want each candidate to complete the interview knowing that

we have a strong undergraduate program with fine philosophers who are both active researchers and conscientious teachers.

The Outcome. The first candidate, a political philosopher, arrived on February 1; he received a tenure track offer elsewhere less than twenty four hours after leaving UA, but did not withdraw from UA's search. The second candidate was an applied ethicist; two weeks after her interview, she withdrew her application to accept a post elsewhere. Several days before his on campus interview, as I was reading his colloquium paper on a Sunday afternoon, the third candidate sent email to cancel his interview; this political philosopher had just accepted an offer elsewhere. The fourth candidate was metaphysician Kevin Kukla, who was in his second year at UA as a temporary full-time instructor. The final candidate was an ethicist who offered interesting colloquium and Philosophy Club presentations on honor.

The fifth candidate left late on Friday, February 27; and the Department met the following Monday: with only three of the five finalists left, do we invite more candidates to campus, or recommend one of the three for an offer? After each of the six of us spoke about the remaining three candidates and after we discussed comments from our majors, the Department voted unanimously and enthusiastically to recommend Dr. Kukla for the tenure-track position. I conveyed the decision to the Dean who, in turn, sent it to the Provost for her approval. Within ten days, the Dean extended a formal offer, which Dr. Kukla accepted in late March. Our nine-month search had finally come to an end.

News Of The Department

Arguably, conducting a tenure track search is the most important task that members of a department do together: a hire can affect the caliber of philosophical exchange within the department and the Department's reputation for both teaching and research for many years to come. As the nationwide economic turmoil continued in 2009, I had assumed no new faculty positions would be forthcoming and that the Department would not conduct another search until one of us resigned or retired. Alas, I underestimated Dr. Witt's stewardship: this past June, after announcing Dr. Witt's plan to expand the faculty, the Dean again invited department chairs to submit proposals for replacement hires and for new faculty lines!

This announcement prompted a departmental meeting in July. Afterwards, I (along with every other department chair on campus) submitted a proposal to land a new assistant professorship. As I write, the Dean is evaluating and ranking proposals from within the College; by the time you read this newsletter, the Provost will have determined the fate of our proposal. When you receive a letter from me later in the year about the 2009-2010 Philosophy Today speaker series, you may learn that the Department is once again searching for yet another new philosopher.



Our New Colleague

The Department was delighted this past year to be able to hire **Kevin Kukla** as the newest of our tenure-track faculty. Dr. Kukla received his Ph.D from Syracuse in 2007, and first joined us as a Temporary Instructor in fall of that year. He works in the overlapping fields of metaphysics, philosophical logic, and philosophy of language, with other interests in the history of 20th Century philosophy, linguistics, applied ethics, and philosophy of religion.



Dr. Kukla is currently working on three distinct issues: to articulate a theory of linguistic vagueness; to explain the ways in which logic is normatively related to thought; and to establish unequivocally that any fine-tuning argument meant to demonstrate through modal reasoning the existence of an intelligent designer actually entails that such a designer is logically impossible. His paper titled "Higher-order Vagueness is Contradictory" is forthcoming, and he is revising several others on vagueness, the "no sharp boundaries paradox," and the argument from design.


We already know him to be an outstanding teacher, whose students find him both challenging and illuminating, and he has a wonderful range of courses in his repertoire. In addition to his teaching and his research, he will serve as advisor to the department's philosophy club and will continue to be our webmaster. We are more than pleased to have him as a colleague.

Philosophy Today Series


We offered our second Philosophy Today lecture series this year, made possible by funding contributed by Lou Perry and the Dean of the college. These are wonderful events in the intellectual life of the university, and while the speakers are on campus we take full advantage of them: we have them give a second talk for the philosophy faculty, students and interested others, and often we've been able to do a class in one of our seminars. Since the speakers are all philosophers, what they do in all three uncommonly good and distinguished settings is wonderful to have. We are extremely grateful to Lou and to the Dean for making it possible, and for making it possible for us to present a year, 2009-2010.

This year's format, like last year's, will have the public talk concern a controversial topic rather than the state of the art in a branch of philosophy. We will post the dates and topics on our website (www.as.ua.edu/philos). You are more than welcome to join us—having you there would be an added bonus.


PHILOSOPHY TODAY
2008 - 2009 SPEAKER SERIES




FOUR POINTS ABOUT DRUG CRIMINALIZATION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008 AT 7:30 PM
30 TEN HOUR HALL
DOUGLAS N. HUSAK
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY



IMAGINING EVIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2008 AT 7:30 PM
110 AIME
STEPHEN YABLO
MIT



FAITH IN REASON
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009 AT 7:30 PM
110 AIME
MICHAEL P. LYNCH
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



THE CLONE WARS: WHAT'S WRONG WITH HUMAN CLONING?
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009 AT 7:30 PM
110 AIME
ALASTAIR NORCROSS
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

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FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Torin Alter published *A Dialogue on Consciousness* with Oxford



this year. He and his coauthor have had a second dialogue accepted by Oxford, *The God Dialogues: A Philosophical Journey*. He was also invited to be “visiting expert” on the knowledge argument at UC Riverside this past fall, where he taught a class

on the subject and gave a paper to the faculty. In the spring, he was invited to give a paper to the SMU faculty and commented on a paper at the Pacific APA. Finally, he reports that “My kids, Irving and Dora, are the cutest (and best!) two-year-olds in the world. My table tennis rating is 1584 and rising; and the UA table tennis club, which I advise, is finally beginning to flourish.”

Scott Hestevold published “Presentism: Through Thick and Thin”



in the *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*. The essay includes a defense of the views that “the present” is not durationlessly thin and that there is no such thing as a *time* or a *series of times*. Though he spends most of his time pushing paper on behalf of the Department, Scott is working again with W.R. Carter on problems involving time,

persistence, and the special theory of relativity.

Max Hocutt (Emeritus) wrote at the invitation of the editor a



10,000 word “historical introduction to philosophy” for an encyclopedia being prepared by the Lincoln Library. He also gave a talk on rights at the University of Virginia and did a class there for Loren Lomasky, wrote a book review for *Philosophical Quarterly*, and finished an invited commentary for publication in

Behavior and Philosophy on a symposium of essays on B.F. Skinner’s concept of “private events.”

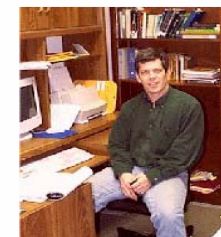
Stuart Rachels put together new editions of *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* (its sixth edition) and *The Right Thing to Do* (its fifth edition), both published in March. He also had articles accepted by *Utilitas* and *Philosophy Looks at Chess*. This spring he greatly enjoyed teaching a new course, “Philosophy Through Documentary.”



Norvin Richards had a splendid sabbatical leave spent in Seattle, where he wrote one paper on the ethics of choosing a genetic makeup for one’s child and rewrote another on that topic. He also finished work on his book *The Ethics of Parenthood*, to be published by Oxford University Press. He has been working on that for so long that some of you were probably children when he started, so the exhilaration has a strong element of relief.



Richard Richards gave a talk last fall at the main American Political Science Association meeting in Boston on Darwinism and Political Science, and another as the keynote speaker for Duke University’s conference on Form, Function and Homology, titled “Functional Analysis and Character Transformation.” He gave a third talk at E. O. Wilson’s 80th birthday conference at Florida State on “Subspecies and Subjectivity: Wilson versus Mayr on the Trinomial.” Last but far from least, Cambridge University Press extended him a contract to write a book: *The Species Problem: A Philosophical Analysis*.



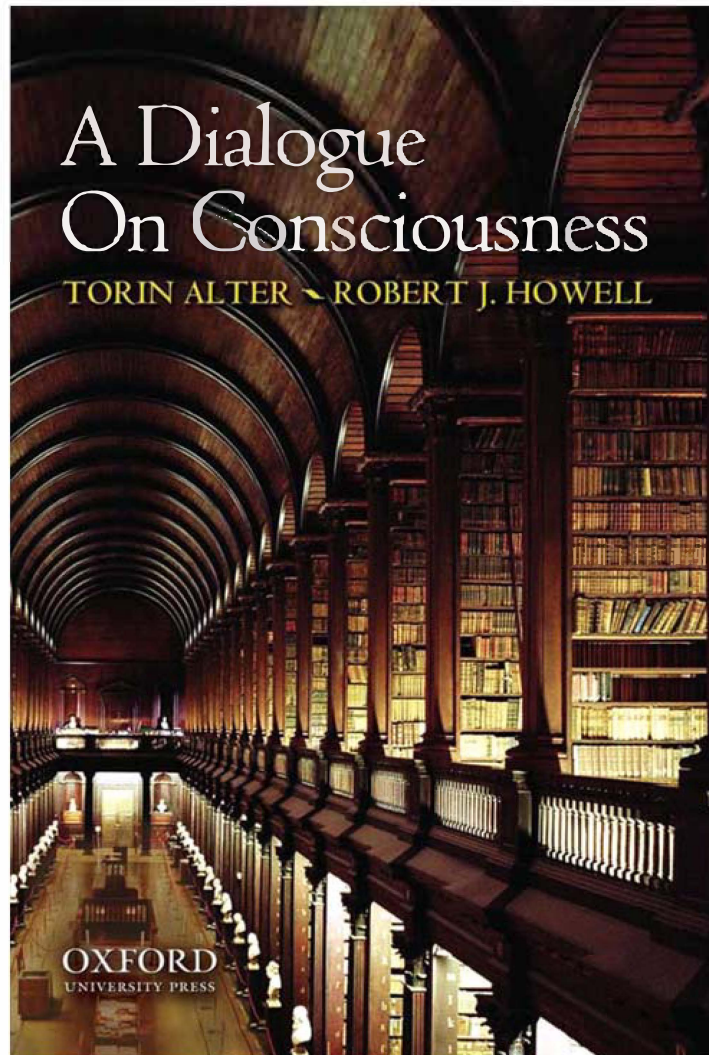
Chase Wrenn had a paper, “The Unreality of Realization” accepted by *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. In addition, the publisher Peter Lang published *Naturalism, Reference, and Ontology: Essays in Honor of Roger F. Gibson*, a volume Chase edited. He continues



to serve as a College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Fellow, in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the classroom, and continues also to serve on the executive committee of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology and to work on a book on the value of truth.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Need A Good Read?



A Dialogue on Consciousness, co-authored by Torin Alter and Robert Howell was published this year by Oxford University Press. About this book, David Chalmers (ANU Professor and author of *The Conscious Mind*) writes, “Alter and Howell’s dialogue starts by making the puzzles of consciousness vivid and accessible. By the end it has led readers through a grand tour of many of the most central issues in the area, bringing them close to the leading edge of current thought. Alter and Howell have both made significant contributions to this area themselves, so their discussion is philosophically rich. At the same time, it is a pleasure to read.”

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Innovative Version Of Intro To Philosophy

Working under a teaching grant from the Arts and Sciences Teaching Grants Committee, Torin Alter, Chase Wrenn and Kevin Kukla have spent the summer designing a distance-education version of Introduction to Philosophy and a self-paced intro course modeled on our logic course, to be taught on campus.

The on-campus course allows the students themselves to decide what elements of the course material they will study and when they will work on it. The course begins with a mandatory module providing students with the basic skills and information they need, then the students work on other modules focusing on philosophical issues (e.g., the existence of God, the objectivity of morality, the nature of personal identity, the mind/body problem) or important figures in the history of philosophy (e.g., Plato, Descartes, John Locke). Each module includes a combination of online readings, readings from the course textbook, and online exercises designed to test the student's mastery of the information and concepts covered by the module. Additionally, students can discuss the material and interact with the instructor and the other students via online chats, email, discussion boards, blogs, and optional lectures associated with each module.

There are practice tests available to take online. To further foster active learning and reflective critical thinking, it is up to each student to decide whether he or she is ready to take a test covering a given module. When a student is ready, he or she takes a test online, which can be graded instantly. The tests themselves are graded on a pass/fail basis, and a student's final course grade depends on how many tests he or she passes by the end of the semester.

Professors Alter, Kukla and Wrenn expect the course to benefit students in at least the following four ways:

- Active Learning. The course's modular design encourages students to browse topics and make choices about what to study. This will turn them from passive recipients of information to active learners.

- Improved Achievement. Judging from the success of their logic course, Alter, Wrenn and Kukla have every reason to expect that students will learn more in a course with this format than in our traditional philosophy courses. They expect not only improved grades, but improved retention beyond the classroom.

- Standardization. Although the curriculum allows for meaningful choices, it is also portable enough that it could be the default curriculum for our Introduction to Philosophy courses. Such standardization will benefit students in upper-level philosophy courses, since the instructors of those courses will have a clearer idea what sorts of things students who have taken PHL 100 will have learned.

- Improved Opportunity. We turn students away from PHL 100 every semester for lack of space. We can offer the course to more students by employing the computer-aided, self-paced approach.

- New Opportunities. Our previous efforts with Introduction to Deductive Logic have taught us that courses in this format need teaching assistants to help administer them, and that serving as a TA is a highly beneficial educational experience for philosophy students. This project will allow us to increase the opportunities for our advanced undergraduates to serve as TAs. The Department of Philosophy does not house a graduate program.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Just when you thought you were over those flashbacks...



News Of Philosophy Alums

Carl Sosnin (MA program) and **Margie Brooke (MA 1977)** made it down for Steven Yablo's contribution to our Philosophy Today series, an intriguing talk on imagining evil. We hope this coming year's series brings them down again.

Jeff Tilden (1977) had dinner with Janet and me several times while we were in Seattle. It's impossible not to enjoy yourself when you're in Jeff's company (well, maybe this isn't true if you're on the stand and he's the attorney for the other side...), and he was an invaluable source of info about the city and environs. His son

Sol will be a freshman this coming year at the University of Washington.

Ann Coyle (1988) has what sounds like a great new job with a company that is "building a housing community of 170 upscale cottages in a gated community off of Jack Warner (out near Nucor Steel) that will be for lease only, with the target market being U of A students. Our office is down on The Strip, sandwiched between The Legacy and El Rincon, across from Publix and The Shirt Shop, a location that has proved to be amazingly effective: I was 100% preleased for the Aug 1, 2009 move-

in by early December, 2008. Since then, I've been doing audits and helping re-write some policies for the company, and, with nothing much left to do here, I'll end up spending a few weeks over in Columbia, S.C., helping out." Given the way the local condo market has been going, 100% preleased is truly remarkable.

Hank Cribbs (1990) is teaching high school at Sapulpa, a rural town in Oklahoma just outside Tulsa, and enjoying it very much. He coaches the Poetry Out Loud and National Shakespeare Competition teams, and sponsors the SCOPS literary club and

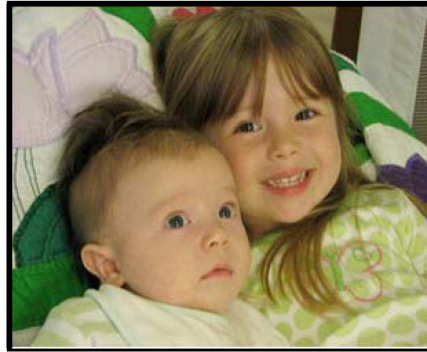
News Of Philosophy Alums

a tolerance-promoting club called THINK (To Hate Is Not Kind). Hank says “State and local politicians don’t appreciate me much, but I think the students do. I have found I like the teaching side of academics much more than the research and committee side of it...[but] I’m also continuing to do creative writing and try to stay involved in the literary scene. I edit for TU’s Nimrod literary magazine and also for Medallion Press. One day I’ll publish that best-selling novel that’s trapped in my head... Julie and I have made a nice home here in Tulsa. Julie is from here and her family still lives here, so our kids (Carly 12 and Cole 8) get to see their grandparents and cousins quite often — something they missed in SC. Julie is assistant director of her department at OU (with tenure) and is making twice as much as she did at USC.”

Amy McManus (1993) came to town around Christmas, and we had a lot of fun visiting with her, Andrew, and young Wil, who was born toward the end of October ’07. All three are flourishing, and Wil is awfully cute.

Clay Splawn (1994) is teaching and coaching at Berkshire School, a prep school in the beautiful Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts. His wife, Kristina, also works at Berkshire, in academic support, and they have a young daughter.

Brian Carver (1996) is a tenure-track assistant professor at UC Berkeley in the School of Information. In the fall he taught Intellectual Property for the Information Industries; in the spring, Cyberlaw. Jac has completed her PhD in English and taken a position as a Lecturer in the LGBT program at UC Berkeley. Cora and Freal are flourishing too, as shown above.



Cora & Freal Carver



Coach Carver & the troops

Michael Casiday (1997) is Lecturer in Historical Theology, Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Wales, Lampeter, which he describes as a charming and beautiful place. He was co-editor (with Frederick Norris) of the *Cambridge History of Christianity, vol. 2: Constantine to c. 600* (Cambridge: CUP, 2007) and is part of the Directing Committee for a project based in the University of Oslo and called ‘Cultural Histories of Meditation’, for which he has particular responsibility for Christianity. He also reports that “I am currently revising my second monograph, for CUP, and the working title is *The Christian Philosophy of Evagrius Ponticus* (at least, that’s what I think it’s called—as I say, I’ve been doing little other than administration for over a year now).”

Robbie Newman (2001) is pursuing a PhD in philosophy at Ohio State University. Reports are that he is doing very well.

Cole Mitchell (2002) is writing his dissertation on meta-ethics with Mark Timmons at the University of Arizona. He has strong research and teaching interests in early modern philosophy. Though he professes not to enjoy running, he is a dedicated runner.

Brooklyn Burgess Roberts (2003) is working in Birmingham as the Executive Director of Eagle Forum of Alabama. “I practiced law for a year before deciding public policy was what I really wanted to do. I’ve been at EF since Nov. 2007 and I like working on policy at the state level. Just got married back in May and so far so good!”

Zac Dover (2003) finished his MA in German at UA, and plans next to attend law school.

Katie Terry (2003) has now been Assistant D.A. for Cherokee County (just north of Atlanta) for about a year, and likes it a lot. She is kindly fielding questions from me about criminal law, which gives me a great perspective on these issues for the courses I teach—not only because it’s a “real world perspective,” but also because it’s Katie Terry’s.

Gabe Walvatne (2003) is practicing law with Miles & Stockbridge in Baltimore, and greatly enjoyed doing some work this winter as an actor and in production of some material for TV.

Josh Bell (2004) finished UAB med school in May and begins his residency in family medicine at DCH in July.

News Of Philosophy Alums

Annie Donaldson (2004) is entering her second year at Harvard Law School, where she works on the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy* and the *Harvard Law Review*. This past summer, she worked at Cooper & Kirk in Washington, DC.



legislation, writing memos on those subjects, preparing the Senator and his staff for hearings. I'm having fun, and I've had the opportunity to do some research and writing regarding the nomination of Judge Sotomayor to the Supreme Court. For the second half of the summer, I'll be returning to the firm of Lloyd, Gray, and Whitehead, where I clerked last summer, and to do some more research and writing as I commute to Birmingham."

Parker Sweet (2004) has recently been appointed to defend a young man on a capital murder charge. Parker's father will be lead counsel, with the court naming Parker to the second chair spot.

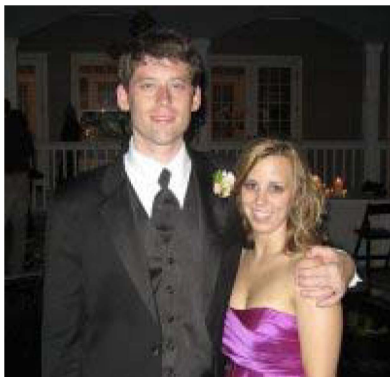
Brett Talley (2004) is in Tuscaloosa working for Judge Scott Coogler, a judge for the Northern District of Alabama. Next year he will be in Montgomery with Judge Joel Dubina, the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit.

Brooke Milstead Nixon (2005) graduated *magna cum laude* from Cumberland School of Law in 2008, finishing second in a class of 164! She is at Tanner and Guin in Tuscaloosa, specializing in general corporate/business law and employment law. Her eventual goal is to be a law professor, and she hopes to be an adjunct at UA School of Law soon.

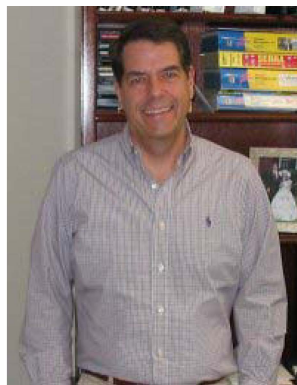
Chase Espy (2007) is working this summer as a law clerk for Senator Sessions on the Senate Judiciary Committee. "In that capacity, I assist the attorneys on staff in researching current and pending

Mark Manuel (2007) is in his second year of grad school at Regents University, in their Department of Cinema and Television. "I am now working part time at the 700 club while being in school full time. I am hoping to work full time at the 700 club as a full time producer. The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) will be launching a 24 hour news network in March of 2009. This is great timing for me because there are a lot of full time television producer positions that will be opening during this time and this is close to the time that I will be graduating. I am having a good time here at Regent and CBN." He also reports having met the woman who is the love of his life and future wife — can things go better?

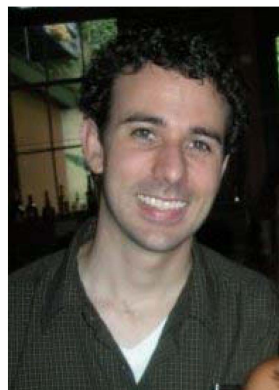
Matt Hudgens-Haney (2008) has completed his first year in the MA program at Georgia State, and reports are that he is doing very well.



Russ & Brooklyn Burgess Roberts



Craig Alexander



Parker Sweet



Annie Donaldson



This Year's Graduates



Deborah Anderson begins work in Boston this fall as an Associate in Corporate Tax for Price Waterhouse Coopers, the firm for which she interned the summer of her junior year. Cursed with too many talents, she plans to take some philosophy courses as well once she can figure out how to fit them in.

Brittany Burgess will work for a year, probably in Birmingham, before heading off to law school.

David Chaplin will attend law school at Syracuse University this fall. I got to see him at a track meet at Washington this spring, where he had personal best in two events (and also had at least one very loud fan!)



John, Deb & Alonso

David Clyburn will attend Cumberland School of Law this coming fall.

John Cockrell will spend a year working for **Impact Alabama**, Steven Black's very successful antipoverty program. This will allow John's plans to attend law school to dovetail with his girlfriend's plans to attend med school after she finishes at South Alabama this coming spring.

Kyle Driggers was admitted to all five of the M.A. programs to which he applied, including the one that Philosophical Gourmet ranked as having the best faculty, and had a variety of financial aid packages from which to choose. He chose Texas A & M, where he will begin his studies toward his M.A. in philosophy in the fall.

Josh Frank completed a double major in Philosophy and German, and has been awarded a Fulbright to study in Germany this coming year at the Friedrich Schiller University-Jena. Josh will be studying Hegel's influence on late nineteenth-century analytic philosophers (such as Russell and Moore) and their subsequent revolt against Hegelianism.

Alonso Heudebert plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health this fall at UAB, before going on to med school. He hopes this will aid eventually in practicing the kind of medicine that appeals to him, which focuses on helping those in third-world countries.

Cheryl Hurley is off to the University of Texas School of Law in Austin starting in August. "They have a prestigious law and philosophy program that I am considering, but the main reasoning behind my decision were their clinical emphases on criminal appeals, actual innocence, and the death penalty, as I plan on pursuing appeals in death row cases after receiving my JD. On a personal note, I am facing the general fear of 1L, but I feel very prepared...One L writes of the terror of the Socratic method and having no real answers in class, but to me, that's normal! More than that, it's useful; I don't anticipate being frustrated with any philosophical approaches in my classes. So, thank you... for preparing me for law school and lessening some of the fright!"

Leanne Jackson will attend Cumberland School of Law this coming fall.

Noel Jordan was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation. He will be at Fort Benning for Infantry Training and Ranger School, then report to his first duty station in Germany.

Justin Nance will begin law school at UA this fall.

Steve Scoggan is deferring his law school admissions at Alabama and Emory for a year. He will be married this summer, and will spend the next year working in Birmingham.

Jana Wright is taking a year off before applying for law school, and hopes to work at a law firm or intern at the Public Defender's office in Birmingham.

Jinmei Zhou, who graduates in August, has moved to Boston. She hopes for greater opportunities there to get some work experience and save some money before pursuing further study, either for a PhD in Math or for a law degree.

Justin Zimmerman plans to begin work toward a Masters in Public Administration here at Alabama, this coming fall.

Natalie Mitchum and **India Weems-Simpson** also graduated in May, but we do not know their plans.

Prizes and Awards

Jonathan Cobb won the Alabama Philosophical Society's prize for Best Student Paper for his essay, "Miracles and the Butterfly Effect" (originally written for Professor Hestevold's seminar on philosophy of religion). Jonathan presented his paper at the annual APS meeting in Orange Beach.

John Cockrell received his B.A. with Honors in Philosophy. He wrote his senior paper, "Gene Patents: the Problems of Patenting Life," under the supervision of Prof. Norvin Richards, and did very well in his oral exam by Professors Rachels, Richards, and Richards.

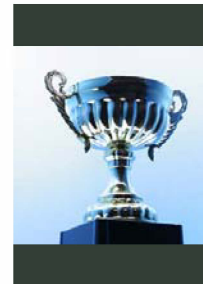
Jared Culver presented a paper at the North Georgia Student Philosophy Conference at Kennesaw State University, and won the prize for "Best Social and Legal Philosophy Paper" (originally written for Prof. Norvin Richards's seminar in philosophy of law.) The title of the award-winning paper is "Concerning Natural Law's Explanations and Claims of Authority."

Laura Dover, a double major in philosophy and Spanish, was named to USA Today's 2009 All-USA College Academic Team. She created a program to help prepare Spanish-speaking students for kindergarten, a grant for which she was able to obtain from the Blackburn Institute. Laura was aware of how high the dropout rate is for Hispanics, reasoned that this is partly due to not learning English when they are young enough to be most receptive to it, and set about finding a way to address the problem. She and her colleagues saw significant improvement in reading comprehension and in the basic ability to cope with being in school. The program is now in its second summer and has been incorporated into the city schools' Jumpstart Program, funded by the city schools and by Success by 6. We know Laura from her fine work in our classes, and we know she is premed. Obviously she is also someone who cares about others and solves problems she sees, even when these are daunting. We see an interesting and valuable life already underway and lying ahead.

Kyle Driggers received his B.A. with Honors in Philosophy. He wrote his senior paper, "Tensed Belief and Tenseless Relief" under the supervision of Scott Hestevold, and did a fine job in his oral exam by Professors Alter, Hestevold and Rachels.

Noel Jordan won the George C. Marshall Award as UA's top Army ROTC cadet. As part of the honor, he participated in the 32nd annual George C. Marshall ROTC Awards Seminar at VMI and Washington & Lee. Noel and award winners from other campuses explored a broad range of national security issues with senior military leaders and heard addresses by Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey and Secretary of Defense Pete Geren.

Five philosophy majors had the great honor of being invited to join **Phi Beta Kappa** this year. **Kyle Driggers**, **Laura Dover**, and **Steve Scoggan** accepted the invitation; **Cheryl Hurley** and **Chris Nicholson** declined.



Departmental Awards

The Iredell Jenkins Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Winner - Chris Nicholson

Second Place (tie) - Deborah Anderson, Alana Crowe & Joshua Quick

The Marten & Marie ten Hoor Prize

Winner (tie) - Chris Nicholson & Joshua Frank

The Norvin Richards Award in Philosophy & Law

Winner - Chris Nicholson

Second Place (tie) - Miland Simpler & Steven Scoggan

Thanks!

We are grateful to **Lou Perry** for his continuing financial support of the *Philosophy Today* series, to **Beverly and Steve Davis** for endowing a small fund that helps pay for academic travel by our faculty, and to anonymous donors who added to the fund awarded as the ten Hoor prize and the fund awarded as the Norvin Richards Award in Philosophy and the Law. We greatly appreciate the support, and the chance to do good things with the money. Thanks!

We welcome your support too, of course! If there is something you would like to fund feel free to designate it. If not, we have lots of good ideas. We'd be glad to discuss them with you, or to have you leave it to us what we do with what you can spare. We are Prof. Scott Hestevold, shestevold@bama.ua.edu and Prof. Norvin Richards, nrichard@bama.ua.edu.

Contact information for either of the above: 205-348-5942 or at The Department of Philosophy, University of Alabama, Box 870218, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.



ten Hoor Hall