Letter from the Chair

It is an honor to be writing you in my capacity as the new chair of our department. Having just finished my first year in this position, I don’t feel quite the rookie I once did. But there’s still lots to learn.

And lots to celebrate. We have a record number of students majoring in Philosophy (186 at last count). My colleague, Claudia Card, recently became the President of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association. Claudia also won the prestigious Hilldale Award, given each year to just a single faculty member in the Arts and Humanities for outstanding career achievement in teaching, research, and service. Our graduate placement record was among the very best in the country—despite a terrible job market, we secured a record number of tenure-track positions for our recent PhDs. Our department administrator, Christy Horstmeyer, won an extremely competitive Classified Staff Excellence award. This honor is designed to recognize the very best of the best among the College staff, and Christy is certainly that. Prof. Peter Vranas won a coveted Vilas Associate award, which provides him with two years of generous funding to support his important research. Our undergraduates continue to do amazing things—one of them, Patrick Kirk, was one of a 4-student team that won a $50,000 prize to undertake research in climate change.

This year we welcomed new professor Sarah Paul to our ranks, and she has exceeded our expectations in every way. We also made two new appointments—assistant professor John Mackay, a recent PhD from Princeton and an expert in the philosophy of language, will join the faculty this fall. Dr. Trevor Pearce will also come to Madison for a two-year stay as a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow. Trevor’s area of expertise is the history and philosophy of science.

With great sadness, we bid adieu to our esteemed colleagues Ivan Soll and Keith Yandell, both of whom have decided to retire after illustrious careers here in our department. There is nearly a century of exemplary research and teaching between the two of them. Please see the more detailed profiles of their careers inside.

The department was also the beneficiary of two very important decisions this year: one, by the Mellon Foundation, to endow a 2.5 million dollar professorship in ancient philosophy, and the other, by Chancellor Biddy Martin and her team, to authorize a new position in Kant’s philosophy, under the auspices of the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates. These impressive votes of confidence, especially in such trying economic times, have helped to boost department morale, and will go a long way to maintaining the reputation for excellence that this department has so long enjoyed.

Finally, please be on the lookout in early July for our brand-new website. As before, it will be located at: http://philosophy.wisc.edu. I hope that you like the new design, and will take the opportunity to contribute to the site’s newest feature—the Alumni page, which will post news about alumni activities, accomplishments, and milestones.

Wishing you all the best,

Russ Shafer-Landau
Professor and Chair
Faculty Highlights

John Bengson is pleased to be making his Madison debut this fall, after having spent the past year as a visiting research fellow at the Australian National University in Canberra. He delivered talks in Boston, Jerusalem, Canberra, and Melbourne, and his article "A New Framework for Conceptualism" appeared in Nous. His co-edited volume, Knowing How: Essays on Knowledge, Mind, and Action (Oxford University Press), will appear later this year.

Harry Brighouse, with Gina Schouten, contributed a chapter on education policy reform to the Social Inequality and Educational Disadvantage project funded by the Russell Sage and Spencer Foundations. He published two books last year: Education Equality (Continuum), and Measuring Justice: Primary Goods and Capabilities (Cambridge University Press, co-edited with Ingrid Robeyns).

Claudia Card’s book, Confronting Evils: Terrorism, Torture, Genocide (Cambridge U Press), was recently published. This spring she delivered the Presidential Address, "Surviving Long-Term Mass Atrocities," at the Central Division APA meetings in Minneapolis and then, on the UW campus, received the Hilldale Award. She received an Honored Instructor award from University Housing.

Malcolm Forster spent most of the year at the Institute for Science, Technology, and Society at Tsinghua University in Beijing. From April to June, he was also a Fulbright scholar at the University of Siena, Italy.

Paula Gottlieb was on sabbatical, travelling to Fayetteville and Oxford. She gave a public lecture and master class at SUNY Brockport, presented work on akrasia at the University of Arkansas, and participated in an author-meets-critics session on her book at the Central APA.

Dan Hausman has been on sabbatical, spending the fall in Paris and at the Rockefeller Institute in Bellagio. He completed a new book, Preference, Value, Choice and Welfare, to be published by Cambridge University Press. In February he delivered the 2010-2011 Phi Beta Kappa Romanell Lectures.

Paul Kelleher joined the Department as a Faculty Affiliate in spring 2010. Paul’s primary appointment is in Bioethics within the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. He received his PhD in Philosophy from Cornell University in 2008. His current research projects focus on health equity and intergenerational aspects of climate change.

Honoring Keith Yandell

Keith Yandell received his B.A. with honors from Wayne State University in 1959, an M.A. from Wayne State in 1960, and his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in 1966. He joined our faculty in the fall of 1966, and taught here until his retirement in December 2010. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1971, to full professor in 1974, and has for many years been the Julius Weinberg Professor of Philosophy. He has also held distinguished visiting professorships at Hope College and Wheaton College (Ill.).

Keith’s research has focused on aspects of philosophy of religion. He is undoubtedly one of the world’s great scholars in the area. He has authored 5 treatises in the philosophy of religion, and co-authored one. He has also edited two books in the field. In addition, Keith has written four textbooks in various areas of philosophy and edited six more in areas as diverse as ethics, metaphysics, and the theory of knowledge. He is currently nearing completion of two further treatises, both in the philosophy of religion. He has also authored more than 90 articles or book chapters, and given about as many professional presentations.

Keith is an expert not only on Western but also Eastern religion. He was a long-time member of the South Asian Studies department here at UW-Madison, as well a Professor of Religious Studies. He chaired the Department of Philosophy for a time in the mid-1980s, as well as having served on the Divisional Committee, Grad School Research Committee, and over a dozen and a half other College and University Committees. He routinely taught very popular courses in philosophy of religion and in the history of philosophy. Despite his retirement last fall, Keith agreed to teach two much-needed courses for us this spring, thus showing his devotion to a grateful department that recognizes his stellar intellectual talents. We will miss him deeply.
Sarah Paul published an article in the *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* and has an article forthcoming in *Philosophical Studies*. She delivered a paper in Basel and participated in conferences in Boston, Chicago, San Diego, and St. Louis.

Russ Shafer-Landau continues to organize the Annual Metaethics Workshop, and to serve as the editor of *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*. He received an Honored Instructor award from University Housing, and gave a dozen academic talks over the past year.

Larry Shapiro’s *Embodied Cognition* (Routledge Press) appeared last fall. This spring he re-introduced, after many years of dormancy, his Philosophy of the Artificial Sciences class. HAL would be proud of his defense of artificial intelligence.

Alain Settine’s “The Method of Verbal Dispute,” appeared this year in *Philosophical Issues*. He received an Honored Instructor award from University Housing (and is coaching at West Madison Little League).

Elliott Sober’s book *Did Darwin write the Origin Backwards?* was published in April by Prometheus Books. Elliott gave 11 talks last year at academic meetings. One of them was a paper on epistemological similarities and differences among the sciences, which he presented to a Committee convened by the National Academy of Science.

Ivan Soll gave the lead-off lecture at a conference in England on *Nietzsche’s Postmoralism* and the keynote address in German, titled *Lob der Illusion* (In Praise of Illusion), at a conference in Germany. He also taught last summer in Istanbul.

Rob Streiffer’s recent publications include: “Chimeras, Moral Status, and Public Policy,” “The Application of Biotechnology to Animals in Agriculture” with John Basl, and a case study on Enviropigs with Sara Gavrell Ortiz. He chairs one of UW-Madison’s Animal Care and Use Committees.

Mike Titelbaum published articles in *Philosophical Perspectives* and *Philosophical Studies* and presented papers in Norway, Germany, and Brazil. He received an Honored Instructor award from University Housing, and somehow managed to sneak having another daughter in among all that.

Peter Vranas had articles published in *Philosophical Studies* and the *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, received an Honored Instructor award from University Housing, and received a two-year Vilas Associate Award to work on moral dilemmas.

**Honoring Ivan Soll**

Ivan Soll received his B.A. with honors from Princeton University in 1960, did further graduate work at Harvard and Munich, and received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1964. He came to UW-Madison as an Instructor in Philosophy in 1964, and taught here until his retirement in May 2011. He was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1966, promoted again to associate professor with tenure in 1969, and to full professor in 1973. He has also held visiting professorships at Justus-Liebig University (Germany), the University of Auckland, and the University of the Bosphorus, Istanbul.

Ivan’s research has focused on aesthetics and on late 19th century German philosophy. He has published widely in aesthetics, and complements his academic knowledge with expert proficiency in the manufacture of fine art books. Ivan has exhibited his hand-crafted art books in many galleries around the world, and he has integrated the experience of doing so with his academic work. In the area of German philosophy, he has written the influential *Introduction to Hegel’s Metaphysics*, has authored more than 50 scholarly articles, and has given nearly 130 talks at various national and international venues.

Ivan has been the recipient of NEH, ACLS, and UW-Madison IRH fellowships, as well as a Bellagio fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation and a German D.A.A.D award. He has frequently been the lead professor at UW-Madison study abroad programs: in London (twice), Florence (five times) and Budapest (twice). He will be missed for his down-to-earth approach to philosophy and to life, and as an amiable colleague in the halls of Helen C. White.
New Faculty Profiles

John Mackay

John Mackay’s research is concentrated in the philosophy of language, and particularly concerns the language we use to describe hypothetical or counterfactual possibilities. His dissertation concerns the semantics of conditionals — sentences of the form if A, then B — and modal verbs like must and may. He is interested in how the logical and linguistic properties of these terms interact with general principles about communication and linguistic meaning. He also has a number of related interests in the philosophy of language, philosophical logic, metaphysics, and epistemology.

John did his PhD in philosophy at Princeton University, which he greatly enjoyed, after completing his BA in philosophy at the University of Toronto. He was born and grew up in Toronto, and remains a fan of the eternally dismal Maple Leafs, showing that his philosophical education has not successfully trained him to bring his hopes in line with rational expectations.

He is very excited about his move to Madison, with its appealing combination of urban life and outdoor pursuits. He looks forward to cycling around town, checking out the local restaurants, and cross-country skiing in the winter.

Trevor Pearce

Trevor Pearce, our new Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, studied materials engineering and English at the University of British Columbia in his hometown of Vancouver. Discovering the philosophy of science in his later undergraduate years, he went on to doctoral work in the Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science at the University of Chicago. Along the way, he acquired a M.Sc. in evolutionary biology (ask him about bivalve byssal biomechanics). He joins the department after a year at the University of Western Ontario as a Rotman Institute and SSHRC postdoctoral fellow.

His specialty is the philosophy of evolutionary biology, focusing on how research in experimental biology, ecology, and paleobiology, suitably understood, can help answer broader questions about the relative importance of different causal factors in evolutionary history. Is natural selection the only causal factor in evolution? If others are proposed, how do we determine whether they are actually important? Should abstract models of the evolutionary process include these other factors? He is also interested in the history of philosophy and science, and is currently working on a project that explores the influence of biological ideas on the American pragmatists.

Apart from philosophizing, Trevor enjoys outdoor activities, craft beer, board games (especially Spiele des Jahres), and chamber music (he’s a violinist).
Events

Metaethics Workshop 2010

Last September, about 120 philosophers from around the world gathered at the 7th Annual Metaethics Workshop. Steven Darwall (Yale) was the keynote speaker. Eleven other presenters were selected from more than 110 submissions. The weekend was punctuated by a gala dinner at the University Club, and a drinks party at the Memorial Union. The 8th Annual workshop is scheduled this year for Sept. 16-18. Christine Korsgaard (Harvard) will deliver the keynote address.

Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP) Annual Conference

Last October, the UW Philosophy Department hosted the annual meeting of the Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy. The SWIP conference is an interdisciplinary event featuring talks on a range of issues relevant to feminist philosophy and practice. SWIP has a proud history of supporting work that critically engages with race, class, gender, and sexuality, and of providing a safe and collegial environment in which this work can be shared and discussed.

The program featured a panel discussion on feminist readings of gay marriage, and talks on such topics as contemporary American femininity, troublemaking as an ethical virtue, and postpartum motherhood. More than 40 philosophers attended from several colleges and universities across the country, and all regarded it as a huge success.

Inaugural Philosophy Department Honors and Awards Banquet

On a lovely evening in May, the Philosophy Department hosted its inaugural Honors and Awards Banquet, designed to recognize our outstanding students, staff and faculty. More than 60 attendees took part as we celebrated the many accomplishments of those in our community, ranging from undergraduate award winners to retiring faculty members. We see it as the start of a great tradition!

Philosophy TV

Philosophy TV (http://philostv.com) is the brainchild of five UW Philosophy graduate students: John Basl, David Killoren, Jonathan Lang, Brynn Welch, and Danielle Wylie. It is a video website that features conversations on topics of current philosophical interest. Each episode is unscripted, minimally edited, and about an hour long. Dozens of internationally renowned philosophers have already appeared on Philosophy TV, with many more to come. The site has received more than 100,000 visits since its launch a few months ago. A number of popular philosophy blogs link to PTV, and it is starting to be used as a teaching tool in many classrooms.
Student News

Here is a sampling of the many impressive achievements of our graduate students over the past year:

**Mark Anderson** published "Molinism, Open Theism, and Soteriological Luck" in *Religious Studies*.

**John Basl** published "Applications of Biotechnology to Animals in Agriculture” (co-written with Robert Streiffer), in *The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics*. He also presented "Extensionism, Levels of Selection, and the Moral Considerability of Ecosystems,” at the American Philosophical Association (APA) meeting in Minneapolis.

**Jeffrey Behrends** presented his "Humean Normativity and the Too Few Reasons Objection" to the Iowa Philosophical Society.

**Mavis Biss** published "Aristotle on Friendship and Self-Knowledge: The Friend Beyond the Mirror" in the *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, and presented "Perfect Duties to Oneself and Latitude of Choice: A Question of Morality or Prudence?” at the APA in Minneapolis.

**Jeffrey Filler** presented "Underdetermination, Pluralism, and the Levels of Selection" to the Philosophy of Science Association, in Montreal.

**Molly Gardner** published "Cut the Fat! Defending Trans Fat Bans" (co-written with Nathan Nobis) in *The American Journal of Bioethics*, and presented "Time Travelers Who Kill Their Younger Selves: They’re Closer Than You Think" at the Central States Philosophical Association.

**Fred Harrington** presented "Rights and Agent-Relative Consequentialism” at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress in Boulder.

**Casey Helgeson** presented "Cross-Validation in Darwin’s Argument for Common Ancestry" at the Tilburg Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science.

**Justin Horn** presented "Evolution and Moral Realism" at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress.


**David Killoren** published "Moral Intuitions, Reliability, and Disagreement" in the *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, and presented "Group Agents, Obligations, and Feasibility” at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress.

**Matt Kopec** was the recipient of a prestigious University Dissertation Fellowship.


**Emily McRae** published "A Passionate Buddhist Life" in the *Journal of Religious Ethics*, and presented "Equanimity and Elimination of Bias” at the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy.

**Jeffery Pretti** presented “Expressing Implicatures” at the Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis.

**Michael Roche** presented "How Not to Argue For (or Against) the Inner Sense Theory” at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. He was also the recipient of a prestigious University Dissertation Fellowship.

**Daniel Schneider** presented "Ontological Arguments Don’t Work, Except When They Do: A Defense of Spinoza's Ontological Argument” at the Spinoza Workshop, University of Ghent, Belgium.

**Shannon Spaulding** published “Overextended Cognition” in *Philosophical Psychology*.

**Eric Stencil** presented "Descartes and the Mind-Body Union" at Beloit College, and "Arnauld and the Doctrine of the Creation of the Eternal Truths: (1642-1648)” at the South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy.

**Leigh Vicens** presented "Indeterministic Freedom and Reasons for Action” to the Society of Christian Philosophers.

**Matt Waldren** presented "Liberal Neutrality and Educational Neutrality" at the Central Division APA.

**Naftali Weinberger** published "Is there an Empirical Disagreement between Genic and Genotypic Selection Models?: A Response to Brandon and Nijhout” in *Philosophy of Science*.

**Brynn Welch** presented "Narrowing the Realm of Legitimate Parental Partiality” at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress.

**Bekka Williams** was the recipient of a prestigious University Dissertation Fellowship.

**Danielle Wylie** presented "The Parameter Setting Problem for Moral Nativism” at the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
Departmental Awards

The Department is very pleased to announce this year’s award winners:

The Larry Temkin Undergraduate Essay Prize in Value Theory: **Ethan Rosen**, “Is it Fair to Spend More on Marginal Humans than on Animals?”

The Colonel Jerome Ellis Goodrich, USMC (Ret.) Undergraduate Scholarship: **Patrick Kirk**

The Charles Manthey Winter Undergraduate Scholarship: **Nicholas Bell**

The Larry Temkin Graduate Essay Prize in Value Theory: **Matt Waldren**, “Liberal Neutrality and Educational Neutrality”

The Oliver Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay: **Justin Horn**, “Evolution and Moral Realism”

The Marcus G. and Blanche L. Singer Graduate Fellowship: **Molly Gardner**

The William H. Hay Award for Summer Research: **Jeff Pretti**

The Berent Enç Graduate Teaching Award: **John Basl**

The College of Letters and Science Teaching Fellow: **Justin Horn**

Placement Success

The Department had the 3rd best placement record in the country in 2011! Congratulations to the following Ph.D. students:

**Matt Barker** (PhD 2010) was hired to a tenure-track position by Concordia University. Area of Specialization: Philosophy of Science. Matt was previously an Assistant Professor at Mt. Allison College.

**John Basl** (PhD 2011) was hired to a tenure-track position by Bowling Green State University. Areas of Specialization: Philosophy of Science, Ethics, Applied Ethics.

**Mavis Biss** (PhD 2011) was hired to a tenure-track position by Loyola University (Maryland). Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Kant and 19th century German philosophy.

**Matt Ferkany** (PhD 2007) was hired into a 3-year renewable post in the School of Education, Michigan State University. Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Education.

**Josh Filler** (PhD 2011) was hired to a tenure-track position by Ripon College. Area of Specialization: Philosophy of Science.

**Sara Gavrell** (PhD 2008) was hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Puerto Rico. Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Bioethics.

**Hallie Liberto** (PhD 2011) was hired to a tenure-track position by University of Connecticut. Areas of Specialization: Moral and Political Philosophy.

**Emily McRae** (PhD 2011) was hired to a tenure-track position by University of Oklahoma. Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Asian Philosophy.

**Shannon Spaulding** (PhD 2011) was appointed as a 2-year post-doctoral fellow at Washington University in the Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology program. Area of Specialization: Philosophy of Mind.

**Joel Velasco** (PhD 2008) was appointed as a 2-year post-doctoral fellow at Caltech. Area of Specialization: Philosophy of Biology. Joel was previously a post-doc at Stanford University and a Visiting Assistant Professor at Cornell University.
Make a Gift

This is now a critical time for funding in the humanities. If the department is to continue to attract top undergraduates as majors and compete for the very best graduate students and faculty, it is essential that we be able to support student and faculty research, innovative teaching, and special events. For this we need your help. Please consider a gift to the UW-Madison Philosophy Department.

To mail a donation to support the Department of Philosophy, include the fund number and designation on your check (#1267904/Philosophy). The check should be payable to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, and send it to:

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