Alumna Kay Craigie (BA ‘68) has initiated a fundraising challenge to raise money for the Philosophy Student Support Fund.

As a freshman in 1964, Kay Craigie began her academic career when Georgia State was a commuter college with only two buildings. At a price that her middle-class parents could afford, Mrs. Craigie says she received an excellent education. In her long and varied career, she has taught at the University of Maryland, College Park, Cabrini College, and at a local high school in Radnor, PA. In addition, she became a member of the American Radio Relay League and in January 2014, won her third term as President. Mrs. Craigie credits being a philosophy major as having a major impact in her life. She states that it helped develop her abilities in critical thinking and to argue a point of view, which she still uses to this day.

As an annual donor and member of the Board of Visitors for Arts and Sciences, Mrs. Craigie intends to do more. She says: “I’m in a position to give something back to the institution.”

The goal of the Philosophy Student Support Fund is to raise $5,000 which Mrs. Craigie will match 2-1 with $10,000. For every $1.00 you donate, Mrs. Craigie will give $2.00 up to the $10,000 goal. If we don’t raise the $5,000, the challenge fails!

Gifts can be made in two ways:

Online at https://netcommunity.gsu.edu/make-a-gift with notes to choose OTHER as the Designation and then type Philosophy Student Support Fund or the fund number 020306.

By Check - check should be made out to the GSU Foundation with Philosophy Student Support Fund written in the memo line.

Mail check to: GSU Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 3963
Atlanta, GA 30302-3963

If you have any questions, please contact Hope Carter, Senior Director of Development, College of Arts and Sciences, at hcarter8@gsu.edu or 404-413-5739.
Letter from the Chair

I n this edition of Between the Rainbolt Lines, I take a new tack. Rather than a brief resume of what can be found in the Newsletter, I will use this space for reflections on some issue in philosophy, Georgia State University, or higher education. If you have thoughts on what I say, shoot me an email!

One issue that has been on my mind lately is the place of new technologies in higher education. Some of you may have heard of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). In their most pure form, MOOCs are web-based courses, open to anyone with a web browser, and charging little or nothing. Students watch lectures via the web, chat with other students in online forums, and then take tests. Two years ago, some folks were claiming that MOOCs would transform higher education. Some predicted that places like Georgia State would cease to exist as all students would watch lectures from star professors at Stanford. However, as data comes in, it seems that MOOCs are not going to do that. MOOCs have problems. For example, many of them have withdrawal/failure rates around 95%. Imagine how students in our Intro to Philosophy course would react if only 5% of them passed!

Whatever becomes of MOOCs, the broader point is that some technological changes have a large impact on higher education, some do not, and it is hard to predict in advance which changes will have an impact. Television had an enormous impact on many things in our society and left higher education pretty much as it was before. Personal computers profoundly shaped higher education. I am perhaps among the oldest people to have never written a paper on a typewriter. I wrote my first paper on a computer in a university's basement running the Unix operating system. (I would bet that my cell phone now has more computing power than the machine that took up an entire floor of a large building.) Exchanging typewriters for personal computers dramatically increased our ability to create and disseminate knowledge.

How should higher education react to technological change? Should we rush to adopt every change on the assumption that it will help us learn more and teach better? Probably not. Should professors resist technological change for fear that our jobs as teachers and researchers will be done by machines? I don’t think that is a wise course. I think we should actively seek to rigorously evaluate new technologies to see if they can help us be better teachers and better scholars.

For example, over the summer, Dr. Sandra Dwyer and I have been hard at work on voice-over PowerPoint lectures to use in Phil 1010, Critical Thinking. With the help of grad students Archie Fields, Cameron Hamilton, Casey Landers and Katie Punsly, we have recorded over seventy ten-minute voice-over PowerPoint presentations that cover the whole course. We will now test two different ways of using this technology. This fall, these lectures will be available to all students in the class. They can use them as study aids. Otherwise, the course will be as it has been. Then in Fall 2015, we will “flip” Phil 1010. We will “flip” lectures and homework. The students will listen/watch the lectures at home. They will do their homework in class (often in small groups) with the instructor assisting them and stopping to discuss common problems with everyone. Will this use of technology help our students learn? I don’t know. The only way to know is try it and see whether, when it comes to higher education, these PowerPoint lectures are like television or like personal computers.
Andrew I. Cohen recently completed a book, *Ethics and Public Policy*, which will soon be published by Routledge. He is now working on another book on moral repair. Dr. Cohen is also working with University College, Dublin to arrange a conference for the summer of 2015 on Social and Political Thought.

George Graham continued to work this summer on a book on the topic of spiritual/religious delusion entitled “The Abraham Dilemma: A Divine Delusion.” Oxford University Press is slated to publish the book in 2015. Together with Robert McCauley, Director of the Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture at Emory University, Dr. Graham has been awarded a multi-year grant from The Templeton Foundation to complete a book on mental illness and religious cognition. The topics that they plan to discuss include schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, and autism.


Eddy Nahmias’s “It’s OK if ‘My Brain Made Me Do It’: People’s Intuitions about Free Will and Neuroscientific Prediction” was accepted to *Cognition* with former MA students, Jason Shepherd (MA ’09, now a student in Emory University’s PhD program in psychology) and Shane Reuter (MA ’11, now a student in PhD program in Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology at Washington University, St. Louis). Dr. Nahmias also presented a poster at Society for Philosophy and Psychology (SPP) in Vancouver, Canada. In addition, his “The Free Will Inventory: Measuring Beliefs about Agency and Responsibility” was published in *Consciousness & Cognition* vol. 25, with co-authors Thomas Nadelhoffer (MA ’99, Assistant Professor at College of Charleston) and Jason Shepherd.

Dr. Nahmias’s speaking engagements include University of Georgia’s undergraduate philosophy conference in which he was the keynote speaker; April 2014; Emory University’s Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture (CMBC), September 2014; and he was on two episodes of Philosophy TV: one with Josh Knobe on experimental philosophy and one with Al Mele on free will and science. See [http://www.philostv.com](http://www.philostv.com).

Tim O’Keefe’s paper “The Epicureans on happiness, wealth, and the deviant craft of property management” is forthcoming in *Economics and the Virtues* (Oxford University Press). He also completed the entry for “Epicurus” in Oxford Bibliographies (http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com), with 90 annotated entries arranged topically. Dr. O’Keefe is also the subject editor of Epicureanism and Epicurus for philpapers.org.

Eric Wilson’s chapter “Kant’s Moral Philosophy” was recently published as part of the Routledge Companion to Eighteenth Century Philosophy. Forthcoming publications include “Self-Legislation and Self-Command in Kant’s Ethics” (Pacific Philosophical Quarterly) and entries on “arrogance,” “severity,” and “apathy” for the online Cambridge Kant Lexicon. In 2014 Dr. Wilson also presented a paper on Kant’s notion of inclination at meetings of the North American Kant Society and the New York City in Early Modern Philosophy Workshop.

Nicole Vincent presented a talk entitled “Enhancement: the new ‘normal’?” at the TEDxSydney 2014 conference to some 2,500 people. Video footage can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z7QJgUeGqk

Dr. Vincent also co-authored “Put down the smart drugs—cognitive enhancement is ethically risky business” for The Conversation with fellow colleague Dr. Emma A. Jane from the University of New South Wales in Australia which has so far had nearly 36,000 readers entitled https://theconversation.com/put-down-the-smart-drugs-cognitive-enhancement-is-ethically-risky-business-27463.


Dan Weiskopf’s paper “The Architecture of Higher Thought” appeared in the anthology New Waves in Philosophy of Mind. His book An Introduction to the Philosophy of Psychology (co-authored with Fred Adams) is in preparation and will be published in March 2015 with Cambridge University Press. His art criticism, columns, and interviews have been featured at Artforum.com and BurnAway; and his essay “Picturing the Self in the Age of Data” appeared in the July/August issue of ART PAPERS magazine.
The Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics is moving strong with several continuing and new programs. Recent activities in Spring 2014 included hosting a manuscript workshop on Responsibility from the Margins, by David Shoemaker (philosophy, Tulane). Among the distinguished discussants were Angie Smith (philosophy, Washington and Lee), Randy Clarke (philosophy, Florida State), Katrina Sifferd (philosophy, Elmhurst College), Jeanette Kennett (philosophy, Macquarie), and Stephen Kearns (philosophy, Florida State University). The JBB Ethics Center also hosted a spirited discussion on the role of state regulation, featuring Alex Gourevitch (political theory, Brown University) and James Otteson (BB&T Center for the Study of Capitalism, Wake Forest University). The Center joined several other groups in hosting a forum on immigration last March. Dedicated to the memory of economist C. Richard Long, a kind friend of the Philosophy Department, the symposium featured leading interdisciplinary scholars discussing recent challenges in immigration ethics and public policy. Among the panelists were Richard Freeman (Harvard University, economics) and Christopher Heath Wellman (Washington University in St. Louis, Philosophy). Commentators included Andy Altman (philosophy, GSU), Barry Hirsch (economics, GSU), Paula Stephan (economics, GSU), and Madeline Zavodny (economics, Agnes Scott College). The event was made possible because of the generous support of the estate of C. Richard Long.

Coming up for 2014-15 is our annual Fall ethics-in-film series. With the support of GSU Housing, we bring topical films and expert panelists to student dorms. This year’s theme will be on personal identity and responsibility. The Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, and its student arm, the Center for Ethics Student Forum, will sponsor this fall’s GSU Ethics Bowl team. The team will compete against other schools at a tournament in Florida in November. Preparation for the bowl is among the tasks of an upper division course in ethical theory and policy, taught by Dr. Andrew I. Cohen.

The Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics is partnering with University College Dublin to sponsor our next installment of the Jean Beer Blumenfeld International Conference Series in Social and Political Thought. The conference will be in Dublin, Ireland in June of 2015, draw researchers from across the globe, and feature keynotes by Philip Pettit (political theory, Princeton) and Simon Caney (political theory, Oxford).

The Center will host a variety of talks and colloquia throughout the year, all intended to stimulate discussion about the role of ethical reflection in understanding ourselves and our society. Among them will be talks about religion in public life, the proper social response to military service, and other timely topics.

Dr. Andrew I. Cohen
Associate Professor, Philosophy
Director, Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics
Danielle Hudson earned her BA in Philosophy (Pre-Law) in 2007, graduated from GSU College of Law in 2011, and now practices law in a firm in Norcross, Georgia.

Danielle writes: “My philosophy degree has proven beneficial in both personal and professional pursuits. On the one hand, I can always offer food for thought when conversations lull. On the other, my career as a lawyer began first with honing my analytical skills. I entered law school with a competitive LSAT score and skills for argument and writing rivaled by few others. As a practicing attorney, I am capable of seeing the broad picture as well as making distinctions where others see none. I strongly encourage anyone interested in law to major in philosophy. You will never regret your decision.”
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FALL 2014

### SEPTEMBER

- **FRI/12th - SUN/14th**
  - Neuro-Interventions and The Law Conference
  - Visit atlneuroethics.org for more details

- **FRI/19th**
  - Pizza Friday - 12 pm
  - Philosophy department

### OCTOBER

- **THURS/2nd**
  - Philosophers' Guild Meeting
  - 5pm - 7pm
  - Philosophy department conference room

- **FRI/3rd**
  - Colloquia - 3pm - 5pm
  - Gideon Yaffe (Yales University)

- **FRI/10th**
  - Center for Ethics Colloquia - 3pm - 5pm
  - Kevin Vallier (Bowling Green State University)

- **FRI/17th**
  - Philosophy Majors Event
  - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
  - Philosophy department conference room

  - Pizza Friday - 12pm
  - Philosophy department

### NOVEMBER

- **FRI/6th**
  - Philosophers' Guild Meeting
  - 5pm - 7pm
  - Philosophy department conference room

- **FRI/14th**
  - Pizza Friday - 12 pm
  - Philosophy department

### DECEMBER

- **MON/8th**
  - Classes End

- **TUES/9th - TUES/16th**
  - Final Exam Week

- **WED/17TH**
  - Fall 2014 Commencement
  - The Georgia Dome
  - 10am
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

AND THE WINNER IS...

ARLENE & ALVIN ALTMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Philosophy major, Ayesha Kirk, is the 2014-2016 recipient of the Arlene and Alvin Altman Scholarship. This scholarship is given to a philosophy major on the basis of academic excellence and economic need. The award will normally be given for a two-year period, beginning in the student’s junior year. This award was established and named in honor of Dr. Andrew Altman’s parents. He seeks to honor his parents through this gift that reflects the value that they placed on education and social justice.

RALF F. MUNSTER FELLOWSHIP

MA student, Bobby Bingle, is the 2014 recipient of the Ralf F. Munster Award. This award is given annually to the best philosophy graduate student who will be continuing in the program in the subsequent year. It is based on work done in academic year 2013-2014 but announced in Fall 2014. Named in honor of Ralf Munster, chair of the Department from 1965 to 1978, this award was generously endowed by the Munster family and thus provides its winner with a modest scholarship.

OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATES

Ayesha Kirk recognized by the State of Georgia

In Spring 2014, philosophy major Ayesha Kirk was accepted for the Georgia Academic and Political Scholar Fellowship program helmed by State Representative LaDawn B. Jones for the semester. The GAP5 fellowship prepares participants by allowing them to obtain leadership knowledge which focuses on the skills needed to run political campaigns in leadership positions and become a viable political candidate in the future. In addition, Ayesha was awarded with a Resolution from the State of Georgia on behalf of the Georgia House of Representatives. This award recognizes Ayesha’s outstanding academic achievements as well as her memberships in the Philosophers’ Guild, The Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, the GSU Honors college and her status as a Philosophy (Pre-Law Concentration) major.

Casey Fowler Gets Job with Pardot/Salesforce

Philosophy major, Casey Fowler, is working for Pardot/Salesforce as a Documentation Wizard. She will also be in charge of all of their software documentation and their knowledge base. Casey reports that it’s her “dream job.”

She writes: “The philosophy program at GSU has been awesome, and I really appreciate the faculty. I feel like I’ve become a much better communicator and thinker, and I really feel as if you all have helped me find the tools to be successful. Again, I’m certain that my background in philosophy has helped me get to this point (I think the philosophy degree was a major selling point.)”

Spring 2014 Graduates with Distinction

Brett Mullins  Chau Nguyen  Zach Reynolds  Jeremy Sims
alumni news: Where are they now?

Louise Agasarkisian (BA ’12) has been accepted into the Morehouse School of Medicine.

William Allen (MA ’07) has joined the philosophy and religious studies faculty of Morgan State University as a visiting lecturer.

William Baird (MA ’11) has joined the philosophy and religious studies at Coastal Carolina University as a full time instructor.

Ryan Born (MA ’11) won Sam Harris’s Moral Landscape Challenge.

Jason Gray (MA ’05) has joined the philosophy faculty of the University of Alabama-Birmingham as a visiting assistant professor. He will be teaching bioethics, practical reasoning, and social-political philosophy.

Rebecca Harrison’s (MA ’13) paper, “Illusion and World-Responsiveness: Merleau-Ponty’s Account of Perceptual Error,” was selected for presentation at the Copenhagen Summer School in Phenomenology and Philosophy of Mind. Rebecca is currently in the philosophy PhD program at UC Riverside.

Stephen Parsley (MA ’11) graduated from law school in May 2014 and is preparing for the Alabama Bar Exam. Currently, he has a one-year appointment as a clerk for a federal district judge in Birmingham. Afterwards, Stephen will become an associate at the Birmingham office of Bradley, Arant, Boult, and Cummings.

Karey Perkins (MA ’14) has been appointed a permanent member of the Institute for Studies in Pragmatism at Texas Tech University.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Keith William Diener was the first graduate of Georgia State University’s joint JD/MA program in law in philosophy in 2006. His thesis, “A Defense of Soft Positivism: Justice and Principle Processes” was directed by Dr. Andrew Altman. Following his graduation from GSU, Keith completed his LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from George Washington University and then enrolled in Georgetown University’s Doctor of Liberal Studies degree program. Keith has published articles including “The Road to Discrimination: Implications of the Thought of F.A. Hayek for Equal Employment Law,” Journal of Employment and Labor Law (Spring 2013) and “Recovering Attorneys’ Fees under CISG: An Interpretation of Article 74,” Nordic Journal of Commercial Law (November 2008).

Keep Us Posted!

Have news that you would like to share with GSU faculty, students, and fellow alumni? New job? Published a book or article? Traveled? Send your submission via email to Felicia Thomas, fthomas@gsu.edu.
PHI SIGMA TAU

Phi Sigma Tau is the student-run philosophy honors organization at Georgia State University. The annual Phi Sigma Tau conference showcases not only the work of graduate students, but also invites a well-regarded professional philosopher. Additionally, PST hopes to host other activities this year including a stress management group for the Department, as well as a “meet your professors night.” We are always open to suggestions from members and non-members alike. If you would like to know more you can contact PST president Rob Boudreau at rboudreau3@student.gsu.edu.

CENTER FOR ETHICS STUDENT FORUM

The Center for Ethics Student Forum is a student organization affiliated with the Department of Philosophy and the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics. Our mission is to nurture conversation on campus and in the community about pertinent ethical matters facing people today. We do this by providing an interactive learning environment for professors, staff and students from all departments. We host events based around ethical themes that are open to all students and faculty, as well as to members of the broader Atlanta community. The Forum’s student leadership council and advisor arrange activities, contact speakers, and publicize events. Any student is welcome to make suggestions regarding the Forum’s activities and to participate in the planning process. For more information, contact the Forum’s president Bobby Bingle at rbingle1@student.gsu.edu.

PHILOSOPHERS’ GUILD

The Philosophers’ Guild is the undergraduate student organization for all majors and those interested in philosophy. The Guild has two monthly meetings: one here in the department and the other at one of the local restaurants in the general area of campus. Follow the Philosophy department’s Facebook page for information on upcoming events. In addition, you may also email Alex Davis to inquire about membership at adavis114@student.gsu.edu.
Nathan Dahlberg’s paper, “Thought Experiments as a Tool for Expanding Logical Space,” has been accepted for presentation at the Alabama Philosophical Society.

Jennifer Daigle’s paper, “Autonomy in Plato’s Republic” has been accepted to the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy at Fordham University, October 24-26, 2014.

Alex Davis’s paper, “Incentives for Bone Marrow Transplant,” was accepted for presentation at the GSU Undergraduate Research Conference in Spring 2014.

Nathan Houck’s paper, “Arguing Against Smilansky’s Punishment Reductio on Deontological Grounds,” has been accepted for presentation at the Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference at Florida State University.

Brett Mullins’s paper, “On Probability Assessment in the Original Position,” has been accepted for presentation to the Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium.

Jay Spitzley’s paper, “Why Pereboom’s Four-Case Manipulation Argument is Manipulative,” has been accepted for presentation at the Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference at Florida State University. This paper will also be presented at the Insight Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience’s Free Will Conference in Flint, Michigan on October 10-11, 2014.

Gerald Taylor’s paper, “Autonomy and the (Non) Problem of Manipulation,” has been accepted for presentation at the Alabama Philosophical Society.
MONEY MATTERS

Interested in lending your support? You can!

GSU’s Philosophy Department sponsors several special funds that are used to pay for departmental events and activities. They’re an excellent way to express your support.

Our faculty are receiving national recognition for the quality of their research and the excellence of their teaching. Our students are taking their place on the national stage – presenting papers at national conference, receiving prestigious scholarships, and finding new ways to connect their learning with the world around them.

Your generosity makes this vital work possible. Alumni and friends support every aspect of Department life, making it possible for us to deal with present needs, and to plan for the future. You can help us: build our program; attract and retain outstanding students and faculty; enhance quality teaching and research; and bring distinguished speakers to campus.

If you would like to give to Philosophy, visit our website at www.gsu.edu/philosophy and click the “Giving” tab.