The Department is pleased to announce that Jake De Backer is the inaugural recipient of the Kay Craigie Scholarship. The Craigie Scholarship supports academically successful philosophy majors who face financial barriers to realizing their dreams.

Alumna Kay Craigie (BA’68) initiated a fundraising challenge in Fall 2014 for the Philosophy Student Support Fund. The Department raised $5,000 and Ms. Craigie matched that with $10,000. Ms. Craigie credits philosophy as having a major impact on life and career.

The Department is grateful for the generosity of Ms. Craigie and all those who contributed to make this scholarship possible. For more information and to find out how you can contribute, visit our website at www.gsu.edu/philosophy and click on Connections then Give to Philosophy.
Lately, when I tell someone that I teach at Georgia State, they often ask me: “What do you think of the consolidation?” “The consolidation” refers to the consolidation of Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College. In the fall semester of 2016, the two institutions will be one. While there are many details being worked out, Perimeter College will become a college of Georgia State University, just as the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Law are colleges of GSU. Students will be admitted either to Perimeter College or to the downtown campus. There are several universities with this sort of system. For example, Emory University has Oxford College, a two-year college located about ten miles outside of I-285.

So, what do I think of consolidation? I think it is a good idea. Students who go to two-year colleges and want to transfer to earn their bachelor’s degree often perceive the move from the two-year college to the four-year college as a barrier. The consolidation of GSU and GPC will make it easier for students to make this transition. (Georgia State receives more transfers than any other university in Georgia so we have been working for many years to remove this barrier.) GSU has done a great job at increasing graduation rates and I think many of the lessons Georgia State has learned will help Perimeter College students graduate. GPC has what is (in my opinion) the best online program in Georgia. I think GSU will learn a lot about online teaching from the Perimeter faculty.

Some people worry that having “Georgia State University” on two-year college degrees will hurt Georgia State’s reputation. I can see that this might happen, but I don’t think it will happen. Emory University’s Oxford College offers two-year degrees and Emory’s academic reputation is more than solid.

Another worry is that GSU is taking on GPC’s financial problems. I share this concern. From 2010 to 2014, Georgia State’s enrollment grew from about 31,500 students to about 32,500 students, while GPC’s enrollment fell from about 25,100 to about 21,400. Although there will be cost-savings from combining non-academic offices, it will be vital to return Perimeter College to a path of growing enrollments. I think this can be done. Increasing the number of students who graduate is one great way to increase enrollments. As I just noted, I think GSU is well placed to help more PC students graduate. I also think that Georgia State’s Office of Admissions can help bring more students to PC.

The bottom line is the students. I think that the consolidation will help more Georgia residents get a great education.

1In The Republic, Plato imagines a group of people chained in a cave so that their only contact with reality is the shadows cast by a fire on a wall. In The Second Sex, Simone de Beauvoir discusses the concept of the Other, those people who are different from the norm. I will use this space for reflections on some issue in philosophy, Georgia State University, or higher education. I will not avoid controversy. If you have thoughts on what I say, shoot me an email!
Georgia State Philosophers continue to define academic excellence.

Andrew I. Cohen recently published a book, Philosophy, Ethics, and Public Policy (Routledge, 2015). He also discussed some themes from the book in a July podcast of “Free Thoughts.” He is working on three papers about apologies and reparations, one on how apologies illustrate some important differences between corrective and distributive justice, another on vicarious apologies, and a third on the “baseline” problem in moral repair. These papers will become part of a book in progress about reparations for historic injustice. Dr. Cohen visited with a local community group to deliver a talk on apologies and presented some of his related work at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and the American Philosophical Association.

Jessica Berry’s article “The Burden of Antiquity” which recently appeared in The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth Century German Philosophy argues that, although ancient Greek thought was indisputably a rich source of philosophical inspiration for late modern thinkers, it came ironically to exercise its own kind of tyranny over an era preoccupied with the nature and conditions of human freedom. In The Journal of Value Inquiry (2015), Dr. Berry argues for a negative answer to the question, “Is Nietzsche a Virtue Theorist?” In the spring, she reviewed books for The Journal of the History of Philosophy, Mind and, with Jennifer Daigle (GSU MA ’15), Notre Dame Philosophical Review. This summer, she began an exciting initiative with Brian Leiter (Chicago) to launch a new International Society for Nietzsche Studies (www.internationalneitzsche.org). They are joined on the Executive Committee by Maudemarie Clark (UC–Riverside), Ken Gemes (University of London), Peter Kail (Oxford) and Mattia Riccardi (Universität Bonn Internationales Zentrum für Philosophie) and will host an inaugural workshop in 2016 in Bonn, Germany.

George Graham has been engaged with two book projects, each with funded research support from The Templeton Foundation. The first, just finished, is a book on religious/spiritual delusion and entitled The Abraham Dilemma: A Divine Delusion (Oxford University Press 2015). This is the first book ever written by a philosopher on that topic. The second is entitled Gods in Disorder: The Promise of Abnormal Religious Cognition for the Science of Religious Cognition, co-authored with Emory’s Robert McCauley. Dr. Graham will be giving a public lecture on some topics in both books at Emory University’s Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture on November 19th. Dr. Graham is also working on a number of papers on mental health and illness, including “Truth and Sanity”, which is being written with Duke’s Owen Flanagan. It will appear in an MIT Press collection on current crises in psychiatry. During the summer Dr. Graham attended conferences at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and at Fordham University in New York City.

Eddy Nahmias had an article published in the January edition of Scientific American, “Why We Have Free Will.” His paper with former MA students Jason Shepard (now at Emory’s PhD program in Psychology) and Shane Reuter (now at the PNP program at Washington University at St. Louis), “It’s OK if My Brain Made Me Do It: People’s Intuitions about Free Will and Neuroscientific Prediction,” was published in Cognition. Dr. Nahmias gave talks at the School for Mind and Brain in Berlin, at a meeting of the Moral Psychology Research Group at the University of Michigan, and the Center for Freedom at University of Arizona, and at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology meeting at Duke University.

Tim O’Keefe’s paper “The Sources and Scope of Cyrenaic Scepticism,” was published in From the Socratics to the Socratic Schools (Routledge). His paper “The Epicureans on Happiness, Wealth, and the Deviant Draft of Property Management” is forthcoming later this year in Economics and the Virtues, (Oxford University Press). He also published the entry on “Epicurus” for Oxford Bibliographies.

Andrea Scarantino has several recent publications including “Voodoo Dolls and Angry Lion: How Emotions Explain Arational Actions,” co-authored with Michael Nielsen in Philosophical Studies and “Information as a Probabilistic Difference Maker,” in Australian Journal of Philosophy. Dr. Scarantino also has two forthcoming publications, “The Philosophy of Emotions and Its Impact on Affective Science,” and “Computation and Information,” co-authored with Gualtiero Piccinini, in The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Information. Dr. Scarantino presented
“Emotions as Motivational Programs with Coordinative and Communicative Functions,” at the University of Osnabrueck, Germany; “How Non-Linguistic Signals Functionally Refer,” at the University of Basel, Switzerland; “Emotional Actions: A Taxonomy,” at the University of Tübingen, Germany; “The Communicative Dimension of Emotions,” at the University of Osnabrueck, Germany; “How Non-Linguistic Signals Functionally Refer,” at the University of Basel, Switzerland; “Emotional Actions: A Taxonomy,” at the University of Tübingen, Germany; “The Communicative Dimension of Emotions,” at the Swiss Center for Affective Sciences in Geneva, Switzerland; “Emotions and Arational Actions,” at the Berlin Center for Mind and Brain in Berlin, Germany; “Probabilistic Information: A Brief History and a New Theory,” at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel; and “The New Basic Emotion Theory: Ekman Meet Frijda,” at the University of Geneva in Geneva, Switzerland.

Eric Wilson published two articles in 2015: “Self-Legislation and Self-Command in Kant’s Ethics” (Pacific Philosophical Quarterly) and “Kant and the Selfish Hypothesis” (Social Theory & Practice). His article “Habitual Desire” was accepted for publication in Kantian Review. Dr. Wilson received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor this past summer.

Nicole Vincent spent the summer working in Australia, Canada, and The Netherlands. In Australia, she worked with Emma A. Jane from the University of New South Wales in Sydney on a book entitled Outsmarted: Cognitive Enhancement and the Unexpected Consequences of Emerging Technologies. Dr. Vincent was recently awarded a grant to work on this book by the Enhancing Life Project, a Templeton Foundation initiative. In another ongoing project, Dr. Vincent also continued working with Jeanette Kennett from Macquarie University in Sydney on design and implementation of the Australian Neurolaw Database, a project originally piloted in 2011 before Dr. Vincent came to GSU. This project is unique in three ways. One, it is the first and only project to take stock of how neuroscientific and behavioral genetics evidence is being used in the Australian legal context. Two, the project is being implemented as an open platform, meaning that when the database is launched in December 2015, not only will everyone from around the world have access to search its contents for free, but it will also provide other groups around the world with a free platform into which cases from their local jurisdictions and related analyses can be entered. Three, the platform under development has purposefully been designed also as a teaching tool in which undergraduate and graduate students can engage in cutting-edge research and thus contribute to the ongoing international neurolaw databasing effort that aims to better understand the promises and challenges to the law presented by the new mind sciences. Finally, Dr. Vincent also delivered a series of public lectures about neuroethics at the St. James Center for Ethics, presented talks at a number of national conferences about neurolaw, and made multiple appearances on Australian national television and radio where Dr. Vincent talked about neurolaw, cognitive enhancement, and heartbreak, and took part in filming a new documentary about cognitive enhancement being produced with funding from CBC (Canada) and SBS (Australia). Links to some of these media appearances can be found on her home page at: http://nicolevincent.net/media.In the remaining weeks of the summer Dr. Vincent participated in a five day workshop in Banff, Canada, as part of the Enhancing Life Project that is funding work on her book Outsmarted, and in Delft, The Netherlands, where she delivered a keynote about the approach taken in her book at a conference on the topic of experimenting with new technologies in society.

Neil Van Leeuwen is currently in Antwerp on his Marie Curie fellowship, working on papers on imagination and a book on religious credence. He recently published a popular piece on the liberal/conservative debate over transgenderism with GSU graduate students Andrew Vierra and Jared Riggs. The piece appeared in The Conversation and was reposted in the online edition of The Washington Post.


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To join, send an email to:
listserv@listserv.gsu.edu

In the body of the message, include only two words:
subscribe philfriends
The Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics had a great year and another one is just getting started. The Center sponsored another Ethics Bowl team, which attended the regional ethics bowl in Clearwater, Florida last Fall and showcased some of our best undergraduates. The Center is preparing another team this Fall, led by Coach Andrew I. Cohen and Assistant Coach Suzanne Neefus. In the Spring of 2015, with the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, the JBB Center cosponsored a symposium on housing and homelessness. Featuring distinguished panelists Protip Biswas (from the Atlanta United Way), David Jackson (from the Atlanta Federal Reserve), Naomi Zack (philosophy, University of Oregon), and local scholarly respondents, the session fostered conversation about housing policy challenges in the 21st century. In the summer of 2015, The JBB Center held a research workshop to discuss Oregon State University political theorist Andrew Valls’s work on racial justice. Guest discussants included Bill Lawson (Memphis) and Charles Mills (Northwestern). The Center also cosponsored with University College Dublin a major international research conference in Dublin, Ireland. Keynote speakers Simon Caney (Oxford) and Philip Pettit (Princeton; Australian National University) headlined a conference on “Collective Responsibility for the Future.” The conference drew together prominent political philosophers and theorists from many countries on four continents to present and discuss cutting-edge research. The JBB Center is now exploring opportunities for our next cosponsored international conference in two years. In 2015-16, The Center will cosponsor its annual Ethics-in-Film movie series and arrange for one or two colloquia speakers. JBB Center affiliates are also excited about the upcoming research conference to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the publication of John Rawls’s Political Liberalism. Arranged in conjunction with the editors of Ethics for May 2016, this conference will feature some of the world’s leading theorists to consider the enduring significance of Rawls’s work. Guest participants to include Amy Baehr ( Hofstra), Rainer Forst (Goethe University Frankfurt), Gerald Gaus (Arizona), Erin Kelly (Tufts), Henry Richardson (Georgetown), Sally Scholz (Villanova), John Skorupski (St. Andrews), Mark van Roojen (Nebraska), and Paul Weithman (Notre Dame).

-Dr. Andrew I. Cohen
Associate Professor, Philosophy
Director, Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics
AWARD WINNING FACULTY

Andy Altman won the 2015 GSU Alumni Distinguished Professor Award. This honor is awarded to a senior-level Georgia State faculty member who successfully balances the role of teacher and scholar.

Sandy Dwyer was the recipient of the 2015 GSU Instructional Effectiveness Award. This award recognizes a faculty member whose innovative and outstanding instructional approach directly contributes to effective learning. She also won a Digital Champions Grant to support her work on flipping PHIL 1010 (Critical Thinking). A flipped course reverses the lecture/homework paradigm. This approach supports instructors’ important role of guiding their students to deeper thinking and application of the material.

TENURE AND PROMOTION

On July 1, Eric Wilson was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

On July 1, Greg Moore was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

Follow us on Facebook: Philosophy at Georgia State University

FACULTY BOOKSHELF - NEW RELEASE

Available November 1, 2015

Expand your career options

LAWYER
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
CEO
TECHNOLOGY
HEDGE FUND MANAGER
PROFESSOR
BUSINESS
SCIENTIST

MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY
# Calendar of Events

## Fall 2015

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<th>September</th>
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<td>Tim Kuhner (GSU Law)</td>
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<td>Joshua Knobe (Yale University)</td>
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<td>Tania Lombrozo (University of California, Berkley)</td>
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MAJORS

Citaly Barron
Wangu Bowman
Crimson Cloud
Alex Davis
Jonathan Hurd
Spencer Kinsey*
Caitlyn McCord*
Brandin Travis
Sarah Voght
Dynisha Ward
Nathan Ward
Kyle Williams

MA RECIPIENTS

Matthew Andler
Joshua Bisig
Jennifer Daigle*
Christopher Dobbs
Benjamin Freed
Mark Gilbert
Jessica Green
Cameron Hamilton
Travis Holmes
Nathan Houck
Casey Landers
Daniel Mendez
Jon Ravenelle
Jacob Reisman
Jay Spitzley*
Gerald Taylor
Jon Thomas
Sean Wellock

* denotes graduate with distinction

2015 George W. Beiswanger Recipients

Majors Spencer Kinsey and Ayesha Kirk are the 2015 winners of the George W. Beiswanger Award. This award is given to an undergraduate major on the basis of overall academic excellence, including (but not limited to): program GPA, overall GPA, undergraduate research projects, BA thesis work, and participation in academically-oriented departmental activities. Dr. Beiswanger was a Profess of Philosophy from 1963 to 1970 here at Georgia State University.

2015 Robert F. Almeder Prize

Graduate student Jared Riggs and major Nathan Ward are the 2015 winners of the Robert F. Almeder Prize. This award is given to the student who writes the best paper at the annual Georgia State Philosophy Student Symposium. Dr. Almeder was a professor of Philosophy from 1972 to 2005.

Outstanding Graduate Student Awards

Matt Andler is the 2015 winner of the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award.

Dan Mendez is the 2015 winner of the Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award.
Hayden Bui (MA '10) has recently been hired as an attorney in the New York office of Kirkland and Ellis.

Daniel Burnston (MA '09) is now a tenure-track assistant professor at Tulane University. After his time at GSU, Dan earned his PhD at University of California, San Diego and was recently a research fellow at the Konrad Lorenz Institute in Vienna, Austria.

Patrick Cox (MA '12) presented his paper, “Themes from Smith and Rousseau,” at the joint meeting of the Rousseau Association and the International Adam Smith Society in Glasgow, Scotland in July 2015.

Candice Delmas (MA '06), former Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Clemson University, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Political Science at Northeastern University. She will also be the Associate Director of Northeastern's Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Program. In addition, she has welcomed twins Augustin and Marcel.

Nathan Houck (MA '15) is teaching at Villanova University beginning fall 2015.

JP Messina (MA '13) published his paper, “Situationism and the Neglect of Negative Moral Education,” in Ethical Theory and Moral Practice. He co-authored this paper with Chris Suprenant (University of New Orleans).

Carson Monetti (MA '14) opened an art supply store in an up-and-coming neighborhood in St. Louis.

Jon Ravenelle (MA '15) is a Program Analyst at the Georgia Senate Budget and Evaluation Office.
What is the Philosopher’s Guild?

We are Georgia State’s undergrad philosophy club. Membership is FREE and OPEN TO ALL MAJORS!

What does the Guild do?

We debate, discuss, watch movies and question the meaning of life. Oh, and we provide FREE PIZZA AND DRINKS!

Why should you join?

Philosophy generally teaches you how to slow down and think about what you’re thinking. To promote this, the Philosopher’s Guild helps you by allowing you to participate in discussions among your fellow peers. It is essentially a strengthening practice to sharpen your analytical and comprehension skills. With that said, having the Guild on your résumé (even if you don’t major or minor in philosophy) demonstrates an engagement with critical thinking and abstract reasoning—skills that are highly valued by many employers.

How can you get involved?

- Login to OrgSync, search ‘philosopher’ to find our page, and click the GREEN JOIN NOW button.
- Come to our meetings:
- Email us with questions: Sanam (President) - mchaudhary1@student.gsu.edu Barry - bswitay1@student.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.
In Memoriam . . .

The Department remembers Dr. Robert Arrington

Dr. Robert Arrington passed away on June 20, 2015. In 1966, Dr. Arrington became Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Georgia State College, which became Georgia State University in 1969. Progressing through the ranks to Professor of Philosophy at Georgia State, he became Chair of the Department of Philosophy in 1978. In 1967, he won the Griffith Award for best paper by a junior member at the annual conference of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Dr. Arrington also won an American Council of Learned Societies Research grant in 1974, which he used to study and do research at the University of Oxford, England. While at Oxford, he studied with Dr. P.M.S. Hacker, the preeminent international authority on the philosophy of Wittgenstein, and with H.L.A. Hart, the renowned legal scholar.

In 1980, Dr. Arrington was appointed Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In this capacity, he served as Dean of the Graduate School in the College of Arts and Sciences. He also served as Acting Dean of Arts and Sciences for a year and a half in 1990-92, after which he returned to the faculty as Chair of the Department of Philosophy. Upon his retirement in 2000, he was named Professor and Chair Emeritus of Philosophy.

After retirement, Dr. Arrington remained an active member of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology and the American Philosophical Association.

He is survived by his wife, Margarita, two daughters, Karen Evans of Southern California, and Lisa Arrington, of Atlanta. He was the proud grandfather of Chelsea Palmer, Ashley Edwards, and Lee Evans.

“Bob was a great friend to me and he was one of my most important mentors.”

-Dr. George Rainbolt
Chair and Professor of Philosophy

“Bob was the best Wittgenstein scholar in the Americas.”

-Dr. Grant Luckhardt
Former GSU Philosophy Professor
Interested in lending your support? You can!

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 conferences, 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 Connections, then Give to Philosophy.