

From the Chair

Issue 2 / Fall 2010



Welcome to the second edition of *Sophia*, a newsletter from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Memphis. A few months ago, I received an email message from a former undergraduate philosophy major. She has gone on to pursue a PhD in English and was writing to say that the training she received from our department, particularly her ability to read a text carefully and write about it in a clear and concise fashion, prepared her well for graduate study at a prestigious East Coast university. It was a wonderful email to receive. There is nothing more gratifying than to hear praise from former students. But she didn't tell me anything I didn't already know. We pride ourselves on providing students with a rigorous philosophical training that spans a variety of historical and methodological traditions. Our faculty are top-notch scholars, but just as important, they are exceptional teachers.

I am very pleased to announce that we will have yet another top-notch scholar and exceptional teacher join our ranks in the fall of 2011. Dr. Shaun Gallagher will join us as the Lillian and Morrie Moss Chair of Excellence in Philosophy. With research interests that include phenomenology, philosophy of mind, philosophical psychology, embodiment, intersubjectivity, hermeneutics, and the philosophy of time, Prof. Gallagher complements our continental and feminist philosophy strengths and at the same time contributes to various core issues in analytic philosophy. Our department has always been known for its philosophical pluralism. We now have a chair of excellence that embodies this pluralistic approach. You can read more about Prof. Gallagher below.

You will also be able to read about some of the marvelous things our faculty, students, and alumni have done this year. I am continually amazed by their professional achievements, and I know you will be too. We are very proud of our alums and department friends and would very much like to hear from you. I encourage you to share with us news about what you are doing now and let us know if you would like to be involved in supporting your Department of Philosophy.

Deb Tollefsen

New Chair of Excellence

Dr. Shaun Gallagher will be joining the Philosophy Department at the University of Memphis as the Lillian and Morrie Moss Chair of Excellence in Philosophy in the fall of 2011. After completing an MA in Philosophy at Villanova University, working with John Caputo and Thomas Busch, Gallagher completed his PhD at Bryn Mawr College, writing a dissertation on the phenomenology of temporality and embodiment under the supervision of George L. Kline and Spanish philosopher José Ferrator-Mora. Gallagher also studied at Louvain with Jacques Taminiaux, who acted as an external director on his dissertation. Gallagher also completed an MA in Economics at SUNY-Buffalo. He earned tenure at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, and then served as Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department (2003–08), and Director of the Cognitive Sciences Program at the University of Central Florida, where he has been part of the senior research faculty at the Institute of Simulation and Training as well. He holds a secondary appointment as Research Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science at the University of Hertfordshire (UK).



Prof. Gallagher has been an invited Visiting Scientist at the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge, UK (1994), Visiting Professor at the University of Copenhagen (2005, 2006, 2007), and most recently at the Centre de Recherche en Epistémologie Appliquée (CREA), Paris (2009–10), and at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon (2008, 2010). In 2007, he delivered the Rudolf Carnap Lectures at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, and in 2012 he will spend three months as Visiting Professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin. (continued on page 10)

Visiting Professors

Dr. Bryan Smyth joined us as Visiting Professor in the fall of 2008. Born and raised in Toronto, he received his BA and MA in philosophy from the University of Waterloo. A portion of his undergraduate studies were done at Karl-Franzens-Universität in Graz, Austria. He wrote his dissertation on Maurice Merleau-Ponty and received his PhD from McGill University (Montréal). Bryan also received a DEA (Diplôme d'études approfondies) in philosophy from the Université Paris 1. His general interest is in social and political philosophy—more specifically, in the relationships between selfhood, intersubjectivity, and world.



Prof. Smyth was awarded the SPEP 2010 Junior Scholar Award for a paper on Michel Foucault and Ludwig Binswanger. He has recent and forthcoming articles in *Chiasmi International*, *PhaenEx*, *Philosophy Today*, and *Continental Phi-*

losophy Review. He is currently working on themes in Merleau-Ponty's thought, a book on Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology of perception, and a translation of Merleau-Ponty's first lectures at the Collège de France.

Dr. László Tengelyi, Professor of Philosophy at the Bergische Universität in Wuppertal, Germany, joined us as Visiting Professor for the fall 2009 semester. He co-taught a seminar entitled "A Phenomenological Approach to Metaphysics" with Tom Nenon.

Not many grad students have a chance to take a class from a significant European scholar; it made me really thankful to be part of this program.

—Paul Hammond, PhD student

Dr. Alexander Schnell is Lecturer at the Université de Paris-Sorbonne and coordinator of the Erasmus Mundus Euro-Philosophie Program. He visited us in the spring of 2010 as part of Erasmus Mundus. He co-taught a seminar entitled "Constructive Phenomenology" with Tom Nenon.

Wiley-Blackwell Publishes the *SJP*

After nearly a half-century of self-publication and eighteen months of preparation, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* has gone pro. As of the March 2010 issue, the *SJP* now appears under the imprint of its new publisher, Wiley-Blackwell.

Through increased exposure and assorted logistical and cosmetic updates, the partnership with Wiley-Blackwell broadens the appeal and deepens the impact of the work published in the *SJP*. Already, the journal cover has been given a fresh look, there is a new homepage, and authors and reviewers now submit their manuscripts and reports electronically via the ScholarOne Manuscript System. The journal's back catalogue is already online and access to *SJP* content is freely available to all University of Memphis faculty, staff, and students.



The *SJP* remains steadfast in its belief that the arc of philosophical progress bends toward pluralism. This commitment to first-class work undertaken from a diversity of perspectives and methodologies is evident in the composition of our newly established Editorial Board, whose membership reflects a roughly equal distribution of leading analytic philosophers, continental philosophers, and historians of philosophy. A representative sample of the work of this distinguished group is on display in our special March 2010 issue.

Thanks are due to the journal's editorial assistant, Linda Sadler, our new colleagues at Wiley-Blackwell, and the faculty and staff of the Department of Philosophy for making all of this possible. Special thanks are due to Nancy Simco, whose brief history of the *SJP* kicks off the March issue. For over three decades, Nancy served as Editor of this journal and as a strong advocate for philosophy journals in general. Join us in celebrating Nancy's contributions to the profession by making a donation to the lecture series named in her honor.

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Prof. Miller, What A Year!

Congratulations to Prof. Sarah Clark Miller for an extraordinary year. This fall she was granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, an accomplishment that reflects her research and teaching success.

Prof. Miller received several awards during this academic year. She was honored as the first recipient of the March of Dimes' newly established "Young Scholar Award in Perinatal Bioethics." The award was presented at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities' annual meeting in October 2009. She also received the Early Career Research Award from the University of Memphis.

She was awarded the 2009-10 "See Me" Award—the Student Disability Services' Outstanding Faculty Award that honors a University of Memphis faculty member who has



Sarah Clark Miller and nominee Kristy Millican at the Awards Ceremony.

been nominated by a student with a disability. The award is titled the "See Me" Award because many people are uncomfortable discussing issues of disability.

Dr. Miller deserves this honor because of her ongoing effort to ensure that every student succeeds in her course and is on an equal playing field.

—Kristy Millican

The student nominee submits an essay that details ways that the faculty member has shown an understanding of disability and a willingness to learn about disability, gives examples of how the faculty member demonstrates a willingness to assist the student as a learner, and explains how the faculty member shows respect in 'seeing' the student and his or her abilities while acknowledging issues of disability.

Kristy Millican wrote of Prof. Miller in her nomination that "Dr. Miller realizes that each student has a different learning style, and while accommodating these learning styles, she is able to provide many real life examples to reinforce the material."

Spindel Conference

The 29th Spindel Conference on "Empathy & Ethics" took place October 7–9, 2010. Prof. Remy Debes served as the conference director, leading the way to an exciting and successful engagement with this timely topic.

The "Empathy and Ethics" conference featured three keynote speakers: Stephen Darwall (Yale), John Deigh (UT Austin), and Peter Goldie (U. Manchester). Also on the program were papers delivered by David Shoemaker (Tulane), Amy Coplan (Cal State Fullerton), Michael Slote (U. Miami), Karsten Stueber (Holy Cross), and Jesse Prinz (CUNY).

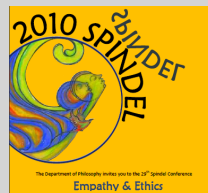


Stephan Darwall, Remy Debes, and Dr. Shirley Raines, President of the University.

For the first time, the Spindel Conference also featured an Emerging Scholar Prize Essay, which drew essays from a number of rising scholars. The five finalists were Mavis Biss, Scott O'Leary, Timothy Oakberg, Julinna Oxley, and Tina Rulli. The winning essay by Josh May (UC Santa Barbara) was featured in a special breakfast session on Friday morning; it will be published along

with the conference proceedings in the supplement to *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*. The runner-up in the essay competition, Mavis Biss (U. Wisconsin-Madison), chaired the breakfast session. The remaining participants prepared poster presentations that were featured throughout the conference weekend.

The 2011 Spindel Conference will be directed by Prof. Kas Saghafi on the topic "Derrida's 'Death Penalty' Seminars: Between Philosophy and Literature." The opening keynote address will be delivered by Peggy Kamuf (U. South Carolina) on September 29, 2011, and the closing keynote will be delivered by Geoffrey Benington (Emory) on October 1, 2011. Other confirmed speakers include Michael Naas (DePaul) and David Wills (SUNY, Albany).



Murray Spindel was a great friend to the Philosophy Department. In 1981, Murray established the Spindel Endowment Fund to sponsor annual conferences on varying topics, enabling interaction with top scholars in philosophy.

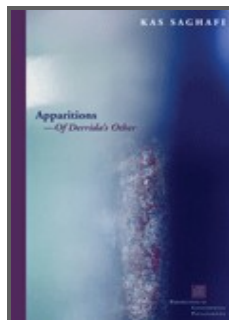
Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Kas Saghafi was born in Iran and undertook his formative studies in England; he earned his PhD from DePaul University in 2002. Saghafi was awarded a Chateaubriand Dissertation Grant from the French government. After holding an Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Grinnell College and teaching at Villanova University, he joined the Department of Philosophy at Memphis in 2006.

He researches in contemporary continental philosophy, philosophy of literature, and aesthetics. He has published articles on contemporary French philosophy in *Research in Phenomenology*, *Bulletin de la Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française*, *Philosophy Today*, and *Mosaic*. He coedited a memorial issue of *Epoché* devoted to Jacques Derrida in 2006. Saghafi, cotranslator of Derrida's "A Europe of Hope" and "Aletheia," is a regular participant in the annual "Derrida Seminars Translation Project" workshops and is the Book Review Editor for *The Oxford Literary*

Review. He has presented his research in Australia, Canada, England, France, Italy, and in the United States.

His recent book, *Apparitions—Of Derrida's Other* (Fordham University Press, 2010), addresses why and how Derrida writes about "the other." *Apparitions* examines exemplary instances of the relation to the other—the relation of Moses to God, Derrida's friendship with fellow philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy, etc.—in order to demonstrate how Derrida forces us to reconceive who or what the other may be. Saghafi shows that the singularity of the other includes not only a formal or logical sense of alterity and the otherness of the human other, but also encompasses the otherness of the nonhuman and the nonliving—the no longer living and the not yet alive. Addressing Derrida's interpretations of Husserl, Levinas, Barthes, Blanchot, and Nancy, among other thinkers, and ranging across a number of disciplines, including art, literature, philosophy, and religion, the book explores the "apparitions" of the other by attending to its mode of appearing or its phenomenality.



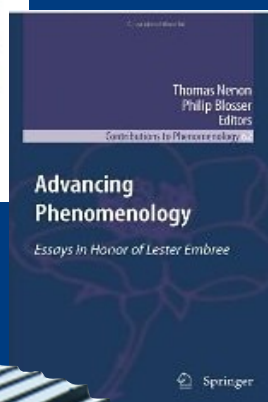
Faculty Research

It has been a very busy and productive year for our faculty. Here is just a sampling of this year's scholarly activities. **Dr. Mary Beth Mader's** book *Sleights of Reason: Norm, Bisexuality, Development* will be published by SUNY Press in 2011. **Dr. Sarah Clark Miller's** manuscript *Reason the Need* has been accepted for publication by Routledge Press. The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics will be hosting an "Author Meets Critic Session" on Prof. Miller's book at their annual meeting in March 2011.



Dr. Bill Lawson presented his "Self-Deceived Hope or Despair: King and Bell on the Ending of Racism" at the American Philosophical Association Pacific meeting in April 2009. **Dr. Hoke Robinson** will contribute his article, "Schematism" in *Themes in Ancient and Modern Philosophy*, edited by Jill Graper Hernandez (PhD, University of Memphis, 2006). **Dr. Timothy Roche** has contributed an article in the *Cambridge Companion to Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*. **Dr. Remy Debes** has an article, "Moral Rationalism and Moral Realism," that will appear in the *Routledge Guide to 18th Century Philosophy*. **Dr. Stephan Blatti** is coediting, with Paul Snowden (University College London), a volume en-

titled *Essays on Animalism: Persons, Animals, and Identity* to be published by Oxford University Press. **Dr. Kelly Arenson's** paper, "Natural and Neutral States in Plato's *Philebus*," is forthcoming in *Apeiron*. **Dr. Tom Nenon** edited two volumes this year: *Advancing Phenomenology: Essays in Honor of Lester Embree* (Springer Publishing) and *Kant, Kantianism, and Idealism: The Origins of Continental Philosophy*, volume 1 of the series, *History of Continental Philosophy* (Acumen Press).



Dr. Deborah Tollefsen and co-author Sondra Bacharach (Victoria University, Wellington, NZ) published "We Did It: From Mere Contributors to Co-Author" in the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*. **Dr. John Tienson** contributed an article to the *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychology*. **Dr. Gene James** published a review of John Bowker's *Conflict and Reconciliation: The Contribution of Religions*.

Dr. Pleshette DeArmitt has been awarded an American Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship for 2010–11 from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). **Dr. Kas Saghafi** contributed "A Singular Poetic Accompaniment: Saluting Michel Deguy" in *Glossing is Glorious: The Philosophy, Ethics, and Poetics of Commentary* (forthcoming from Notre Dame University Press).



Erasmus Mundus

Now in its third year, the University of Memphis is among the consortium of seven European universities, as well as universities in Japan and Brazil, that are part of the highly competitive EuroPhilosophie Erasmus Mundus Program. The program consists of studies in classical German philosophy, contemporary French philosophy, and German and French phenomenology. In the first two years, we hosted six international students. For the 2010–11 academic year, **Oriane Pettini** (France), **Barbara Brzezicka** (Poland), and **Oliver Motz** (Germany) are our visiting students.

In addition to our department being enriched by the students who spend time with us, our students have the opportunity to travel abroad as part of the program. Graduate student **Kristin Gissberg** spent her first year of the MA program studying at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and the Université de Toulouse, France. Her classes focused primarily on phenomenology and were all conducted in German and French. In April, all of the Erasmus Mundus students gathered in Paris for a week-long stage at the École Normale Supérieure, where they attended lectures on social and political philosophy and phenomenology. Kristin finished the spring semester by giving her

first philosophical exposé in French, entitled “Repenser le temps et la temporalité—La possibilité de mille petits temps? De Deleuze à Hegel.” She will complete her final year of the program in Munich.

Nicolás Garrera Ritvo started his two-year fellowship in the program by studying and conducting research at L’Université Toulouse II-Le Mirail, the Université Catholique du Louvain, and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. Before leaving for Europe in August, he defended his PhD dissertation project, provisionally entitled “Freedom, Dignity, and Responsibility: A Phenomenological Study of the Genealogy of Fundamental Moral Concepts,” under the supervision of Prof. Tom Nenon and Visiting Professor László Tengelyi.

The Erasmus Mundus Program also extends to faculty, both to bring visiting faculty to the University of Memphis and to allow some of our faculty to visit universities abroad. **Prof. Tom Nenon** served as Visiting Professor at Bergische Universität Wuppertal during their 2010 summer semester. He delivered a talk, “The Two-Fold Determination of Temporality in Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason,” at a conference on “Kant’s Distinction between Sense and Understanding” at the Charles University in Prague; delivered a keynote address, “Embodiment, Relativity, and Intersubjectivity in Husserl’s Life-World Manuscripts,” at a conference on “Embodied Subjectivity” at the University College in Dublin; delivered a lecture, “Reason and Feeling in Husserl’s Lectures on Ethics (1920/24),” at the University of Freiburg; and presented a paper, “Realities and Relativities in the Life-World,” in Wuppertal. **Prof. Mary Beth Mader** will be guest professor at the Université de Toulouse in the spring of 2011.

Graduate Program

The graduate program remains consistently strong under the leadership of **Prof. Tim Roche** as Graduate Coordinator and **Prof. Mary Beth Mader** as Admissions Director. Graduate student representatives for the 2010–11 academic year are **Paul Hammond** (PhD) and **John Torrey** (MA).

The sixth annual **Philosophy Graduate Student Conference** was held February 12–13, 2010, with the theme “Contemporary Philosophers Reading the Moderns.” The keynote address, “On the Nature of Concepts,” was given by Daniel Smith of Purdue. Speakers included Taylor Hammer (SUNY, Stony Brook), Matthew Daley (Boston College), and Paul Morrow (Vanderbilt). The organizers of the conference were Nicolás Garrera Ritvo, Arsalan Memon, and Maia Nahele Huff-Owen.

The **2011 conference** (February 11–12) will be on “The Social Ontology of Race in the ‘Post-Racial’ Era.” The keynote address will be delivered by Jennifer Lisa Vest (Central Florida). The conference will explore the social ontology of race from both the analytic and continental perspectives. Interdisciplinary by nature, discussion surrounding the social ontology of race has reverberations in multiple companion disciplines, such as ethnic studies, political theory, law, history, feminist

theory, queer theory, gender studies, sociology, anthropology, and more. Organizers for 2011 are **Tina Botts**, **John Torrey**, **Alice Everly**, and **Desiree Ramacus-Bushnell**.

Despite an extremely difficult job market, we continue to place students in post-doctoral and tenure-track positions. **Çiğdem Yazici**, defended her dissertation in August of 2010 and is now Assistant Professor at Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey. **Janae Sholtz** (PhD, 2009) has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Alvernia University in Pennsylvania. **Bryan Bannon** (PhD, 2008) was awarded a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Wesleyan University. **Erinn Gilson** (PhD, 2007) accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the University of North Florida. **Anika Mann** (PhD, 2004) has received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Morgan State University.

The 2009–10 Philosophy Department Service Award was awarded to **Heidi Samuelson** for her superior commitment to supporting departmental activities.



Alumni Spotlight



Joshua Glasgow received his PhD in Philosophy in 2001. After finishing his dissertation on Kantian ethics with funding from the Spindel Dissertation Fellowship, Josh returned to his original stomping grounds on the West Coast as Lecturer at California State University, Bakersfield.

In 2004, he took a one-year position as Visiting Assistant Professor at Occidental College. In 2005, he moved much further west, accepting a tenure-track position as Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Josh received tenure and promotion to Senior Lecturer (the rough equivalent of Associate Professor in the United States) in 2007. Josh got married in 2008, and his wife lives in the United States. So, while still affiliated with VUW to this day, he began transitioning back to the United States. In 2008–

09, Josh was a Visiting Associate Professor at UC Berkeley; in 2009–10, he took a position as Lecturer at Sonoma State University.

Josh teaches and writes on moral and political philosophy, with an emphasis on Kantian ethics and race. His work crosses into experimental philosophy, analytic metaphysics, and philosophy of language, as well as biology and psychology. He has published in *Ethics*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Studies*, and *Journal of Political Philosophy*. He published his book *A Theory of Race* (Routledge) in 2009 and is currently pursuing projects in moral phenomenology, just war theory, and value theory. Josh is a founding coeditor of and contributor to the ethics blog, PEA Soup (<http://peasoup.typepad.com>), which is dedicated to philosophy, ethics, and academia.

Josh reflects fondly on his time at Memphis, noting in particular the vibrant social environment and lifelong friendships forged in the department, as well as the sizeable influence that the faculty had on his development as a professional philosopher.

Graduate Student Spotlight

Tim Golden is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Memphis. Tim graduated from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, where he was on the editorial board of the *Thurgood Marshall Law Review*. He comes to academics after a twelve-year career as a criminal defense lawyer in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Tim has been active in the Philosophy Graduate Student Association, served as a graduate student representative on the hiring committee for the Lillian and Morrie Moss Chair of Excellence in Philosophy, and has actively participated in the recruitment efforts of the department by hosting prospective graduate students in his home. Tim also helped plan a graduate student philosophy conference.

Tim is writing his dissertation entitled "Reason's Dilemma: A Study of Subjectivity and Transcendence." His dissertation is a study of the concept of subjectivity in the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, in nineteenth- and twentieth-century European philosophy, and in the philosophical, religious, and theological writings of Frederick Douglass.

This summer, Tim presented a paper at the International Kierkegaard Conference at Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. The paper, entitled "Subjectivity in Kierkegaard and Douglass," proposes a connection between Frederick Douglass and Søren Kierkegaard—a connection that, in his view, has yet to be made in

Douglass scholarship. Tim believes that this paper will foster new dialogue between the very different nineteenth-century worlds of an escaped slave turned philosopher, theologian, masterful rhetorician, and statesman and the Danish philosopher and theologian.

For the past two summers, Tim has been a research fellow at the Howard V. and Edna H. Hong Kierkegaard Library at Saint Olaf College, studying under the direction of noted Kierkegaard scholar Gordon D. Marino, who is an external reader for his dissertation.

Upon graduation, Tim hopes to secure a tenure-track position at a university, researching and teaching in philosophy. After earning tenure, Tim wants to continue his academic work in philosophy, but he also intends to return to the legal profession to practice law and would like to serve as a state Supreme Court Justice.



Department Staff

Behind every great department is an excellent support staff. Ours is no exception to that rule.

The main office is staffed by **Cathy Wilhelm** who is our department secretary and the first point of contact for faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. She is always willing to lend a hand. If she can't find the answer to your question, she will find someone who can!



Connie Diffie is our Administrative Associate. Among other things, she assists the Chair in managing the department budget, processing reimbursements, and overseeing the faculty, graduate student, and adjunct contracts. In addition to all of the various day-to-day tasks that Connie and Cathy performed this year, they were also instrumental in remodeling the Philosophy Reading Room, moving various faculty into more suitable spaces, and providing food for

various departmental gatherings. They are outstanding team players and we are very grateful to have them! The University has recently acknowledged our office staff by awarding **Connie Diffie** the Dean's Award for Outstanding Administrative Professional Employee (2009) and **Cathy Wilhelm** the Dean's Award for Outstanding Full-Time Clerical Employee (2010). These awards are given in recognition of exceptional performance and a willingness to go beyond the call of duty.

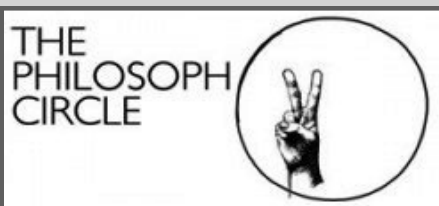
The department has undergone significant changes over the past 15 years but **Linda Sadler** has remained a constant presence. She began working in the office in 1995 and became editorial assistant for *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* in 1998. Her excellent editing skills guarantee that each volume is something for which the department can be proud.



She has been working very hard with Dr. Blatti to transition the *SJP* to Wiley-Blackwell. With her attention to detail and Dr. Blatti's leadership, the journal will surely flourish. Linda also helped write and edit the department newsletter this year and is helping to design, write, and edit various promotional materials for the department. Her talents in design, format, and editing are real assets. We are lucky to have Linda with us and we hope she stays for another 20 years!

Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate program had a successful year led by **Prof. Remy Debes** as Director of Undergraduate Advising, **Prof. Kelly Arenson** as Advisor to the Philosophy Circle, and **Mollie Owens** as president of the Philosophy Circle. **The Philosophy Circle**, a registered student organization for undergraduates with an interest in philosophy, meets regularly throughout the year to present guest speakers, host discussions, and organize reading groups.



The **MidSouth Undergraduate Philosophy Conference** runs concurrently with the annual MidSouth Philosophy Conference. The 34th Undergraduate Conference was held March 5–6, 2010. The keynote address was given by Alastair Norcross of the University of Colorado. In 2011, John Bickle of Mississippi State University will deliver the keynote address at the meeting held March 4–5.



Discover Your Major Day 2010
Second place!

The undergraduate program continues to grow. The number of philosophy majors now approaches 90 students—one of the highest numbers of majors the department has ever had.

During the 2009–10 school year, **Mollie E. Owens** was recognized for her outstanding academic accomplishments. She received the Carroll R. Bowman Scholarship, which is awarded based on academic potential. Mollie also received the 2009–10 Outstanding Student in Philosophy award, which is granted to a graduating senior in philosophy for academic achievement and departmental service.

Undergraduate Spotlight

Anne Marie Pence, a senior philosophy major, came to the University of Memphis from Atlanta. Having already explored six majors, none of which seemed to fit, Anne Marie just wanted to finish college. So she enrolled as a general studies major in 2008 and took an introductory philosophy course taught by Dr. Remy Debes just to see what it was about.

Since enrolling in Philosophy my life has done a complete 180. I had always felt like a spectator in my own life, but philosophy has given me some-thing to focus on; it lit a fire under my

—Ann Marie Pence

She fell in love with philosophy within the first ten minutes of class; afterward she immediately switched her major. She became active with the Philosophy Circle and took the position of Secretary of Events, assisting in organizing the 2010

Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. Anne Marie was elected president of the Philosophy Circle for 2010–11 and will be responsible for organizing the Undergraduate Conference in 2011.



She was inducted into the Pinnacle Honor Society in the spring of 2010 and was awarded the Craig R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship for Philosophy for 2010–11. She has decided to follow in her mother's footsteps and will attend law school after graduation. She is interested in international criminal and business law. "I love ancient philosophy and existentialism. However I have always been incredibly interested in gender roles: how they came about and why they persist. So I am fond of the French feminist philosophers, especially Luce Irigaray and Simone de Beauvoir." After trying her hand at law for some years, Anne Marie plans to retire as a pastry chef.

Ida B. Wells Conference

The 2010 Ida B. Wells Philosophical Conference, organized by the Ida B. Wells Association of the University of Memphis, was held in October. Now in its fourth year, the conference serves as a platform for undergraduate and graduate scholars to present philosophical work reflecting the African American experience.

This year's keynote speaker was **Dr. Kathryn Gines** from Pennsylvania State University, who is a graduate of the University of Memphis Philosophy Department. On Friday evening, October 29, she presented her paper, "Lessons from Jean-Paul Sartre: Decolonizing the Philosophy Canon." Following the opening session, participants enjoyed a conference dinner in the home of Cathy Wilhelm, secretary in the Department of Philosophy.

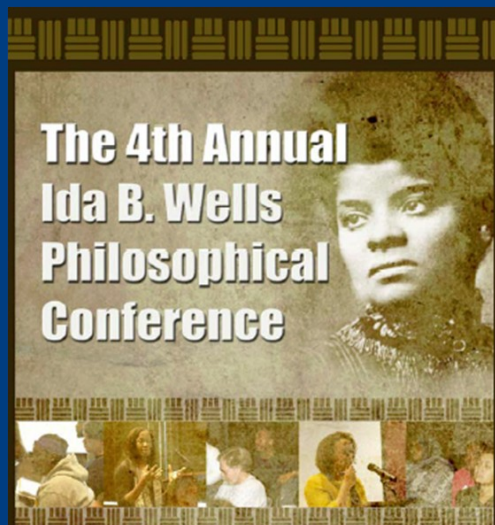
John Torrey, a second-year MA student at the University of Memphis, started the Saturday morning sessions with his paper, "Some Ethical and Meta-Ethical Considerations of Supporting the NAACP." **Anne Marie Pence**, a senior philosophy major and president of the Philosophy Circle, presented her paper, "(Not Quite) All in the Fam-

ily: The Paradox of American National Identity." **Benjamin Solis**, a senior at Clark Atlanta University, presented his paper "Solidarity and Feminist Epistemology." On Saturday afternoon, **Tyricka Simpson**, from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, presented her paper, "Visible Identities," followed by a presentation by **Anthony Kelley**, a second-year MA student at Northern Illinois University, "Breaking the Silence: Malcolm X, Masculinity, and Transformation in Context."

The closing keynote address was delivered by **Quayshawn Spencer** from the University of San Francisco. His concluding paper, "Why There's No Space for Race in Phylogenetics," reflects his research interests in both philosophy and biology.

The Department of Philosophy was awarded a \$7,000 grant from the American Philosophical Association to help with conference expenses. With expanded marketing efforts and the growing prominence of the conference, the 2010 conference

had a record number of submissions and conference attendees.



Undergraduate Alumni Spotlight

Kyle Carlson completed a BA in economics and philosophy in 2006. After graduation, he continued taking additional coursework in mathematics and worked as a research assistant in the economics department. Since 2008 he has been a research assistant in the Center for Behavioral Economics at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

An understanding of philosophy greatly benefits any other area of interest.

—Kyle Carlson

During 2009, Kyle spent five months in Switzerland conducting experimental research on the relationship between intelligence and attitudes toward risk and time. This fall he will begin the PhD program in Behavioral and Social Neuroscience at the California Institute of Technology. These studies will be funded by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Regarding the benefits of studying philosophy, Kyle commented: “My interests are in the physical and social sciences, which have their roots in philosophy. Authors in such fields, as well as others, frequently use a philosopher or philosophical concept as a point of departure or as a way of placing some idea in context. Knowledge of philosophers and their traditions allows one to take away more from such discussions.”



“In addition, the practice of philosophy typically involves rigorously addressing questions through the use of language, which complements those fields that rigorously address questions through the use of mathematics.”

Philosophical Horizons

The Philosophical Horizons initiative was launched in 2008 as an extension of our department's commitment to diversity, both within the department and within the profession of academic philosophy. The primary aim of Philosophical Horizons is to introduce the history and practice of philosophy to Memphis children, particularly those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged and to those schools that are least likely to have the resources to implement the Philosophy for Children program into their curriculum. Philosophical Horizons has grown to partner with six Memphis schools.

During 2009–10, graduate students **Çiğdem Yazici**, **Matt Lexow**, and **John Torrey** and undergraduate major **Alex Baack** led discussion groups with eighth graders at Hickory Ridge Middle School; **Dr. Deborah Tollefsen** and graduate student **Michael Burroughs** taught introductory philosophy courses to seniors and juniors at Booker T. Washington High School; graduate student **Alice Everly** led a discussion group with kindergartners at the University of Memphis Barbara K. Lipman Preschool; and Dr. Tollefsen developed a unit on Plato's *Apology* for fifth graders at the University of Memphis Campus School. During 2010–11, graduate students will work with students at Vance Middle School and Westside Middle School.



Students at Booker T.
Washington High
School

Our department also hosted a **Philosophy for Children Conference** featuring Gareth Matthews (emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst) as keynote speaker and presentations from Thomas Wartenberg (Mount Holyoke College), Rafael Rondon (PhD, University of Oklahoma), Jana Mohr Lone (University of Washington), David Kennedy (Montclair State University), and our own Michael Burroughs.

Philosophical Horizons has greatly benefitted from three grants: a Squire Family Foundation grant used to fund our conference on Philosophy for Children; an American Philosophical Association grant aimed at “benefitting the profession;” and a Tennessee Board of Regents Access and Diversity grant that provided the resources for a culminating experience for all of our young philosophers.

eCampus: Bringing Philosophy To You

Starting in the fall of 2010, the Department of Philosophy began offering undergraduate courses online, including Biomedical Ethics, Contemporary Moral Problems, and Elementary Logic. Transforming face-to-face courses to an online environment is very challenging but careful planning and use of technology has allowed the faculty to provide compelling and rigorous online course formats. Blogging and discussion forums are used to re-create the dialogue and discussion that is so central to philosophical training. Additional courses are currently under development.

Within the next five years, students will be able to earn a BA in Philosophy with a concentration in applied ethics—*completely online*. The focus of this degree will be on ethical theories and ethical problem solving in the context of a number of professional domains, including medicine, law, and business. The requirements for the online program mirror those of the traditional, on-campus program. Online upper division courses will include Business Ethics, Environmental Ethics, Philosophy of Law, and a variety of other practically orientated courses. It is especially well suited for students who already work in a professional field or are planning to do so.

Being able to complete the online degree opens up opportunities for students who are unable to come to one of the locations where the classes meet in person as well as furthering the department's aim of introducing philosophy to a broader audience. The BA program will be offered through the University of Memphis's "eCampus" program. Visit <http://www.memphis.edu/ecampus/index.php> for more information about enrollment, fees, and courses.

Our online degree program will be fully accredited and offer the flexibility to set your own pace and take courses that fit various work and family schedules, while providing an academically challenging program of study. Please contact Dr. Deborah Tollefsen (dtollfsn@memphis.edu) for more information.

Gallagher *(continued from page 1)*

Prof. Gallagher's research is focused at the interface between phenomenology, philosophy of mind, and the cognitive sciences, and most recently he has been writing on embodied cognition and intersubjectivity. He is currently working on two books: *Action and Interaction*, which sets out his views on intersubjective understanding and agency and explores their implications for critical theory; and *Phenomenology*, a pragmatic introduction to the phenomenological tradition (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2012).

His published books include *How the Body Shapes the Mind* (OUP, 2005), *Brainstorming* (Imprint Academic, 2008), and with Dan Zahavi, *The Phenomenological Mind* (Routledge, 2008). He is also the author of *The Inordinance of Time* (Northwestern 1998) and *Hermeneutics and Education* (SUNY 1992). He has edited or coedited a number of books, including, *Merleau-Ponty, Hermeneutics and Postmodernism* (1992), *Hegel, History and Interpretation* (1997), *Models of the Self* (1999), *Ipseity and Alterity: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Intersubjectivity* (2004), *Does Consciousness Cause Behavior? An Investigation of the Nature of Volition* (2006), and *Handbook of Phenomenology and Cognitive Science* (2010). He is currently edit-

ing the *Oxford Handbook of the Self* (to appear in 2011). Gallagher was one of the founding editors, and continues to serve as coeditor, of the journal *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*.

Several workshops and conferences have focused on Gallagher's work. Most recently, a workshop on "Agency in Thought and Action" at the Berlin School of Mind and Brain in 2009, and an upcoming conference on "The Socially Extended Mind" at the Free University of Berlin in March 2011.



Brainstorming with the Dalai Lama in 2008.

In 2009, Gallagher was one of nine scientists and scholars who presented their research to His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Mind and Life Institute's conference on "Attention, Memory and the Mind" in Dharamsala, India.

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Stephan Blatti, Assistant Professor & Editor of *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, metaphysics, philosophy of mind

Pleshette DeArmitt, Assistant Professor, feminist theory, psychoanalysis, contemporary continental philosophy

Remy Debes, Assistant Professor & Undergraduate Advisor, ethics, moral psychology, philosophy of emotion, Scottish Enlightenment, Hume, Adam Smith

Gene James, Professor, value theory, applied ethics, American philosophy, philosophy of religion

Bill Lawson, Distinguished Professor, African American philosophy, social and political philosophy

Mary Beth Mader, Associate Professor & Graduate Admissions Director, recent and contemporary continental philosophy, feminist philosophy, 20th-century French philosophy, ontology, continental philosophy and the life sciences

Sarah Clark Miller, Associate Professor & Graduate Placement Director, ethical theory, feminist philosophy, social and political philosophy, history of moral philosophy, applied ethics

Thomas Nenon, Professor & Vice Provost, Husserl, Heidegger, Kant and German idealism, hermeneutics, philosophy of the social sciences

Hoke Robinson, Professor, Kant, rationalism, history of modern philosophy

Timothy Roche, Associate Professor & Graduate Studies Coordinator, Greek philosophy, theoretical ethics, social and political philosophy

Kas Saghafi, Assistant Professor, contemporary continental philosophy, aesthetics, phenomenology

John Tienson, Professor, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, philosophy of language, British empiricists

Deborah Tollefsen, Associate Professor & Department Chair, philosophy of mind, epistemology, social ontology

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