

2012 Graduates

Philosophy Majors: **Philosophy Minors:**

Franklin Conde	Charlotte Donnelly
Daniel Fryland	Charlie Hartford
Scott Goodwin	Daniela Medrano
Erin Huntington	Jack Mintz
Andrew Lipian	Violet Peña
Carlos Lorant	Elizabeth Ross
Conrad Luecke	Benjamin Schild
Truc Linh Nguyen	Anrey Wang
Gavin Palmer	Emily Whitaker
Shahab Raza	Amy Wiltzius
Charles Roberts	Ian Wood
Kelly Savietta	Max Zahn
Jonathan Wauhkonen	Zoe Zetlin
John West	
Elizabeth Wong	

News from Alumni

Many thanks to those of you who “liked” our Facebook page. In the coming year, we hope to increase the regularity of our posts to reflect the energetic pace of life in our department. In the meantime, keep your own comments coming! (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oberlin-Philosophy-Department/116124061781395>).

If you’re not a Facebook fan but would like to share news, please email the newsletter editor: Katherine.Thomson-Jones@oberlin.edu.

Daniel Goode '57 writes: “This is NOT news, unless you need to scrape the bottom of the barrel: I have determined that deep in my basement in a Soho co-op is a musical score for a choral work I com-

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A Note from the Editor

by *Katherine Thomson-Jones*

After last year’s enthusiastic response to the first edition of the Oberlin Philosophy alumni newsletter, we are delighted to bring you the second edition, chock full of stories about departmental events, recognition of our wonderful graduating class, and news from all of you, our alumni, about life after Oberlin.

This past year, we offered a full menu of 14 philosophy courses, including three different introductory courses and core courses in logic, epistemology, metaphysics, the history of philosophy, and ethics. Both of the Thomson-Joneses introduced new courses: Kate, an aesthetics course on the digital arts, and Martin, a seminar on recent work on scientific realism. The other seminar for the year, Peter McNerney’s Cognitive Science of Rationality and Morality, reflects a growing departmental trend toward richly interdisciplinary study.

Managing the distribution and scheduling of our courses, along with other administrative aspects of departmental life, was our stalwart chair, Tim Hall. We greatly appreciate all of Tim’s hard work over the past three years and look forward to welcoming Dorit Ganson as our new chair in the fall. In other administrative news, the department is happy to announce the successful tenuring of Kate after a straightforward review process. With the added stability that comes from having us all tenured, the department looks forward to focusing on long-term curricular and outreach development.

The highlight of our year was the 40th Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy organized



A rapt audience at the 40th Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy.

by Todd Ganson with the help of our indomitable administrative assistant, Karen Barnes. Todd put together an outstanding program in the philosophy of mind; read on for a description of this exciting event. If we have not heard from you recently, please send us your news—whether by email, paper mail, or on Facebook, we’d love to hear from you. Have a wonderful year.

40th OBERLIN COLLOQUIUM IN PHILOSOPHY

by *Todd Ganson*

During the first weekend of May, the department hosted the 40th Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy. We had amazing weather for the event, and amazing attendance as well. It was the best attended Oberlin Colloquium in its long history, which extends back to 1960. No doubt the excellent attendance had something

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40TH OBERLIN COLLOQUIUM IN PHILOSOPHY, cont.

to do with the quality of the list of speakers, which included Alex Byrne, Peter Carruthers, Frances Egan, Michael Martin, Mohan Matthen, Christopher Peacocke, Susanna Schellenberg, Jeff Speaks, Michael Tye, and Wayne Wu. The distinguished list of attendees included Richard Boyd, Fred Dretske, Bill Lycan, and Lynne Baker. Emeritus Professors Dan Merrill and Al MacKay were also present. The papers presented were all on the broad topic of philosophy of mind. Among the subjects explored were self-consciousness, phenomenal consciousness, mental representation, attention, and perception. The papers for the conference will be collected and published in the journal *Philosophical Studies*. The event was organized by Todd Ganson with significant assistance from Karen Barnes.



Colloquium commentator Wayne Wu (Carnegie Mellon University)



Colloquium commentator Alex Byrne (MIT)



Colloquium speaker Michael Tye (University of Texas at Austin)



Colloquium speaker Susanna Schellenberg (Rutgers University)



Colloquium commentator Mohan Matthen (University of Toronto)

THANKS TO MIKE MARTIN FOR THE USE OF HIS PHOTOS FROM THE COLLOQUIUM.

FUTURE PLANS OF SOME OF OUR 2012 GRADUATES

Ben Bronner (who graduated in December 2011) will be living at home in Lake Oswego, Ore., before applying to philosophy graduate programs next winter.

Andrew Lipian, an Airman First Class in the United States Air National Guard, will take a year to work at the 179th airlift wing in Mansfield, Ohio, before applying to law school. He will also be singing in engagements both abroad and at home as a countertenor soloist. He hopes to keep up philosophy in his free time by rereading Sartre's *Being and Nothingness*.

Carlos Lorant's plans are fairly loose right now. He's moving to Boston and trying to get a job as a full-time philosopher at a local philosophy firm or startup. If that doesn't pan out, he will consider just about any gainful employ-

ment. Grad school might be an option down the road, but he doesn't want to take that step quite yet. He would like to do some traveling in the meantime, most likely to Latin America.

Conrad Luecke is attending the University of Michigan for an MS in physical oceanography.

Daniela Medrano will be doing a year of service with CityYear (under AmeriCorps) in Chicago.

Truc Linh Nguyen will be in Chicago studying for the LSAT and applying to law school in the fall.

Gavin Palmer is planning on working in electoral politics right after graduation and eventually going to law school.

Shahab Raza will be doing an MS in mathematics and foundations of computer science at Oxford University. He is also involved in a tech startup with a friend.

Liz Wong is taking a year off to travel and study for the LSAT. In June, she is competing for the title of Miss Connecticut as a preliminary to the Miss America competition.

This summer, **Anrey Wang** will participate in [IN]Arch, a six-week intensive architecture program at UC Berkeley. For the next year or two, he plans to work at an architectural firm as a junior designer before going to architecture school (in the San Francisco Bay Area). He will likely do some traveling as well.

FACULTY NEWS

Lately **Dorit Ganson** has been defending various epistemological stances against charges of probabilistic incoherence, and she continues to explore the role of the practical interests in epistemic evaluation. In the time since the last departmental newsletter came out, her essay “Epistemic and Pragmatic Principles for an Uncertain World” was published in the German journal *ProtoSociology*, and she served as a referee for *Philosophical Studies* and again for *Erkenntnis*. She is also pleased to report that she finally got a shorthaired exotic cat named Winston last spring. She has wanted one ever since her graduate student days, when she and her then-boyfriend Todd would pass by one staring out a window at them on their romantic late afternoon strolls through Ithaca.

Todd Ganson has wrapped up a very busy academic year. He completed a paper, co-authored by former Oberlin student Ben Bronner, titled “Visual Prominence and Representationalism.” The paper is forthcoming in *Philosophical Studies*. He made substantial revisions to a paper co-authored by Ben Bronner and another former Oberlin student, Alex Kerr. The paper is titled “Burge’s Defense of Perceptual Content,” and it is currently under review in its revised form at a top philosophy journal. He has just recently finished a new paper titled “Are Color Experiences Representational?” Todd also did a great deal of research-related travel this academic year thanks to an external grant: two trips to England in addition to trips to Vancouver, Seattle, and Chicago. Todd also organized this year’s Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy. The meeting was devoted to the topic of philosophy of mind. Teaching-wise Todd is turning more and more to foundational issues in cognitive science and the use of PowerPoint.

Tim Hall has been at work in his duties as chair, including organizing the department’s materials for Kate Thomson-Jones’ much-deserved, successful tenure case

this past academic year. Tim offered a first-year seminar; Philosophy 226: Social, Legal, and Political Philosophy; and two sections of Philosophy 121: Philosophy and Morality this year, too.

In addition, Tim has been at work on the distinction between doing and allowing, refereeing papers and a book manuscript, as well as continuing his own research in this area. Tim’s article, “Doing Harm, Allowing Harm, and Denying Resources,” was anthologized this year in *Ethics and Moral Philosophy (A Study in Moral Philosophy)*, edited by Thom Brooks.

Next year, Tim will offer a seminar in the Philosophy of Law for the first time. Some classical topics in the philosophy of law, including punishment and state paternalism, will share time with an extended unit on statutory and constitutional interpretation. The time is right for this material, it seems, in light of much-discussed or much-anticipated federal court rulings on affirmative action, the Affordable Health Care Act, and campaign finance. We shall see what Oberlin students make of it all, in any case.

Madeline, Tim’s African Grey Parrot companion, provides ongoing case studies in theories of moral personhood and otherwise flourishes.

Peter McInerney was on sabbatical leave for the fall semester. During the spring semester he taught two courses: Existentialism and the Cognitive Science of Rationality and Morality (an advanced seminar).

His research concerns the interaction of scientific claims (from psychology, behavioral economics, and neuroscience) about the workings of human psychological systems with philosophical and commonsense conceptions of these matters in ethics, practical reasoning, and philosophy of mind. He is particularly interested in the extent to which people can exercise conscious control over what happens in their own minds. He has written several articles concerning various ways in which reflective activity can

affect automatic, nonreflective mental happenings. Since some of his courses cover topics in these areas, there is a nice fit of research for publication purposes with research for teaching purposes.

Peter stopped flying small planes a number of years ago, but he still plays basketball and tennis. His wife and daughter are doing well.

This was a particularly exciting year for **Kate Thomson-Jones**, which culminated with her successful tenure case and the news of having been awarded a Fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to pursue her new book project on the philosophy of the digital arts. This means Kate will be on leave for the 2013 calendar year and, during that time, she hopes to visit the Humanities Collective at UC Irvine and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture at Concordia University.

Along with the preparations for her tenure review, Kate was busy with a new course last fall, The Philosophy of the Digital Arts, and two sections of her introductory course, The Nature of Value, in the spring. She spoke at two conferences: as part of a panel on digital art at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present in Pittsburgh, and as part of an author-meets-critics panel at the Eastern Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association. She was invited to speak to the Philosophy Club at Wooster College, for which she prepared a paper on the status of the moving image in digital cinema. She also made an appearance on Philosophy TV (www.philostv.com/), discussing cinematic narration with George Wilson. Finally, Kate had two articles come out this spring, one on cinematic narration in the *British Journal of Aesthetics*, and another on ethical art criticism in *Metaphilosophy*.

Although it sometimes feels as though Kate’s life is nothing but philosophy—what with Martin as her partner and an increasingly contemplative 3-year-old

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FACULTY NEWS, cont.

Orla—running, vegan cooking, and toddler-chasing continue to provide a welcome distraction.

This year **Martin Thomson-Jones** taught Deductive Logic, Metaphysics, and a new seminar titled Recent Work on Scientific Realism. A good time was had by all. On the research front, he has been working on a piece on fiction and fictionalism in the philosophy of science, commissioned

by the journal *Philosophy Compass*, and, in the meantime, nudging along various aspects of a book project on scientific representation. The high point of Martin's philosophical life this year, both literally and figuratively, was his trip to Bogotá for the Second Colombian Congress on Logic, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science. Martin suffered considerable altitude sickness, perhaps due to the heady intellectual heights the conference reached, but had a

wonderful time nonetheless. The paper he presented in Bogotá, "Modelling without Mathematics," will be published, later this year, in the proceedings of the last Philosophy of Science Association meetings.

If you'd like to know more about faculty research, please see the department website: <http://new.oberlin.edu/philosophy>.

PHILOSOPHERS GO TO THE CREATION MUSEUM *by Tim Hall*

In keeping with its commitment to open-mindedness, as well as its commitment to spurring philosophical discussion at any available opportunity, this last spring the Department of Philosophy sponsored a trip to the Creation Museum in Northern Kentucky. In mid-April, I, with a number of students—Rosemary Boeglin, Peter Meckel, Ari Benjamin, Caroline Mills, Esther Choi, Michael Murray, Emma Fox, and Chip Williams—took the trip across the Ohio River to see this remarkable museum. This institution is dedicated to the proposition that a literal biblical account of earth's origins is true. On land sprawling over many acres of scenic Kentucky countryside, and costing some tens of millions of dollars to build in 2007, the Creation Museum houses 70,000 square feet of old-time religion. (The department sponsored transportation and meals, but not admission tickets, it should be noted.)

True to its purposes in renouncing the scientific view of earth's origins, the museum features fossil displays describing dinosaurs and other extinct creatures as living no more than 6,500 years ago. Animatronic dioramas have small dinosaurs playing alongside human children. Movie-set quality tyrannosaurs eat fruit in a purely vegetarian garden of Eden. No effort is spared, in other words, to present the museum's uncompromising view.

In addition to taking in the sights, our party of philosophers was naturally interested in philosophical questions. One was

the obvious question in the philosophy of science: is a biblically literal account of the earth's origins science?

On one view, offered by the National Academy of Sciences, creationism is not science because it makes assertions that are not, as the view has it, about the "natural world." For example, that there is

a God in the Christian sense who brought the world into being directly a short time ago is held not to be an assertion about the natural world, according to the NAS.

It is not clear, though, why the NAS thinks of claims "about the natural world" as they do. If there were overwhelming evidence that the Christian God exists,

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE



Philosophy major graduate Jonathan Wauhkonen (center), with his parents.



Philosophy major graduate, Franklin Conde (left), with Dorit Ganson (right).



Philosophy major graduate Gavin Palmer (right), in conversation with Peter McInerney (center) and Dorit Ganson (left).



Philosophy major graduate Daniel Fryland (left), with his parents.

PHILOSOPHERS GO TO THE CREATION MUSEUM

and overwhelming evidence that He did in fact create the world only 6,500 years ago, those claims would surely have to be understood to be part of the best scientific account of the world, one would think.

In general, as many of our alumni will know, the problem of demarcating science from non-science is a difficult one. In the philosophical literature, the wide range of views on this topic comprises an extensive and subtle literature extending back some time.

Rather than delve further into attempts to mark a boundary, one might instead consider a tack of Larry Laudan's. Laudan argues that there is no clear distinction between science and non-science. Laudan also argues that the relevant question about a view like creationism is not whether it is science but whether it is good science, that is, whether it provides us with good reason to adopt its beliefs.

One might think there is good evidence about this latter question, at least. For example, radiological dating supports the view that the earth's crust has existed with its present constituents for billions of years. Myriad fossils of ancient sea creatures, located at present sites high in the mountains and far from the seas, also challenge the literal biblical view. (As Enlightenment scholars realized, these mountain fossils are remains of generations of mollusks and other animals who lived their entire life cycles together, apparently at the spot where they were found. The time required

for these animals' lives is thus much longer than would be available on the creationist hypothesis that the creatures were displaced to the mountains for the duration of Noah's flood. Rather, the evidence seems to point to the conclusion that these parts of the earth's surface were once submerged under ancient oceans for very long periods and moved through geological processes to their present locations.)

The distinction between good and bad science might seem as if it can do a lot of the practical work we require of it, too. That some theory is bad science ought to disqualify it from being taught in secondary schools as science, for example. Beliefs in Bigfoot, psychic powers, fairies, and alien abductions are all cases in point.

Owing to the peculiarities of American Constitutional law, however, even Laudan's response brings practical problems. In 1987, in *Edwards v. Aguillard*, the Supreme Court found that creationism was primarily a religious, and not a scientific, hypothesis. A state requirement to teach creation in public school science classes amounted to the promotion of a state religion, the court argued, contrary to the requirements of the First Amendment. So, a claim from professional philosophers that creationism is science, even if bad science, or even a claim that it is not clear whether creationism is not science, would derail this objection. (There may be another route to a constitutional objection

to a creationist requirement under *Aguillard*, it should be noted. That is the complaint that legal requirements that creationism be taught do not advance a "justifiable secular purpose" of states. This complaint, it seems to me, might be



made on the grounds that creation science is bad enough science.)

So, if the upshot of our discussion was less than a consensus on whether creationism counts as science, there was at least wider agreement on the law's need to be better informed by philosophy.

Among other questions of interest to the philosophers in attendance was whether religious parents have a political right to exempt their children from the teaching of natural selection in schools. Such a right might be grounded in the religious freedom of parents to guide the instruction of their children in religious matters, even in religious beliefs that conflict with widely accepted scientific beliefs. Whether one could offer a defense of such a right that did not also issue in (further?) embarrassing conclusions, such as a legal permission for parents to exempt children widely from instruction even in basic mathematics or literacy, was much discussed.

The trip down and back also sparked much discussion of the effects of coal-power generation, much in evidence along the banks of the Ohio River, as well as the wide-ranging effects of the country's economic problems here in the Midwest. It would be fair to say, then, that the trip as a whole was another demonstration of the historically fruitful exchange between philosophy and religion, even if not in the way the Museum's founders intended.

The department thanks the students who attended for a successful trip, as well as our donors to the department's Nancy K. Rhoden Memorial Fund. The Rhoden Fund is dedicated to teaching in ethics and political philosophy.



The department sponsored a trip to the Creation Museum in April.

posed soon after making the transition from philosophy to music—of a paragraph from Wittgenstein’s *Philosophical Investigations*. I had been studying [Wittgenstein’s] work under Norman Malcolm in 1958. [The musical work has] never been performed. Have no idea that it needs to be.”

Katharine Cook ’59 is currently a student of John Liu, who opened Bioneers 2011, to which Katharine held a press pass for the *West Marin Citizen* (Calif.). John teaches “putting ecological value and function before an economy based on the production of goods and services” and uses media to document ecological restoration on a very large scale worldwide, especially now in China and Rwanda. Katharine is inspired to do what she can in her neighborhood in downtown Pt. Reyes Station, where she is presently sowing the seeds of an endangered species wildflower, *lupinus nanus*, heirloom cut flowers, and native perennial grasses. The annual Bioneers conference, which takes place in San Rafael, Calif. (www.bioneers.org), has become her inspiration for matters philosophical and their practical application since first attending in 2005. Native peoples’ wisdom and teachings are widely honored and disseminated there, as well as gems from the fields of biomimicry, organic farming, ecology, and progressive politics. Oberlin’s own professor David Orr was a presenter a few years ago.

Stephen Braude ’67 is now Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, University of Maryland Baltimore County. He has retired to Las Vegas (a location conducive to deep thinking, he says,) after passing the baton of UMBC philosophy chair to another Obie, Steven Yalowitz.

In his final year at Oberlin, **Chris Brown ’67** took lots of logic and a Wittgenstein seminar with Mr. Bogen and private study on transformational grammar with Mr. Merrill. After Oberlin, Chris

thought he was headed into computational linguistics but he got seduced by natural language understanding (NLU, just coming into being at MIT and elsewhere) and wound up doing robotics, image processing, and some NLU at Chicago. From there he went on to a robotics post-doc at Edinburgh, and then to the University of Rochester’s computer science department, where he’s been since 1974. Chris rotated through the chairmanship in a time of good funding for AI, taught a wide selection of CS courses, had some 16 PhD students in robotics and AI, and is now winding down teaching and doing occasional projects with the George Eastman House Photography and Film Museum’s conservators and archivists. An example of these projects is the article in *Wired* from 2010 (written by the students, not him) on micro-digitizing and analyzing Daguerreotypes. Despite recently joining the engineering school in a marriage of convenience, Chris’ department still emphasizes the “Science” in CS and tries to make it part of a liberal (in the original sense) arts education.

Bob Mollinger ’67 writes: “At Oberlin, as a significant part of my philosophy major, I did independent study credits with Norman Care—some on philosophy and psychoanalysis. These strongly influenced my future activities. I am presently a licensed psychoanalyst in New York and in private practice (psychotherapy and psychoanalysis) in Manhattan.”

Chuck Stewart ’72 writes: “After majoring in philosophy at Oberlin, I was seduced by computers and have been earning my living from them in one way or another ever since. For the last 15 years or so, I have been doing project management, which is about as close to clinical philosophy as one can come. I’m married to an attorney, and we have two grown kids (one of each gender). As my joints have aged, my favorite form of

recreation has changed from fencing to long-distance hiking.”

In May, **Justin Hughes ’82** gave a paper on possible philosophical and economic justifications for extending intellectual property protection to “traditional knowledge” and folklore at the Philosophical Foundations of Intellectual Property Conference held at the University of San Diego. In addition to being a law professor at Cardozo Law School in New York, Hughes serves in the Obama Administration as senior advisor to the undersecretary of commerce and, in that role, has been leading the U.S. delegation in international negotiations on the same subjects.

George W. Rainbolt ’84 is professor and chair of the department of philosophy at Georgia State University. He works in ethics, with a focus on philosophy of law. He recently published a textbook, *Critical Thinking: The Art of Argument*, with Wadsworth. He is married to an econ professor, and they have two sons. W: www2.gsu.edu/~wwwphi/9585.html.

Jonathan Westreich ’88 sends a hello to old Oberlin friends and writes: “I am a sole practitioner lawyer in Alexandria, Va., with a varied practice, from representing local social services in abuse and neglect cases, to estates and adult guardianships, and to intellectual property litigation in federal court. I am married with two daughters, 9 and 11, and live in Vienna, Va.”

Jeff Dean ’91 writes: “Rather late in the game (I will be 45), my wife Clare and I are due to have a baby boy this August (our first child)!”

Dan Selcer ’93 is an associate professor of philosophy at Duquesne University. He recently published *Philosophy and the Book: Early Modern Figures of Material Inscription* (Continuum), which deals with the revival of atomism and

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ALUMNI NEWS, cont.

the impact of print culture on 17th-century philosophy (www.amazon.com/Philosophy-Book-Material-Inscription-Aesthetics/dp/1441150099). He splits his time between Pittsburgh and Boston, where his partner Theresa Smith '91, is an art conservator at Harvard.

Joseph Andriano '02 writes: "In February, after returning from the Peace Corps, I made partner at a law firm in South Royalton, Vt., which was renamed Berk & Andriano. It's pretty exciting!"

In 2008, **Dan Rattigan '02** and his wife, Jael, opened the French Broad Chocolate Lounge in downtown Asheville, N.C. The Lounge features Dan and Jael's handmade chocolates and desserts, with local draught beer and wine, and french press coffee and tea. In 2011, they embarked on a 'bean-to-bar' venture, bringing beans from their own cacao farm in Costa Rica for processing at their soon-to-be-opened Chocolate Factory in Asheville. For more on Dan and Jael's wonderful enterprise, see <http://frenchbroadchocolates.com/>.

Mike Blejer '06 writes: "I've been doing stand-up for the last couple of years, in DC, N.Y., LA, Israel and the UK. This past year I took part in the Boston Comedy Fest as well as the Laughing Skull festival in Atlanta, I was written up in the *Onion* AV club for my appearance on the Risk Podcast with Kevin Allison

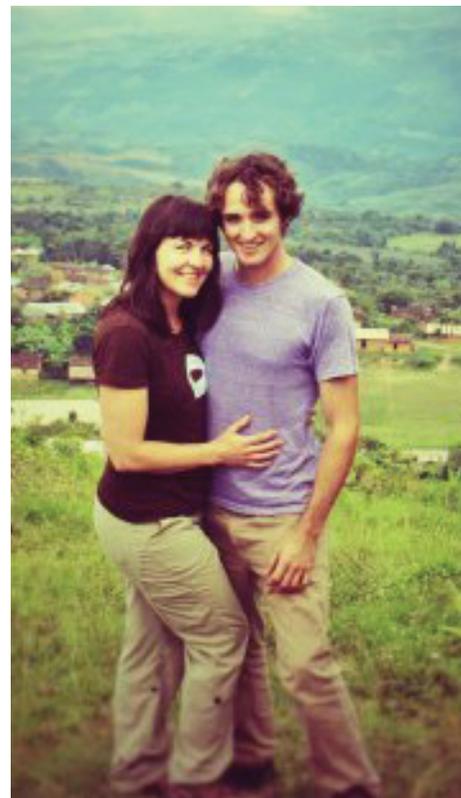
of MTV's *The State*, and I did an episode of a terrible reality show on VH1.

My main project at the moment is my podcast, *Malignant Brain Humor*, in which I interview comedians, artists, philosophers, scientists, and other *dramatis personæ* on the subject of their process and development, bringing to bear recent studies in neuroscience, seeking to contextualize their work within the broader world of comedy, comedy within the arts, and the arts within a broader scientific worldview. Previous guests include Jim Gaffigan, Myq Kaplan, Ted Alexandro and '05 Oberlin graduate Carlen Altman, whose brutally funny movie, *The Color Wheel*, just got picked up for national distribution.

Malignant Brain Humor can be found on iTunes and at <http://mbhumor.com>. It is rated PhG (suitable for philosophers of all ages).

Will Jaffee '06 writes: "I'm currently in my first year of medical school at Nova Southeastern University in Florida, and while it may not be news to you all, I didn't realize how remarkably unphilosophical doctors are. Goodness! At Oberlin I thought my logic skills were average (though better with each class), but medical school makes me feel like a logic genius! But then, of course, most classes require little use of this skill. Oh well. Nonetheless, my philosophy training has proven bountiful already, at least in my role as class rep for Medical Students For Choice (MSFC). I'll be giving a Tim Hall 'Ethics Of Abortion' rip-off lecture in January. Thanks for the ideas, Tim!"

Louis Grube '08 writes: "Hello from Boston! I am a law student at Suffolk University Law



Dan '02 and Jael Rattigan, owners of French Broad Chocolates

School going into my third and final year. I am working this summer at a law firm in Cambridge and writing a case comment about the Minnesota DNA database and whether it satisfies the 4th amendment. Since graduation from Oberlin, I have fiddled about with electoral politics, studied law at the University of Lund in the south of Sweden, and maintained good health and spirits despite being a law student. Fellow alumni who are interested in coming to Oberlin events in Boston and Cambridge should contact me at louisgrube@gmail.com."

T-SHIRT IDEAS?

A number of our students and alumni have expressed interest in having an Oberlin Philosophy T-shirt. If you have ideas for a design or slogan, please send them to the editor: Katherine. Thomson-Jones@oberlin.edu.



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Timothy Hall (*Chair, outgoing*)

Dorit Ganson (*Chair, incoming*)

Peter McInerney

Martin Thomson-Jones

Todd Ganson

Katherine Thomson-Jones

Administrative Assistant: Karen Barnes

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Every year we hold a competition for the best undergraduate essay in philosophy. We are pleased to announce that this year's winner of **The Christopher P. Dahl Essay Prize** is **Chip Williams**. Chip's paper, "Chakravartty on Abstraction, Idealization, and Approximate Truth," is a critique of the final chapter of Anjan Chakravartty's book, *A Metaphysics for Scientific Realism: Knowing the Unobservable* (Cambridge, 2007). The principal judge of the Dahl Prize described Chip's essay as "the very model of a prize-winning essay, presenting a compelling, original, and devastating argument with clarity, polish and wit."

DON'T MISS OUT!

In an effort to curb print, postage, and environmental costs college-wide, Oberlin is moving several of its print publications online. Please make sure we have your email address, so that you don't miss out on newsletters, invitations to alumni regional events, and more. You can update your email address (and other information) via OBIEWeb at www.oberlin.edu/alumni. Go to the MyOBIEweb box and click on "register to access the community" (it's free). Please direct questions to alumni@oberlin.edu or call the Alumni Association at (440) 775-8692.