

RUTGERS PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



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Letter from the Chair (April 2021)

Well, this has been quite a year, hasn't it? It has been a strange time to take over as chair. (Dean Zimmerman finished his term at the end of June 2020; see his farewell note in this newsletter.).

Although we usually have two newsletters—fall and spring—the added burdens of the pandemic have reduced it to a single one this year. . .

[continued on the next page]

We have been weathering a storm the likes of which I have never seen. Since March 2020, we've all been working at home. Everything is online, from undergraduate classes to grad seminars, from reading groups to faculty meetings. This has been new territory for most of us, and we have had to adjust our teaching and leadership styles accordingly.

Now, in some ways, The Year At Home has been just lovely: I doubt I'm the only one who has enjoyed spending more time with family, perfecting some recipes, rediscovering jigsaw puzzles, and avoiding New Jersey Transit. Teaching in sweatpants paired with a grown-up shirt has its pleasures. (These Zoom outfits are the sartorial equivalent of the mullet—business on top, party on the bottom!)

Yet it's undeniable that this year has been terrible in other ways. I doubt I'm the only one who at the same time **DESPERATELY WANTS SOME TIME AWAY FROM MY FAMILY THANK YOU VERY MUCH**. And, of course, while some of us have been overwhelmed with care obligations, others of us have been living in near isolation and would instead like more human contact. Some of us have had COVID-19, are facing financial hardships, or are watching friends and family do one or the other or both.

And, politically, well, what a time to be alive. From police brutality and other displays of racism, to the hotly contested election, to the invasion of the Capitol, to yet more mass shootings, to anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers... Let us all hope the upcoming move in the direction of normalcy will calm everyone down.

Here at home, Rutgers has faced a financial crisis due to decreased enrollments and changes to state appropriations. This led to all kinds of belt-tightening measures. Most staff across the University, including our wonderful staff Charlene, Jess, and Mercedes, have been furloughed at one point or another. We've twice had to make some painful cuts to our dedicated and accomplished team of part-time lecturers. The regular faculty have just started furloughing for ½ day a week for 10 weeks, amounting to a 10% pay cut through the end of the fiscal year. We have been asked to only spend 50% of our research budgets (although that was easy for most of us, since nobody is traveling to conferences). Finally, throughout the academic year there has been a university-wide hiring freeze, with exceptions requiring Chancellor-level approval.



This hiring freeze has thrown a wrench into departmental plans. We face the retirement of Doug Husak at the end of this academic year, the upcoming retirements of both Frankie Egan and Larry Temkin, the return of Matt McGrath to the Midwest, and the departure of Thony Gillies to the wilds of Arizona. These are truly sore-felt losses, and we need to rebuild.

But I circle back around to the positive side. Louise Antony at the University of Massachusetts has started a visiting arrangement which will continue for the next several years. She will teach a graduate seminar each spring, as well as work with graduate students. Her widely known expertise in feminist philosophy as well as philosophy of mind, language, and epistemology will enrich our program to no end. Michael Otsuka of the London School of Economics will be joining us remotely in a part-time arrangement in 2021-2022, and full-time in person starting 2022-2023. His presence, combined with existing faculty, will make us one of the very best departments in moral and political philosophy. In addition, the department has converged with wild enthusiasm on a name or two to try to recruit, once we are given the green light to do so. We are Jersey Strong, and we will maintain the Rutgers tradition of excellence, ambition, and general awesomeness.

Overall, the department has come together remarkably well across the distance. Our grad seminars and reading groups are as lively and intellectually stimulating as always, and we've had a great series of departmental colloquia (see the list of department events). I think most of us even agree that receptions over SpatialChat are kind of fun!

In April, as I write this, we are closing in on the end of our graduate recruitment process. (With gratitude to Alex Guerrero and the rest of the graduate admissions committee.) While it's always exciting to anticipate a new group of students, it's especially exciting this year. A number of other universities, facing their own financial crises, closed graduate admissions entirely, or only admitted a tiny class. We managed to admit an only slightly smaller than usual cohort, while funding all existing graduate students in good standing who need it. Because current graduate students face a dire job market, the faculty unanimously agreed in fall 2020 that we would curtail admissions if necessary in order to meet what most of us take to be a moral obligation to our existing students. We were thrilled that the sacrifice was not as big as we thought it might be.



Undergraduate enrollments remain strong, despite online teaching. We did see a reduction in enrollments, as did the School of Arts and Sciences and the University as a whole, but it could have been much, much worse. Rutgers is planning for a largely in-person fall, and was the first university in the nation—or among the first, anyway—to require that students must be vaccinated in order to return to campus. Word on the street is that the students very much want to come back, and have a more normal undergraduate experience. Interestingly, word on the street is also that students found a silver lining in online learning. They felt seen as human beings, and that they saw their faculty as more human, too. I guess having cats and dogs and children wandering into your virtual classroom will do that!

We are planning our second virtual graduation—the department will have its own ceremony in addition to the SAS and University level events. Combining May and August graduates, we have nearly 140 majors and minors. We applaud their dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments.

And, in closing: we can see the light at the end of the tunnel! The dam has broken in New Jersey, and vaccinations are finally widely available. Quite a lot of us are vaccinated at this point, and by the time you read this everyone who wants to be vaccinated will be. It's so hard to say how fast the world will return to normal, and what the new normal will be. Will we continue wearing masks not just for the next year, but for the foreseeable future? Will some proportion of meetings and classes continue online? Will we continue to cut our own hair?

Onwards and upwards,



Professor
Department Chair

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INTERVIEW WITH DERRICK DARBY

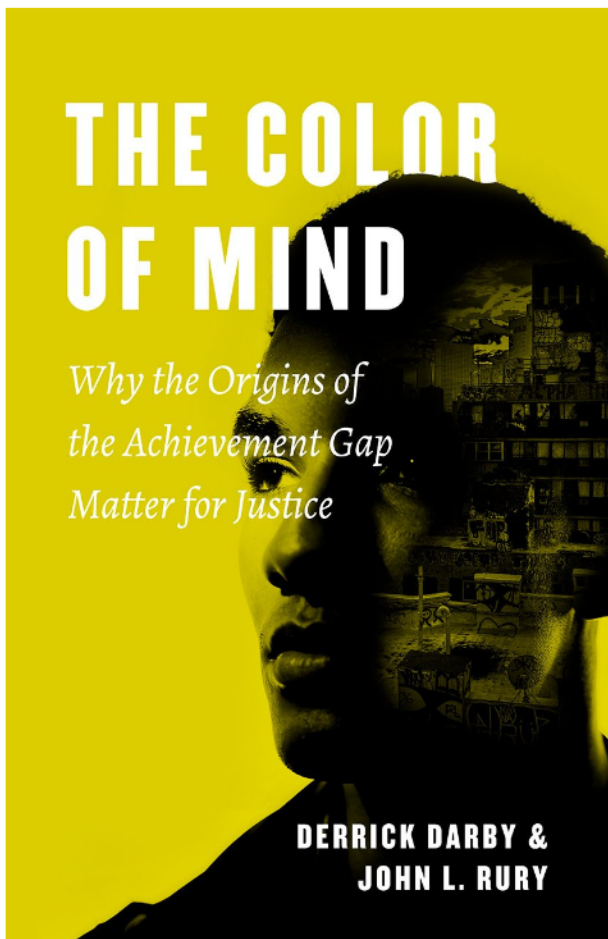
Why did you choose to become a philosopher?

You might say that philosophy chose me. As a kid growing up in Queensbridge public housing projects in Long Island City, New York, just on the other side of the 59th Street Bridge, I realized early on that I had the philosopher's thirst for wisdom. I was the kid that always asked why this, why that, and what are your reasons for thinking it was so? I could do this all day, and sometimes did, much to the consternation of my family and childhood friends. And, as I explained in my TEDx talk, *Doing the Knowledge*, my passion for this was driven by the fifth element of hip hop – knowledge including the imperative to seek knowledge of self, society, and our condition.

By the time I got to Colgate University, philosophy called to me again when my beloved philosophy professor, Anne Ashbaugh, encouraged me to major after taking my first course in Greek philosophy with her sophomore year, and during my senior year my other beloved professor, Jerry Balmuth, encouraged me to go graduate school at Pittsburgh.

Of the articles you have published, which is your favorite and why?

It is hard to pick a favorite article, but if I had to, I would say my "**Unnatural Rights**" piece, which I published in the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* ages ago in 2003. This paper was my big theory piece, where I presented my unconventional positive account of how to think about the conditions for possessing rights. It represented many years of work that began in grad school and continued during my time as an untenured professor spending time in the trenches developing the view and defending it against formidable critics. It is my favorite because it still feels like the kind of statement piece a young philosopher aspires to write, which might be selected for inclusion in a time capsule for future generations.



Can you briefly explain some of the ideas/themes in your work, and why these ideas/themes are important?

The core concern that animates my work – from the earlier career stuff on rights theory to the mid-career stuff on inequality and current stuff on democracy – is to draw inspiration from legacies of race, racism, and economic exploitation to address meta-philosophical as well as substantive normative questions. Here is a recent illustration of the latter. The denigration of black intellect, character, and conduct, and the general presumption of black inferiority and white supremacy, which are and have always been affronts to black dignity and obstacles to whites and blacks relating to one another as equal persons, have a long and infamous philosophical history that haunts us today (think Hume, Kant, and Hegel).

This legacy is especially apparent in our current social and political environment where many people, and not just social activists, are asking whether black lives really matter in the U. S.

It is one thing to articulate such views about race; however, of even greater concern is when such views are used to inform the structure and operation of the basic institutions of society that distribute vital goods like education. What exactly is the historical relationship between the ideology of race and the institution of schooling in America? And how can understanding this relationship inform efforts to make today's schools more just? These two questions guide my recent book, **The Color of Mind** (Chicago 2018), which I co-authored with a historian of African American education, John Rury. Our historically informed philosophical investigation shows that racial ideologies and schooling practices have worked in tandem to constrain educational opportunities and achievement for blacks in America; moreover, this has created a pernicious mutually reinforcing cycle of denigration that undermines black dignity. Finding the pathway to educational justice requires being more attuned to the historically entrenched relationship between racial ideologies and racial sorting within schools and tackling them together. Our work is important because it demonstrates that philosophy has a role to play in finding justice solutions to pressing problems of injustice when philosophers are willing to collaborate with scholars that have vital historical, legal, and social scientific knowledge.

What most excites you about being at Rutgers?

Well, I joined this department during the pandemic, so I have not had a chance to indulge in all that the community has to offer, philosophically and socially (think live jazz with Dean, Paul, and others at Tavern on George St). Of course, the occasional virtual interactions don't really count as indulgence.

What are some of your non-philosophical interests and hobbies?

Who has time for non-philosophical interests and hobbies? And can the philosopher really approach any part of her life without being philosophical about it? Even for the one thing I like to do for exercise and for sport – namely, play golf, philosophy gets in the way. I once had a swing coach in College Station, TX (when I taught at Texas A&M) tell me, "Derrick, if I could cut your head off, you could be a really good golfer." Rick's lesson plan for me was always, stop thinking and analyzing the game, the swing, and every damn thing so much. It's time to trust and just play golf.

THE DARKWATER AT 100 CONFERENCE

By Derrick Darby

My first labor of service for the Rutgers University community was organizing the Darkwater 100 virtual conference to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publication of W. E. B. Du Bois's **Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil** (1920). It was originally planned as a campus conference, but the pandemic changed that plan. **The Souls of Black Folk** (1903) is Du Bois's most famous work. **Darkwater**, his first autobiography, is the most political. This text uses essays, poems, and spirituals to examine the social, economic, and global implications of the color line. It features Du Bois as democratic theorist, political activist, and public scholar. I thought that revisiting this work during the current moment would be timely. The global color line and its implications remain relevant. And democracy in America and abroad has been in crisis. This conference aimed to do more than merely rediscover **Darkwater**. It aimed to showcase scholarship on black thought at Rutgers and to facilitate moderated discussions with Rutgers scholars and scholars for elsewhere on global, economic, and social justice. I would say that the virtual conference was a success: nearly 400 people registered, and daily attendance was around 100 each day. The conference recording will be published on YouTube.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT EVENTS




DARKWATER 100
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

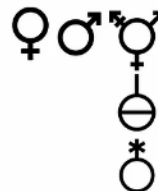
DECEMBER 2 - 4
FROM 4:00 - 5:30PM

MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON:

GLOBAL JUSTICE 12/2	ECONOMIC JUSTICE 12/3	SOCIAL JUSTICE 12/4
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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND WEBINAR REGISTRATION GO TO:
GO.RUTGERS.EDU/DARKWATER100

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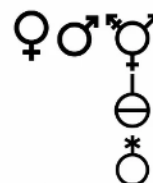
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BODY COUNT: MASCULINITY AND THE SCORE

OLÚFÉMI TÁÍWÒ IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
PHILOSOPHY
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HEALTH, SUBJECTIVITY, & CAPABILITY

ELIZABETH BARNES IS A PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA. PROFESSOR BARNES HAS
RESEARCH INTERESTS IN METAPHYSICS, SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY,
FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY, AND ETHICS. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF
THE MINORITY BODY: A THEORY OF DISABILITY.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A PRE-READ EVENT; WE WILL READ
& DISCUSS A SECTION OF PROFESSOR BARNES' NEW
MANUSCRIPT, A CHAPTER ENTITLED 'SUBJECTIVITY AND
HEALTH'.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH @ 4:30PM EASTERN
THIS IS A VIRTUAL EVENT HELD VIA ZOOM
RSVP TO D.PAYTON@RUTGERS.EDU
BY 10/13 FOR READING + LINK

RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences



September

- C. Thi Nguyen (Utah) and Olúfémí Táíwò (Georgetown University) "Body Count: Masculinity and the Score" (hosted by the Feminist Philosophy Reading Group)
- Tim Pawl (University of St. Thomas, MN) "Simply Incarnate: The Incarnation of a Simple God" (hosted by The Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion and the Princeton Project in Philosophy of Religion)

October

- Elizabeth Barnes (University of Virginia) "Health, Subjectivity, and Capability" (hosted by the Feminist Philosophy Reading Group)
- Elizabeth Barnes (University of Virginia) "Disability and Health: The 'It's Complicated' Relationship" (Department Colloquium)



PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT EVENTS CONT.

October cont.

- Matt McGrath, "Suspending Judgment: What is it and how is it justified?" (Break-It-Down Lecture)

November

- Katharine Jenkins (University of Glasgow) "Ontic Oppression" (hosted by the Feminist Philosophy Reading Group)
- Daniel Greco (Yale University) "Modest Modeling" (Department Colloquium)
- Christina Van Dyke (Calvin College) "Reason and Its Limits in Medieval Contemplative Philosophy" (hosted by The Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion and the Princeton Project in Philosophy of Religion)
- Department Colloquium: Karl Schafer (UC Irvine) "Hume's Many Anti-Rationalisms"

December

- Virtual Conference on the 100th anniversary of W.E.B. Du Bois's book *Darkwater*

January

- Mark Murphy (Georgetown), "Owing God Worship" (hosted by The Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion)

February

- Shelly Kagan (Yale), "Death, Deprivation, and Regret" (Mesthene Lecture)
- Terence Cuneo (Vermont), "Blessed Things" (hosted by The Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion)

March

- Myisha Cherry (Riverside), "Racialized Forgiveness" (Climate Lecture)
- Andy Egan, "What Kind of Relativism is Right for You?" (Break-It-Down Lecture)
- Wendy Salkin (Stanford), "Why Should Those Who Speak for Us Be Anything Like Us?" (hosted by the Feminist Philosophy Reading Group)
- Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad (Lancaster, UK) "Why Must a Good Hindu Not Believe in God? The Orthodox Answer" (hosted by The Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion)



fun oryx fact: The scimitar oryx (*Oryx dammah*), also known as the scimitar-horned oryx and the Sahara oryx, is a species of *Oryx* that was once widespread across North Africa. The species went extinct in the wild in 2000.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT EVENTS CONT.

April

- Vanessa Wills (George Washington), "Heaven is a Place on Earth: Marx and the Abolition of Morality" (Department Colloquium)
- Elena Ruiz (Michigan State), "Cultural Gaslighting" (hosted by the Feminist Philosophy Reading Group)
- Kate Manne (Cornell), "Mansplaining, Gaslighting, and Epistemic Entitlement" (Class of 1970s Lecture)

May

- Rutgers Workshop in Philosophy of Disability with Joseph Stramondo (San Diego State), Kevin Timpe (Calvin College), and Leslie Francis (Utah)

fun oryx fact: The unicorn myth may have originated from sightings of a scimitar oryx with a broken horn.



RUTGERS UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY CLUB: Fall 2020



By Izilda Amber Pereira-Jorge

The main goal of the Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Club is to make philosophy accessible outside of a formal academic setting. We provide a channel for students to get acquainted with contemporary issues in philosophy. Our guest speakers highlight ways in which philosophical analysis is pertinent in addressing issues in other disciplines, such as cognitive science, literary studies, psychology, women and gender studies, and so forth. Over the recent fall 2020 semester, our shift to a Zoom-based platform allowed us to have speakers from other universities, like Una Stojnić (Princeton University) and Thi Nguyen (University of Utah). We hope to continue providing students with enriching philosophical experiences in the ongoing semesters.

FALL 2020 SPEAKERS: Richard Dienst; Una Stojnić; Frances Egan; Michael Glanzberg; Adam Gibbons; Julien Musolino; Dee Payton; Thi Nguyen.

MEET THE FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS



KAYLA JACKSON

- **Previous Degrees:** B.A. in Philosophy and Women and Gender Studies, Bates College.
- **Philosophical Interests:** Ethics, Political Philosophy, and Feminist Philosophy.
- **Desert Island Book:** *The Racial Contract* by Charles W. Mills.
- **Non-philosophical Interests:** I like roller skating, amateur scrapbooking, photography, and hanging out with my pets.

ROSE FONTH

- **Previous Degrees:** B.A. and M.A. in Philosophy, California State University, LA.
- **Philosophical Interests:** Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, and Feminist Philosophy.
- **Desert Island Book:** *Philosophical Investigations* by Ludwig Wittgenstein.
- **Non-philosophical Interests:** I play guitar (I used to play in a band). I'm also a big fan of live music, concerts, and musicals.



AUDREY POWERS

- **Previous Degrees:** B.A. Philosophy and English, Wellesley College
- **Philosophical Interests:** Ethics, philosophy of language, feminist philosophy.
- **Desert Island Book:** Maybe Korsgaard's *Creating the Kingdom of Ends?* Or Mill's 1851 Statement on Marriage if it weren't only one paragraph long.
- **Non-philosophical Interests:** Reading fiction, playing the viola, trying to get back into doing gymnastics.



fun oryx fact: Scimitar oryx feed on foliage, grasses, succulent plants and plant parts during the night or early morning. Births peak between March and October.



DIEGO ARANA

- **Previous Degrees:** B.A. in Math, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.
- **Philosophical Interests:** Philosophy of Mathematics, Metaphysics, Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind.
- **Desert Island Book:** *Philosophical Investigations* by Ludwig Wittgenstein.
- **Non-philosophical Interests:** Playing video games, listening to music for long periods of time, watching random 40-minute YouTube videos.

THE RUTGERS SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY IN PHILOSOPHY

By Alex Guerrero

Despite the pandemic, the Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy had another wonderful, highly successful summer program, with 23 undergraduates from all over the country coming together-- over Zoom-- for an exciting week filled with philosophy in late July 2020. The institute was co-organized by Professor Alex Guerrero and Professor Derrick Darby, with Rutgers PhD students Chris Copan, Kayla Jackson, Dee Payton, Lauren Richardson, and Danny Underwood also providing their insight and sharing their experiences with the undergraduate participants. As usual, there were a range of talks on a range of topics in philosophy, as well as sessions on the path to becoming a professor, on applying to graduate school, on the experience of being a PhD student, and much else.

We had an all-star series of outside speakers, including Professor Luvel Anderson (Syracuse, and a Rutgers PhD alum), Professor Emmalon Davis (Michigan), Professor Christy Mag Uidhir (Houston, and a Rutgers PhD alum), Professor Stephanie Rivera Berruz (Marquette), Professor Ted Sider (Rutgers), and Professor Manuel Vargas (UCSD). Two PhD students from outside of Rutgers-- Alexander Tolbert (UPenn) and Erika Grimm (Penn State)-- also helped provide insight and perspective on being a PhD student. Thanks also, as always, to Mercedes Diaz, for all her help in making the Summer Institute a success. . .

... Although we had to meet remotely this year, it is very clear that the future of philosophy is bright. We were blown away-- as usual-- by the remarkable students that come through the Summer Institute, and we look forward to seeing them as they go on to do great things in philosophy. Thanks to Rutgers, the APA, and the Rutgers Philosophy Department for their ongoing support for the Summer Institute.

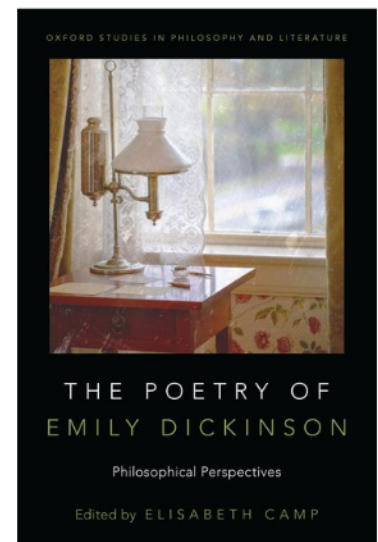
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Karen Bennett

- Delivered the Hägerström Lectures at Uppsala in March (delayed from last March) on Building, Causing, and the Non-Fundamental.
- Gave the Keynote Talk at the Arché Graduate conference in St Andrews.
- Delivered the inaugural metaphysics & epistemology lecture at the new Dianioia Institute for Philosophy in Melbourne, on “Going Underground”.

Martha Bolton

- Published “Leibniz's New Essays concerning Human Understanding”, in Leibniz's Key Philosophical Writings, eds. Paul Lodge and Lloyd Strickland (Oxford: OUP, 2020), 53-82.
- Published “Locke on Space and Substance”, in Empiricist Theories of Space, ed. Laura Berchelli (Springer, 2020), 79-94.
- Presented “Shepherd's Answer to Hume: A Reasonable dependence as well as a Customary one”, at TEMPO Conference, online, June 19, 2020.



Liz Camp edited a book, *The Poetry of Emily Dickinson*, Oxford University Press.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

Frankie Egan

- Presented “Naturalizing Intentionality: Models and Stories in Cognitive Science,” Keynote Address at the annual meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, December (online).
- Won the Jean Nicod prize, awarded annually by the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) to a leading philosopher of mind or philosophically-oriented cognitive scientist.

Thony Gillies published (with Kai von Fintel) “Still going strong” *Natural Language Semantics*, 29: 91--113.

Michael Glanzberg

- Presented “Models, Model Theory, and Modeling,” CUNY Logic and Metaphysics Workshop, October 2020.
- Presented “Precise Meanings and Loose Concepts: Roles for underdetermination and imprecision in formal semantics,” University of Maryland Philosophy Colloquium, November 2020.
- Presented “Precise Meanings and Loose Concepts: Roles for underdetermination and imprecision in formal semantics,” Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy of Ludwig-Maximilians University, November 2020.
- Published “Indirectness and Intentions in Metasemantics” In *The Architecture of Context and Context-Sensitivity*, ed. T. Ciecierski and P. Grabarczyk, Springer, 2020, pp. 29-53.
- Published “But Without ...? Reflections on Pietroski’s Conjoining Meanings,” *Croatian Journal of Philosophy*, 20 (2020):353-364.
- Presented, “Cognitive Models and Semantic Models” as a keynote lecture at the University of Latvia International Scientific Conference, February 21.
- Presented “Truth and Quantification” (with L. Rossi) at the University of Bristol conference on truth in expressively rich languages, April 21.

Michael Glanzberg & Jeff King

- Published “Binding, Compositionality, and Semantic Values,” *Philosophers’ Imprint*, 20 (2020): 1-29.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

Justin Kalef won a \$2K Humanities Plus Award for 2021-22 for the forthcoming interdisciplinary Honors seminar 'Thinking Through Puzzles'. The course aims to teach students a variety of intellectual skills through a rather wide variety of puzzles, many of which they will work on collaboratively. Along the way, students will learn some of the fascinating history of puzzles as they've been developed around the world.

Frances Kamm

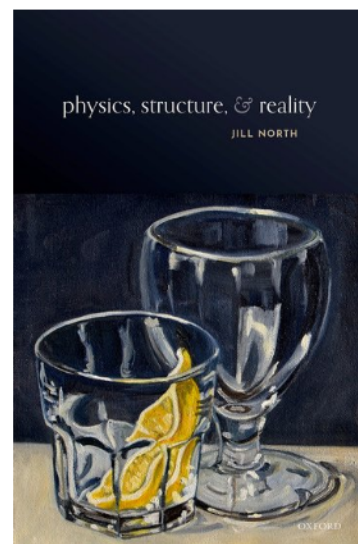
- Published *Almost Over: Aging, Dying, Dead* (Oxford University Press, 2020).
- Published "Parfit on the Irrelevance of Deontological Distinctions," in *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* (OUP, 2020) in October 2020.
- Published "The Use and Abuse of the Trolley Problem: Medical Treatments, Self Driving Cars, and the Distribution of Harm," in *Ethics and AI* edited by M. Liao (OUP, 2020) in October 2020.
- Presented "Four Easy Arguments for Assisted Suicide and the Objections of Gorsuch" at the Columbia Law School Faculty Seminar.
- Presented "Some Rights in a Pandemic" as a keynote Address at the Philosophical Bioethics Workshop, N.Y.U., Nov. 2020.
- Presented "Torture: Rescue, Prevention, Punishment" at the N.Y.U. Law School Colloquium on Legal, Political, and Social Philosophy, Nov. 2020.
- Published "A Note on Margaret Gilbert's Rights and Demands" in *Law and Philosophy*, Jan 2021
- Presented "Some Rights in a Pandemic" at the Centre for Ethics, Law, and Public Affairs at the University of Warwick.
- Presented "Harms, Wrongs, and Meaning in a Pandemic" at the Conference in Honor of Douglas MacLean, University of North Carolina, May 2020.
- Published "Harms, Wrongs, and Meaning in a Pandemic" in *The Philosopher's Magazine*, June 2021.
- Published "Duties that Become Supererogatory or Forbidden?" in *Principles and Persons: The Legacy of Derek Parfit* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021).

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

Jill North published a book, *Physics, Structure, and Reality*, Oxford University Press. (Cover pictured below)

Paul Pietroski

- Published "Linguistic Meanings as Cognitive Instructions" in the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* (with T. Knowlton, T. Hunter, D. Odic, A. Wellwood., J. Halberda, and J. Lidz; forthcoming).
- Published "Fostering Liars" in *Topoi* 40: 5-25 (2021).
- Published "On Donald Davidson's 'The logical form of action sentences.'" in *Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy*, 30th Anniversary Issue (in press).
- Published "Chomsky on Reference and Meaning." In *A Companion to Chomsky* (N. Allott, G. Rey, and T. Lohndal, eds.) Wiley-Blackwell (in press).
- Published a Précis of Conjoining Meanings in the *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* 60:271-282 (2020).
- Published Responses to Comments in *Mind and Language* 35:266-73 (2020). (For a symposium on Conjoining Meanings).
- Presented "Subjects, Predicates, and Minimal Relations", Philosophy of Language Colloquium (online talk), Bochum University, late December 2020.



Susanna Schellenberg won a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to continue working on her project *The Neural Basis of Perception: Discrimination, Information-Processing, and Biases*.

Larry Temkin delivered the Inaugural Mala and Solomon Kamm Lecture, via zoom, for Harvard's Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics. The lecture, delivered on February 11, 2021, was titled "Being Good in a World of Need." It drew an online audience of 200 people from around the world, and is available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMHgZP4PwP8>.



FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONT.

Alec Walen

- Published "Using, Risking, and Consent: Why Risking Harm to Bystanders is Morally Different from Risking Harm to Research Subjects," *Bioethics* 34 (2020): 899-905.
- Published "Risks and Weak Aggregation: Why Different Models of Risk Suit Different Types of Cases," *Ethics* 131 (2020): 62-86.
- Published "In Defense of Patient-Centered Theories of Deontology: A Response to Liao and Barry," *Law and Philosophy* (forthcoming).
- Published "Response to Critics," *Jus Cogens* (forthcoming).
- Published "Determinism, Compatibilism, and Basic Desert: A Reply to Gregg Caruso," *Journal of Legal Philosophy* (forthcoming).



Note from Doug Husak: On November 6th, a zoom conference was held in honor of my pending retirement. The session had to substitute for a twice-rescheduled in-person event (that came to be known as the "Husak-fest") that was to be held at the Rutgers Conference Center earlier in 2020. Twelve papers about my work were to be circulated and discussed. Instead, these papers will be published in a special issue in my honor of the journal Law and Philosophy. My retirement will begin on July 1, 2021.

We'll miss you Doug!



GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Carolina Flores

- Published “Delusional Evidence-Responsiveness”, Synthese.
- Published Public philosophy piece “Are they all stupid and irrational?” in the Blog of the APA.
- Presented “Epistemic Vigilance: In defense of norms on evidence-gathering” (co-authored with Elise Woodard) at the Pacific APA (Colloquium)
- Presented “Changing Minds with Style” at the SPP (Society for Philosophical Psychology)
- Carolina Flores won the SWIP-NYC Graduate Student Essay Prize for the paper “Changing Minds with Style”.

Caroline von Klemperer

- Presented “Moral encroachment, suspension, and reasons for belief,” at the 2021 Eastern APA.

Christopher Willard-Kyle

- Published “Against the Doctrine of Infallibility”, Philosophical Quarterly (forthcoming)

Christopher Frugé

- Published “Joints and Basic Ways” Inquiry (forthcoming)
- Presented “Normativity from Nothing” Social Ontology 2020
- Published “Permanent Value” in the Journal of the American Philosophical Association (Forthcoming).
- Presented “Value After Death” at the 2021 International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying Symposium. 2021.
- Presented “Permanent Value” in the Philosophical Perspectives on Aging Seminar. La Sapienza, Università di Roma. Danish Institute in Rome. 2021.
- Presented “Value After Death” at the Great Lakes Philosophy Conference. Siena Heights University. 2021.



fun oryx fact: The play activity of eight calves in captivity was observed in a 1983 study. Male calves played for longer than females calves did.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Adam Gibbons

- Published “Political Disagreement and Minimal Epistocracy”, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (forthcoming).
- Published “Is Epistocracy Irrational?” In the *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*. (Forthcoming)

Tyler John is co-editing a collection of essays on longtermism (with Natalie Cargill) entitled *The Long View*. It features contributions from Lord Martin Rees (Astronomer Royal), Lord John Bird, Lord Robert Kerslake, Lord Des Browne, and Hiski Haukkala, the former Chief of Cabinet to the President of Finland. It will be published later this year with FIRST.

Ting-An Lin received a Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education. Ting was praised, for, among other things, her “level of thoughtfulness, concision, and detail [evident] in Ting’s course design, both across the semester and within a single session, is truly impressive.... I have rarely seen even faculty members perform this well in this regard, let alone other graduate students.” Ting “thinks carefully about how to present philosophical ideas to students who may be struggling to understand them and may not find them immediately compelling,” “ties abstract, theoretical issues in philosophy back to concrete, real-world applications” and uses these compelling cases to exemplify the issues for students.



DISSERTATION DEFENDERS



Chris Willard-Kyle defended his dissertation *Surprising Suspensions: The Epistemic Value of Being Ignorant*. Congratulations Chris! Committee: Ernie Sosa, Matt McGrath, Susanna Schellenberg, Jennifer Lackey.

Dee Payton defended her dissertation *How To Be Social*. Congratulations Dee! Committee: Ted Sider, Karen Bennett, Liz Camp, Kate Ritchie, Jonathan Schaffer.

PHD PLACEMENT 2020-2021



Verónica Gómez Sánchez received the 2020 NYU Bersoff Fellowship. After completing the fellowship she will join the Philosophy Department faculty at Barnard College as an Assistant Professor. Congratulations Verónica!

Tyler John recently began a job as the head of research at Longview Philanthropy. Congratulations Tyler!



Olivia Odoffin will join the University of Antwerp on a postdoctoral fellowship to work in their Centre for Philosophical Psychology. Congratulations Olivia!

Dee Payton will join the Philosophy Department faculty at Howard University as an Assistant Professor this Fall 2021. Congratulations Dee!



Isaac Wilhelm will join the Philosophy Department faculty at the National University of Singapore as a Presidential Young Professor this Fall 2021. Congratulations Isaac!

PHD PLACEMENT 2020-2021

Christopher Willard-Kyle has accepted a Research Assistant position at the University of Glasgow. Congratulations Chris!



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Wahhaj Khokhar, Jurgen Lipps, Sarang Patel, Sarju Patel, and Avraham Sommer graduated with highest honors. **James Bogan, Brady Deshong, and Bowei Wang** graduated with high honors. **Matthew Klingebiel** graduated with honors.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Alexandra Koken and **Maya Patel** won the W.J. Norton Alumnae Award, for the female philosophy major achieving the highest departmental and overall GPA.

Izilda Pereira-Jorge and **Nathaniel Serio** won the Sanford T. Doolittle Award for outstanding achievement in philosophy.

Siqi Ma, Avraham Sommer, and Samuel Weiner won the Jacob Cooper Logic Prize, for the highest departmental GPA in their logic courses.

Jurgen Lipps, Sarang Patel, and Sarju Patel won the Emily F. Michell Memorial Prize for outstanding majors or minors who exemplify a genuine love of learning and enthusiasm for thinking philosophically about the world around them.



MEET THE POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS



BRAD SAAD

Where did you receive your degree(s) before coming to Rutgers? I received my PhD in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin in 2019.

If you were stranded on a desert island, which philosophy paper or book would you most like to have with you? *The View from Nowhere*.

What are your non-philosophical interests or hobbies? While it's not entirely non-philosophical, one thing I've been thinking about a lot in my free time is the long-term trajectory of humanity and strategies for improving it. For fun, lately I've mostly been hiking, doing video calls with family and friends, and language learning.

What do you work on? I am currently focused on two projects. One is looking at different ways in which the laws of nature might be 'fine-tuned', meaning roughly that they underwrite a striking coincidence. These include the cosmological fine-tuning for the existence of life, as well as less discussed forms such as psychophysical fine-tuning for rationally harmonious correlations between experience and behavior. The goal is to sort out how different forms of fine-tuning bear on different cosmological hypotheses and views in philosophy of mind. In the second project, Han Li and I are drawing on some results from population ethics to develop a challenge to the multiverse theodicy, which claims that God and evil are compatible because God created all the creation-worthy universes and some of those universes contain evil. In addition to developing the challenge, we're also exploring options for meeting it.

2020-2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Published "An Exclusion Problem for Epiphenomenalist Dualism" (forthcoming) in *Thought: a Journal of Philosophy*.
- Published "Permissiveness in Morality and Epistemology" (forthcoming) in *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy* [coauthored with Han Li].
- Presented "Should Dualists Locate the Physical Basis of Experience Wholly within the Skin?" Aug. 2020, virtual talk, European Society for Analytic Philosophy, Utrecht University.
- Presented "An Exclusion Problem for Epiphenomenalist Dualism," July, 2020, Open Session (virtual) talk at the 94th Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society
- Presented "The Problem of Digital Suffering" at the FHI discussion group on digital minds (May 2021).
- Presented "The Problem of Nomological Harmony?" at the Open Session (virtual) talk at the 95th Joint Session of the Mind Association and the Aristotelian Society (Summer 2021) and at the Rutgers-Princeton Philosophy of Religion Incubator Conference.

MEET THE POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS



MIKE DEIGAN

Where did you receive your degree(s) before coming to Rutgers? I did my PhD at Yale, BPhil at Oxford, and undergrad at UNC Chapel Hill.

If you were stranded on a desert island, which philosophy paper or book would you most like to have with you? If I'm allowed multi-volume works, then *The Writings of C. S. Peirce: A Chronological Edition*. Otherwise, Parfit's *Reasons and Persons*.

What are your non-philosophical interests or hobbies? Reading books and book review magazines, cooking with my partner, and training/playing with our puppy.

What do you work on? I work on a bunch of different things, mostly in epistemology, ethics, and philosophy of language/semantics. My main project right now is about the epistemology of concepts. When, epistemically, should we acquire new concepts? Could concepts be epistemically bad to have? Is there a basing relation for concept possession like there is for belief? That kind of thing. One of the main directions I'd like to take this project over the next few years is into ethics/metaethics: the epistemology of moral concepts and issues concerning moral responsibility and reasons for agents who only partially grasp moral concepts.

2020-2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Presented (with Juan S. Piñeros Glasscock), "Surprise as an Epistemic Emotion," Surprise: An Interdisciplinary Workshop, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 2020.
- Published "A Plea for Inexact Truthmaking", *Linguistics & Philosophy*. October 2020, Volume 43, Issue 5.
- Presented "Bad Concepts, Bilateral Contents," Discourse in Philosophy Colloquium, ILLC, University of Amsterdam, November 2020.
- Presented "Offsetting Harm," Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics, January 2021.
- Presented "Okay, Whatever" at the New York Philosophy of Language Workshop.
- Published "Stupefying" in *Philosophers' Imprint* (forthcoming).
- Published "Don't Trust Fodor's Guide in Monte Carlo: Learning Concepts by Hypothesis Testing without Circularity" in *Mind & Language* (forthcoming).
- Published "Bad Concepts, Bilateral Contents" in *Ergo* (forthcoming).

MEET THE POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS



JEFF TOLLY

Where did you receive your degree(s) before coming to Rutgers? I got my grad degree from Notre Dame.

If you were stranded on a desert island, which philosophy paper or book would you most like to have with you? Bill Alston's collection of 1980's papers on epistemic justification.

What are your non-philosophical interests or hobbies? I love playing Settlers of Catan with my family.

What do you work on? I work in epistemology. Most of my work so far addresses the famous generality problem for reliabilism. I'm currently writing about cognitive science and the degree to which CS might help us solve the generality problem. I'm also doing some work in religious epistemology. I'm writing on debunking arguments from the cognitive science of religion as well as the epistemic implications of religious disagreement. It's been great to work with the professors and students involved with the Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion.

Dean Zimmerman, Mark Baker (Linguistics/cog.sci.), and I have planned some interdisciplinary conferences on the cognitive science of religion and the science of religious experience for next school year-- circumstances permitting. We're pretty excited about our lineup of confirmed speakers at these conferences, which include Tanya Luhrmann (anthropology-Stanford), Ann Taves (religious studies-UC Santa Barbara), Brian Scholl (perceptual psychology-Yale), Cristine Legare (cognitive science of religion-UT Austin), Claire White (cognitive science of religion-Cal state Northridge), Jeff Speaks (philosophy-Notre Dame), Helen De Cruz (philosophy, cog sci. of religion-St. Louis University), just to name a few.

fun oryx fact: In 2015, Yellow Nose, a scimitar oryx that lives in Portland, Oregon escaped and startled hikers in Forest Park. The following day he was caught and returned home.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Senior Philosophy Major Nate Serio became the second Beinecke Scholar in Rutgers' History.

This prestigious scholarship accepts one nomination per accredited school annually, granting only 18 juniors nationwide \$34,000 each to further their academic pursuits.

Serio, 20, of Edison, who majors in philosophy, linguistics and cognitive science, has become the second student in Rutgers's history to win this scholarship.

Serio is primarily interested in the intersection of philosophy of language and linguistics, an interest kindled by Paul Pietroski's courses. He joined Kristen Syrett's Laboratory for Developmental Language Studies in the spring of 2018, followed by a research position at the University of Pennsylvania's Child Language Lab this past summer. He is currently studying how socio-economic disparities affect language acquisition in children as a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow at Rutgers. He hopes to use the fellowship to help fund his graduate school career.



ARETÉ UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL



FALL UPDATE: Throughout the fall semester, the editorial board of Areté, the Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Journal, has been meeting weekly to review submissions for publication in this year's issue. During our meetings, we discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each submission and then with utmost care and our shared moral compass firmly in place score it. These meetings serve as dynamic forums for the discussion of philosophical ideas as well as of how those ideas are delivered. Therefore, the process of reviewing has become as much about selecting articles as growing ourselves as philosophers and writers. This year we have received fewer submissions relative to previous years, but the submissions that we have received are promising. In the spring semester, we hope to work with the authors of the articles we have accepted to ensure that the articles meet the publication standards of Areté. (By Sarang Patel)



ARETÉ UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL



SPRING UPDATE: During the spring semester, the editorial board of Areté, the Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Journal, met weekly to offer multiple iterations of feedback to the authors of two articles selected for publication in this year's issue: "Latin America, Belonging, and Displacement: Rethinking Home through Phenomenological Accounts," authored by Alex Nelson (Cornell College), and "Has Kukathas Refuted Communitarianism?," authored by Isaac Lamb (Cambridge University). The board comprised Sarang Patel, who served as the editor-in-chief, Elie Kapengut, Emma Chace, and Sarju Patel; and it was advised by Trip McCrossin. The issue will also feature interviews of four Rutgers faculty members—Karen Bennett, Alex Guerrero, Doug Husak, and Frances Kamm—for whose participation the board is very grateful. It will be made available online on the journal's website, to be shared soon. The editor-in-chief of Areté for 2021-22 will be Elie Kapengut.

RUTGERS UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY CLUB: Spring 2021



The Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Club continued to work with a Zoom-based platform in the spring semester. Outside of a traditional classroom, our club members are exposed to ways in which a philosophical framework significantly contributes to problem-solving in other fields of study. This semester, we had guest speakers discuss current political issues and topics within philosophy of mind. Dr. Alex Guerrero, with his work on lottocracy, presented an alternative view on governance. Dr. Nicolas Rennie examined rhetoric employed during the Trump Administration. Doctoral candidate Carolina Flores discussed styles of responding to certain evidence, allowing us to better understand individuals who adopt different epistemic styles from our own. Throughout our virtual year, we provided students with a casual meeting space to explore issues within contemporary philosophy. As we return to campus in the fall, our organization will focus on providing interactive social events for students to engage in, such as career panels and movie nights.

SPRING 2021 SPEAKERS: Alex Guerrero, Nicholas Rennie, Carolina Flores.

End-of-term letter from past chair Dean Zimmerman, Summer 2020

(This was intended for a past newsletter that was swallowed by COVID-19, so turn on your wayback machines and pretend the pandemic has only lasted 3 months so far...)

I'm writing my last "letter from the chair", 20 days from stepping down (but who's counting?); and I feel compelled to take stock. It's been three very busy, very exciting years. I don't have to tell anyone that they've been bizarre and, at times, unpleasant years in many ways — but the department itself seems to me to be healthy and strong; it's the rest of the world that's messed up!

Here is a small sampling of the changes that have occurred on my watch: increased undergraduate enrollments, many faculty hires, and a reconstituted team of department administrators. Of course lots of other exciting things happened to individual undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty; but this is the view from very high up, from 1500 feet, as I drift off into the ether...

Undergraduate Program

Nationally, humanities enrollments have been declining significantly during the last 10 years, with philosophy and English among the hardest hit. Rutgers has not been immune to these trends. But after five years of declining undergraduate enrollments in philosophy, we began to turn things around in Spring of 2018. This couldn't have happened without a lot of quality teaching from professors, graduate students, and lecturers. But much of the credit for this has to go to Liz Camp, undergraduate director extraordinaire. Under her watchful eye, we increased enrollments by 5% and then 12% during the last two years, bucking national trends in the humanities. In calendar year 2018, the number of seats filled in philosophy courses was 4823, an increase of 211 over the previous year; and in 2019, it was 5406, an increase of 583 over 2018. Enrollments in the Winter and Spring of 2020 were steady at 2019 levels. Of course, no one knows what next year will bring; but, clearly, our courses are providing Rutgers undergraduates with education that they find valuable.



Working with Liz was one of the most enjoyable aspects of being chair. What with one thing and another, undergraduate director wound up being the hardest job in the department during these three years. There were two changes of undergraduate program administrator, which obviously affects the undergraduate director the most. Then came the rollout of new course scheduling software which added immensely to her workload and to that of our current undergraduate program administrator, Jessica Koza. And there were other crises to navigate and problems to solve... but I don't want to trigger flashbacks when Liz reads this, so I'll just say that she displayed a lot of grace under fire.

New Faculty

When Larry Temkin passed me the baton in the summer of 2017, we were in the process of losing Holly Smith, Alvin Goldman, and Howard McGary to retirement; and Ruth Chang to Oxford. These were all major blows. But Larry had set us up for continued success: Frances Kamm would arrive in a year, and our dean and president were committed to steady hiring for the foreseeable future. This led to a wave of new faculty: Frances Kamm (Harvard), Matthew McGrath (U. of Missouri), Brian Leftow (Oxford), and Karen Bennett (Cornell) all arrived in 2018; Derrick Darby (Michigan) and Michael Glanzberg (Northwestern) in 2020; and Michael Otsuka (London School of Economics) will arrive a year from now. Louise Antony (UMass-Amherst) begins a five-year term as recurring visiting professor; she will teach a seminar on topics in feminist philosophy next Spring.

The number of teaching professors doubled, with the addition of Alex Skiles (a Notre Dame Ph.D. whom we hired from a post-doctoral fellowship with the Swiss National Science Foundation) and Richard Fry (a Georgetown Ph.D. who was a professor at Southern Illinois University). We have also added three more philosophers in the School of Public Health, under the auspices of a new Center for Population-Level Bioethics: Nir Eyal (Harvard) is director of the Center, and its other faculty will include Dan Hausman (Wisconsin), and Mark Budolfson (Vermont). All three will be affiliated with our department, and regularly teach for us. Dan Hausman will co-teach a course with Frances Kamm next Spring on the rationing of health care resources in the context of pandemic.

Altogether, that's thirteen new philosophers who have already come or are on their way to Rutgers — the equivalent of an excellent medium-sized department in its own right, grafted on to what was already one of the best departments in the world.

Team Philosophy

Our three administrative positions also saw a lot of turnover, with the retirements of Jean Urteil (undergraduate program administrator) and Pauline Mitchell (senior administrator for nearly 20 years). Our administrators' jobs are tricky and technical, and absolutely crucial to the ongoing work of the department. Thankfully, Mercedes Diaz (graduate program administrator) has continued through all the change, as the heart and soul of the department, and the repository of accumulated wisdom. Charlene Jones took over from Pauline as our C.E.O. She figured out how to manage this huge, complex operation while simultaneously finishing her Ed.D. from Seton Hall (congratulations Charlene — I mean, Dr. Jones!). Then Jessica Koza, a Rutgers philosophy major from several years past, returned to us as undergraduate program administrator. Jessica combines skills in the systems of higher education administration with a heart for undergraduate philosophy majors and minors — the perfect combination.

Man and boy, I've spent the last 33 years working fairly closely with philosophy department administrators in four universities — Brown, Notre Dame, Syracuse, and 19 years at Rutgers. Charlene, Mercedes, and Jessica are the most efficient and harmonious administrative team I've known in all that time. Working with them has been a great pleasure.

The Future

The end of this academic year has been strange for all of us, of course. We finished the term teaching remotely, which was an entirely new experience for many of us, including me. My wife and I have spent the last three months at home with our three adult children and three dogs, who are just now learning to get along (the dogs, I mean). Others of us have had much more to deal with — some faculty and students have been living like monks, isolated from family and friends. Some of our students and faculty have been quite sick with Covid-19. And wherever we are, however comfortable or uncomfortable our quarantine, it has been punctuated by vivid, televised examples of more Black lives casually snuffed out in judicial murders — driving many of us out of quarantine and into the streets (or, in the case of my own placid East Brunswick, into the Civic Center green space).

There is much to worry about, and too much time to fill with worry. Will radical changes in U.S. policing really come about, at last; or will this struggle continue indefinitely? How long will the pandemic last, with how many deaths? And what will life be like on the other side of it?

One thing I am not worried about, though, is whether our philosophy department will weather the current storms.

Rutgers is fully behind us, committed to our continued success. We could not have better, more supportive deans than Michelle Stephens and Peter March, and they will continue to serve in these crucial roles. And the department itself will be in good hands. Andy Egan takes over as undergraduate director so that Liz can have a well-deserved sabbatical. Andy and Jessica will have the help of Alex Skiles, who will support Andy as co-director of undergraduate studies. The graduate program will continue to thrive under the leadership of Susanna Schellenberg. Jonathan Schaffer will remain as placement director, shepherding our graduate students towards jobs. Although that is a challenge in the current environment, our record of placement remains second to none.

Finally, there is a new sheriff in town: It is with a great sigh of relief that I hand the badge over to Karen Bennett, our new chair. Although a relative newcomer to Rutgers, she has lots of old friends and former colleagues in our department — many of us have known her well for 20 years or more. I have been relying upon her impeccable philosophical judgment for the last eight years as we have been co-editing Oxford Studies in Metaphysics. She is deliberate and careful, but not afraid to make tough decisions — the ideal person to take us through the crazy year to come, and then lead us into the brave new post-pandemic world we all hope will follow.

As Stan Lee always used to say:

Excelsior!



