Season's greetings from the GW Department of Philosophy! Though it is hard to believe, this is the fifth year since we began sending out our Fall and Spring newsletters and we hope you enjoy receiving them. As you can see from the pages that follow, we are wrapping up a very busy Fall 2013 semester with two annual lectures (Ellon and Sophia), several new classes, the presentation and publication of our latest faculty and student research, and the re-activation of the GW chapter of the national Philosophy Honor Society, Phi Sigma Tau. Our new colleague, Dr. Laura Papish, has settled in so quickly and so well that it is hard to believe she has only been with us a few months. Please check out her faculty spotlight interview with the GW Philosophy Club below! We are currently in the process of conducting a national search for a new joint position in Honors and Philosophy and we will be inviting finalists out to campus in January and February. This new colleague will join our other Honors/Philosophy faculty member Mark Ralkowski in teaching the year-long Honors sequence for freshmen, "The Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought," as well as upper-level Honors philosophy courses. We are excited about increasing the number of full-time faculty members in the department who specialize in the history of philosophy, and look forward to filling you in on the results of this search in our Spring 2014 newsletter.

I am proud to report that we have a record number of majors and minors in the department and that we are receiving a lot of positive recognition from the GW administration for our active research, strong teaching, intensive student mentoring, innovative new curriculum, and excellent service to the University. We are also proud of our reputation as one of the most collegial departments on campus! In addition to our prolific full-time faculty, our talented part-time faculty have been presenting papers nationally and overseas. They have attracted more and more students to philosophy through their courses. For many of our current students and alumni, our part-time faculty have played an important role in their philosophical education at GW as our full-time faculty. We owe a major debt of gratitude to them.

We really enjoy visiting with our alumni so please let us know if you able to attend our spring 2014 Thacher and/or Goutman lectures. If you are in town at another time during the semester, you are welcome to stop by. We wish you happy holidays and a peaceful and productive new year. Please stay in touch!

All the best,
Gail Weiss
Elton Lecture

Thomas Pogge, Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs and Director of the Global Justice Program at Yale University, delivered the annual Elton Lecture, co-sponsored by the Institute for International Economic Policy, on September 6, 2013. Professor Pogge (see photo) is the President of Academics Stand Against Poverty and a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science. His most recent publications include Politics as Usual and World Poverty and Human Rights, and lent directly to the content of his lecture entitled "The Post-2015 Development Agenda." Here is the abstract for his talk:

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were an attempt to commit all governments to a concerted effort to make progress against poverty on a clear schedule subject to objective tracking. With these goals about to expire, a major process is now underway to replace them. To inform this process, it is crucial to learn from the MDGs’ shortfalls. Their tracking was entrusted to politically vulnerable and exposed agencies which predictably succumbed to political pressures to deliver rosy trend lines achieved through repeated redefinitions and methodological revisions; rather than clear goals assigned to specific agents, the MDGs were a detached wish list, which allowed the affluent countries to avoid concrete responsibilities. Getting serious about poverty requires formulation of clear institutional reform goals monitored by politically independent experts employing pre-set definitions and methods.

First Annual Sophia Lecture

Gayle Salamon, Assistant Professor of English and the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies at Princeton University, delivered the first annual Sophia Lecture on December 6, 2013. Professor Salamon, pictured above, is the winner of the 2010 Lambda Literary Award in LGBT Studies for her monograph Assuming a Body: Transgender and Rhetorics of Materiality. Her recent publications include “Sameness, Alterity, Flesh: Luise Irigaray and the Place of Sexual Undecidability,” “The Phenomenology of Rheumatology: Disability, Merleau-Ponty, and the Fallacy of Maximal Grip,” and “Here are the Dogs: Class in Theory.” She is currently working on two manuscripts, one exploring narrations of bodily pain and disability and the other analyzing the murder of 15-year-old Lawrence King. The abstract for her talk, entitled "Phenomenological Anonymity," is below:

This lecture will explore anonymity in the work of Alfred Schutz and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, looking at the role anonymity plays in several areas of phenomenological inquiry: otherness, common sense, and the social world. The concept of anonymity offers a helpful way to mediate between phenomenology understood as a transcendental project or an "eidetic" science in Husserl’s words and phenomenology as the study of the perspectival situatedness of, and local practices in, the social world. Recent feminist phenomenology has turned to anonymity in order to think about the function of gender, and I will suggest that anonymity understood in this sense can help elucidate the events surrounding the murder of L. King, a gender-variant 15-year-old student shot and killed by a classmate in an Oxnard, California junior high school in 2008.
New Sophia Lecture Series

The department is happy to announce its new lecture series, which was proposed and funded by GW Philosophy alumna Brook Sadler. The annual Sophia Lecture is designated for early to mid-career women and/or minority philosophers. As many annual philosophy lectures tend to profile already established scholars (of which there are many more men than women), it was the wish of this alumna, who herself is a philosophy professor, to recognize the excellent scholarship of younger women and minority members of the profession through a public lecture that will also advance their own careers. It is the hope of Brook and our department that publicizing this annual lecture will inspire other philosophy departments to seek more opportunities to showcase the scholarship of women and minority philosophers (http://www.gwalumni.org/2013/12/alumna-funds-gw-philosophy-lecture-series/).

A Semester of Brown Bags

- The department hosted three brown bag seminars this fall led by GW philosophy faculty. For more information, or to read the available papers please visit our website (http://departments.columbia.edu/philosophy/):

  October 18, 2013: Christopher Venner presented “Isolation and Otherness in Wim Wenders’ Wings of Desire.”

  November 8, 2013: Dimitar Kirilov presented “Representation by the Bootstraps.”

  November 22, 2013: Cameron Bassili presented “Temporality and Alterity in Descartes’ Meditations.”

Philosophy Club Update

This year’s Philosophy Club has new leadership, as the past two years’ president Landon Elkind moved to the University of Iowa to begin work on a philosophy Ph.D. Alex Charles served as President this past fall, along with Annie Klink as Vice President, and Gilbert Heurta as Treasurer. Thus far the club has discussed topics ranging from Existentialism to Buddhism, Post-modernism, and Kantian Ethics during their regular meetings. Professor Laura Papish also met with the Philosophy Club and was interviewed for this fall newsletter (see page 7). Philosophy Club member Maha Hansen coached the School Without Walls’ DC Ethics Bowl team, and Alex Charles volunteered as a moderator at the Ethics Bowl. Maha’s teams, both from the School Without Walls, faced each other in the final round of the Ethics Bowl. We are now busy planning for this year’s Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, scheduled for April 11, 2014 in the Marvin Center, Room 308.

Upcoming Events

**Thacher Lecture**
Friday, February 28, 2014 at 4:00pm
Dr. Otavio Bueno, University of Miami

**Goutman Lecture**
Friday, March 21, 2014 at 4:00pm
Dr. Mark Wrathall, University of California, Riverside

**Undergraduate Philosophy Conference**
Friday, April 11, 2014 at 1:00pm
Deadline for Paper Submissions: January 17, 2014

Professor Megan Davis at the Fall 2013 Department Party

Summer 2014 Course Offerings

| Introduction to Philosophy | Tad Zawidzki* |
| Philosophy and Film | Chris Venner* |
| Introduction to Logic | Eric Sadel* |
| Philosophy of Race and Gender | Megan Davis* |
| Ethics: Theory & Applications | Jeff Brand* |
| Social & Political Philosophy | Michael Sigrist* |
| Ethics: Business & Professions | Lloyd Eby |
| Philosophy of Law | Jeff Brand* |

*Offered as online courses
Jeff Brand (Associate Professor) was excited to return to teaching in the Department after a wonderful year on leave in 2012-13 as a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Bioethics, National Institutes of Health. As of July 1, he has been serving as our Director of Graduate Studies. His latest book, Philosophy of Law: Introducing Jurisprudence, was just published by Bloomsbury (London) with substantial advance praise from reviewers. (See it here: http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/philosophy-of-law-9781441141897/)

Robert Paul Churchill (Professor) received a summer research grant from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences so that he and a research assistant could continue work on his current monograph: Women in the Crossfire: The Origins of Honor Killing and Patriarchal Honor Societies. He presented a paper on his research as the invited Founder's Lecturer to the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World. He also presented a paper about honor killing at Saint Rose College in Albany, New York. In addition, Paul presented a paper on MOOCs and the ethics of teaching at the APA, Eastern Division. In addition to continuing work on his book, Paul is preparing the Presidential Address for the American Society for Value Inquiry. The topic is: “Having Human Rights Equally.” Paul will also be addressing a meeting of Concerned Philosophers for Peace on honor killing, and revising a paper recently presented on the “Palestinian Right of Return.”

Since the last newsletter, David DeGrazia (Professor) began a new job as Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. He now works at NIH three days a week while continuing, part-time, at GW. This fall he gave two lectures at the annual meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities as well as addressing a meeting organized by the Pediatric Ethics Committee of the FDA. Later this month, David is scheduled to give another talk for the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. In the last few months, David has had three journal articles accepted for publication: “The Case for Moderate Gun Control” (forthcoming in The Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal), “Handguns, Moral Rights, and Physical Security” (forthcoming in The Journal of Moral Philosophy), and “On the Moral Status of Infants and the Cognitively Disabled” (forthcoming in Ethics). Now teaching just one course per semester at GW, and anticipating a focus on ethics, David is experiencing the bittersweet pleasure of teaching Introduction to Philosophy for the final time.

Michèle Friend (Associate Professor) had an exciting summer, with a presentation at the logic colloquium in Evora, Portugal, and a quite different presentation at the Russian Society for Ecological Economics in Irkutsk, Russia. After the Irkutsk conference, she met up with a former student, Landon Elkind, and traveled with him and her father in Mongolia for 10 days, mostly in the Gobi desert (see photo). Apart from the usual symbolic logic class, Friend is teaching an advanced logic class this fall semester on the logic of partial information. The formal system is very interesting and is designed to help us - and computers - reason when we don’t have full or perfect information.

William Griffith (Professor) resumed his teaching responsibilities in Fall 2013, after spending the spring on disability leave with two ruptured patellar tendons. Although he is using a walker to get around, he is still offering his graduate seminar, PHIL 6230.10, on “Ethical Issues in Policy Arguments.” In Spring 2014, he plans to offer his seminar on “Economic Justice,” PHIL 6231.10.

Laura Papish (Assistant Professor) is completing her first semester at GW. Her article, “Aristotle on Common Perception,” was published in Apeiron: A Journal for Ancient Philosophy and Science in October 2013, and she presented a paper at the UK Kant Society in August entitled “Personality and Punishment in Kant’s Religion.” Laura is continuing work on this and other papers, including one on the empirical adequacy of virtue ethics and another on the ethical aspects of black identity politics. She will present this second piece, “Black Identity and Collective Action: A Critique of Tommie Shelby’s We Who Are Dark,” at the Eastern APA conference in December 2013. Finally, Laura is serving as a judge for this year’s DC Ethics Bowl and looking forward to teaching History of Ancient Philosophy and a proseminar on Kant’s first Critique in the spring.
Mark Ralkowski (Assistant Professor) spent the summer writing and teaching. He wrote an encyclopedia article on Sartre’s concept of “bad faith,” a review article on Francisco Gonzalez’s Heidegger and Plato: A Question of Dialogue, and a conference paper on Heidegger’s interpretation of Nietzsche, “Zarathustra’s Ontotheology and the Crisis of Modernity.” He delivered that paper at a Nietzsche conference in Cork, Ireland, this past September. In addition to working on these projects, Ralkowski also taught an ethics course for Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Talented Youth program at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Eric Saidel (Assistant Professor) is continuing his work on animal minds and is wrapping up a Dean’s Seminar he taught this semester called “Are There Animal Minds?” He has been working on a paper, “Through the Looking Glass,” on tests for mirror self-recognition in animals. This fall, he presented the paper to the students and faculty of the School for Cognitive Science at Hampshire College. Next semester, Eric is looking forward to teaching a class on Jewish Philosophy, “For I Am Full of Words,” as well as teaching Philosophy of Biology again. For next spring’s logic class, Saidel plans to use the online materials he developed while teaching the class this past summer to “flip” the course, allowing students to view lectures at home and do their homework in the classroom. This may be the wave of the future!

Christopher Venner (Professorsial Lecturer) received an Online Learning Initiative grant to develop an online version of PHIL 1062 Philosophy and Film, to be offered in Summer 2014.

This past fall, Gail Weiss (Professor and Chair) gave three invited talks at philosophy conferences sponsored by SUNY Stony Brook, Duquesne University, and the University of Oregon. Two of her current Merleau-Ponty Proseminar students attended the Merleau-Ponty Circle at Duquesne in September and heard her present “The Silverman Network” as part of a panel commemorating the life and work of postmodern philosopher Professor Hugh Silverman. Maddy Bortes, Troy Gibb and Gail had fun visiting Pittsburgh’s Warhol Museum together with other philosophers! Gail is currently serving with Mark Ralkowski on a search committee for a second joint position in Honors and Philosophy. They will interview candidates at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division conference in late December. In November, Gail was appointed to a three-year-term as a member of the APA’s Committee on Inclusiveness in the Profession. She will also serve on the CCAS Task Force on Global Initiatives, an interdisciplinary committee charged with identifying a series of scaled research projects on various aspects of globalization (scholarly, teaching, service) developing at the intersections of disciplines, schools, and communities at GWU.

Since the last newsletter, Tadeusz Zawidzki (Associate Professor) presented the paper, “The Myth of Jones Revisited: Our Dennettian Ancestors,” to “Minds in Common: Second Aarhus/Paris Conference on Coordination and Common Ground,” at the Institut Jean-Nicod in Paris (June 25-26, 2013). He also presented the paper, “Why Do We Mindread?” at the Culture and Mind Workshop at the University of Amsterdam (June 28, 2013), and the Kazimierz Naturalism Workshop in Kazimierz Dolny, Poland (August 19-23, 2013). He contributed the section on “mindreading” to the white paper summarizing the latter workshop. He was also an invited commentator for an online discussion of Stephen Butterfield and Ian Apperly’s forthcoming Mind and Language paper “Toward a Minimal Theory of Mind” (November 2013). The discussion appeared on the “Philosophyofbrains” blog. He also took part in the “Statistics for Philosophers” workshop at CUNY Graduate Center (November 8, 2013). Professor Zawidzki was selected this semester to co-direct GWU’s Mind-Brain Institute, with Professor Chet Sherwood of Anthropology. He also continues his duties as faculty guide for Potomac Residence Hall, member of the Honors Advisory Council, and member of the CCAS Research Advisory Council.

Thomas Wilk is a new hire who is completing his Ph.D. in Philosophy at John Hopkins University. He will teach a section of Introduction to Philosophy for the Department this spring!
Newly Affiliated Faculty Member:  
Dr. Derek Malone-France

In October, the Department welcomed Derek Malone-France as a newly affiliated faculty member. Derek holds his primary faculty appointment as an Associate Professor in the Department of Religion, and he is also Executive Director of the University Writing Program. Derek received his Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion from the Claremont Graduate University in 2001. Before coming to GW in 2005, he spent four years as a postdoctoral fellow at Duke University. Besides philosophy of religion, his research and teaching interests include metaphysics and epistemology; political theory; religion, conflict, and peace; political dissent; philosophy of education; and the religious and philosophical implications of the search for extraterrestrial life. Derek’s publications include his first book, which compares the respective metaphysical and epistemological systems of Immanuel Kant and Alfred North Whitehead and a two-volume edited collection of great works in the history of political dissent. His most recent book, on the role of religion in the public sphere, was a finalist for 2013’s Best Work in the Constructive–Reflective Study of Religion prize from the American Academy of Religion. In the spring, Derek’s course on Contemporary Philosophy of Religion will be cross-listed with the department.

We’re Re-activating the Philosophy Honors Society, Phi Sigma Tau!

The Philosophy Department has reactivated its chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, a national honors society devoted to developing and honoring academic excellence in philosophy. As Article II of the Phi Sigma Tau constitution states, the society aims, “(1) to serve as a means of awarding distinction to students having high scholarship and personal interest in philosophy; (2) to promote student interest in research and advanced study in this field; (3) to provide opportunities for the publication of student research papers of merit; (4) to encourage a professional spirit and friendship among those who have displayed marked ability in this field; (5) to popularize interest in philosophy among the general public.” Membership in the society is open to qualified graduate and undergraduate students, professors of philosophy, and others who qualify as honorary chapter members. Mark Ralkowski will serve as the honors society’s faculty advisor. Earlier this fall, he and Gail Weiss held a meeting to induct one current undergraduate, Kody Sparks, and five May 2013 alumni: Landon Elkind, Katherine Hurrelbrink, Iaan Reynolds, Alexander Northover, and Malena Bell. During the coming months, the philosophy department will nominate a second group of graduating and rising senior majors who will be inducted into the honors society at a spring ceremony. With their induction, our chapter will become student run. Officers will be elected, and plans will be drawn for integrating the society with the Department’s other undergraduate activities, such as Philosophy Club events and the undergraduate conference.

Dr. Richard Reeves

Dr. Richard Reeves taught a new graduate course for the department this fall, PHIL 6290 Special Topics in Public Policy: Liberalism and Social Policy. We are happy to report that he will be teaching for us again in the 2014-2015 academic year! In addition to his role as a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute and his contributions to The Atlantic Monthly and The New York Times, Dr. Reeves is the author of John Stuart Mill: Victorian Firebrand. Of his time spent teaching he says, "For a good part of my career, I've been a policy-maker by day and a philosopher by night. This class has been all about wielding philosophical tools in the service of addressing policy goals. You know, teachers often say they've learned as much from their students as their students have from them. In my case, it's actually true!" Check out his latest op-ed article “The Glass Floor Problem” in The New York Times here.

Thank you to Student Assistants Dave Gelsomino, Meredith Thomas, and Kathryn Ball for their great work this fall!
Dr. Laura Papish

The GW Philosophy Club has chosen Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dr. Laura Papish as the subject of the Fall 2013 Faculty Profile. Below, Professor Papish responds to questions posed by the Philosophy Club.

Where are you from originally?
I was born in Queens, but didn't stay there too long. I grew up in Brentwood, Long Island.

Where did you attend graduate school and undergraduate school?
I went to undergraduate school at Penn State, and received my master's at Villanova. I later got my Ph.D. at Northwestern.

What drew you to DC, other than a job offer?
My husband and I lived in Baltimore for a while. I lived in Philly for a really long time. What drew me to D.C. was the fact that my husband and I previously lived in Chicago, so we wanted that "city feel" again. As a musician, my husband was really excited to get back to the city!

Clearly Kant is your favorite philosopher, but who would you say is your least favorite, or at least the one philosopher whom you most disagree with?
Interesting. What a hard, but interesting question. I don't know. Honestly, my problem has always been liking philosophers too much, and as an undergrad I would change my favorite all the time. From a teaching perspective, I find Plato hardest to teach but that has nothing to do with his content; it's the dramatic form that's difficult. Medieval philosophy is probably my least favorite, but that's everyone's least favorite. I don't like Nietzsche as much as others. I have just never been attracted to him as much as other philosophers are.

If you could describe your work ethic with one song, what would it be?
Can I look at my iTunes playlist? Um, it would probably be "Waiting Room" by Fugazi because in philosophy a lot of what you have to do is wait and wait for ideas to come.

How do you respond to the "oh-so-many" critics who say philosophy is not a true or meaningful discipline to study?
I do think that's really wrong. I worked as a technical writer after undergrad. I didn't go straight to grad school. Since philosophy is very focused on writing, being a philosophy major worked out really well. Honestly, philosophy doesn't fare any worse than any of the other humanities. The only drawback with philosophy is it does take people a little longer to get their career started.

Knowing what you now know about being a philosophy major, if you could go back in time, would you change your major (I think you mentioned majoring in art history if you had the opportunity)?
I would have added art history, and would've done it just for the sake of getting more exposure to it. Philosophy was a really great major for me. It's been an experience filled with great philosophers and great friends. But I definitely would have added art history just because I loved it.

Having been at GW for only a few months, what surprises you most about the school/DC/students?
One thing that was really surprising was that there were so many philosophy majors. There are a lot - and a lot more than I expected. I have never had students so willing and happy to talk. I never had it to this degree, even if there was enthusiasm to talk. The willingness to try new and different ideas out here definitely exceeds some other places I've been. I think the students are not just talkative, but really good at taking risks and not being conservative; they want to try out their ideas. There's a lot more of "I think this is wrong" and challenging different beliefs. Honestly, finding students this passionate is really rare and really nice.

It has been said that philosophy is a discipline with an underwhelming amount of female representation. Has this been your experience? Why?
Something around 17% is the number of women in full-time faculty positions. That's usually an average number in some sciences, but bad for the humanities. You see it start in the classroom. In general undergraduate classes, the classroom's usually 50/50. But when you get to classes restricted for philosophy majors, the numbers get much less. For example, I taught History of Modern Philosophy this semester, which is a requirement for philosophy majors. Of the 23 students, only seven were women. That's less than a third. So when you get to graduate school, usually less than a third of the population is women. In faculty positions, it's less than 20% - even less when you are talking about women who are tenured.
Faculty Spotlight (con’t)

Why? I don’t know. People are constantly trying to figure out whether it’s philosophy having a cultural problem or, whether it’s because philosophers have historically been predominantly white men. There could also be the fact that graduate school women are losing their childbearing years. Honestly, it’s probably a whole mess of factors. I should also note that there is a blog on what it is like to be a woman in philosophy.

Do you currently have any research projects in the works? Ongoing publications?
I am sketching out a book project on Kant. Generally, if you’re my age, you first need to have a few papers out to get anywhere with a publisher. I’m working on getting those out.

Whenever a person goes into a bookstore (Barnes & Noble, for example), the philosophy section is usually riddled with titles such as “Philosophy & ____ (The Simpsons, Lost, Family Guy).” Would you say these projects accomplish the same kind of inquiry that occurs within academia? What “pairing” would you like to see?
Those books are usually a mixed bag. I’ve seen some that are really good, such as one on “The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.” Others are not as good, and the thing that’s unfortunate about that trajectory is that it’s gotten a little bandwagon. But some are really great and I hope people read them.

What advice would you give to students who are interested in pursuing graduate school in philosophy? Is there anything you wish someone had told you before you applied? What traits make philosophy majors/graduates attractive to employers?
Usually people start out with a warning about the job market and how difficult it is. Also, it’s really hard to get positions that pay adequately. If someone wants to do it they need to know that less than half of positions are like that (i.e. full-time). People have run the numbers. See, for instance, Philosophysmoker.blogspot.com. Some people have estimated the chance of getting one of these positions in a given year is 17% and that’s really low. Know that it’s really competitive. Sometimes people say “do it if you can do it for six-to-eight years and know you will enjoy it, but be ready for the fact that you may need to prepare for another career.” Will you be prepared for eight years of sunken time if it doesn’t work out? Are you going to give up on spouses and kids or move around if that will help make it happen? Another thing students should do is ask professors if they think you’re good enough to do it. I asked, my friends asked.

Professors don’t always say yes! But, but when they do, it’s really reassuring. Also, don’t pay a penny. Don’t go a Ph.D. program that won’t pay you.

Pictured above: Dr. Thomas Pogge and Professor Gail Weiss at the Elton Lecture (top), Professor Tad Zawidzki and Dr. Gayle Salamon at the Sophia Lecture (middle), and Professor Bill Griffith and Eileen Churchill, Professor Paul Churchill’s wife, at the Fall 2013 Department Party (bottom).
Alumni News

Adrian Crook (BA ’97, MA ’99) works as a research and fiscal analyst in the Education Sector for the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) in Trenton, New Jersey. OLS provides non-partisan research and drafts legislation for the New Jersey Legislature. Mr. Crook lives in Hamilton, New Jersey, with his wife, Evelyn, and two-and-a-half-year old daughter, Simone. They are expecting another child in July 2014. He has had several short stories published, including “Bundle of Joy,” which was selected for the Best of 2012 edition of Uncharted Frontier Zine. His debut novel, “Zeus Blinked,” received an honorable mention in the 2011 Hollywood Book Festival.

Raj Patel (BA ’13) left his full time position at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in order to pursue a MPhil in the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge. He started at Darwin College in October 2013.

Juli C. Schwartz (BA ’98) is an associate in Morgan Lewis’s Litigation Practice and a member of the practice’s International Trade and Economic Sanctions Group. Ms. Schwartz’s practice encompasses customs, import-export, and international trade law, including tariff classification, valuation, trade preferences, quota/visa restrictions, country of origin and marking/labeling rules, intellectual property rights protection and enforcement, trade compliance/enforcement, trade remedies, and import safety. Ms. Schwartz is the author of a number of print and online publications and has spoken on issues such as intellectual property rights enforcement at the border and an importer’s responsibility to establish its right to make entry. She is a member of the American Bar Association’s International Law Section, Women in International Trade (Los Angeles), and sits on the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s International Law Section.

Ernest Wolf-Gazo (BA ’69) published a memoir of the late Yale philosopher John E. Smith, a foremost interpreter of Classic American Philosophy, as “Remembering John E. Smith: Philosopher and Mensch” in Experience, Interpretation, and Community: Themes in John E. Smith’s Reconstruction of Philosophy. Dr. Wolf-Gazo’s participation and contribution to the Wuppertal Philosophy Forum was published as “Habermas and Young Hegelian Dialectics” in Habermas and Historical Materialism. The forum celebrated the 90th birthday of Karl-Otto Apel and honored the work of his longtime friend and colleague in Frankfurt, Juergen Habermas, as well as the Georg Lukacs student, Agnes Heller. Dr. Wolf-Gazo’s contribution is significant, since it deals with the never-published 1954, 425-page Bonn University Dissertation of Habermas, “The Absolute and History: On the Bifurcation of Schelling’s Thought.” The work reveals a surprising structural framework, moving from pietism, and the Kabbalah, to the older Schelling, straight into the early Marx’s philosophy of history. The specific reply by Habermas to this contribution, as well as the debate between Apel and Heller, make the publication of the Wuppertal Forum formidable. Dr. Wolf-Gazo and his son Sinan, who recently joined GWU as a chemistry transfer undergraduate student, wish friends and colleagues at GWU an old fashioned Merry Christmas, health and a lot of luck for the New Year 2014.

Keep Us Posted!

Any news that you would like to share with GW Philosophy faculty, students and alumni? Have it published in our Spring 2014 newsletter! Just send your submission via email to Amanda McLaughlin at philosop@gwu.edu

Philosophy M.A. students at the Fall 2013 Department Party
Fall 2013 Events (con't)

New Initiatives

The Department has been actively pursuing a number of new initiatives this semester in response to student and faculty feedback:

New MA in Philosophy: We are hoping to offer a second MA degree in addition to our current MA in Philosophy in Social Policy. Look for an update on this initiative in our next newsletter.

New courses for 2013-2014: PHIL 6290 Liberalism and Social Policy, as mentioned above, is a new graduate seminar that is being offered this fall by Richard Reeves, who previously served as an advisor on social policy issues to the Deputy Prime Minister of the UK. Other new courses include Saidel's new Dean's Seminar: Intro. to Jewish Philosophy; a cross-listed course with Religion entitled Contemporary Philosophy of Religion offered by Derek Malone-France; four proseminars: Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception* taught by Gail Weiss; Human Rights: Reality and Justification offered by Paul Churchill; Heidegger's *Being and Time* offered by Mark Ralkowski; and Kant's Critique of Pure Reason offered by Laura Papish. The proseminars have been especially popular with our junior and senior majors!

A revised Minor in Applied Ethics: Will go into effect Fall 2014, and will include a new course on Contemporary Issues in Ethics that will be taught for the first time by Laura Papish.

A revamped Philosophy Major - Public Policy concentration: Will include the new Contemporary Issues in Ethics course as of Fall 2014.

Study abroad components: Are being considered for selected philosophy courses in upcoming years.

A revitalized office space: We painted the main department office, Phillips 508, and reorganized the main office and adjunct office spaces. The redecorated spaces are more welcoming for our students, alumni, and visitors!

Donations

January 1, 2013 - December 6, 2013

The Department gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who have made donations this year:

Ms. Nicole A. Barrett, MA '12
Mr. Matthew Stephen Calardo, BA '13
Chevron Matching Gift Program
Mr. Christopher C. Fritz, BA '12
Mr. Bryan U. Savant, SEHD MA '81
Ms. Elizabeth St. J. Loker, BA '69
Dr. Gail D. Weiss, Department Chair
Ms. Jessica A. Yager, BA '10

Giving to the Department

All donations to the Department of Philosophy are both greatly appreciated and tax-deductible. To be a part of the department's continuing growth, please send your donation through this site:

https://www.gwu.edu/online_giving

(Don't forget to designate your gift to the Department of Philosophy!) If you would like to make a donation to our new Sophia Lecture fund, which has been endowed for its first five years, please specify when you submit your gift.

Recent Graduates

The department would like to congratulate the following individuals who graduated in Fall of 2013:

Kody Magyver Sparks and Salem Stour

Credits

This issue of the GW Department of Philosophy Newsletter was edited by our Executive Aide, Amanda McLaughlin, with assistance from Professor Weiss and Alexander Charles. The design of the newsletter was created by Julia Louie.