



2009–2010 [philosophy.osu.edu](http://philosophy.osu.edu)

## Words from the Chair

“Please let me know if you don’t receive this.” This practical version of a paradox of self-reference is sometimes jokingly included in e-mails. If it’s ever appropriate, it’s appropriate for this newsletter. In an effort to re-deploy our resources to better promote

our core mission, we’ve decided to produce our newsletter only in electronic format. We believe that, being now well into the 21st century, we should take advantage of the current technologies to enhance efficiency and environmental responsibility. We will, of course, post it on our web site and, in addition, distribute it as widely as we can to our alumni and friends. And we will make a special effort to seek out the e-mail addresses of our alumni and friends for whom we have only postal addresses. Even with our best efforts, we might miss some of our alumni and friends. So “please let me know if you don’t receive this.”

### Changes

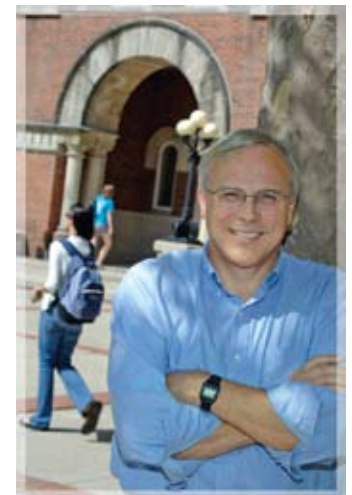
Change is afoot at OSU. The academic calendar is moving from quarters to semesters. The five colleges of the arts and sciences that have, since 1968, been separate colleges will be unified into a single College of Arts and Sciences.

Since 1922, the Ohio State University has been on a quarter calendar system. Beginning in the autumn of 2012, OSU will end its 90 year experiment with the quarter system and move to the semester system that is now, by far, the most common calendar in higher education. Debate over the calendar system has arisen several times over the past two decades and the proposal to shift

to semesters was approved in principle by the University Senate several years ago, though that approval was contingent on a number of conditions. The conditions were met and last spring the University Senate voted to move to a semester calendar no later than the autumn of 2012.

This change will present many challenges—or, in the words of optimists, it will provide many opportunities. Either way, there’s a lot of work to be done. Courses have to be reconfigured, undergraduate majors and minors need to be redesigned, and the graduate program will need to be adjusted. At the University level, the General Education Curriculum will have to be completely rethought, which is always a challenge and opportunity.

The unification of the separate colleges of the arts and sciences into one strong College of Arts and Sciences



Don Hubin, Chair

is already well under way and it promises to provide new efficiencies and opportunities. It should make it considerably easier than it has been for faculty in the Philosophy Department to collaborate on teaching with colleagues in, for example, Psychology, Political Science, Economics, Mathematics, and Biology.

*(continued on p. 2)*

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## Words from the Chair cont'd

### Departures and Arrivals

At the Department level, there are changes, too. Our long-time colleague and friend Dan Farrell will retire at the end of Winter Quarter after 37 years of extraordinary service to the profession, the University, and the Department. Please see the story on p. 13 for more about Dan's career and his retirement. Here I will just reiterate how much we will miss Dan's presence in the Department. Because of Dan's love of and excellence at teaching, and with the support of some "early adopters," we are developing a proposal for an undergraduate philosophy retreat in his honor. We hope to fund the opportunity for four or five advanced undergraduate philosophy majors to take a two-day retreat at a cabin or lodge away from campus with either several faculty or a faculty member and one or two graduate students. The retreat would be an opportunity for immersion in some philosophical topic with outstanding faculty and graduate students—a rare opportunity for undergraduate students and one that we would very much like to be able to provide. And it is fitting that such a program be established in honor of Dan, who has had such a profound effect on his students. (Please see the story on this project on p. 15)

We were saddened by the news of the death of one of our long-time colleagues, Ivan Boh. Ivan was, as all who knew him would attest, the quintessential "gentleman and scholar." He was an internationally renowned expert on medieval logic, perhaps even better known in Europe than in the U.S. And, he was also a kind and gentle presence in the Department. He will be missed.

On a happier note, we were joined this year by Piers Norris Turner. Piers, who comes to us from the University of North Carolina, specializes in moral and political philosophy, especially the moral and political philosophy of John Stuart Mill. (For more, see the story on p. 9) We welcome Piers, Abby Norris (his wife), and Charlotte and Cyrus (their two children) to Ohio and to the Department.

The Department also welcomed this fall six new graduate students, three of whom won very competitive multi-year fellowship offers. These students come from across the country and, in one case, from Canada. They have interests in a wide range of philosophical issues including philosophy of language, moral philosophy, philosophy of mind, philosophy of logic, and more. We are delighted to welcome all of these students to our Department; they have already established themselves as valuable members of our philosophical community.

### OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values

For some time now, several of us in the Department have been working with colleagues across the University to develop a proposal for an OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values. Our vision is to create a center that is focused on foundational moral questions that underlie many moral issues confronting the world, our country, and each of us, as individuals. These foundational issues manifest themselves differently in different academic disciplines and practical pursuits, but we believe that it is valuable to examine the foundational issues directly.

To illustrate with just two examples, consider the following. Issues concerning global energy policies, national health care systems, and funding models for education all raise foundational problems of distributive justice. And issues concerning the education of older children, health care decisions for impaired patients, and attorneys' responsibilities to clients all raise foundational problems about agency and autonomy. We are convinced that there is value in bringing together researchers with diverse "applied" interests as well as scholars who are focused on the more abstract, philosophical issues to learn from each other. Stealing inspiration, if not content (or even rhythm), from Kant, the thought can be conveyed as follows: "Moral theory without moral application is empty; moral practice without moral theory, blind."

I'm delighted to report that, amidst very stiff competition, our proposal for a grant from OSU to get this project fully developed and ready for launching was funded. In this competition for what are called "Innovation Group Grants," twenty-four proposals from around the University were put forth, each having the support of dozens of faculty from multiple disciplines. Of those twenty-four, only three were funded. We are gratified by the support that the University has shown and we look forward to the exciting work of developing a concrete proposal and funding model for the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values.

### Conclusion

We are facing multiple situations that can be framed either as challenges or as opportunities. But we have also set for ourselves several tasks that can be reasonably understood only as a very welcome opportunities. One of the most exciting is the development of a Dan Farrell Undergraduate Philosophy Retreat that I mentioned earlier. You can read more about this project in the news item on p. 15. I hope that you'll be as excited about it as we are because we need your help to pull this off. It will be a terrific experience for the students who are involved in the retreat and a very fitting way of honoring Dan's contribution to undergraduate education in our Department.



Don Hubin  
Chair

## Foundational Adventures: A Conference in Honor of Harvey Friedman

A major interdisciplinary event took place at The Blackwell Inn, May 14-17, 2009: Foundational Adventures: Conference in Honor of the 60th Birthday of Harvey M. Friedman. The conference, affectionately referred to as 'Harveyfest' was organized by Neil Tennant and made possible by a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation and also by funds for travel awards from the National Science Foundation.

The list of speakers attests to the extraordinary reputation enjoyed by the honoree, who is a long-standing affiliate of the Department of Philosophy. The plenary speakers were figures of great distinction in the fields of mathematics, computer science, and philosophy: Martin Davis (UC Berkeley and NYU), Solomon Feferman (Stanford), Anil Nerode (Cornell), Hilary Putnam (Harvard), Gerald Sacks (Harvard and MIT), and Patrick Suppes (Stanford). Thirty other speakers, from the USA and from overseas, filled the parallel sessions on the program, representing Departments of Music, Philosophy, Mathematics, and Computer Science. All of these areas have been affected in significant ways by Harvey Friedman's foundational researches. Saul Kripke of CUNY, who was an invited plenary speaker but was unable to attend owing to health reasons, sent a warm tribute to Harvey's lifelong contributions to our understanding of deep foundational issues in logic, semantics, and mathematics. The conference ended with a plenary discussion session, at which Harvey answered questions from the chair and from the floor and outlined some of the major research challenges that he sees ahead.

The event was preceded by announcements on the webpages of major academic societies and also by an effective local publicity campaign, both on- and off-campus, involving posters, newspaper articles, and in-depth interviews, with videos, on webpages. This generated a high level of interest—so much so that that opening reception and plenary session had to be relocated to the biggest auditorium available in the conference center! Thereafter, all plenary sessions were at full capacity, and indeed many of the parallel sessions were "standing room only." The conference program enabled scholars to hear about the work of both distinguished and established figures as well as several rising young stars in the profession.

The occasion was dignified, and its importance underscored, by the attendance, and welcome speeches, of our University President, Professor E. Gordon Gee, at the opening reception on Thursday evening and of our Interim Dean of the Federation of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Professor Joan Leitzel, at the banquet held on Saturday evening. We were honored also by the presence of Dr. Hyung Choi as the Templeton Foundation's representative. We are deeply grateful to Professors Gee and Leitzel for their unstinting support for the whole project. And that support extended from the top down: OSU colleagues and graduate students from the Departments of Linguistics, Philosophy, Mathematics, and Computer Science and Engineering were generous in undertaking to chair the various sessions. The organizers also received sterling assistance from James McGlothlin in Philosophy.

Many favorable notes of congratulations and thanks have been received from speakers and other attendees. Everyone has remarked on the uniformly high quality of the presentations and the event's extraordinarily interdisciplinary character. Streaming videos of all the sessions will soon be made available on an OSU server. The organizers intend also to publish the proceedings of the conference with a leading academic press.



Cedric Fausey, a gifted young mathematician, pictured here at the opening reception of the conference, with President Gordon Gee, and the honoree, Professor Harvey Friedman.

## Chelsea Pflum

### Current Undergraduate

Chelsea Pflum can remember, as if it happened only yesterday, a particular moment when her life changed entirely. She was fifteen years old and had gone with her family to Peru to visit a family friend who had started a non-profit organization in Lima to help poor boys get an education and move out of the abject poverty into which they had been born. During this trip, their family friend took Chelsea and her family to a small rice-farming village in the north of Peru so that they could experience life outside the city. The village was extremely poor, with no running water and no electricity, and Chelsea found the people some of the most hospitable people she had met in her life. She didn't think about their poverty because, in talking with the villagers, she found that they were just like any other people; they worried about their family and hoped for the future just like anyone else.

It was on the last day in the village that Chelsea's life-altering event occurred. She saw a girl sitting on the ground leaning against the side of an adobe building just watching the other kids playing. As Chelsea stared at her, she realized that she was looking into the face of one of the children she had always seen in the television commercials asking

people to donate just eighty cents a day to feed starving children in the Third World. But Chelsea had talked with this girl, she had played tea party and hide-and-seek with her, and this little girl was certainly, in Chelsea's mind, not one of those children in abject poverty that she had always separated so distinctly from herself. However, watching this little girl in a small village in Peru changed Chelsea. "I realized that my worldview had been warped, that I really had no clue about the human condition, and I was embarrassed by just how naive I had been throughout my entire life."

It was after this life-altering trip that Chelsea began to really ask questions and take an interest in philosophical pursuits. She began to wonder about what it actually meant to be a human being, a living being, and what exactly we were all doing here. She took her first two philosophy classes in her last years of high school in search for answers, "only to find more deep and complex questions, as so many philosophers do." Even though her troubling questions have not been answered in her philosophy classes, and most likely will never be fully resolved, she still finds the pursuit of this knowledge fascinating and useful in her everyday life. What concerns

her most, philosophically, is how humans live together, how we treat each other, whether we inherently merit the basic human rights promised us through various legal documents and whether or not it is the responsibility of all others to ensure that these rights are granted. It is these questions that keep Chelsea searching and made her decide to study philosophy at Ohio State.

Chelsea has enjoyed pondering these questions over the past few years since her life-changing moment, but the reality of the people she met in Peru has made Chelsea want to do more than just sit in her room and contemplate the way the world ideally should be. This past summer she travelled to São Paulo, Brazil to do an internship at a non-governmental organization called "Vida Jovem." The organization takes in children who cannot legally live with their parents, gives them a family environment in which to live and sends them to school—hopefully to college or professional school someday. In addition to living with the children, meeting "amazing people," and learning Portuguese, Chelsea wrote grant requests, solicited local donors, and helped plan Vida Jovem's large fundraising gala at the beginning of September. "It was an absolutely amazing summer that helped me to grow into a more independent person, to experience a new group of people and culture, and to help understand more fully exactly what I want to do in the future."

During Chelsea's short time here at Ohio State, she has also been very involved with a group called United Students Against Sweatshops, which is concerned with the fair treatment of workers both here at Ohio State and abroad. "Being a member of this group has made me very



Chelsea Pflum with three of the children she worked with in Brazil: Renato, Felipe, and Douglas

interested in the relationship between employer and worker and with labor rights issues around the world." As a result of the knowledge Chelsea has gained by working with this group and through her travels to Peru and Brazil, she plans to study labor law when she graduates from Ohio State and work with labor unions or international organizations to ensure all workers around the world are treated with dignity and paid a decent wage in order to support themselves and their families, and hopefully reduce poverty in the long-term.

Chelsea's experiences in developing nations and her work with labor rights groups have molded her into the person she is today, and the study of philosophy has, she says, "helped me to reflect on those experiences and to guide my life down the road I am currently headed. So many people ignore philosophy or don't bother with it because they view it as such an abstract subject, which it is, but I have learned that even the most abstract philosophical ponderings can be applied to daily life in some way and help us to understand the world around us and the people we live with in a way that subjects like chemistry and biology never can."



Felipe, Douglas, Renato, and Chelsea show their Buckeye Spirit

## Ben Flowers and John Wasserman

### Former Undergraduates

Like many students, Ben Flowers and John Wasserman sort of stumbled into philosophy. John describes the decision to take his first philosophy course, Don Hubin's Introduction to Ethics, as a "fluke"—a mental coin-flip between that and Anthropology. Ben Flowers enrolled in George Pappas's Introduction to Philosophy on a "whim." But Ben and John quickly found their intellectual homes in philosophy. Ben recalls an incident as a young boy when he was riding with his mother in a car and wondered, "Where are my thoughts?" Years later, when he learned in George's course that this was really a question in the philosophy of mind, he was hooked on philosophy. John had anticipated that philosophy might concern itself with such frivolous questions as "What if a tree wasn't a tree?" That impression was quickly dispelled, and John found the opportunity to talk about ethics in a serious, systematic way exciting.

Philosophy might have been the intellectual home for John and Ben, but they were not homebodies. John says,

I think philosophy at Ohio State not only was interesting in itself, but it woke me up to how interesting other subjects could be. For me, philosophical questions are made better and more interesting by the addition of other facts about the world, and facts about the world are made more meaningful by philosophical considerations. Philosophy helped to make other classes that I took—chemistry, psychology, economics—seem alive, rather than some kind of rote exercise.

Ben recounts similar thoughts:

I really can't emphasize enough how fortunate I feel to have found philosophy. Contrary to the beliefs of many, it truly is a practical major. I am a better and more engaged citizen because of the skills that I honed studying philosophy.

Ben says that he had so many great professors at OSU that listing them wouldn't be very helpful but, when pressed, he mentioned a few. Wayne Wu, from whom Ben took two courses, routinely pressed his students to reconstruct arguments from the readings to exhibit their logical structure—an exercise that Ben found sometimes tedious but incredibly valuable. "No assignments did more to develop my argumentative skills

(and in doing so prepare me for the Law School Admission Test [LSAT]) than Professor Wu's," he says. John believes that Neil Tennant's instruction in the Symbolic Logic course helped him, not only in other courses, but also—agreeing with Ben—on the LSAT. "Everyone uses logic," John says, "but the difference between someone pre- and post-symbolic-logic, if they take it seriously, is like the difference between being able to do simple arithmetic on your fingers and having a calculator."

In 2008, John won the Bingham Medal, which is awarded for the best undergraduate essay in philosophy written in the previous year, for his essay "On Death," written for Don Hubin's Moral Philosophy course. He describes winning this award, which has been awarded annually since 1922, as the most meaningful experience of his career as a philosophy major. "I think it was when I was presenting my paper at the award ceremony that I realized that I had absolutely made the right decision by majoring in philosophy—I was being grilled by a bunch of professors, and I was having all kinds of fun trying to defend myself," he says.

Ben, who continues to be interested in issues in the philosophy of mind, was energized to think about issues in metaethics as a result of taking Advanced Moral Philosophy from Justin D'Arms. His interest in these two areas led naturally to what became the focus of his Honors Thesis: compatibilism, particularly the compatibility of moral responsibility and causal determinism. Ben worked on his thesis under the supervision of Tim Schroeder, from whom he'd taken a philosophy of mind course.

"Without a doubt," says Ben, "the Honors Thesis was the most valuable and rewarding part of my time as a student at Ohio State." The product of Ben's work was published in *Sapere Aude*, the College of Wooster's undergraduate philosophy journal. Ben expresses great gratitude to Professor Schroeder for his guidance on this project.



John Wasserman (left) and Ben Flowers

Ben, who served as President of the Leighton Undergraduate Philosophy Club, and John, who served as the Club's Conference Chair, were responsible for putting on a terrific undergraduate philosophy conference last May. The conference drew participants from as far away as Great Britain and was a great success. (See the story 9.)

This fall, both John and Ben began legal studies at the University of Chicago. Chicago's Law School is a very fine choice for them, not only because it is one of the very best law schools in the country, but also because it has a strong program in philosophy and law. Neither Ben nor John is really sure what areas of law will draw his interest, but both are looking forward to the new challenges with excitement. They recognize that they began their studies at OSU with no thought that they would be seduced by philosophy. Something similar will happen in the course of their legal studies. Perhaps they will be energized by an area of study that neither has yet considered or about which they have misleading preconceptions. Whatever captures their intellectual fervor, both John and Ben will be as successful in their legal studies as they have been in their philosophical studies. "Ben and I both had a lot of good options for law school," says John, "and I really think the philosophy department at Ohio State had a lot to do with that . . . . Majoring in philosophy at OSU was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

*I think it was when I was presenting my paper at the award ceremony that I realized that I had absolutely made the right decision by majoring in philosophy—I was being grilled by a bunch of professors, and I was having all kinds of fun trying to defend myself.*

## Alisa Wandzilak

### Current Graduate

Alisa Wandzilak was raised in Binghamton, New York, and went to college at SUNY Buffalo with the intention of majoring in political science and, then, going on to law school. But an advisor encouraged her to take Introduction to Ethics her first semester and that experience helped to set her on a different course. Alisa liked her philosophy class, but she was still committed to her original plan.

As Alisa completed more political science courses, though, she found them less interesting than she had expected. As the bloom came off that rose, she decided to double major in philosophy and political science. And, while she always enjoyed her philosophy classes more than others she took, she did not consider graduate school in philosophy until her senior year. Up until that time, she was still planning to go to law school after graduation. However, the lawyers she knew didn't really like the practice of law. She recognized that they might not be representative—they were, after all, academic lawyers. But their opinions helped her decide against law school.

"I had not seriously considered pursuing philosophy as a career. But when it came time to decide what to do after graduating, I found that I was not ready to give up philosophy," she said.

Alisa started graduate school at the University at Buffalo in the fall of 2005 and, in the spring of 2007, received her Master's degree. Her Master's thesis, written under the guidance of Kenneth Barber, argued that some of the contemporary criticisms of Locke's theory of personal identity are misplaced because Locke's concern was with a first-person account of personal identity, not a third-person account, which is the concern of many contemporary theorists.

Since coming to OSU with a fellowship in the fall of 2007, Alisa's interests have focused primarily on metaethics—where her special interests lie in noncognitivism, the Frege-Geach problem, and moral epistemology—and on rationality, where she is especially interested in the normativity of rationality and the relation between rationality



Alisa Wandzilak in the newly remodeled Thompson Library, overlooking University Hall

and reasons. Alisa credits a seminar she took from Abe Roth with developing her interest in reasons and rationality.

Alisa clearly impressed Abe. He says of Alisa,

I was struck by how, in just her second year as a graduate student, Alisa wrote the sort of paper that could be published in a first rate journal. Her target was recent work by Niko Kolodny, a leading figure in current debates about rationality and meta-ethics. Alisa was working with material that's intricate and can be overwhelming. It takes considerable intellectual stamina and philosophical acumen to dive right into this material and extricate just the right elements to launch a powerful critique. Alisa is very impressive.

Philosophy is not Alisa's only interest, of course. She has recently taken up long-distance running and hopes to one day run a marathon. In her free time, she also enjoys watching documentaries and playing tennis.

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**"I was struck by how, in just her second year as a graduate student, Alisa wrote the sort of paper that could be published in a first rate journal."**

## STUDENTS PRESENT AND PAST

## Mike Watkins and Jody Graham

### Former Graduates



Jody Graham and Mike Watkins in their graduation robes in 1993

Jody Graham and Michael Watkins, who are now both in the Philosophy Department at Auburn University, met as graduate students at OSU. In the autumn of 1985, Jody came from the blizzards of Ontario to the warm and sunny climes of Columbus. One year later, Michael came from the warm and sunny climes of Tennessee to the blizzards of Columbus. They were already connected to the Ohio State philosophy department. Jody's undergraduate mentor, Tom Lennon, and Michael's MA thesis director, Kathy Emmett Bohstedt, were Ohio State Ph.D.s. Recalling the competitive job market at the time, both agreed, "what we hoped to find at OSU was a strong graduate program that would make us competitive even in a bleak job market. We got that and more. It wasn't just that we were trained as philosophers. We learned how to be members of a profession. And we learned that, not only by being around excellent philosophers, but by being part of their community." Perhaps those most influential to Jody were Robert Turnbull and George Pappas. Jody was fortunate early on in the program to become the RA for Robert Turnbull as he edited the Philosophy Research Archives. He cultivated her interest in issues of perception and color and, after a class with George Pappas on George Berkeley, she knew she wanted to work with George on Berkeley and perception. "My arguments and writing became clearer and more cogent as a result of George's training,

but he also shared his wisdom, humor and respect for Berkeley and philosophy in general." Jody's current teaching at Auburn has rekindled an interest in issues of integrity and end-of-life care. In addition to teaching and research, she spends time working with professionals in the medical community discussing these issues. Her experiences following graduate school have certainly contributed to her professional growth, but "the intellectual honesty, rigor, and clarity of thought demanded by the discipline" she claims to have learned from the faculty and her fellow graduate students at OSU.

Michael took Robert Kraut's metaphysics course during his second term and never looked back. During his second year he and Jody took a course on color with Diana Raffman. Jody's paper was on the color incompatibility problem. Michael wrote on

dispositionalism and circularity. Versions of those papers won the Fink Prize and were later published. Michael's paper also became part of his dissertation, which Diana and Robert co-directed. "I have always felt fortunate to have had Diana and Robert as my advisors. Most graduate students hit the job market having given little thought to philosophical methodology, and it shows up in interviews. But you couldn't write a dissertation with Diana and Robert without reflecting on methodology. Robert always insisted that it isn't just the answer to a question that you must earn the right to. At least in philosophy, you must also earn the right to the question. You must first prove that there's a problem. And Diana would always wonder why the simplest answer wasn't the right answer, even if defending it might be the harder path."

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We wanted to always be at a place like OSU. And landing at a place that was not, we went about recreating it.



Mike Watkins, Jody Graham, and Kate

## Mike Watkins and Jody Graham cont'd

Most of all, Jody and Michael remember a very energetic, talented, and supportive community of teachers and fellow students. They remember colloquia with David Lewis, Sydney Shoemaker, Frank Jackson, Ruth Barcan Marcus, Simon Blackburn, Bill Lycan, Geoff Sayre-McCord, and many others. They remember lively and friendly arguments in the "bullpen". They remember dinners and evenings of philosophical conversation with students and faculty.

After leaving OSU, Jody took a visiting position at Washington University. Michael followed her, with the support of a Presidential Fellowship. Jody then landed a tenure-track position at Saint Mary's University in Halifax and Michael found part-time work down the street at Dalhousie. The following year, Michael landed a tenure-track position at Auburn. After they spent the better part of a year apart, Auburn hired Jody. "We wanted to always be at a place like OSU. And landing at a place that was not, we went about recreating it," Jody and Michael say of their early years at Auburn. "We now have a vibrant department that enjoys an intellectual liveliness similar to the one

we experienced at OSU." While at Auburn, their connection with OSU remains, though at a distance. Two current OSU students, Eric Carter and Lindsey Mason, were students at Auburn, each writing an honor's thesis with Michael. Michael and Jody are now tenured at Auburn. Michael was promoted to full professor in 2008, continues to publish on color, and has recently taught a seminar on Sydney Shoemaker at the University of Reika, a tie partially cultivated by his participation in the Dubrovnik conferences sponsored by OSU. He is currently the chair of the department. Both return to Halifax every summer with their daughter, Kate, to escape the heat, to sail, and to enjoy the philosophical community that welcomed them early on in their search for permanent positions.

### Words About Mike and Jody

#### Robert Kraut about Mike

Working with Michael was one of the high points of my teaching career. He was less like a student and more like a skilled and engaged colleague: we talked about his projects, my projects, and connections between them. Aside from his brightness and creativity, he had an emotional maturity and intellectual confidence rare among graduate students: he was less interested in winning arguments than in exploring the consequences of various strategies. This made it a joy to work with him; he taught me a lot, not only about his projects but about my own.

#### George Pappas about Jody

During her first couple of years at Ohio State, Jody was very close friends with Sun Joo Shin. They seemed always to be working together in the Gluck library, even at night and on weekends. I think the constant companionship was a great aid in Sun Joo's rapid improvement in her spoken and written English; and I have no doubt that they benefited each other enormously philosophically. I credit Jody with a large share in helping Sun Joo succeed when she finished her PhD at Stanford, and I think, reciprocally, Sun Joo was instrumental in helping Jody to flourish at Ohio State.

Jody worked as a research assistant for Bob Turnbull at a time when Bob was regularly using the emeritus office for his editorial duties with Philosophy Research Archives. Bob was still a very active chain-smoker at that time, and smoking was still permitted in faculty offices. Jody deserved serious hazard pay beyond what she earned as an RA! But Jody never complained, and I know she got on extremely well with Bob who, in turn, thought the world of Jody.



Jody Graham and Mike Watkins



## Piers Turner

### New Faculty

The Department is pleased to welcome our newest colleague, Piers Norris Turner. Piers has research interests in political philosophy and ethics. He received his Ph.D. in 2009 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also has an M.Sc. in the History and Philosophy of Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a B.A. from Yale University. His work focuses primarily on the 19th-century English philosopher John Stuart Mill. His dissertation, *Mill's Epistemic Liberalism*, argues that Mill's views on, first, the social conditions required for the growth of knowledge and, second, the relevance and limits of expertise in political decision-making are crucial to a unified account of his political philosophy. The continuation of this project extends the insights about expertise to our understanding of Mill's account of moral evaluation. Piers

has also co-edited a recent volume, of previously unpublished or uncollected social and political writings by the 20th-century social democrat Karl Popper, entitled *After The Open Society*.

When not doing philosophy, Piers likes to play guitar, shoot hoops, travel, and spend as much time as possible in the Adirondacks.

Piers's wife, Abby, is an assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases in the College of Medicine at OSU. Piers and Abby have two children: Charlotte, who is four years old, and Cyrus, who is two. Piers, who was born in Switzerland and raised in Syracuse, has lived many places in his life, including London, San Francisco, Mexico City, and Tanzania. But, he says, he's delighted to be in Columbus and to be able to raise his two children as Buckeyes.



Piers Turner (right) gets acquainted with G.E. Moose

## 2009 Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at Ohio State University



Dan Farrell gives a stimulating keynote address to students at the Undergraduate Conference

The Undergraduate Philosophy Club at Ohio State operates with the belief that nothing develops the intellect, and one's philosophical abilities, quite like critical and impassioned discussion with peers. With this in mind, the club hosted an ambitious conference, featuring top undergraduate philosophers from all over the world, which took place on May 1st and 2nd.

A total of twenty-six students, representing over twenty universities stretching from Arizona to the United Kingdom, presented an equally broad and eclectic selection of papers. The presentations covered metaphysics and philosophy of language, they tackled ethics and continental philosophy, and they even reached into the interdisciplinary,

incorporating neuroscience, computer science, and economics. Those selected to participate in the conference shared their papers with fellow presenters as well as the large number of other students in attendance. Following each presentation, speakers took questions and challenges from the audience—an activity that usually spilled out into the hall following the session.

The conference included a banquet featuring Ohio State's own Professor Daniel Farrell as keynote speaker. He spoke, with his usual verve, about the permissibility of preventive justice. Even after a long day, those in attendance found themselves drawn in by Farrell's engaging style. "He was witty, wily, and above all wise in what he said and how he said it," said Thomas Moller-Nielsen, a sophomore from the University of Bristol. "All in all, his argument was as convincing as it was funny."

When everything wrapped up on Saturday afternoon, attendees left with the feeling that they had gained something very valuable from their sojourn at OSU. "I was very impressed by the quality of the work being done by my peers, and I think it's a great service to undergraduate students of philosophy that

Ohio State has taken the time to organize an event where we can meet to share our work," said Lally Gartel, who will be working toward her JD/PhD in Philosophy at Duke University starting this summer.

It was the hard work of a number of people that made the conference a success, according to Conference Chair John Wasserman: "Without the help of the Philosophy Club's officers, the Ohio Union, USG humanities senators Anna Yonas and Ben Reinke, and the enthusiasm of the Ohio State students who came out to see the presentations, the conference certainly wouldn't have been possible. Professor Farrell was gracious enough to accept our invitation to serve as the keynote speaker, and he delivered a tremendous, engaging address." Club President Ben Flowers agreed, while looking towards the club's future: "The club has a history of holding these events, and not following them up. The fact that we were able to hold a second annual conference speaks volumes about the hard work that many people have put in. Hopefully the club can retain the momentum gained in these past two years and turn the conference into a tradition."

## Words About the Faculty

**Lee Brown** was a respondent to Rafael De Clercq's "Aesthetic Ideals" at the American Society for Aesthetics Pacific Division Meeting, March 27, 2008. Lee presented "Higher Level Ontologies of Popular Music: Who Needs Them?" at the American Society for Aesthetics Pacific Division Meeting, April 16, 2009. Lee has also contributed two chapters to the forthcoming *Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music*, edited by Kania and Gracyk.

**Ben Caplan** has been stalking his colleague Lee Brown: he commented on "Higher-Level Ontologies of Popular Music: Who Needs Them?," Lee's paper at the American Society for Aesthetics Pacific Division Meeting; with Carl Matheson, he contributed a chapter on ontology of music to the third edition of *Aesthetics: A Reader in Philosophy of the Arts*, which is co-edited by Lee; and, again with Carl Matheson, he contributed a chapter, also on ontology of music, to the forthcoming *Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music*, edited by Kania and Gracyk, which Lee is contributing two chapters to. Ben also presented a paper, "Against Sonicism" (co-authored with Carl Matheson), at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting; commented on Octavian Ion's "Some Concerns Regarding the Direct-Reference Theory of Belief Reports" at the Canadian Philosophical Association annual congress; and served on the Program Committee for the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting in Chicago in February 2010.

**Justin D'Arms** published "Regret and Irrational Action" with Daniel Jacobson in *Reasons for Action*, edited by David Sobel and Stephen Wall (Cambridge University Press, 2009). Justin's "Demystifying Sensibilities: Sentimental Values and the Instability of Affect," also co-authored with Dan Jacobson, is forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion*, edited by Peter Goldie. His recent presentations include "Wrong Kinds of Reasons to Feel" at the University of Western Ontario in October 2008 and at the University of Western Michigan in February 2009. In June 2009 Justin presented "Interestingly Wrong Kinds of Reasons" with Daniel Jacobson at the Sydney University Metaethics Workshop in Sydney Australia.

**Lisa Downing** published "Locke: The Primary and Secondary Quality Distinction," in *The Routledge Companion to Metaphysics*, edited by R. Le Poidevin et al. (Routledge, 2009). Lisa was invited to participate, along with Sukjae Lee, in Nature and Purpose in Early Modern Philosophy, the early modern conference at Syracuse University last August. In May 2009, she spoke on "Locke contra Cartesian Ontology" at Brown. Lisa has several talks coming up next spring; most notably she will be the invited speaker at a conference called "Newton and Empiricism" at the University of Pittsburgh, Center for Philosophy of Science, April 10-11 2010. In addition, she will be speaking at a symposium on Newtonian metaphysics at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting in Chicago in February

2010. Other professional activities include being co-editor of a special edition of *Perspectives on Science*.

**Glenn Hartz** gave an invited paper, "Is Descartes the Patron Saint of Skepticism?" (co-authored with Patrick K. Lewtas), at a symposium entitled "Getting the Big Picture – or Not: Early Modern Philosophical Systems" at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting last April. Commentary on Glenn's book, *Leibniz's Final System*, was given at the Second Annual Conference of the Leibniz Society of North America at Princeton University in September, 2008. Glenn also presented "Two New Cartesian Circles" (co-authored with Patrick K. Lewtas) at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting in Chicago last April.

**Don Hubin** presented "The Limits of Consequentialism" at the XXII World Congress of Philosophy in Seoul, Korea in August 2008. Don is also serving as the principal investigator of a team of faculty from across OSU that was awarded an Innovation Group Grant from the OSU Office of Research and the Office of Academic Affairs to support the development of an OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values.

**Sukjae Lee** won the 2009 Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Essay Prize Competition for his essay "Berkeley on the Activity of Spirits," which is forthcoming in the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*.

**George Pappas** had his paper "Berkeley's Treatment of Scepticism" published in the *Oxford Handbook of Scepticism*, edited by John Greco. George's paper "Certainty and Knowledge of Objects in Berkeley" is due to appear this year in *New Studies of Berkeley's Philosophy*, ed. B. Belfrage and T. Airaksinen. And George's paper "Berkeley's Positive Epistemology" was presented at a conference in Karlsruhe, Germany last August while George was in the hospital recovering from a nasty gutter-cleaning-related fall.

**Tamar Rudavsky** co-edited with Steve Nadler the *Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: From Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century*. The anthology includes an article by Tamar, "Time, Space and Cosmology in Medieval Jewish Philosophy." Tamar's paper "Creation, Time and Biblical Hermeneutics in Early Modern Jewish Philosophy" was published in *Interpreting Nature and Scripture*, edited by J. Vandermeer.

**Richard Samuels'** article "Nativism" was published in *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Psychology*. Richard's "The Magical Number Two, Plus or Minus: Comments on Dual Systems" was published in the anthology *In Two Minds: Dual Processes and Beyond* (Oxford University Press). And Richard's paper "Delusions as a Natural Kind" appeared in *Psychiatry as Cognitive Neuroscience: Philosophical Perspectives* (Oxford University Press). Richard presented "Classical Computationalism and the Problems of Cognitive Relevance" at the Center for Cognitive Science at The

## Turbayne Prize

Sukjae Lee has won the 2009 Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Essay Prize Competition for his essay, "Berkeley on the Activity of Spirits," which is forthcoming in the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*. The Turbayne Essay Prize was established in 1988 by Professor and Mrs. Turbayne, in cooperation with the Philosophy Department at the University of Rochester, to "advance Berkeley scholarship throughout the world." The winning essayist

is awarded \$2,000, and a copy of the winning essay is sent to the George Berkeley Library Study Center, located in Berkeley's onetime home in Whitehall, Newport, RI. In winning the essay prize, Sukjae joins two of his colleagues, Lisa Downing and George Pappas, who won in 1992 and 1993, respectively. The Ohio State Philosophy department is the only institution to have multiple winners, earning three of the thirteen prizes awarded since 1990.



OSU Turbayne Prize Winners George Pappas, Lisa Downing, and Sukjae Lee

## Words About the Faculty cont'd

Ohio State University and "Computation and Cognitive Science" at King's College, Cambridge in July 2008.

**Lisa Shabel's** article "The Transcendental Aesthetic" is forthcoming in the *Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*, edited by Paul Guyer.

**Stewart Shapiro's** paper "Reasoning with Slippery Predicates," was published in *Studia Logica*. "We Hold these Truths to be Self Evident: But What Do We Mean by That?" was published in the *Review of Symbolic Logic*. Stewart wrote a chapter titled "The Measure of Scottish Neo-Logicism" for *Logicism, Intuitionism, and Formalism*, edited by Sten Lindström for the Synthese Library. Stewart's professional travels included visits to St. Andrews; Frankfurt (to speak at a conference on trends in the philosophy of mathematics); Uppsala, Sweden (to speak at a conference honoring Per Martin-Lof); Jerusalem (for a philosophy

colloquium); Kansas State (for another philosophy colloquium); and Lehigh (where Stewart was the Selfridge Visiting Scholar).

**Declan Smithies'** paper "What is the Role of Consciousness in Demonstrative Thought" is forthcoming in *The Journal of Philosophy* and "The Normative Role of Knowledge" is forthcoming in *Nous*. He is co-editing two volumes of essays that are forthcoming with Oxford University Press: *Introspection and Consciousness* with Daniel Stoljar and *Attention: Philosophical and Psychological Essays* with Chris Mole and Wayne Wu. Declan gave papers at two ANU workshops, on Attention and Consciousness and on Themes from Crispin Wright; at the Annual Conference of the Australasian Association of Philosophy; at the University of Melbourne; and at the Bled Conference on Epistemic Virtue and Value. With Wayne Wu, he also organized the 2009 Ohio State-Maribor-Rijeka conference in Dubrovnik on The Philosophical Significance of Attention.

**Sigrún Svavarsdóttir's** "The Virtue of Practical Rationality" was published in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. "The Practical Role Essential to Value Judgments" was published in *Philosophical Issues* (Metaethics). Sigrún also presented her paper "Value as a Norm for Attitudes" at Tufts University last December.

**Neil Tennant** presented numerous papers, including "Cut for Core logic" at the AMS/ASL Workshop on Constructive Mathematics, in Boca Raton; "The Schröder-Bernstein Theorem" at the Midwest Workshop in Philosophy of Mathematics X at Notre Dame; and "Core logic" at the NYU Conference on Philosophy of Mathematics. Neil's article "Belief-Revision, the Ramsey Test, Monotonicity, and the so-called Impossibility Results" was published in *Review of Symbolic Logic* (special issue: Logic, Context and Vagueness). Another article, "Natural Logicism via the Logic of Orderly Pairing," appeared in *Logicism, Intuitionism, Formalism: What has become of them?* (Synthese Library). Also recently published

is "Revamping the Restriction Strategy" in *All Truths Are Known: New Essays on the Knowability Paradox* (Oxford University Press). Neil organized Foundational Adventures: A Conference in Honor of the 60th Birthday of Harvey M. Friedman, held at The Blackwell Inn last May, with grants from the John Templeton Foundation and the National Science Foundation. Finally, Neil was awarded a fellowship from National Endowment for the Humanities for the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Wayne Wu** co-organized with Declan Smithies the 2009 Ohio State-Maribor-Rijeka conference in Dubrovnik on The Philosophical Significance of Attention. Wayne is co-editing a forthcoming book, *Attention: Philosophical and Psychological Essays* with Chris Mole and Declan Smithies (Oxford University Press). Wayne's paper "What is Conscious Attention" is forthcoming in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

## Words About the Students

### Awards:

The Fink Award, named in honor of William H. Fink, is awarded annually for the best graduate philosophy paper at OSU. Salvatore Florio won the 2009 Fink Award for his paper “Is Two a Plural Property?”

### Publications and Presentations:

**Audrey Anton** gave two presentations of her paper “The Real Relationship Between Moral Responsibility, Praise and Blame”: one at Moral Responsibility: Neuroscience, Organization and Engineering, a conference held in Delft, Netherlands, where it won a graduate student paper award, and another at the Society for Student Philosophers Annual Conference in Edinburg, Texas. Audrey also presented “The Transparency of Imagination: On Martin’s Refutation of Intentionalism” at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting last April. And she presented a third paper, “The Earthly Nature of Justice and the State in Plato’s Republic,” at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting last February. Audrey is also assistant director of the Society for Student Philosophers and last year she was awarded a Humane Studies Fellowship, which is awarded by the Institute for Humane Studies.

**Zac Cogley** presented “Trust and the Trickster Problem” at three conferences: the 2009 American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, the 2009 Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Conference, and the

2009 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. Zac also commented on Michael Ferry’s “Does Morality Demand Our Very Best? On Moral Prescriptions and the Line of Duty” at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. And Zac commented on Ben Vilhauer’s “Free Will and Reasonable Doubt” at the 2008 American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting.

**Salvatore Florio’s** “The Paradox of Idealization,” co-authored with Julien Murzi, was published in *Analysis*. Salvatore presented his paper “Is Two a Plural Property?” at Plurals and Plural Quantification, a conference organized by the Swiss Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science at the University of Geneva, and at Issues in Contemporary Semantics and Ontology: Predicates and Properties, a conference organized by the Sociedad Argentina de Analisis Filosofico in Buenos Aires.

**Matt Jordan**, who recently completed his Ph.D. in our program and is now a Visiting Assistant Professor at Quincy University in Illinois, has an article, “Bioethics and Human Dignity,” forthcoming in *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*. Matt has been invited to join the editorial board of Bioethics in Faith and Practice and the ethics committee at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

**Ryan Jordan** presented his paper “The Ethics of Recording Fieldwork Surreptitiously” at the Society for Ethnomusicology National Conference in October 2008. Ryan also presented “What Non-Western Music Can Tell Us about Musical Expression” at the American Society for Aesthetics—Rocky Mountain Division Annual

Meeting last July.

**Alison Kerr** published “Envy in the Philosophical Tradition,” co-authored with Justin D’Arms, in *Envy: Theory and Research*, edited by Richard Smith (Oxford University Press). Ali was also a visiting scholar at the University of Sydney last July. While in Australia, Ali presented her paper “Emotions: Rational Assessments” at the Australian Association of Philosophy meetings in Melbourne.

**James MacPherson’s** article “Legislative Intentionalism and Proxy Agency” is forthcoming in the journal *Law and Philosophy*. James presented his paper “Shared Intentions as Deliberative Commitments” at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting in February and at the Ohio Philosophical Association in April.

**James McGlothlin** published a book review (co-authored with John DePoe of the University of Iowa) in *Faith and Philosophy* of two recent books: Angus Menuge’s *Agents under Fire: Materialism and the Rationality of Science*; and Victor Reppert’s *C.S. Lewis’s Dangerous Idea: In Defense of the Argument from Reason*. James presented his paper “Is Aristotelian Logic Better Suited than Mathematical Logic for Theological and Philosophical Reasoning?” at the Midwest Regional Evangelical Philosophical Society at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio last March. James was also an editorial consultant to Fritz Allhoff (Western Michigan University), who edited the anthology *Philosophy of the Special Sciences*,

to be published by Wiley-Blackwell in 2010. Finally, James was the Organizational Assistant for Foundational Adventures: Conference in Honor of the 60th Birthday of Harvey M. Friedman at OSU, funded by the Templeton Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

**Cathleen Muller** presented her paper “A Feminist Argument against Free Choice” at the Women & Society conference at Marist College this past October.

**Patrick Reeder** co-authored with Stewart Shapiro a critical review, “A Scientific Enterprise?: Penelope Maddy’s Second Philosophy,” in *Philosophia Mathematica*.

## Dan Farrell

Dan Farrell will retire at the end of Winter Quarter, 2010. In his time at Ohio State, Dan has published dozens of journal articles, many in some of the very top journals in the profession. He has given scores of professional presentations around the world. He served as the Chair of the Department for eight years and was the Associate Provost and Director of the University Honors and Scholars Center. For all of this he will be long remembered by his friends and colleagues in the Department and elsewhere at OSU. But Dan will be most fondly remembered by all of us, and especially his students, as an extraordinarily gifted and dedicated teacher.

Dan earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Chicago and his Ph.D. at Rockefeller University, under the direction of Joel Feinberg. After serving as a visiting lecturer at Princeton for a year, Dan joined the OSU Philosophy Department in 1971. While remaining on the faculty here since that time, Dan held visiting appointments in a variety of outstanding departments at other institutions, including the University of Michigan, Oberlin, and the University of Iceland.

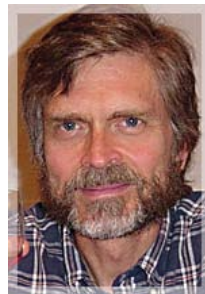
Dan has a long and distinguished record of excellence in philosophical research. He has published in the very best, most selective, journals in the profession and produced truly seminal work in a number of areas—work that has served either to define the domain or to carve out a novel and promising position. As an example of a “domain-defining” work, one need look no further than Dan’s extremely influential and highly cited “Jealousy” in *The Philosophical Review* (1980), one of the premier journals in our profession. This is a groundbreaking paper that helped to shape the philosophical discussion, not only of jealousy and envy, but of the emotions generally. Since the appearance of “Jealousy,” Dan has published five additional papers on related topics. Philosophers working on the nature of the emotions must pay heed to Dan’s work.

An area in which Dan’s research has carved out a new and rich position is that of the justification of punishment. This is, of course, an old issue and the battle lines were pretty well drawn when Dan began working on the topic. It is fair to say that, prior to Dan’s entering this philosophical arena, people thought they knew the conceptual map of this terrain well. One would have

expected new developments within the major camps present on the battlefield; but one would not have expected a major new front to open up. Dan’s work on the justification of punishment, though, beginning with “The Justification of General Deterrence,” also published in *The Philosophical Review* (1985), did just that: Dan developed an entirely novel theory that was neither retributivist, though it took guilt very seriously, nor utilitarian, though it relied crucially on the anticipated effects of punishment. The battlefield for arguments over the justification of punishment had just been enlarged, and with great benefit.

Professor Jeff McMahan, of the Rutgers Philosophy Department, says of Dan’s work on the justification of punishment,

“The moral justification of punishment is one of the central problems in moral philosophy and in the theory of the criminal law. I believe that Dan



Jeff McMahan

Farrell’s remarkable series of articles is by far the best work that has ever been done on this issue. The position he develops is entirely original. He argues that the justification for punishment is not retributive but appeals to exactly the same principles

of justice that govern the morality of individual self-defense. His arguments are scrupulously detailed, rigorous, and persuasive. Together they constitute one of the great achievements of contemporary moral theory.”

Dan has published eleven articles on various aspects of the justification of punishment in particular and deterrent violence in general. He is a world-renowned scholar in this field.

Dan has received numerous academic awards and honors throughout his career. These began with his being awarded a Woodrow Wilson Graduate Fellowship and a Danforth Graduate Fellowship during his graduate studies at Rockefeller University. Dan received an NEH fellowship in 1990 and was recently honored as a National Science Council Fellow by the Republic of Taiwan, where he gave three lectures at different universities as a distinguished scholar. This year, Dan is off to India, with several scientists from OSU, to lead



Dan in the summer of 2009

a series of workshops on research ethics at several universities there.

Writing about Dan’s service to the Department, the College, and the University is difficult—the difficulty is caused by one of Dan’s idiosyncrasies. Unlike most academics, Dan does not maintain a record of his service on his curriculum vitae. It turns out that Dan does not have a record of what he refers to as “all [his] d\*\*\*\*d service.” And this, in itself, is revealing of his character. Dan’s service to OSU, at all levels, is truly extraordinary by any measure. Indeed, in 2003, Dan received OSU’s highest honor for service, the University Distinguished Service Award—something else that is completely missing from his curriculum vitae. Dan doesn’t measure these things; he doesn’t record them; he doesn’t ask for accolades, or even recognition, for them.

Dan was, for eight years, the Chair of the Philosophy Department. During Dan’s tenure (1992-2000), and largely as a result of his skill and care, the Department moved up into the top 25 philosophy departments in the country. Dan’s talents for working collaboratively with colleagues to build consensus and define and achieve common goals did not go unnoticed. He was asked to serve as the Chair of the Faculty Senate Oversight Committee on Budget Restructuring (1993-1996) to handle the extremely important, but highly delicate, task of defining and advancing faculty objectives in the budget restructuring process. This position was enormously

## Dan Farrell cont'd

demanding—certainly in terms of time but, more importantly, in terms of insight, careful thought, and extraordinary communication with both faculty and administrators.

In 1999, Dan was asked to serve as the Interim Associate Provost and Director of the University Honors and Scholars Center, which he did for one year before accepting the permanent position. While in this position, Dan created the first eight Scholars Programs at OSU. These programs are a lasting legacy to Dan's vision and determination.

When pressed for more on his service to OSU, Dan replies that the above-mentioned service constitutes “the only unusual things” he has done. Perhaps, but he has done an unusual amount of “ordinary service”: committee service at all levels at OSU. He was, for example, instrumental in the Department's hiring efforts four years ago—efforts which netted seven (of seven targeted) extraordinary philosophers in one year. And, for more than thirty-seven years, Dan has been an extraordinarily effective agent of departmental and institutional outreach. He has for decades given guest lecturers in courses in other colleges—particularly, but not exclusively, in the College of Veterinary Medicine, where he now holds an adjunct appointment. Some years ago, he was featured regularly on a morning talk show, discussing the moral implications of events in the news. (Tucked away in some overstuffed departmental file is a letter from a listener who took the time to write to then-President Kirwan saying, in part, that in a discussion of the Columbine

High School shooting “the most intelligent and constructive comment I have heard was given by Dan Farrell, Head of the Philosophy Dept, Ohio State.”) As with service on University committees, Dan doesn't keep a record of his talks that are not to other professional philosophers. Were he to have done so, they would certainly number in the hundreds. He has been, frankly, the departmental “go to” person for public discussions of philosophical issues.

But, again, it is his teaching that is both his greatest professional love and his greatest professional accomplishment. One of the most remarkable aspects of Dan's teaching is his unparalleled ability to grab a class full of students (or another audience if he's giving a public talk) and draw them into a philosophical issue. Regardless of how abstract or remote the topic might have seemed to the students at the outset, Dan manages to bring the issues to life and get the students to engage with them. The students have a sense of being involved in a shared exploration of an exciting problem. And there's a trick to how he does it. Dan gets them to think that they are engaged in such a shared exploration by actually engaging them in a shared exploration. There's no doubt who is the expert explorer, of course; Dan's knowledge and expertise in the areas he teaches is unquestioned. But he doesn't simply disseminate knowledge and insight; he leads the students to discover it for themselves.

Dan's absence from the Department will be felt as a colleague and, even more poignantly, as a teacher.

## Words About Dan

**Scott Anderson** (Ph.D., 2006): Dan Farrell's legacy to me is his sympathy, his ability to share his students' feelings and to stick with them as they work to achieve their academic goals. I currently teach writing and reasoning skills, criminal law, and punishment theory as a professor at Capital University Law School. My hope is to impart Dan's legacy to each of my students, in each of my classes, one at a time.

**Abigail Aguilar** (Pfister) (Ph.D., 2007): Dan was always generous with his time and engaging with his questions, and he was encouraging yet demanding of his students, tough but fair. I hope that I live up to the high standard that Dan set by his example, in my interaction with students. On a personal note, Dan introduced me to my husband Michael, when he took him on his initial tour of the department. It is fitting that Dan will retire shortly after we celebrate our 13th wedding anniversary in February.

**Michael Perkins** (Ph.D., 1983): I'm not sure that I would have completed graduate school if it had not been for Dan's mentoring and friendship. As a graduate student, I was truly inspired by his passion for philosophy and his willingness to grapple with big problems. Doing philosophy with Dan was exciting and fun. Dan and I disagreed on a lot of issues. One of my most vivid memories from graduate school is of the time he called me a “f\*\*\*ing relativist.” Despite our philosophical disagreements, however, I always had the deepest respect for the quality of his thought. I also have the deepest respect for the quality of his character. Dan is uncommonly kind and decent. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to get to know him.



In 2000, Dan celebrates stepping down from his duties as Chair.

## The Dan Farrell Undergraduate Philosophy Retreat

We are pleased to announce the creation of an Undergraduate Philosophy Retreat program in honor of Dan Farrell's contributions to the Department of Philosophy, with special recognition of his contributions to our undergraduate teaching mission. As many of you know, Dan is a truly extraordinary teacher who has directly touched the lives of thousands of students.

The Dan Farrell Undergraduate Philosophy Retreat will provide a wonderful philosophy immersion experience for a small number of undergraduates each spring. These students, who will be selected based on their outstanding academic record and their love of philosophy, will spend two full days in a rustic setting—away from the ordinary distractions of life—arguing, reflecting, and

learning from each other and from the faculty and graduate student mentors.

We think it's fitting that we honor Dan with a program that will reflect not only his love of philosophy but his dedication to the teaching of philosophy. What Dan sought to do with his students was far more than impart information about philosophical theories and criticisms. He sought to engage them in the project of philosophical reflection—to pass on to them the transformational gift of pursuing an examined life.

We invite you to contribute to this program by making a contribution to the Chair's Support Fund (Acct. #303149) and indicating that you wish your gift to be used in support of the Dan Farrell Undergraduate Philosophy Retreat program.



Dan Farrell

## In Memoriam: Ivan Boh



Ivan Boh

We note with sadness the death of one of our long-time colleagues, Ivan Boh. Ivan passed away on September 11 of this year.

Ivan held a bachelor degree from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, an M.A. in philosophy from Fordham University, and a PhD in philosophy from University of Ottawa. He was born in Dolenji Lazji, Slovenia, and taught in a number of universities before coming to Ohio State in 1969. His first position was at Clarke College in 1957; from there he held positions at University of Iowa (1962-3), Clarke College (1964-1966), Michigan

State University (1966-69), finally coming to Ohio State as a full professor, where he taught from 1969-1995. His teaching and research interests focused on medieval logic, although he taught a variety of courses, including existentialism, history of philosophy, and history of logic.

Professor Boh received many prestigious grants and awards throughout his career. These included a Fulbright Research Fellowship to study at the University of Munich (1964-5), a sabbatical research year at the University of Barcelona (1972-3), a Fulbright Research Fellowship to study at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia (1986-7), and an IREX and Fulbright Fellowship to do research at the University of Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland (1986-7). In addition, he was a MUCIA Exchange Professor at Moscow State University (1979-80).

Among his many publications, his major volume *Epistemic Logic in the Later Middle Ages* (1993) provided the first comprehensive study of epistemic logic in the Middle Ages, a field that was neglected for many centuries and rediscovered in the twentieth century. In this work, Boh explored the contrast between epistemic and alethic conceptions of consequence, the general epistemic rules of consequence, the search for conditions

of knowing contingent propositions, and a comparison between medieval endeavors and the epistemic logic of our times. Other noteworthy recent publications include: "Four Phases of Medieval Epistemic Logic," *Theoria* (2000); "Walter Burley" in *Individuation in Scholasticism* (1994); "Propositional Attitudes in the Logic of Walter Burley and William Ockham," *Franciscan Studies* (1984); and "Epistemic and Alethic Iteration in Later Medieval Logic," *Philosophia Naturalis* (1984).

Professor Boh served his profession at the highest level. He was a member of the American Philosophical Association, the American Catholic Philosophical Association, the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, and the International Society for the Study of Medieval Philosophy. He regularly attended national and international meetings, and shared his research on a continual basis; he was considered one of the world's leading authorities in medieval logic, and was esteemed by his colleagues in these many associations.

Ivan has two sons, Boris and Marko, to whom we extend our heartfelt condolences.

