Autumn quarter is always filled with energy: the campus once more teems with students; parking is hard to find; syllabi are queued up to be printed for classes; and the halls of the Philosophy Department are again filled with conversation. The yearly academic rhythms are familiar to returning faculty and students alike. In those respects, we begin this year like many others.

In one respect, though, this year is different. We begin this year without three of our valued former colleagues. Dan Farrell’s departure, through retirement, was of course anticipated. (See last year’s Logos for details about Dan’s retirement and p. 9 in this issue for one student’s reflections on the first annual Dan Farrell Undergraduate Retreat.) In addition to Dan, we also lost Sukjae Lee and Wayne Wu.

We lost Wayne to Carnegie Mellon University where his wife, Alison Barth is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. Ever since Wayne’s appointment in our Department in 2006, he and Alison had been juggling what is called in academia ‘the two-body problem’—the problem of handling two academic careers which often results in two separate employment locations. Wayne commuted to Columbus from Pittsburgh. This is not a stable or desirable solution to the two-body problem, especially when you have two children. We hoped for some time that OSU would be able to offer an appropriate position to Alison. Alas, Carnegie Mellon solved the two-body problem before OSU was able to do so. This fall, Wayne began a new page in his career as an Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition at CMU. Wayne will be missed greatly by all of us in the Philosophy Department.

Sukjae Lee was plucked from us from further afar—halfway around the world, in fact. The prestigious Seoul National University, which obviously has a keen eye for philosophical talent, made Sukjae an offer that he and his wife, Haechung, decided they couldn’t pass up. Sukjae was one of the organizers for the 2008 World Congress of Philosophy held at Seoul National University. As Chair, I wrote letters to our College supporting Sukjae’s application for funding to participate in this important conference. In retrospect, I regret this decision. We should have kept Sukjae under wraps here at OSU. Seriously, this is a wonderful opportunity for Sukjae and Haechung. We wish them the very best.

Autumns are also marked by new arrivals. This year we have no new regular faculty but we were able to hire two of our recent graduates as Visiting Assistant Professors. Ryan Jordan and Dai Heide will join us this year to fulfill some of our critical teaching needs. We’re very pleased to welcome them as colleagues—even if only temporary ones. We consider them to be very well-trained philosophers.

We have nine new graduate students joining us this year. This is a large, and very

(continued on p. 2)
impressive, group of young philosophers. Three of our new graduate students received highly competitive graduate fellowships. This autumn, many of our graduate students, including most of the new recruits, spent a weekend late in September at the Jeffers’ Tree Farm in southeast Ohio. Jim Jeffers, who did both undergraduate and graduate work in philosophy in our Department many years ago, graciously volunteered his tree farm for this purpose. (Jim also allowed it to be the site of the Dan Farrell Undergraduate Retreat. See the story about last year’s kickoff of this event on p. 9.) Next year, we hope that some faculty will be able to join graduate students at another such event for a weekend of camaraderie and relaxed philosophical exchanges.

The effort, led by the Philosophy Department, to develop the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values has gained significant momentum. The Innovation Group that was created last year created five focus groups. One of those groups, the Democratic Governance group, has developed an exciting project that has drawn enthusiasm and support from many areas of the University. The project, about which you can read more on p. 8, is a year-long, University-wide “conversation” on immigration. This is an exciting project that comprises a series of newly-funded interdisciplinary academic events and the alignment of numerous existing OSU programs to generate an extended, interdisciplinary discussion of issues related to immigration. Those of us involved in the effort to create the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values believe that this project is an excellent one for demonstrating the value of such a center.

Let me close by repeating a request that I’ve made before. We’re interested in hearing from you. Every year when we send out the new issue of Logos some of our friends and former students and colleagues write back to tell us what they’ve been doing. I enjoy reading these letters and it would be great to receive more. We’re exploring ways to use social media to make it easier to stay in touch with us. We have much to learn from our former students. I was reminded of that again when I shared a copy of our Department’s history with Louise Vigoda, who had studied philosophy at OSU some years ago. Louise was kind enough to contact me with corrections to our history of the Department. This led me to initiate a project that I hope we will be able to bring to completion in the next few months. The idea is to have an on-line history of the OSU Philosophy Department which would allow for additions and corrections from our alumni.

We would also post some of the pictures that have been kept in the departmental “shoe box” with a request for help in identifying those people who we have not yet been able to identify. That will be a fun project, I think. What we have to learn from our alumni, though, goes far beyond this. We want to know what you’ve been doing and how you see your education in philosophy contributing to your career or other aspects of your life. We look forward to hearing from you.

Marge Turnbull

As this issue of Logos was being finalized, we received the sad news that Marge Turnbull passed away. Marge was the wife of the late Bob Turnbull, who chaired the Department from 1968 to 1980. Those who knew her need no reminder that Marge was a truly remarkable woman. She was kind and compassionate in her dealings with people but feisty and tenacious in her attempts to improve the conditions of those least able to stand up for themselves. She touched the lives of many—both in her personal relationships and, less directly but no less significantly, in her work to improve the political institutions of Ohio—always leaving people better off. In the next issue of Logos, we’ll include a more proper remembrance. I invite you to write to me (hubin.1@osu.edu) if you have some thoughts that you would like to contribute to such a remembrance.

Marge Turnbull with Don Hubin at the dedication of the Turnbull Lounge.

Sukjae and Haechung dining with OSU friends at the World Congress of Philosophy in Seoul in 2008. (We believe their manifest joy is explained by the OSU friends, not the location of the photo.)
Gabrielle Johnson
Current Undergraduate

Gabby is kind of scary. She came to philosophy late, and already she’s functioning at the level of a graduate student—a good graduate student. I mean, if she spends more than a handful of quarters at this, or goes to grad school, how good is she going to be then?

This quote is from Ben Caplan who taught Gabrielle (Gabby) Johnson in his course in Advanced Philosophy of Language. Gabby is a senior majoring in philosophy at OSU who, due to her conspicuous job as a manager of the campus Chipotle restaurant, is known by some of her classmates as “Chipotle Girl.” The rapid development of her philosophical prowess has made her a star among the current group of undergraduate philosophy majors at OSU.

Gabby grew up in Canton, Ohio, a small city about an hour south of Cleveland. Canton is most well-known as the home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Though she grew up less than ten minutes from the Hall of Fame, she never once visited. (Gabby notes that, as a senior at OSU now, she’s never been to Ohio Stadium either.) For awhile, Gabby was not sure she would attend college. Neither her parents nor her siblings had gone to college; her dad never finished high school. Gabby worried that going to college would pose too much of a financial hardship to her family, but her parents finally prevailed on her to go to OSU. At OSU, she chose to major in political science.

Gabby’s major changed after her roommate James Kinkaid (who was the winner of the 2010 Bingham award for the best undergraduate philosophy paper) convinced her to take Robert Kraut’s Introduction to Metaphysics course. Here’s how she describes her experience in that course:

“That class overall was galvanizing. The subject matter was some of the most interesting and stimulating material I have come across in my collegiate career, and Professor Kraut was a hoot. I remember after a particularly vigorous discussion on the existence of universals, Professor Kraut asked me if I was a philosophy major, and after I admitted I was not, he responded with ‘Well you are now. Come see me and we’ll talk.’”

Since then Gabby has enjoyed her classes in logic and especially philosophy of language. She mentions Ben Caplan’s Advanced Philosophy of Language class as one of her favorites. Judging from Ben’s quote above, it seems Gabby’s enthusiasm was reflected in the quality of her work. On Ben’s recommendation, she soon became involved in her first graduate-level seminar. She audited and participated in Stewart Shapiro’s seminar in philosophy of language. Meanwhile, she was meeting with Stewart outside of class as part of an independent study. Stewart reports that this arrangement worked out wonderfully. Gabby wrote an insightful comment paper on a presentation by one of the graduate students in the seminar. Also, she ended up writing an excellent term paper that may end up becoming her writing sample for her applications to grad schools.

Gabby will be finishing her undergraduate philosophy degree in the spring of 2011. After that, she plans to spend a year working, hanging around Columbus, and perhaps doing a little traveling, while preparing a first-rate application to philosophy graduate programs. At the moment, she says her “dream schools” are MIT, Rutgers, and UCLA.

What has distinguished philosophy courses for Gabby, in contrast to courses in other departments at OSU, has been the quality and frequency of intense classroom discussion. Even before taking her first philosophy course with Robert Kraut (whose classes tend to be full of discussion), Gabby enjoyed philosophical discussions with her roommate James. Since then, the two of them have continued their philosophical interaction in productive ways. Though they’ve been enrolled in many courses together, their outlooks have diverged. She observes, “[James] tends to pursue continental topics, whereas I am still deeply enveloped in the issues of analytic philosophy, which has been a major catalyst for many late night debates.”

Gabby’s enthusiasm for intense discussion at home and inside the classroom has been manifested also as an adventurous orientation to the larger world. She counts a recent road trip to Portland, Oregon, that she took with James and some other friends, as one of the formative and remarkable experiences of her undergraduate years. She and her group of friends chose Portland as a destination for three reasons: because it is a far-away cultural hub, because it is one of the most bicycle-friendly and eco-friendly cities in the country, and because it has the most microbreweries of any city in the world.

Among the many misadventures during the forty-five hour car trip to Portland was a near encounter with a tornado in North Dakota and car troubles in the Nevada town of Puckerbrush (population 28). Eventually the group did make it to Portland. Gabby recalls that the most memorable aspect of the trip was a certain “feeling of freedom.”

“I remember on our fourth day there we were sitting in the park outside the Portland Art Museum and James asked ‘What should we do tomorrow?’ to which I responded ‘Let’s go to San Francisco.’ And so we did. It’s not often with work and school that I get the chance to make a spur of the moment decision to drive to an incredible place like San Francisco (granted the drive was ten hours), but that’s what the entire trip was about. Having the opportunity to live one day at a time, but, in doing so, coming to appreciate even what seems to be the most unfortunate of events in sight of the trip as a whole.”

Now that her road trip has ended, Gabby’s near-term plans involve finishing her senior year of college, continuing her job at Chipotle, and adopting a new dog. She’s already the decided that the dog, an Australian Shepherd, will be named “Kripke.”
Vikas Gampa, who finished his undergraduate work at OSU in June, says this about the Honors Collegium program at OSU: “The Honors Collegium is an organization that supports individuals who are seeking a career that is unique.” It seems that Vikas was the ideal participant for the Honors Collegium.

Vikas double-majored in philosophy and molecular genetics. He has completed multiple prestigious internships researching bioethics. He is currently an Americorps member working at a hospital in the Bronx. Eventually, he plans to earn an MD and continue researching bioethics. A distinctive career trajectory indeed.

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Vikas was born in India. While growing up, he lived in India, New Zealand, and Ohio. He graduated from high school in Dayton and began his undergraduate work at OSU in Autumn 2006. It was in Justin D’Arms’ Philosophy H101 class (Honors Introduction to Philosophy) that Vikas first realized he had an interest in philosophy. Subsequently, he found that his philosophy classes were quite different from the other classes he had been taking at OSU. “It was actually fun to attend philosophy classes compared to most of my other classes. Most of my science classes were lecture-based and I barely interacted with anyone in the classroom.”

Not only was Vikas glad for the chance for high-level philosophical interaction with his peers, he was also deeply engaged in the issues that arose in the classes—especially his ethics classes. After taking Dan Farrell’s Advanced Ethics in Healthcare class (Philosophy H580), Vikas went on to write an honors thesis, under the direction of Piers Norris Turner, on the topic of medical ethics.

In his thesis titled “Trust in the Doctor-Patient Relationship,” Vikas examined the question of trust in the modern medical context. Patients’ trust in their doctors has decreased over recent decades. Vikas asked: What informs doctor-patient trust, how can it be secured, and why should it matter? At a minimum, trust in doctors requires both a confidence in their expertise and the willingness to rely on their good intentions. This trust may result from the qualities of the individual doctors themselves, or from the design of the institutions within which the doctors work. Vikas argued that the loss of interpersonal trust in the modern medical context is cause for concern, both in light of traditional models of the doctor-patient relationship and with regard to health outcomes themselves. Institutional incentives for doctors to perform well may not be sufficient on their own to ensure either quality care or the sort of ethical relationship one expects with one’s doctor.

Reflecting on his relationship with Vikas, Piers says, “He was a pleasure to teach. He is self-motivated, organized, smart, and a caring and careful person, whose academic and professional aims are guided by a commitment to ethical understanding and social improvement. I enjoyed all of our meetings.” For his thesis, Vikas received the mark of “Research Distinction.” He was also honored by OSU in the 2010 President’s Salute to Undergraduate Academic Achievement. It bears mentioning that Vikas did all this while teaching part-time at Kaplan, working as a research assistant at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and maintaining a full plate of extracurricular commitments, including his role as president of the undergraduate Bioethics Society.

A recent internship is one more feather in Vikas’ cap. During the summer of 2009, Vikas was an intern at the Center for Bioethics at Yale University. Describing his experience at Yale, Vikas explains: “I conducted research on the roles and requirements of doctors during pandemics (when few resources were available). Particularly, I argued that doctors were not in the position to ration medical resources and they should not ‘ration at the bedside.’ I argued that doctors promise (in taking some version of a Hippocratic oath/becoming a doctor) to treat their patients, individually, without considering the benefits for the entire society (that is the role of public health officials).”

Before returning to school to continue his work on bioethics, Vikas is taking a year to work for Americorps. At a hospital in the Bronx, he is organizing a community advisory board. The board aims to ensure a well-working informed consent process and safe clinical trials. He is also working to organize a clinic for refugees and asylum-seekers.

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Xiaoxi Wu
Current Graduate

Xiaoxi Wu’s long route to the philosophy PhD program at OSU makes twists and turns through some diverse intellectual (and geographical) terrain. The route extends from the study of electrical engineering in Wuhan, China, to investigation of the metaethics of evaluative disagreement here at OSU.

Her undergraduate work was at Wuhan University. The university is in her hometown of Wuhan, a city in central China with over nine million people. She completed her degree in electrical engineering, but by the time she finished she had come to feel that the theoretical model employed in that discipline was too disconnected from the objects of ordinary life.

While serving as the moderator for an electronic discussion forum, Xiaoxi began worrying earnestly about the objectivity of our evaluative discourse. She explains, “When I was in charge of the literary writing BBS of my university, people occasionally criticized me as using my own taste as the criterion of evaluating and recommending. But I doubted there was any ‘objective standard’, and thought that the criticisms were quite unjustified unless they could show me that there was such an objective standard and it was different from my ‘taste’.

Of course, following such a line of thought could lead only to the philosophy classroom. However, before beginning to study philosophy-proper, Xiaoxi started graduate school in Chinese classical aesthetics.

Xiaoxi’s life took a major turn in 2006 when she moved to Columbus with her husband. He was beginning graduate work in the math department, and Xiaoxi took the opportunity afforded by her new locale to enroll as a non-degree student and take philosophy courses. She focused primarily on history, attempting to trace major philosophical trends from Plato to Kant. She ended up writing a paper about Aristotle’s view of contemplation for a class with Allan Silverman, and she used this as her writing sample in her application to the PhD program in 2008.

Working at OSU in the humanities as an international student and non-native speaker of English has presented challenges of its own. In philosophy classes, students’ mastery of English tends to be taken for granted. In a field where language often takes center-stage, Xiaoxi has not always found it easy.

There were some linguistic difficulties which caused me embarrassments. Sometimes those embarrassments made me nervous. And the more nervous I got, the more difficult it was for me to produce understandable English. But these difficulties provided opportunities for me to become a stronger person if I honestly and bravely faced them and looked for a way to handle them.

Since enrolling in the PhD program Xiaoxi has taken up some of her old interests about aesthetic evaluation, this time in the context of contemporary analytic philosophy. She reports being very engaged in seminars with Robert Kraut, and she is planning a candidacy project on evaluative conflict and evaluative disagreement with Justin D’Arms. Justin observes, “Xiaoxi’s background studying aesthetics in China gives her not only a rich supply of examples, but some distinctive ways of thinking about what it’s like to experience value in the world. That’s a valuable store to draw from as she undertakes her more analytical project here, on the nature of evaluation and evaluative disagreement.”

So, has Xiaoxi fully made the transition to analytic philosophy and left her former intellectual outlook behind? The answer is no. She sees the work she is doing now as ultimately intersecting with the concerns that motivated her to begin work on philosophy in the first place. To recognize the challenges she faces in bringing about this intersection, it is crucial to understand the differences between the typical way philosophy is approached in China and the way it is approached in the Western, Anglo-American tradition.

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As opposed to development of detailed and rigorous, yet relatively narrowly focused work characteristic of analytic philosophy, Chinese philosophy, according to Xiaoxi, aspires to comprehend the big picture—producing narratives comprising large swaths of dialectic. Of Chinese philosophers, Xiaoxi explains, “They treat contemporary thoughts as historical products that grow out of the history of philosophy, so that one cannot fully appreciate contemporary philosophical issues without tracing their roots into the history.”

Xiaoxi hopes ultimately to integrate the two philosophical traditions. This does not mean merely making contributions to each or including elements from each in a single essay or book. She explains, “My ultimate goal is to try to find a way to make some of the important issues in analytic philosophy live vividly in Chinese philosophical thoughts, not by simply adding the two traditions together, but by multiplying them to generate a new life.” She expects that this academic trajectory may eventually lead her back to a university in China—where she will no-doubt have much of value to contribute.
Mike Perkins
Former Graduate

Mike Perkins grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. As an undergraduate at Georgia State University in Atlanta, he majored in philosophy and minored in music. Just after that, in 1977, Mike joined the philosophy graduate program at OSU. Back then computer science was not as much the well-defined discipline it is today, and it was more common for people from other areas to work in computer science as well. So, in addition to taking the standard philosophy graduate courses (including a lot of logic classes), Mike frequently took computer science courses.

Despite his interest and talent in more paradigmatically technical areas, Mike was captivated by Dan Farrell’s approach to philosophy. Mike explains:

The two things that first interested me in working with Dan Farrell were his pursuit of big issues and his passion for the activity of philosophy. Dan was never terribly interested in side issues or minor points. He was always after the big issues. His classes were a lot of fun. He was a good lecturer, but more importantly, he spent a lot of time doing philosophy in the classroom. In his graduate classes, Dan would frame the problem and then lead the class in a probing discussion of it. We didn’t come up with a lot of solutions, but we came away with a deep understanding of the problem. And we had a hell of a good time doing it.

Mike continues to have a lot of admiration and affection for Dan Farrell. In fact, Mike is one of the financial contributors who made possible the Dan Farrell undergraduate retreat. (See page 9 of this newsletter.) And the affection is mutual. Dan says, “Mike is one of the sweetest, kindest people I know, and also really, really smart.”

Dan and Mike became close when Mike was working on his dissertation. They used to have some of their meetings at Dan’s house. At the time, Dan’s son, David, was struggling to learn the guitar—receiving little help from his parents who, according to Dan himself, lacked any musical talent. While visiting the Farrells one day, Mike politely and unimposingly started helping David with the guitar. Soon David’s talent for music became clear. David later went on to be a music major at OSU, eventually switching from guitar to jazz bass. To this day, David attributes whatever success he’s had in music to Mike’s early influence.

Although he was a talented philosopher and successful in graduate school, Mike started a job as a computer programmer the week after he received his PhD in philosophy. This choice—a quite important one in his life—worked out well for Mike. He reflects, “Though I have missed the academic environment over the years, I have never regretted this decision. I have always been fortunate to have interesting and challenging work.”

Since finishing his philosophy doctorate, Mike has kept in touch with members of the Philosophy Department, especially Dan. Also, over the years, Mike has been extraordinarily helpful in finding computer jobs for former members of the philosophy graduate program who were unable to find good academic positions or who left the program before finishing a doctorate degree.

Mike now lives in Dublin, Ohio, with his partner Paula Lambert and two of Mike’s teenage children.
Conference on Value and Valuing at the University of Iceland, June 2010

In June 2010 many of the best moral philosophers in the world were in Reykjavik, Iceland. The occasion was a conference on the theme of “Value and Valuing.” The conference was a collaboration of the Centre for Ethics at the University of Iceland and the Department of Philosophy at OSU. Sigrún Svavarsdóttir at OSU worked with Salvör Nordal, who directs the Centre for Ethics, to organize the conference.

Sixteen philosophers gave presentations at the conference: Michael Bratman (Stanford), John Broome (Oxford), Ruth Chang (Rutgers), Justin D’Arms (OSU), Harry Frankfurt (Princeton), Allan Gibbard (Michigan), Pamela Hieronymi (UCLA), Victoria McGeer (Princeton), Michael Smith (Princeton), Peter Railton (Michigan), Samuel Scheffler (NYU), Tim Scanlon (Harvard), Seana Shiffrin (UCLA), Michael Smith (Princeton), and Susan Wolf (UNC Chapel Hill). In addition to these visiting presenters, a number of members of the Icelandic philosophical community were invited participants in the conference.

The conference was designed to allow conference participants to air new views and receive feedback on them. Accordingly, the presentations were short, typically 20 to 30 minutes. The rest of each 75 minute session was devoted to discussion. Presenters exchanged new ideas and received incisive feedback. The four days of the conference included long lunch breaks, and there was ample time in the evenings for continuing discussions. In addition to the benefit to the presenters, the conference was also of great value to the Icelandic philosophical community. During her remarks at the conference reception, Salvör Nordal expressed her enthusiasm and gratitude on behalf of the Icelanders.

The quality of the presentations and ensuing discussion periods was uniformly high, but, still, it is worth mentioning a few of the more remarkable sessions. On the last session of the first day, the conference became self-reflective when Susan Wolf’s presentation turned to the question of whether philosophy would still be valuable even if it were not actually good for anyone. On the second day, Harry Frankfurt offered the novel suggestion that when a person does something bad, but something inadvertent for which he or she is not held responsible, the appropriate attitude on the part of the person is not guilt or shame, but rather embarrassment. And in the last session, on the last day of the conference, Samuel Scheffler provocatively examined the significance for present valuation in one’s own life, of the continued life of other human beings after one’s own death.

Besides the philosophical stimulation generated by the conference proper, the setting of Reykjavik offered the conference participants additional enjoyment. For one thing, the geographic position of Reykjavik made for what we might consider an unusual nighttime. Because it is so far north (approximately the latitude of Fairbanks, Alaska), Reykjavik is never completely dark outside during the middle of summer. And since the conference was at the time of the summer solstice, the sun dipped below the horizon for less than three hours each “night”.

Several conference participants arrived in Iceland well in advance of the conference, allowing themselves time to travel to the northern part of the island to see the huge populations of puffins. And many conference participants managed to make it out of town to take a dip in the Blue Lagoon, Iceland’s most famous hot spring.

Besides Sigrún (who organized the conference) and Justin (who presented his work), three other members of the Ohio State Philosophy Department were invited to attend the conference. Those were graduate students Owen King, Robby Newman, and Alisa Wandzilak. They were invited by the University of Iceland Centre for Ethics to give presentations, in advance of the conference, to Icelandic undergraduate and graduate students. These presentations focused on the work of the philosophers who would be giving papers in the conference. The presentations were intended to help the Icelandic students become better acquainted with the work of the philosophers at the conference. Owen’s presentation focused on Ruth Chang’s work, Robby discussed Harry Frankfurt, and Alisa examined arguments from John Broome.

These three Ohio State graduate students report benefiting greatly by being able to present some of their work and then attend such a stellar conference. Owen recalls one of his favorite sessions: “It was great to watch Philip Pettit and Michael Smith duke it out over the nature of moral objectivity. I saw them work through a dialectic I’d had occasion to think about before. So, it was really interesting for me to see how the competing positions played out.”

In addition to the benefit to the presenters, the conference was also of great value to the Icelandic philosophical community.
OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values

“Every problem confronting us—whether collectively at the national or global level or individually, as citizens, professionals, and researchers—has important ethical dimensions. Solving these problems requires more than technological innovation; it requires the sort of integrated understanding of the natural world, social phenomena, and human interests that demands the collaboration of experts across the University.”

So began a proposal from over 35 OSU faculty from diverse disciplines to develop the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values. In the autumn of 2009, OSU’s Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Research took the first steps toward realizing that vision by selecting this group of faculty, led by Don Hubin, to receive one of only three Innovation Group Grants awarded by the University.

The purpose of the Innovation Group Grants is “to encourage trans-institutional and interdisciplinary scholarship across campus to address issues and problems of global dimension (poverty, hunger, health and disease, climate change, economic systems, industrial competitiveness, societal dynamics, art and culture, access to energy).”

In addition to Don, philosophers involved in the Ethics Center Innovation Group include Justin D’Arms, Piers Turner, and Sigrún Savarssdóttir. These philosophers are working with colleagues from Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Medicine, Law, and numerous other departments, to lay the groundwork for a University Center for Ethics and Human Values. Such a center would bring together researchers from across the University who are working on, or whose work significantly involves, issues of foundational or applied ethics. Because issues of ethics and human values are ubiquitous, this focus holds extraordinary promise for promoting Ohio State’s “One University” vision.

The Immigration Project

One CEHV focus group, led by Piers Turner and Eric MacGilvray (Political Science), has developed an exciting proposal that has caught the imagination of many across the campus, including President Gordon Gee and Joe Steinmetz, Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences. The proposal is for a “year-long, University-Wide conversation on immigration.”

With funding from the Innovation Group, and very generous support from the Offices of the President and the Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences, the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, and the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities, planning is underway for the project to take place during the academic year 2011-12.

The events associated with this project will include two short conferences, serving as “bookend events” for the year, and six individual events throughout the year. The autumn conference’s theme will be “Immigration: What’s at Stake?” It will examine foundational issues in ethics, political theory, and law, as well as economic and sociological aspects of the immigration issues. The six events throughout the year will involve presentations to the broader academic audience of disciplinary work on various aspects of immigration. The theme of the closing conference will be “What is to be Done?”

What is to be Done? It will involve one or more high-profile government officials and turn the conversation toward practical solutions to immigration problems.

The conversation will extend well beyond the core academic program. The leaders of the Democratic Governance group are meeting with units and individuals around the University to encourage them to think creatively about how we might take advantage of existing programs and resources to make this a truly university-wide conversation. The group has received enthusiastic support from all quarters, and innovative ideas about ways to expand the conversation and cross traditional disciplinary and institutional barriers.

Those working in the Innovation Group for the development of the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values hope that this project will serve as a prototype for future year-long, University-wide “Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society” (or COMPAS), allowing OSU to emerge as a leader in national and international dialogues on issues of vital social importance. The proposed OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values would organize the COMPAS program to bring OSU’s comprehensive expertise to bear on the ethical aspects of the most pressing issues confronting us. This is an exciting prospect.
The Dan Farrell Undergraduate Retreat
By Rachel Swetnam

Dr. Farrell’s final quarter at OSU was a special one for a group of students in his last class before retirement, a rare Philosophy H678 seminar. Students were given a unique look into Farrell’s thought process and philosophies as they all worked through many dense texts together, learning to interpret and understand Nietzsche’s theories. Most students admitted that the seminar had a large impact on their personal philosophies, not only because Nietzsche tends to be a major turning point for students as they study the history of philosophy, but also because Farrell fostered an environment that allowed for personal growth in a way not always afforded in other courses. The class began gathering for extra sessions on Fridays, and a reading group emerged the next quarter for students interested in continuing through Nietzsche’s works together.

A few weeks after the class ended, students were told that a program had been created in Dr. Farrell’s honor, allowing a philosophy professor to take a group of students on a weekend retreat each year. To start the program, Dr. Farrell had chosen to bring his Nietzsche students.

The retreat was located at a tree farm owned by Dr. Farrell’s long-time friend, Jim Jeffers. It is currently a tree preservation area that offers hiking, fishing and other types of recreation on its many acres of land. The students drove two hours into southern Ohio into the Appalachian forests, and after winding through small country roads, arrived at the accommodating cabins in a picturesque setting of green trees. Arriving one car load at a time, the students were greeted by Dr. Farrell and his wife and a kitchen full of food. The students were encouraged to help themselves to food and relaxed on picnic tables together. Shortly after, a campfire would be built and students congregated for the evening to spend time with Dr. Farrell. During these campfires, philosophy was occasionally discussed and Nietzsche books were pulled out of backpacks briefly, but for the most part the students just laughed and gave intellectual thought a rest for the weekend, at least out loud. There was juggling, fire tricks, and guitars. The perfect bonfire!

On Saturday, all the relaxation was earned! More than half of the students accompanied Dr. Farrell on his favorite 12 mile hike into the deep woods of the tree farm. Students began by descending a very intimidating and large hill with the warning that they should turn back if they’re not prepared to climb back up! But, the payoff was large. The students entered valleys of luscious plants and trees and saw gorgeous fields of wildflowers. The Jeffers family came along for the hike and picked wild vegetables and herbs for their kitchen and taught students what to look for in wild herbs. A few loveable dogs came along for the hike and quickly became good friends with the whole crowd. Except for a few of the girls who got ticks, the students managed to conquer the hike without accepting a ride home from Jim Jeffers who offered every hour to drive his truck out to pick up anyone who was tired.

On the final evening of the retreat, the students were invited to the Jeffers home on another part of the farm. There was great food, relaxation, and dancing until the late night. In all, the Jeffers farm was the perfect place to be reminded of how beautiful life is, and why students all study philosophy in the first place. Not to be misleading—self reflection was not readily available, unless one was trained at blocking out endless jokes and banter between the students. But the weather was perfect, and the company was even better. The next day, the students returned to Columbus and to midterms week, and back to another world much different from the Jeffers farm utopia. The students of H678 already admired Dr. Farrell, and the retreat brought the class together even more. A few quarters later, there are still emails sent between the classmates regarding Nietzschian themed music or books found since the seminar ended. This is an indication of the impact that Dr. Farrell had on his students in just one class.

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Words About the Faculty

Ben Caplan has three papers forthcoming in anthologies: “Ontology” (with Carl Mattheson) in The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Music, edited by Ted Gracyk and Andrew Kania; “Ontology of Music” (also with Carl Mattheson) in the third edition of David Goldblatt and Lee Brown’s Aesthetics: A Reader in Philosophy of the Arts; and “Never Been Kicked” in a volume on the movie Fight Club, edited by Tom Wartenberg, in Routledge’s Philosophers on Film series. In that last paper, he argues that Fight Club is a romantic comedy. He has a paper, “Presentism and Truthmaking” (with David Sanson), forthcoming in Philosophy Compass. And he has two papers forthcoming in traditional journals: “Descriptivism, Scope, and Apparently Empty Names” (with Andrew Cullison) in Philosophical Studies and “Parts of Singletons” (with Chris Tillman and Patrick Reeder) in the Journal of Philosophy. He has given, or will be giving, talks or comments at the Pacific APA, the APA, the CPA, the CSPA, the Foundations of Logical Consequence conference in Dubrovnik, the SEP, SPAWN at Syracuse, and Wayne State. He was on the program committee for the Central APA, is a Subject Editor in Philosophy of Language for the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, and (not counting the Central APA) completed 21 refereeing assignments this past academic year.

Justin D’Arms presented the paper “Interestingly Wrong Kinds of Reasons” at the University of Sydney. He also presented “Sentimental Values” at the Conference on Value and Valuing at the University of Iceland, and “The Wrong Kinds of Reason to Feel” at Reed College.

Lisa Downing was the sole invited speaker at the two-day Conference on Empiricism and Newtonianism at the Center for Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh. There she presented her paper, “Locke’s Metaphysics and Newtonian Mechanics.” She also presented this paper at the Central Division APA meeting where she was invited to contribute to a symposium. She also presented this paper at a colloquium at the University of South Carolina. Lisa presented “Beasts, Thinking Matter, and Determinism: Comments on Antonia LoLordo’s Power, Causation, and Activity” at the Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network (SPAWN) where she was an invited senior commentator. Her article “Sensible qualities and material bodies in Descartes and Boyle” is forthcoming in the Oxford University Press volume, Primary and Secondary Qualities: the Historical and Ongoing Debate. Her “Maupertuis on Attraction as an Inherent Property of Matter” is forthcoming in Interpreting Newton from Cambridge University Press.

Glenn Hartz’s article “Leibniz’s Animals: Where Teleology Meets Mechanism” is forthcoming in the volume Corpuscular Substances and Machines of Nature in Leibniz, edited by Justin E. H. Smith and Ohad Nachtomy.

Don Hubin has been working mostly on developing the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values. In addition, he has presented a Continuing Legal Education course on legal ethics for Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP and served as a member of the External Review Team for the program review of the Philosophy Department at the University of Delaware.

Robert Kraut has two articles forthcoming: “Pragmatism and Metaphysical Explanation: The Case for (and against) Universals,” in Journal of Philosophy; and “Jazz and Language,” in Goldblatt and Brown (eds.), Aesthetics: A Reader in Philosophy of the Arts. Robert recently gave several presentations: “Playing and Saying: The Language of Jazz Performance,” a lecture given in conjunction with a music clinic and concert performance at Morehead State University; “Expressivism about Ontology,” presented at a Conference on Expressivism, Pluralism, and Representationalism at the University of Sydney (Australia); “What is Artworld Ontology?” invited symposium paper presented at the Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association; “Pragmatism and the Ontology of Art,” invited lecture in the Department of Philosophy, and “Stravinsky and the anti-Expressionist Tradition,” an invited seminar in the Department of Musicology, both at the University of Amsterdam. In April 2011 Robert will present an invited symposium paper on “Carnap’s Legacy for Metaontology” at the Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association; and “Stravinsky and the anti-Expressionist Tradition,” an invited seminar in the Department of Musicology, both at the University of Amsterdam. In April 2011 Robert will present an invited symposium paper on “Carnap’s Legacy for Metaontology” at the Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association; and in May 2011 he will present an invited paper at a conference on Huw Price’s forthcoming book Naturalism Without Mirrors at University of Pécs, Hungary.

Abe Roth presented his paper, “Intention, Shared Activity, and Team Reasoning” at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress in Boulder and the Collective Intentionality VII conference in Basel. Also, Abe’s entry on shared agency, will soon be published in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.


Richard Samuels is spending this fall on a research fellowship at the Center for Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh. He is finishing the editing of the Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Cognitive Science (co-edited with Eric Margolis and Stephen Stich). For that volume, Richard wrote a chapter called “Massive Modularity.” He recently published the article “Classical Computationalism and the Many Problems of Cognitive Relevance” in the journal Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science, and the article “Why Don’t Concepts Constitute a Natural Kind?” (co-authored with graduate student Michael Ferreira) in Behavioral and Brain Sciences. In addition, Richard recently has given a number of presentations: “Critical Periods & Linguistic Nativism” at the Multiple Perspectives on
the Critical Period for Language Workshop at OSU; “On the Evolution of Cognitive Flexibility” at Evolution and the Human Sciences Workshop in Helsinki; “Understanding Contemporary Nativist-Empiricist Debates” at the OSU Cognitive Science Center; “On the Folk Concept of Innateness” at the Experimental Philosophy Lab at Yale; “On Bootstrapping” at Washington University in St. Louis; “On the Evolution of Means-Ends Reasoning” at PhilMiCog at the University of Western Ontario; and “Varieties of Human Nature” at PhilMiLCog at the University in St. Louis; “On the Critical Period for Language” at Evolution and the Human Sciences Workshop in Helsinki; “Vagueness, Metaphysics, and Nativist-Empiricist Debates” at the OSU Cognitive Science Center; “On the Folk Concept of Innateness” at the Experimental Philosophy Lab at Yale; “On Bootstrapping” at Washington University in St. Louis; “On the Evolution of Means-Ends Reasoning” at PhilMiCog at the University of Western Ontario; and “Varieties of Human Nature” at the Royal Institute of Philosophy Annual Conference in Oxford.

Tim Schroeder was invited in the past year to contribute work to a number of different venues. Most notably, he recently published an entry on desire for the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, and contributed an essay on practical rationality to the journal Philosophical Issues.


Stewart Shapiro’s article “We Hold These Truths To Be Self-Evident: But What Do We Mean By That?” was honored as one of the ten best articles of 2009 by the Philosopher’s Annual. Stewart recently published an article, “Vagueness, Metaphysics, and Objectivity” in new the Oxford University Press volume, Cuts and Clouds: Vagueness, its Nature, and its Logic. His article “So Truth is Safe from Paradox: Now What?” was published in Philosophical Studies. An article “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” (co-written with Philip Ebert of Stirling) was published in Synthese. “Reference to Indiscernible Objects” was published in The Logica Yearbook. In addition, Stewart published six book reviews including one entitled, “A Scientific Enterprise? Penelope Maddy’s Second Philosophy,” which he co-wrote with OSU graduate student Patrick Reeder. Also, a Chinese translation of his book Thinking About Mathematics was published recently. Currently, Stewart is working on several articles about logic relativism and is the co-investigator for the Foundations of Logical Consequence project at Arché in St. Andrews.

Declan Smithies is currently finishing his postdoctoral fellowship at the Australian National University. He is co-editing two volumes, Introspection and Consciousness and Attention: Philosophical and Psychological Essays, which are forthcoming with Oxford University Press. In September, he is presenting papers at the Midwest Epistemology Conference at Purdue University and the Chambers Philosophy Conference at the University of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dawn Starr was invited to give a talk at Kenyon College; there she presented her paper, “Demonstratives and the Individuation of Directing Intentions.” William Taschek finally saw the publication of his article “On Sense and Reference: A Critical Reception” submitted nearly ten years ago for inclusion in the new Cambridge Companion to Freges. William spent the 2009-10 academic year as a visiting professor at Reed College.

Neil Tennant used the time afforded by his 2009-2010 National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to produce a lot of new work. He presented a paper called “Natural logicism: aims, method, problems, and prospects; and its relation to reverse mathematics” at the Workshop on Reverse Mathematics at the University of Chicago. He also has numerous papers that have been or soon will be published. He published “Inferential Semantics” in a festschrift for his former teacher, Timothy Smiley. His article “Inferentialism, Logicism, Harmony, and a Counterpoint” will soon be published in the second volume of a festschrift for Crispin Wright. He published “Williamson’s Woes” in a special issue of Synthese. “Cognitive Phenomenology, Semantic Qualia and Luminous Knowledge” will be in the volume Williamson on Knowledge, soon to be published by Oxford University Press. “A Logical Theory of Truthmakers and Falsitymakers” will be published in Handbook of Truth, also from Oxford University Press. In addition, Neil has a number of articles to appear soon in major journals: “Deflationism and the Gödel-Phenomena: Reply to Ciesiński” forthcoming in Mind. “Parts, Classes and Parts of Classes: An Anti-Realist Reading of Lewisian Mereology” forthcoming in Synthese, “The Logical Structure of Scientific Explanation and Prediction: Planetary Orbits in a Sun’s Gravitational Field” forthcoming in Studia Logica, and “Sequent Harmony” forthcoming in Analysis.

Piers Norris Turner was awarded the best essay prize at the John Stuart Mill Memorial Philosophy Conference at Eastern Illinois University for his paper “Legal Moralism, Harm, and Mill’s Liberty Principle.” He also presented papers at the American Political Science Association annual meeting (“Mill’s Democratic Designs”), and twice at workshops hosted by the Social Epistemology Research Group at the University of Copenhagen (“Infallibility, Authority, and Freedom of Discussion” and “Expert Rule and Open Society”). This past year saw the publication of Italian and Spanish translations—Dopo la società aperta and Despues de la sociedad abierta—of his 2008 co-edited volume of previously unpublished political writings by Karl Popper, After The Open Society. He was a faculty honoree for his teaching in the 2010 “President’s Salute to Undergraduate Achievement.” He also co-organized the Democratic Governance Group, of the nascent OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values, working with units across campus to coordinate a year-long interdisciplinary “Conversation on Morality, Politics, and Society” on the topic of immigration in the coming year.
**Words About the Graduate Students**

**Eric Carter** was hired as a lecturer by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at North Carolina State University in the fall of 2010. Before that he received a research grant from the OSU College of Arts and Humanities. He also gave several presentations: “Subjective Attitudes, Judge-dependence, and Vagueness” at North Carolina State University and at the Alabama Philosophical Society; “Incompatibility and Cognitive Fault” at the Subjective Meaning Workshop: Alternatives to Relativism, German Society for Linguistics at Humboldt University in Berlin; and “Constraint and Neutrality” at the Florida Philosophical Association.

**Owen King** presented “Bidirectional Comparisons and Theories of Value” at the student conference in conjunction with the Conference on Value and Valuing at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik. He was also one of the winners of the OSU Arts & Humanities Post-Prospectus Research Quarter Award for 2010.

**Robby Newman** presented “Frankfurt on Higher-order Attitudes” at the student conference in conjunction with the Conference on Value and Valuing at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik.

**Andy Choi** presented his paper “On Arpaly and Best Judgment” at the Central Division meeting of the APA.

**Mike Ferreira** gave two poster presentations of his paper, “On a Prima Facie Problem for the New Cognitive Theory of the Imagination” once at The OSU Center for Cognitive Science’s Cogfest and once in Portland, Oregon at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology. His article “Why Don’t Concepts Constitute a Natural Kind?” (co-authored with Richard Samuels) was published in the journal *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. He was also one of the winners of the OSU Arts & Humanities Post-Prospectus Research Quarter Award for 2010.

**Tim Fuller** will be presenting “Is scientific theory change similar to early cognitive development? Gopnik on science and childhood” at the 2011 meeting of the Pacific APA. He will be chairing the session “Knowability and Singular Thought: De Re Knowledge and Semantic Ascent” at the 2011 meeting of the Central APA.

**Dai Heide** defended his PhD dissertation in August, 2010. He presented “Kant’s Rejected Alternative” at the Princeton-Penn-Columbia Graduate Conference in Early Modern Philosophy and “Kant, Leibniz and the Neglected Neglected Alternative” at the Pacific Northwest/Western Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy.

**Patrick Reeder** has the article “Parts of Singletons” (written with Ben Caplan and Chris Tillman) forthcoming in the *Journal of Philosophy*. He also presented “Parts of Singletons” at the Pacific Division meeting of the APA. His book review, “A Scientific Enterprise? Penelope Maddy’s Second Philosophy,” co-written with Stewart Shapiro, was published in *Philosophia Mathematica*.

**Alisa Wandzilak** presented “Rational Requirements and the Bootstrapping Problem” at the student conference in conjunction with the Conference on Value and Valuing at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik.
Dubrovnik

The Philosophy Department continues its tradition of organizing first-rate philosophy conferences in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The conference series, which began in 1989 and has been conducted annually since 2005, is co-sponsored by OSU, the University of Rijeka (Croatia), and the University of Maribor (Slovenia). The theme for the conference alternates between topics in moral and political philosophy and topics in epistemology and metaphysics. The 2010 conference took place in May and focused on philosophical logic (part of epistemology and metaphysics, broadly construed). And for the 2011 conference, the topic will again be moral and political philosophy.

The organizers of the annual Dubrovnik conference always strive to bring together a group of top-notch analytic philosophers. Another goal of the conference is to promote philosophical interaction between the Anglo-American philosophical community and the philosophical community of Eastern Europe. In its current form, the conference has met for eight consecutive years, but the history of the conference predates the Balkan wars.

The presenters for the 2010 conference included Ben Caplan (Ohio State), Colin Caret (St. Andrews), Catarina Dutilh-Novae (Amsterdam), Ole Hjortland (St. Andrews), Peter Milne (Stirling), Nenad Mišić (Maribor), Dag Prawitz (Stockholm), Graham Priest (Melbourne/CUNY/St. Andrews), Stephen Read (St. Andrews), Greg Restall (Melbourne), Per Martin-Löf (Stockholm), Tor Sandqvist (Stockholm), Peter Schroeder-Heister (Tübingen), Stewart Shapiro (Ohio State), Nenad Smokrović (Rijeka), Florian Steinberger (Cambridge), Majda Trobok (Rijeka), Alan Weir (Glasgow), and Berislav Zarnič (Split). There was also a student session, during which papers were given by Michael De (St. Andrews), Salvatore Florio (Ohio State), Frederique Janssen-Lauret (St. Andrews), and Julien Murzi (Sheffield).

The twenty-one presentations were spread over five days. Stewart’s presentation was on the third day, but from the beginning of the conference to the end, his influential work was repeatedly referenced. The twenty-one presentations were spread over five days. Stewart’s presentation was on the third day, but from the beginning of the conference to the end, his influential work was repeatedly referenced. The presentations were of very high quality, and discussions always continued into the evenings.

Reportedly a photo was taken in Dubrovnik of Ben Caplan, Salvatore Florio, Stewart Shapiro, and Stewart’s wife Beverly posing in the famous O-H-I-O formation. When asked about the photo, each either insists that it is not for public consumption or pleads ignorance concerning its whereabouts.

Stewart’s presentation was on the third day, but from the beginning of the conference to the end, his influential work was repeatedly referenced.

The upcoming 2011 Dubrovnik conference is on moral and political philosophy with “Reason and Right” as the central theme. Subthemes will include the relationship between moral rightness and practical rationality, the relationship between moral rightness and moral reasons, and the relationship between justification and public reason.

The list of presenters for the upcoming 2011 Dubrovnik conference includes a few philosophers who have visited Dubrovnik before: Justin D’Arms and Don Hubin from OSU, Dan Jacobson (Michigan), and Geoff Sayre-McCord (UNC, Chapel Hill). At this time, the organizers also expect the following philosophers to participate: Richard Arneson (UC San Diego), Fred D’Aquino (Queensland), James Dreier (Brown), Julia Driver (Washington University, St. Louis), Jerry Gaus (Arizona), Ryan Muldoon (Western Ontario), Alistair Norcross (Colorado), Henry Richardson (Georgetown), Melinda Roberts (College of New Jersey), Connie Rosati (Arizona), David Sobel (Nebraska), Piers Norris Turner (OSU), and Peter Vallentyne (Missouri).
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