Greetings from the Chair! If you are alumni be sure to let us know what you are up to! We post news on our home page [http://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/] Please send an update to Sue Newland.

This is a big year for us: we have a total of 427 students enrolled in philosophy classes this term, a lively group of senior philosophy majors, guest speakers coming in from around the world (in early October one scholar is from Denmark), Pizza Thursdays (weekly meetings when professors and students do philosophy informally over a pizza lunch (sponsored by Eric Erfanian), St. Olaf and Carleton philosophers and majors plan on stimulating interaction, and some first-rate philosophers are with us this term at the Kierkegaard Library. The incoming first-year students listed philosophy as their number one interest in the humanities. In December, renovations will begin in Holland Hall. Philosophy along with all the departments in Holland Hall will be re-located during the 18 months of renovations. This will be taxing as we move to the ground floor in Buntrock Commons in windowless office spaces where we can act out Plato’s myth of the cave. The Belgium Lectures this year will be in the spring, when we host Professor John Cooper from Princeton University.

We hope that all who read this have lives full of the love of wisdom.

- Charles Taliaferro, Chair of the Department of Philosophy

Alumni expand their talents in philosophy and filmmaking - page 2

Phi Sigma Tau is preparing for the new academic year - page 3

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St. Olaf and Carleton Philosophy professors retreat to Stillwater - page 5

What did Professors do over the summer? - pages 5-6
Brian J. Collins ’06 was appointed as a tenure-track assistant professor in the philosophy department at California Lutheran University this September.

Brian earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degree at the University of Iowa. His research interests are ethics and political philosophy with an emphasis on political obligation and the intersection of ethical and political philosophical theories. Before becoming a faculty member at California Lutheran University, Brian had taught various philosophy courses at the University of Iowa and Iowa Wesleyan College. In addition to his enthusiasm for philosophy, Brian also enjoys outdoor activities, music and food.

Jimmy Gildea ’14 founded his independent film company, Ramble Pictures, after his graduation. Now he is embarking on a career in filmmaking with the documentary Papa’s Shadow: Hemingway in East Africa. The documentary film, with exclusive testimony by Ernest Hemingway’s son Patrick Hemingway, explores Earnest Hemingway’s hunting expeditions in Africa and their influence on the famous author. St. Olaf English professor Joseph Mbele, who is a citizen of Tanzania, also shares his inspirational thoughts in the film.

To learn more about the film and the way to make your contribution to it, visit the Kickstarter page: https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/ramblepictures/papas-shadow-hemingway-in-east-africa

Roderick Hale ’74 is hoping to organize a group of Twin Cities philosophy major alumni for monthly readings and discussions. The readings would depend on what the participants are interested in.

If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Roderick directly at hale780243@aol.com
Phi Sigma Tau Kicks Off the Fall With Two Events

At their fall meeting, they planned fall semester events, including a dinner on September 30 for members and associates. The first colloquium will take place on October 22. Kate Villa ’16 will present her paper on procreative ethics, and Meredith Varie ’16 will comment on it.

After the meeting, the officers visited most of the philosophy classes to promote Phi Sigma Tau and to invite all students who love philosophy to participate in Phi Sigma Tau events.

Every St. Olaf student who loves philosophy is welcome! If interested contact Meredith at: varie@stolaf.edu

The new officers of Phi Sigma Tau, who were elected last semester, had their first meeting of the year. They are Meredith Varie ’16; president; Pedro Monque ’16, vice president; Annika Beck ’17, secretary; Alexander Quanbeck ’17, treasurer; and Zhaoqi Hu ’17, historian.

Summer Undergraduate Research

Meredith Varie ’16

Meredith worked on a chapter for a handbook about aging in religious context. She also worked at HealthFinders Collaborative doing program evaluation and data analysis.

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Annika Beck ‘17

Annika worked as an intern in the Mayo Clinic Biomedical Ethics Program. Working with a primary physician mentor, she researched the arguments for and against rationing healthcare based on age. She became very familiar with the works of major thinkers in that field including philosophers like Norman Daniels, Daniel Callahan and James Childress. In addition to her primary project, she also developed presentations on medical futility (and the laws which govern in the US) and conducted a literature review and summary of the ethical challenges in HIV cure clinical trials.
Alexander Quanbeck ‘17

Alexander was a research and editorial assistant for Charles Taliaferro, the chair of the philosophy department. They worked on eleven articles or book chapters, two books that Professor Taliaferro is editing, and two books, Philosophical Theology: An Introduction and An Agrarian Proposal, that he is writing.

In addition, Alexander worked in the Howard and Edna Hong Kierkegaard Library (on the second floor of Rolvaag) and participated in the Kierkegaard Young Scholars program led by professor Gordon Marino. In the Young Scholars program, in which undergraduates and recent graduates from colleges and universities around the United States and Europe participated, they read aloud and discussed Kierkegaard’s Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions during a daily seminar.

Kate Villa ‘16

Kate attended PIKSI (Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute) at MIT. This proved to be a turning point for her when Sally Haslinger told the PIKSI fellows that they belonged in Philosophy and that they should carry the sense of belonging with them into the future, in graduate school, and in life when they encounter micro-aggressions or alienation as minority philosophers.

Participants formed a close and complex community within a matter of days and talked about philosophical topics every day and into the night.

Pedro Monque ‘16

Pedro Monque ‘16 and Professor Swain received a summer research grant from St. Olaf’s Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry program. Their project was titled Teaching Philosophy for Social Transformation: Designing a Teaching Module for Empowering Latin America and it was the first CURI-funded philosophy project.
Summer Research Projects of St. Olaf Philosophy Professors

Arthur Cunningham: This summer Professor Cunningham participated in a two-week seminar and a three-day workshop on philosophy of religion, both held at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. He presented on two classic philosophical “problems” for free will: the problem of free will and divine foreknowledge and the problem of free will and determinism, showing how insights drawn from reflecting on the foreknowledge problem can help us to think in the right way both about free will and about determinism. Recently the journal Faith and Philosophy accepted Professor Cunningham’s paper on a related topic, the Molinist account of divine providence.

Michael Fuerstein: Over the summer Professor Fuerstein completed work on a paper modeling moral progress in democracies, which is now forthcoming in the journal Social Theory and Practice. Continuing his work on business and society with the Society for Progress, he collaborated with Julie Battilana and Mike Lee of Harvard Business School on a paper about workplace democracy, due for completion this fall. In addition, he worked on several grant applications to support a book project, provisionally titled “Democratic Experiments,” and he applied for an “Enduring Questions” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a course on moral and economic value in the marketplace.

Professor Fuerstein’s band, The Counterfactuals, played in the beer garden at the annual Defeat of Jesse James Days.

St. Olaf and Carleton Philosophy Professors Retreat in Stillwater

The 2015 St. Olaf and Carleton College Philosophy Departmental Retreat took place in Stillwater, Minnesota from September 25 to 27. Professor John Greco, who holds the Leonard and Elizabeth Eslick Chair in Philosophy at St. Louis University, led faculty in discussions of his work in epistemology over five sessions.

Sessions 1 and 2 presented the lay of the land in the epistemology of testimony and a defense of Greco’s virtue theoretic approach. Sessions 3 and 4 presented and defended his approach to the nature and value of knowledge. Session 5 applied material from earlier sessions to religious epistemology.

In addition to sharing philosophical ideas, Professor Greco, who has a black belt in this martial art, practiced judo with Professor Danny Muñoz-Hutchinson.

The St. Olaf and Carleton College philosophy retreat was initiated by Fred Stoutland. The St. Olaf and Carleton philosophers have held retreats nearly every year since 1978. Each time they invite an eminent philosopher to lead discussions on ongoing projects. This is a great opportunity for faculty from both colleges to join together in philosophical reflections and fellowship.

John Greco with St. Olaf and Carleton college philosophy professors at the 2015 retreat
Jeanine Grenberg: Professor Jeanine Grenberg was a keynote speaker at a conference held at the University of Oslo on Conscience and Moral Self-Knowledge in Kant and German Idealism. She has been working on a new translation of Immanuel Kant’s “Doctrine of Virtue” with Professor Jens Timmerman at St. Andrews University in Scotland. She also continues to think through ideas about her next book; right now, she is most tempted by the idea of utilizing Kant’s ethical theory to interpret the novels of Jane Austen.

In her spare time this summer, Professor Grenberg continued her efforts to become a cellist. She’s been playing for the past five years, but is hesitant to call herself a ‘cellist’ since, as Aristotle would say, she continues to do things to the cello that a ‘cellist’ would not do.

Gordon Marino: Professor Marino hosted about 50 visiting scholars from around the world at the Howard Hong Kierkegaard Library. He also directed the Library’s Young Scholars Program, which brings in rising seniors from around the nation and from St. Olaf, for a three-week in-depth study of a Kierkegaard text.

Professor Marino continued his work as a journalist for the Wall Street Journal and other publications and began a book for HarperOne tentatively titled “Existential Prescriptions.”

In his spare time, he trained boxers for competition, as he has done for the last 30 years, and in August, managed to sneak away for a week in the Eden that is Hawaii.

Jason Marsh: Professor Marsh presented a conference paper on the nature of moral progress at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. In addition, he worked on a chapter for a book on the future of philosophy of religion.

Danny Muñoz-Hutchinson: Professor Muñoz-Hutchinson co-organized and co-chaired a panel on Neoplatonic Epistemology and presented a paper entitled “Perceiving a Face and Contemplating the

Forms: Epistemological Reflections on *Ennead IV.4.1*” at the annual meeting of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He also revised a chapter of his book manuscript, “Plotinus on Consciousness.”

Anthony Rudd: Professor Rudd completed editorial work on *Love, Reason and Will: Kierkegaard After Frankfurt*, Anthony Rudd and John Davenport (eds), Bloomsbury Publishers, New York, 2015. This collection of essays aims to bring Kierkegaard into conversation with the eminent contemporary philosopher Harry Frankfurt. In addition, professor Rudd completed a paper on Kierkegaard and political theology and drafted a paper on Kierkegaard and joy. Although Kierkegaard is usually associated with despair and anxiety, Professor Rudd argues he is not all gloom. His next big project, on philosophy and painting, will investigate the philosophical significance of (mainly visual) art.

Corliss Swain: Professor Swain worked with Pedro Monque ’16, on the department’s first CURI funded project, which combined insights from feminist theory with peace studies. They were joined by Marcus (Margaret) Schweiger ’15 and Steph Hagan ’16, who volunteered their invaluable assistance.

Charles Taliaferro: The summer was spent co-authoring a book manuscript, “Contemporary Philosophical Theology,” as well as writing about a dozen articles and book chapters and roughly the same number of entries for dictionaries. (The latter might seem unexciting, but Charles actually reads dictionaries for fun!) Five of the essays written this summer were co-authored with students or former students (on the topics of aging, Einstein, *House of Cards*, love, and *Star Wars*).

Jil and Charles adopted a dog, Pip, a beautiful Sheltie.

Those who recall Charles’ philosophical canine companion will be pleased to know that his full name is Tiepolo Pip Evans-Taliaferro.
Future Events

Eunice Belgum Memorial Lectures

The 37th Eunice Belgum Memorial Lectures will be delivered in the spring by John Cooper, Henry Putnam University Professor at Princeton University.

Professor Cooper has edited and translated the complete works of Plato as well as Seneca’s Moral and Political Essays. He is the author of several books, including Reason and Human Good in Aristotle; Reason and Emotion: Essays on Ancient Moral Psychology and Ethical Theory; Knowledge, Nature, and the Good: Essays on Ancient Philosophy and Pursuits of Wisdom: Six Ways of Life in Ancient Philosophy from Socrates to Plotinus.

When the dates for the lectures are known they will be published on the philosophy department’s web site at: http://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/eunice-belgum-memorial-lectures-podcasts/

Holland Hall Renovations

Holland Hall will be undergoing major renovations, commencing this January. The renovations will restore its elegant original exterior and create a light-filled, welcoming space for students, faculty and visitors. We are looking forward to moving back to Holland Hall in the summer of 2017.

In the meantime the philosophy department will be temporarily relocated in the old telecommunications suite on the lower level of Buntrock Commons.

Check out these Resources from the St. Olaf Philosophy Department!

To stay connected and receive regular updates on activities, check out the St. Olaf Philosophy Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/St-Olaf-Philosophy-565288890180412/?ref=hl

Learn more about the department and the major on the Philosophy Department’s web site: http://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/

Check out stories from St. Olaf Alumni to discover how Philosophy students have used their college training to make the world a better place at: http://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/