

The Owl

The St. Olaf Philosophy Department's Newsletter • March 2018

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A Greeting and Introduction to the Department from Charles Taliaferro



We welcome all those who get this newsletter to visit the Department of Philosophy here in the newly renovated Holland Hall where we have been since the start of the fall term!

The big news story is that it has just been announced that Jason Marsh was awarded tenure and promotion! He will be taking a one year sabbatical in 2018-19. We could not be happier! Over the January Interim we had over one hundred students enrolled in four courses, and we currently have 369 students enrolled in 16 courses and some internships and independent studies. Plans are underway for the Belgum Lectures this Spring with Charles Mills speaking about Race and Social Justice. The Department is involved in a self-study which will involve our contacting recent graduates and current students to explore ways of improving our offerings. The Department received over \$950 recently in gifts from philosophy alumni, for which we are hugely grateful. Since last writing, we have learned some recent graduates have been accepted into philosophy Ph.D. programs at Northwestern University, Georgetown, UNC Chapel Hill, and the University of Miami. Bravo. Please be in touch! Current and former students have a huge, enduring role in shaping our lives on all levels. It has been and continues to be an honor and joy to be your professors.

Charles Taliaferro, Chair of the Department of Philosophy



Phi Sigma Tau and Philosophia Spring Events

page 2

Faculty News

page 3

Student /Alumni News

Page 4

Eunice Belgum Memorial Lecture

page 5

Contact Information

page 5

Donation Request

page 6

Philosophia

Philosophia Spring Events

Philosophia will be hosting a luncheon with this year's Belgium Lecturer Professor Charles Mills!

In other news, Philosophia has been enjoying its resurgence as the premier (and only) group on-campus dedicated to promoting the work and lives of underrepresented philosophers and philosophical topics overlooked by various curriculums. Philosophia meets biweekly on Wednesdays in Holland Hall from 7 to 8 p.m.. We encourage all interested students to attend!



Phi Sigma Tau Spring Events

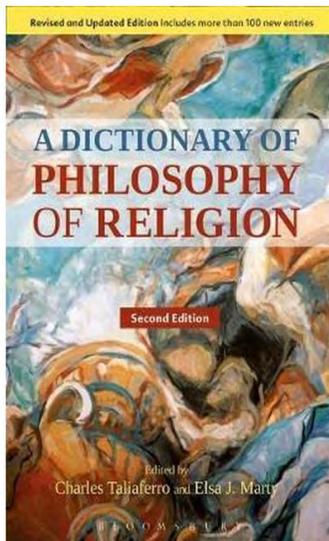
Phi Sigma Tau, in conjunction with the Great Conversations program and the Religion and Philosophy departments, will be hosting a public lecture by Dr. Jon McGinnis on March 14th from 6:30-8pm in Viking Theater, titled "The Hidenness of 'Divine Hidenness': Divine Love in Some Medieval Muslim and Jewish Thinkers". Dr. McGinnis is a professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and is a specialist on Ibn Sina and medieval Islamic Philosophy.

Phi Sigma Tau will also be holding several student colloquia this spring! Every St Olaf student who loves philosophy is welcome! If interested, contact Dempsey at olsen3@stolaf.edu.

Faculty News

The Hong Kierkegaard Library will be hosting our Eighth International Conference in June. The theme for this get together is as existential as it can get, namely, what wisdom have you garnered from your study of Kierkegaard. We will have scholars coming from all over the globe and are hoping that we might also have a couple of participants from St. Olaf. Please let us know if you might be interested in either giving a presentation or serving as a commentator. Here is the link to the conference: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/international-conference/>. If you have any questions, please email Professor Gordon Marino or Eileen Shimota at marino@stolaf.edu and shimota@stolaf.edu.

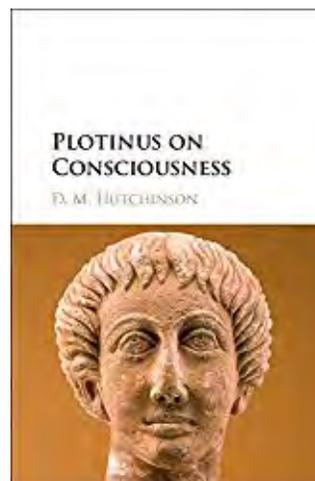
Professor Charles Taliaferro's Dictionary for Philosophy of Religion (pictured below), co-edited with Elsa Marty, second edition, was published by Bloomsbury last December, with entries by Jeanine Grenberg, Anthony Rudd, Jason Marsh, and Alexander Cavender. Charles gave two lectures at Upsalla University in Sweden this winter, where he also served in a doctoral defense. Recent publications include chapters in: New Models of Religious Understanding (Oxford), Christian Physicalism? (Rowman and Littlefield), and Interreligious Dialogue (Rutledge).



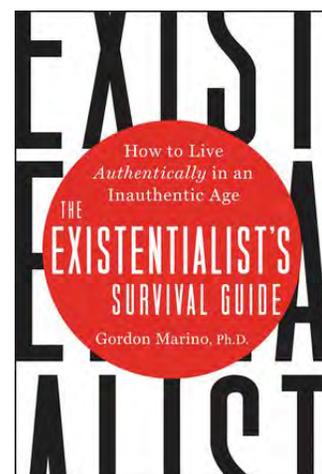
Professor Jason Marsh published, "On the Socratic Injunction to Follow the Argument Where it Leads," in *Renewing Philosophy of Religion: Exploratory Essays* (Oxford), Edited by Paul Draper and John L. Schellenberg, 187-207.

The Hong Kierkegaard Library is pleased to announce: Casual Kierkegaard Conversations, a student-only discussion group that meets once a month to ponder a selection of Kierkegaard's text. Visit here for more information: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/casual-kierkegaard-conversations/>

Professor Danny Muñoz-Hutchinson has finished his book (pictured first right), *Plotinus on Consciousness*, and is eagerly awaiting its publication with Cambridge University Press this April.



Professor Gordon Marino will publish his new book (pictured second right) in April, *The Existentialist's Survival Guide: How to Live Authentically in an Inauthentic Age* (Harper).



Student and Alumni News

Anders R. Mattson (pictured bottom right) attended the "Theater in London" Interim trip, where he saw and studied over twenty performances. Anders also explored London, Oxford, and Stratford-upon-Avon and spent his free weekend in Dublin. Anders' background in Philosophy assisted him in critically analyzing the shows he attended, while also helping in contextualizing his experiences.

Alex Cavender (pictured below, person on the left) attended the "Classical Studies in Italy" interim trip, where he studied ancient Roman history, art, and culture (as well as Greek and Etruscan). He also visited the Vatican, Montecassino Abbey, Pompeii, and numerous other sites while reflecting on the development of western cultural and religious thought.

Thomas Lambert (pictured below) is in the second year of his Ph.D. at Princeton University, where he is advised by Alexander Nehamas. He will be presenting his paper "Discovering Values: Nietzsche's Constructivist Metaethics" at the annual workshop of the International Society for Nietzsche Studies at Birkbeck-University of London in March. A revised version of the paper will then be published in the journal *Inquiry* in January 2019.



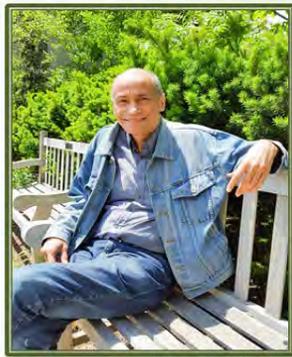
The Eunice Belgium Memorial Lecture Series 2018

39th Annual Eunice Belgium Memorial Lecture Series

Racial Justice

Lecture 1
Racial Justice
Thursday, April 12
4:00-5:30 p.m.
Viking Theater
(Reception to follow)

Lecture 2
Black Radical Kantianism
Friday, April 13
3:30-5:00 p.m.
TOH 280



Charles Mills
Distinguished Professor
of Philosophy, CUNY



QR code links to St
Olaf's Belgium Lecture
page.

The Eunice Belgium Memorial Lecture series are sponsored by the Eunice Belgium Fund and the Department of Philosophy.

Eunice Belgium Memorial Lectures

The 39th Eunice Belgium Memorial Lectures will be delivered on April 12 and 13 by Distinguished Professor Charles Mills of the CUNY Graduate Center. The series will be entitled *Racial Justice*, and will be available for live streaming on the St. Olaf College website.

Professor Mills works in the general area of oppositional political theory, with a particular focus on race. He is the author of over a hundred journal articles, book chapters, comments and replies, and six books: *The Racial Contract* (1997), *Blackness Visible: Essays on Philosophy and Race* (1998), *From Class to Race: Essays in White Marxism and Black Radicalism* (2003), *Contract and Domination* (with Carole Pateman) (2007), *Radical Theory, Caribbean Reality* (2010), and *Black Rights/White Wrongs: The Critique of Racial Liberalism* (2017)

More details regarding the Eunice Belgium Memorial Lecture series can be found on the department of Philosophy's website at: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/eunice-belgium-memorial-lectures-podcasts/>

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=h>

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/alumni-profiles/>

A Call for Help

For nearly 40 years the Belgum family have financially supported the **Eunice Belgum Memorial Lecture** series via an endowment fund. However the endowment, which the Belgum family generously provided, is no longer sufficient to cover the ever-rising costs of these lectures.

In order to continue the lecture series in its current format, the endowment needs to grow by about \$40,000. This is where you, our dear philosophy alumni, come in. Would you be willing to donate 'to the cause'? Any amount would be gratefully accepted.

Please attach the slip below to your check

Thanking you in advance,

Charles Taliaferro,
Chair, Philosophy department



Donation to Eunice Belgum Memorial Endowment Fund (010-41088)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to 'St. Olaf College', and send to Development Office, St. Olaf College. 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057.

Thank you.