FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Hard to believe that a year has already passed since I last welcomed our graduates, retired colleagues, and friends to our annual newsletter. It has been a very lively year, and there is much to report! As always, I hope that this update will bring back happy memories of your own time in our department, and that you will be moved to get in touch and tell us what has been going on with you. We have been working very hard this year on our departmental website, and are now especially eager for alumni news to post there—so we look forward to hearing from you!

All my best,
Matthew E. Moore
Chairperson
matthewm@brooklyn.cuny.edu

STUDENT NEWS

OUR NEWEST GRADUATES

Warm congratulations to the forty-two majors in Philosophy who were added to the ranks of Brooklyn College alumni at the Spring 2013 Commencement. We are pleased to report that Joseph Gotesman will be attending the Albert Einstein School of Medicine. Graduates going on to law school include Shaun Christopher (Harvard), Sheran Sherafi (Boston University) and Tina O’Neale (Fordham). Jumana Morciglio will continue her philosophical studies in the M.A. Program at Georgia State, and Anna Pons will pursue her M.A. in Philosophy at San Francisco State. These are just a few of our new graduates; we hope that others will let us know where they are going next. We are very proud of all of you!

HONORS AND AWARDS

At our annual awards ceremony this year, our scholarship recipients were Maxwell Feist (Mildred Sheehan Scholarship), Danielle Reinbachs (Beth J. Singer Scholarship), and Macauley Davis (Paul Taylor Scholarship). Departmental awards went to Joseph Gotesman (Stanley Malinovich Award), Michael Calasso (Stanley Malinovich Award), Anne Boatner (Franklin J. Matchette Award), James Repetti (Eric Matchette Award), Casey Duncan (Emily Michael Award), William Cheung (Howard W. Hintz Essay Prize), Lucy Stack (Howard W. Hintz Essay Prize), and Michael Perrin (Philosophy Book Prize). The Candace J. Groudine Human Rights Award, made possible through the continued generosity of one of our alumnae, went to Thanddnes Palmer. Departmental honors were conferred on Anna Pons and Joseph Gotesman. Also in 2012-2013 we were pleased to induct 16 new members into our chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the international honor society in philosophy. And we note with pride that 13 of the 50 new members elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Brooklyn College were either majors or minors in Philosophy, including Leah Fastow, who received PBK’s Propylaea Award for the Outstanding Senior.
**STUDENT RESEARCH**

Current students and recent graduates alike were actively involved in research this year. Reuben Fuller-Bennett, Class of 2012, had a paper on “The Right-Wing Neglect of Happiness” published in *Ephemeris*. Lucy Stack presented a paper on “Nature as Text in the Work of Friedrich Nietzsche” at the SIU Edwardsville Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. William Cheung presented “On Suffering—Nietzsche against Epicurus” at the Moravian College Philosophy Undergraduate Conference. Jumana Morciglio presented “Spinoza’s Missing Piece to the Puzzle of Incontinence” to the Brooklyn College Philosophy Society; also presenting papers to the Philosophy Society were Anton Svyatsky (“Thesis on Causation”) and Ben Wasserman, Class of 2012 (“When There’s a Way There’s a Will” and “Trading Free Will for Constancy”).

**PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY**

This academic year was another very active one for our student club, the Philosophy Society. In addition to the student presentations just listed, the Society hosted Dan Shargel from the CUNY Graduate Center, who spoke on “Emotions beyond the Brain.” There were also three presentations by members of our own department: Saam Trivedi (“Intentions and Art”), Justin Steinberg (“Philosophy and Taboos”), and Anna Gotlib (“Philosophy’s Place in Today’s World”).

**FACULTY NEWS**

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

In the past year our faculty carried on the department’s tradition of excellence in philosophical scholarship. Books published in the last year, or about to be published, include: Samir Chopra, *Brave New Pitch: The Evolution of Modern Cricket*; Angelica Nuzzo, *Memory, History, Justice in Hegel and Hegel on Religion and Politics*; and Christine Vitrano, *The Nature and Value of Happiness*.

We continue to be well represented in top journals in the field, including *Mind and Language* (Robert Lurz), *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* (Robert Sinclair), *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (Saam Trivedi), *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* (Andrew Arlig), *Environmental Ethics* (Michael Menser), *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (Justin Steinberg) and *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* (Anna Gotlib).

Some other highlights of our faculty’s research activities: Daniel Campos gave the keynote lecture at the Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Sport Education in Nagoya, Japan; Penny Repetti spoke on “Effective Strategies for Enhancing Student Learning” at the Brooklyn College Center for Teaching; Michael Menser and Anna Gotlib worked with Zicklin Professor Sheldon Krimsky to organize a symposium on “The Future of Food” at Brooklyn College; and Dena Shottenkirk presented an art installation and symposium based on her book on Nelson Goodman, at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

**IN MEMORIAM: EDWARD KENT**

We are saddened to report the passing of our friend and colleague Edward Kent. Ed began teaching at Brooklyn College in 1966 and was with us for more than three decades. He served as Chair of our department, and as our specialist in the philosophy of law was a mentor to countless Philosophy undergraduates who went on to have successful careers in the
legal field. Ed is fondly remembered by his colleagues for his warmth, his dedication to our students, and his outspoken advocacy of social justice.

EVENTS

Our second annual Sheila and Wilbur Liebson Colloquium was offered this year in collaboration with the First College Year Program, and focused on the common reading for this school year, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Three members of our department—Anna Gotlib, Christine Vitrano and Zicklin Professor Sheldon Krimsky—spoke to a full house on “HeLa’s Troubled Legacy: Medicine, Ethics and Other Puzzles of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.”

This year’s Sprague and Taylor Lecture was the main event in a day honoring the memory of our colleague Jonathan Adler, who passed away last year. Our lecturer was Professor Catherine Elgin of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Her lecture on “The Depth of the Skeptical Predicament” was a provocative exploration of one of Professor Adler’s many important papers on the theory of knowledge. It was the ideal way to remember a passionate philosopher and a dear friend.

PHILOSOPHY FUND

The Department of Philosophy Fund enables our department to provide awards, scholarships, and prizes to students, and to fund lectures, conferences, and other events that carry on our vibrant intellectual tradition. We are grateful to graduates and emeriti/ae members of the department who have contributed to this fund, which is sustained entirely by donations. Contributions are tax deductible. A donation to this fund can be made by a check that is payable to the Brooklyn College Foundation, Inc., noting in the memo section of the check both the fund number (30404238) and the fund name (The Department of Philosophy Fund).

ALUMNAE/ALUMNI NEWS

Irene Brodsky, Class of 2007, writes: “Since I graduated in 2007, I wrote my 4th book, Sixteen Candles Shine Forever In Memory of Johnny Maestro (Outskirts Press). This book is about the great singer Johnny Maestro, former lead singer of The Crests and The Brooklyn Bridge. He gave the world 50 years of beautiful love songs, was a wonderful family man and a gentleman to everyone.”

Winifred Chin, Class of 1974, writes: “I graduated in 1974 and continued graduate studies at Seton Hall University, studying Asian Philosophy, and transferring to NYU to compete an MA in Comparative Religions in 1978. My father and I coauthored a book, Paper Son: One Man’s Story (Temple, 2001), which is still in print and won the CHOICE Best Academic Book Award in 2001, and was followed by a historical novel in 2006, entitled Interchange. Otherwise, I taught World Religions and Ethics at St. Francis College between 1989-1996, took five years off to be a stay-at-home mom, and returned to teaching in 2001—at NYU—where I am now an adjunct assistant professor of East Asian Cultures. I am also a freelance writer, doing mostly op-eds for the Progressive Media Project—from there my op-eds are distributed throughout
the world to interested media both on-line and in hard-copy.”

**Austin Duggan**, Class of 2010, is in his fourth year at Cornell University. He is currently crunching the data of an ex-phi survey funded by Yale, and beginning his dissertation. He is also entering his second year as the resident advisor of Sigma Phi Epsilon Beta Chapter.

**Philip Ehrlich**, Class of 1972, Professor of Philosophy at Ohio University, writes: “In my recent work, ‘The Absolute Arithmetic Continuum and the Unification of All Numbers Great and Small,’ I provided an overview of my theory of the absolute arithmetic continuum and show how a wide array of historically important number systems are subsumed by this remarkable number system. I recently won a Baker Research Fund Award to support the completion of my paper, ‘The Rise of non-Archimedean Mathematics and the Roots of a Misconception II: the emergence of non-Archimedean geometry and the theory of non-Archimedean ordered algebraic systems.’ Like Part I, which was also commissioned by the Archive for History of Exact Sciences, the second part will be a monograph-length work. Finally, my paper, ‘A Re-examination of Zeno’s Paradox of Extension: An Essay in Honor of Adolf Grünbaum on his 90th Birthday,’ a paper I presented at Brooklyn College in October, 2011, will appear in Philosophy of Science. In this paper I provide a novel solution to Zeno’s celebrated paradox of extension.”

**Therese Hartnett**, Class of 2005, writes: “I’m still a public defender in Garden City, Kansas, and have been practicing law almost 5 years, exclusively representing indigent defendants charged with felony crimes. I am doing a job that is really challenging and essential. I couldn’t ask for more. I got right into law school with a philosophy degree; there is no more important course of study in an undergraduate degree no matter what your vocation.”

**David Lyons**, Class of 1960, writes: “I moved from Cooper Union to Brooklyn College, both tuition-free, in the 1950s. We wound up in Ithaca, where we and our children thrived. At Cornell I was drawn to work on law and politics (in theory and practice). After 31 years Sandy and I relocated to Boston, where we could be near one of our children (now two of them, plus grandchildren). As a non-lawyer on the BU law faculty, I have been working on the color line in American history, some results of which are in my new book, Confronting Injustice. I’d like to complete a text on the subject before I retire in 2015.”

**Juan Pablo Munoz**, Class of 2012, writes: “I have been enjoying working towards my Ph.D. at the Graduate Center. I have been taking classes that are required for my Ph.D. and doing some research on robotics and artificial intelligence. The first year in the program was really intense for me, but I managed to “survive” and I passed my qualifiers and am now in the middle of my second year of classes. I am a teaching fellow at the Computer Science department. I am currently teaching Exploring Robotics and Intro to Multimedia. Most importantly, on the personal side, my wife and I welcomed our first daughter, Amelia Elyse Muñoz in October 2011.”