

Philosophy Communiqué

Autumn 2015

New Hires Add New Dimension

By Melody Galen

As of the fall 2013 semester, the philosophy department became three people richer. Marina Folescu and Alexandru Radulescu have come to MU from Romania by way of California, and Kenny Boyce, MA '07, came from Notre Dame.

“The university is extremely fortunate to have been able to welcome professors Folescu, Radulescu, and Boyce into our philosophy department,” says Chair Robert N. Johnson. “Each adds not merely their world-class talents at research and teaching but also their fresh perspectives to everything we do here.”

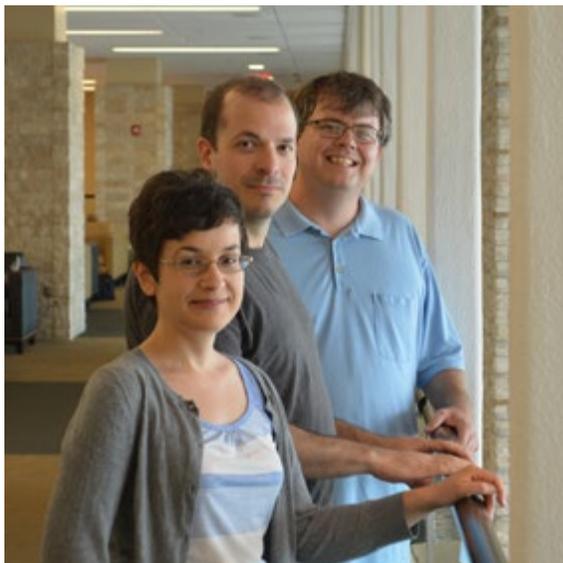
Kenny Boyce

Boyce specializes in metaphysics and epistemology, but he also does a little philosophy of religion and philosophy of science. This fall he is teaching philosophy of religion and a graduate seminar in metaphysics on fictionalism and ontological commitment.

A recent project has been defending the claim that there are no such things as abstract objects, i.e., mathematical objects, properties, or sets. “One of the most recent ways in which I have been trying to defend that view is to defend it against the claim that our use of mathematics to do science gives us empirical evidence that mathematical objects exist,” says Boyce. “But

there are many other objections to this view—enough to keep me busy for quite a while.”

“I take a fictionalist view about abstract objects, so when it comes



Marina Folescu, Alexandru Radulescu, and Kenny Boyce were hired in 2013.

to things like numbers, sets, and properties, I don't think there are any such things, but I think it's useful to pretend that there are such things as numbers,” he explains.

Other recent projects Boyce has worked on related to philosophy of religion concern the nature of faith. What is faith? Does it conflict (or have to conflict) in some way with reason, or can the two be in harmony? Is it a good thing, and if so, why?

Boyce and his wife both have family in the area, and returning to

Mizzou has been good for them. “I like the college atmosphere here,” he says. “I love the downtown area, and I'm happy to be among so many wonderful colleagues.”

Marina Folescu & Alexandru Radulescu

Folescu regularly teaches Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Film, General Introduction to Philosophy, and The Empiricists (a graduate-level seminar.) Her main research interests lie at the intersection of philosophy of mind and language, with particular focus on the history and philosophy of psychology. Her latest research proposed an explanation on how it is possible for humans to think about nonexistent individuals.

This academic year she is on research leave to complete a project titled Thomas Reid on Remembering Events, which will bring together the views of the 18th-century philosopher and the ones of contemporary psychologists and metaphysicians in an effort to explain what exactly we remember when we say we remember events.

Radulescu, who is also on research leave, is a philosopher of language, and he regularly teaches Formal Semantics and Philosophy of Language. Some of his research has centered on how context and semantics work together. How does one construct a logic for con-

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From the Chair



by Robert N. Johnson

I'm happy to report that our alumni are thriving. Recent philosophy major

Alex Esposito has gone on to the graduate program in philosophy at Cornell. And recent PhD placement has been excellent: Colin Rice completed a postdoc at Pittsburgh and is now an assistant professor at Lycoming College; Katey Shorey is an assistant professor at Bridgewater State University; Crystal Allen is an assistant professor at Principia College; Jake Wright is a learning specialist at Center for Learning and Innovation, University of Minnesota Rochester; Xiaofei Liu is an assistant professor at Xiamen University; Kok Young Lee is an assistant professor at National Chung Chen University; and Yasha Rowher is an assistant professor at Oregon Institute of Technology.

The department has seen a great deal of change recently. Despite

the crippling economic environment the department still finds itself inhabiting, we are very happy to have been able to welcome three new faculty members: Kenneth Boyce, Marina Folescu, and Alexandru Radulescu. Kenny comes to us from Notre Dame and specializes in metaphysics, epistemology, and the philosophy of religion. Marina received a doctorate from the University of Southern California and specializes in philosophy of language/mind and the history of modern philosophy. And Alex's doctoral work at University of California, Los Angeles was in the philosophy of language, logic, and the history of analytic philosophy. We are lucky, indeed, to have three such promising new additions, and even luckier to enjoy the continuing support of Mike O'Brien, a dean who genuinely understands the importance of what our department contributes to the university.

Yet, even as we are adding new members, others are leaving. Two retired after their long and distinguished careers at Missouri. Joseph Bien joined the department

in 1973. Joe has been a mainstay of the department ever since, writing and teaching on political philosophy, recent continental philosophy, and aesthetics. Bina Gupta came to the department in 1974 and worked tirelessly for many years as one of the most prominent and respected representatives of south Asian philosophy in the country. Both have made invaluable contributions to the life of our department and deserve all of our thanks. Finally, Zac Ernst, who specialized in game theoretic analyses in evolutionary theory, resigned his position in our department to take up a position in a private tech startup in Chicago.

The department also said farewell to longtime Administrative Assistant Jonni Paxton, although she continues to provide advice and help. We welcome Laurel Youmans as Jonni's successor!

As always, our faculty is hard at work providing the best intellectual training to undergraduate and graduate students while pushing the boundaries of research in philosophy.

Kline Workshops

Thanks to the generous bequest of Harold Kline, the department inaugurated in 2003 the Kline Workshops. These small, intensive workshops, focusing on relatively specific topics each occasion, give MU graduate students and faculty an opportunity to discuss new work by leaders of the field. Since fall 2012, there have been six workshops:

A Priori Knowledge, March 2013, directed by Chris Pincock. The speakers were Albert Casullo, Neil

Tennant, and Ralph Wedgewood.

Topics in Moral and Political Philosophy, October 2013, directed by Peter Vallentyne. The speakers were Tom Hurka, Connie Rosati, and Andrew Williams.

Value Holism, April 2014, directed by Paul Weirich. The speakers were Noah Lemos, Katja Vogt, and Michael J. Zimmerman.

Philosophy and Science in the British Empiricist Tradition, April 2015, directed by Marina Folescu. The speakers were Rebecca Copen-

haber, Don Garrett, and Lisa Downing.

The Kline Fund generously sponsored the Central States Philosophical Association meeting, held at MU in fall 2012, as well as the inaugural Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy conference, held at MU in fall 2014.

Justin McBrayer in *The New York Times*

By Matt McGrath

It is not everyday that a philosopher makes *The New York Times*, let alone makes it on the basis of philosophical argumentation. MU alum, Justin McBrayer, PhD '08, associate professor at Fort Lewis College in Colorado, however, did us all proud with a powerfully argued piece in March 2015. The piece raises questions about the fact/opinion distinction so central to the elementary education curriculum in the United States. Children are instructed on the distinction and asked to classify various forms of statement in one (but certainly not both!) of these two categories. McBrayer noticed that moral statements and all evaluative statements, according to the teachers, must be classified as opinions. This seemed to him important. It made him wonder how exactly the distinction was being drawn.

McBrayer first noted the signs hanging over the bulletin board in his son's class (and substantially the same as more official definitions found in more official documents): Fact: Something that is true about a subject and can be tested or proven. Opinion: What someone thinks, feels, or believes.

Then McBrayer did some philosophy. He wrote:

"First, the definition of a fact waffles between truth and proof—two obviously different features. Things can be true even if no one can prove them. For example, it could be true that there is life elsewhere in the universe even though no one can prove it. Conversely, many of the things we once proved turned out to be false. For example, many people once thought that the earth was flat. It's a mistake to confuse



truth (a feature of the world) with proof (a feature of our mental lives). Furthermore, if proof is required for facts, then facts become person-relative. Something might be a fact for me if I can prove it but not a fact for you if you can't. In that case, $E=MC^2$ is a fact for a physicist, but not for me.

But second, and worse, students are taught that claims are either facts or opinions. They are given quizzes in which they must sort claims into one camp or the other but not both. But if a fact is something that is true, and an opinion is something that is believed, then many claims will obviously be both."

Teaching children that a moral claim can't be both a fact and an opinion, as McBrayer points out, suggests that all the rules we teach them—that they have rights and responsibilities, that their fellow students and teachers have rights and responsibilities—are all simply things they (or some people, at least) think, feel, or believe, and not things that are true. However, it's much better, McBrayer argues, to teach them a simple distinction that gets at the core matters, without confusing truth and proof. He writes:

"Facts are things that are true. Opinions are things we believe. Some of our beliefs are true. Others are not. Some of our beliefs are backed by evidence. Others are not. Value claims are like any other claims: either true or false, evidenced or not. The hard work lies not in recognizing that at least some moral claims are true but in carefully thinking through our evi-

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New Hires

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text-dependent words? "It's been argued it can't be done. It can, but it's not easy," he says. "In the last 20 years, philosophers and linguists have been hard at work on various problems left open within the research program that Kaplan proposed in the 1970s: What exactly is a context, and what information is contained in one? How do various types of expressions depend on context? And least investigated of all: what are the logical properties of these expressions?"

His overall research goal is to provide answers to these questions, and to solve how various notions of context interact with each other; how can we handle all uses of context-sensitive words, including non-paradigmatic ones.

The couple met in high school in Bucharest, and Folescu earned her doctorate at University of Southern California, while Radulescu earned his at University of California, Los Angeles.

The couple is adjusting to their new mid-Missouri home, but they did have one complaint the winter after they arrived: why couldn't they find cross-country ski boots in Columbia? They're both runners, and they've enjoyed spending time on the trails. Aside from their outdoor hobbies, they're both pleased to be part of such a large philosophy department, relatively speaking. "There are departments with more people," Radulescu says, "but there aren't many of them."

Even after doing their research about the department, they didn't realize that MU isn't a small school. "It's huge! About the size of UCLA," says Folescu. "It was a pleasant surprise, because you can always find people who are interested in philosophy when you have more people."

News from our Alumni

Crystal Allen, PhD '12, is an assistant professor at Principia College. She completed her doctorate under Peter Vallentyne with a dissertation titled *Justifying War: An Account of Just and Merely Justifying Causes for War*. Congratulations, Crystal!

Jason Bernsten, PhD '07, is an associate professor at Xavier University in New Orleans. He was awarded tenure and promotion this year. Congratulations, Jason! He has a paper forthcoming in *Southwest Philosophical Studies* titled "Why Emotivists Should Worry About Inconsistency." He also published a chapter titled "Widerquist on Citizens' Capital Accounts," in *Exploring the Alaska Model: Adapting the Permanent Fund Dividend for Reform Around the World*. He co-wrote a chapter in an e-book on strategies for evaluating teaching effectiveness: "Using Portfolios to Assess and Improve Teaching," in *Effective Evaluation of Teaching: A Guide for Faculty and Administrators*, edited by Mary E. Kite, 2012. Bernsten has also been leading Xavier's course portfolio working group for the past five years.

J. Adam Carter, MA '06, earned his doctorate in 2009 from the University of Edinburgh, and since 2013, he has been employed as a research fellow at Edinburgh's Eidyndyn Research Centre, working on the Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded Extended Knowledge project. The aim of this project is to integrate recent active externalist approaches in the philosophy of mind with mainstream epistemology. Along with his work on this project, he's also been pursuing a range of other interests in epistemology. Over the last three years, Carter has published upward of 20 papers. A representative pair of papers is "Knowledge-How and Epistemic Luck," written with Duncan Pritchard, in *Noûs*, and "Knowledge-How and Cognitive Achievement," co-written again with Pritchard, in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. He has two monographs under contract,

Metaepistemology and Relativism (Palgrave MacMillan) and *A Critical Introduction to Knowledge-How* (under contract with Continuum), co-written with fellow Missouri alumnus Ted Poston. Finally, he's a co-editor of two volumes under contract with Oxford University Press. *Knowledge-First*, co-edited with E. C. Gordon and B. Jarvis, and *Extended Epistemology*, co-edited with A. Clark, J. Kallestrup, D. Pritchard, and S. O. Palermos, both scheduled to appear in 2016.

Wenwen Fan, PhD '14, completed her doctorate under Peter Vallentyne, writing a dissertation titled *Moral Wrongness and Reactive Attitudes*. Congratulations, Wenwen!

Chris Gadsden, PhD '14, completed his doctorate under Matthew McGrath, with a dissertation titled *Epistemic Duties and Blameworthiness for Beliefs*. Congratulations, Chris! Gadsden is an instructor of philosophy at MU and field staff at Campus Crusade for Christ. He has a paper forthcoming in *Doctor Who and Philosophy: Regenerated* (Open Court Press).

After five years, **Christopher Haugen**, PhD '08, reports that he "left the Order of Preachers and joined the working world." He held several adjunct positions around San Antonio for 2013–14, and in fall 2014 he secured a renewable full-time adjunct position with San Antonio College. He's made some 30 videos that are used for courses. He also writes, "More important than the career, I am engaged. We will marry soon." Congratulations, Christopher!

Melanie Johnson-Moxley, PhD '08, is an instructor of philosophy

at Columbia College and at MU. She reports that her article "Rethinking the Matter: The Organisms are Still Organisms" is forthcoming in Blackwell's *The Ultimate Star Trek and Philosophy* in 2016. She has submitted an invited book chapter, "A. N. Whitehead: Mysticism and the Expressive Impulse" for a volume on mysticism forthcoming from Palgrave Press. She presented "Saving the Data: The Alayavijñāna of Yogācāra Buddhism and Whitehead's Philosophy of Organism" at the International Institute for Field Being Group Session on Field Being Ontology at the 2015 APA Eastern Division Meeting. She also served as commentator for three papers delivered at the IIFB Session on Ecology and Field Being at the Eastern APA.

Kok Yong Lee, PhD '13, is an assistant professor at National Chung Cheng University in Taiwan. He completed his doctorate under Matthew McGrath with a dissertation titled *A Solution to Skeptical Puzzles*. Congratulations, Kok!

Xiaofei Liu, PhD '12, is an assistant professor at Xiamen University in China. He is helping the College of Humanities to set up an honors program, which aims to provide humanities students with an interdisciplinary education, independent learning ability, and a global perspective. The program has experimented with using Skype as a medium to help Xiamen students connect with scholars and professionals around the world. Two Mizzou alumni have been speakers for the program: Jake Wright and Ashton Sperry. In research, he recently published a paper, "A Moral Reason to Be a Mere Theist: Improving the Practical Argument," in *The International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*. He is working on a book on responsibility and free will.

He completed his doctorate under Peter Vallentyne, with a dissertation titled *Choice, Control and Moral Responsibility*. Congratulations, Xiaofei! Before taking up his posi-

tion at Xiamen, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Calvin College.

Dan Marshall, PhD '13, completed his doctorate under Paul Weirich with a dissertation titled *Skill-Based Reliabilism*. Congratulations, Dan!

James McBain, PhD '08, was promoted to associate professor with tenure at Pittsburg State University. Congratulations, Jim!

Justin McBryer, PhD '08, is an associate professor of philosophy at Fort Lewis College. He made international news with his publication of "Why Our Children Don't Think There Are Moral Facts" as part of the Stone series in *The New York Times*. That is impact, Justin! Congratulations!

Kevin McCain, MA '07, earned his doctorate in 2012 from the University of Rochester and is an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He writes with the news that he's finishing up his third year at UAB, and he's published his first book: *Evidentialism and Epistemic Justification* (Routledge 2014). Among his projects are writing a book on scientific knowledge for Springer, co-editing—with fellow MU alum, Ted Poston—a book on inference to the best explanation in epistemology and philosophy of science, and co-writing—with another alum, Trent Dougherty and two other Rochester alums—a textbook on epistemic justification.

Brian Montgomery, PhD '12, is a visiting professor at Illinois Central College. He completed his doctorate under Matthew McGrath, with a dissertation titled *A New Defense of the Knowledge Norm of Assertion*. Montgomery's paper "In Defense of Assertion," was published in *Philosophical Studies* in 2014.

Andrew Moon, MA '07, PhD '10, is a postdoctoral fellow at the Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion. After seven years of being part of and enjoying the Mizzou philosophy community, Moon took a one-year visiting position at Kan-

sas State University; then a one-year visiting position at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada; and now is in the middle of a two-year postdoc at Rutgers University. He writes, "There are many downsides to back-to-back one-year jobs. There was the emotional difficulty of switching friends, moving, and adjusting to a new home. There was the stress of being on the job market only months after moving to a new place. Add on a challenging teaching load, and I often found myself very tired. But there's been a huge positive side to these years. I've gotten to travel and live in cool places (I think of hiking the Konza prairies or camping by the ocean in northern Nova Scotia). I've learned a lot about philosophy's diversity from the different styles of philosophy in these schools. Most of all, I very, very much treasure the friendships I've made in Manhattan, Halifax, and now in New Brunswick. Add on a hodgepodge of life experiences, and I am very appreciative of these years. Now I am enjoying my time at Rutgers with a fantastic research community. I have many people to talk through my ideas with, and I've been getting to know the East Coast community of philosophers. With a light teaching load this year, I have at last gotten the chance to sit down, finish up drafts of papers and submit to journals, hoping for a couple more publications for when I go on the market again this fall."

Garrett Pendergast, MA '07, earned his doctorate in 2012 from the University of California, Riverside and is finishing up his fifth year at Pepperdine University and his second year as a Seaver Fellow in Humanities. He serves on the Pacific APA program committee.

Jamie Philips, PhD '99, is a professor of philosophy at Clarion University. In 2014, he served as chair of the faculty senate. He reports that this service "was boring and frustrating in equal measure."

Ted Poston, PhD '06, is an associate professor of philosophy at Southern Alabama University. He writes that his book *Reason and Explanation* (Routledge) was published last fall, and that he and Adam Carter, MA '06, are working on a book called *Knowledge How*. He visited Columbia this summer for the faith seminar that Jonathan Kvanvig put on, and he's working on an economic model of trust as a way to model the value of trust and faith.

Mark Price, PhD '00, was promoted to professor at Columbia College in 2012. Congratulations, Mark!

Collin Rice, PhD '12, is an assistant professor at Lycoming College. His research focuses on the nature of scientific explanation, the role of idealizations in scientific modeling, and mental concepts. After completing his doctorate, he spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Philosophy of Science. While at there, he wrote several papers: "Moving Beyond Causes: Optimality Models and Scientific Explanation" in *Noûs*, "Hypothetical Pattern Idealization" in *Philosophy of Science* with Yasha Rohwer, and "Autonomous Statistical Explanations and Natural Selection in the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* with André Ariew and Yasha Rohwer. He also began writing a paper with Robert Batterman titled "Minimal Model Explanations" that was later published in *Philosophy of Science*. He teaches courses in philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of biology. He also teaches symbolic logic, modern philosophy, and introduction to ethics on a regular basis. He recently completed a paper titled "Concepts as Pluralistic Hybrids" for *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, and two additional papers on how idealized models produce understanding and on the role of counterfactuals in explanation.

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Alumni News

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He is a visiting scholar at the University of California, Irvine in the logic and philosophy of science department, where he is working on a paper titled “Models Don’t Decompose that Way” on decomposition and idealization in scientific modeling. Next summer he will be a senior visiting fellow at the Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy in Munich, Germany. When not doing philosophy, Rice and his wife, Laura, enjoy hiking and camping around central Pennsylvania and traveling to New York, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh.

Eric Roark, PhD ’08, is an associate professor at Millikin College. He was awarded tenure this past summer. Congratulations! He has published a book, *Removing the Commons: A Lockean Left-Libertarian Approach to the Just Use and Appropriation of Natural Resources*, with Rowman and Littlefield.

Yasha Rohwer, PhD ’12, is an assistant professor at Oregon Institute of Technology. He completed his doctorate under Zachary Ernest, with a dissertation titled *Rethinking the Evolution of Human Intelligence*. Rohwer is finishing up his second year teaching philosophy at Oregon Tech, a STEM-focused university in Klamath Falls. He’s in an interdisciplinary humanities and social sciences department, and while he misses talking with other philosophers, it is a lot of fun to hobnob with anthropologists, historians, sociologists, psychologists, and video game scholars. He writes, “Teaching logic and ethics to science, engineering, and health-care students is immensely rewarding. Many of the students here are the first in their families to attend university. They work hard, they take learning seriously, and they often come to class with interesting life experience. With a literature colleague, I helped create a minor in arts, literature and philosophy,

and in its first year, we have 21 students.”

Rohwer is continuing to work on understanding, idealization and explanation with Mizzou alum Collin Rice. And he’s recently had a paper accepted for publication that he co-wrote with his wife, Emma Marris, about whether there is an ethical duty to the purity of species’ genomes. (He and his wife argue that there is not.) Finally, about Klamath Falls, he writes that it “is the sunniest city in Oregon, and we are enjoying the outdoors here. This past weekend, I found a ton of morel mushrooms in a nearby mountain woods. Despite missing the great folks in the philosophy department and the Cuban sandwiches at Uprise, I am enjoying my life here.”

Brandon Schmidly, PhD ’10, is an assistant professor at Evangel University.

Ashton Sperry, PhD ’11, is an assistant professor at Xiamen University in China after having been a visiting professor at MU. He plans to return to the United States. His paper, “Bounded Rationality in the Centipede Game,” was published in *Episteme*.

Anthony Thomas, PhD ’09, is an assistant professor at Kishwaukee College, where he is the founding director of the honors program. He began in that position in 2012. There are over 60 students in the program, which will offer 22 honors course options in fall 2015. Thomas was the interim association dean for the arts, communications, and social sciences division for the first half of 2013. He participated in an NEH Summer Institute in Delhi, India, in July 2013, and he is president of the Central Division of the Community College Humanities Association.

Patrick Todd, MA ’07, earned his doctorate in 2011 from the Uni-

versity of California, Riverside, and is now a chancellor’s fellow at the University of Edinburgh. His paper, “Future Contingents Are All False! On Behalf of a Russellian Open Future,” is forthcoming in *Mind*. And “The Greatest Possible Being Needn’t Be Anything Impossible” is forthcoming in *Religious Studies*. His anthology with John Martin Fischer, *Freedom, Fatalism, and Foreknowledge*, is now on Amazon. He writes, “By the by, I’ve been working on the topic of that future contingents paper ever since I wrote on it for Jack Kultgen’s Aristotle seminar (where I wrote on the sea-battle question).”

Jonathan Trerise, PhD ’07, was promoted to associate professor with tenure at Coastal Carolina University. Congratulations, Jon! He and some colleagues also have a book contract with Routledge for a volume on political ethics. Trerise won a best paper by an early career scholar prize from the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.

Lori Underwood, PhD ’99, is a professor of philosophy at Christopher Newport University where she was promoted to professor and named dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. Congratulations, Lori! Moreover, she has written two manuscripts in the last three years: *The Root of All Evil?: Religious Perspectives on Terrorism* (Peter Lang 2013) and *Cosmopolitanism and the Arab Spring: Foundations for the Decline of Terrorism* (Peter Lang 2012).

Jacob Wright, PhD ’04, is a lecturer at the Center for Learning Innovation at the University of Minnesota Rochester. He completed his doctorate under André Ariew, writing a dissertation titled *Toward a Virtue Account of Science*. Congratulations, Jake!

Graduate Student News

Jonathan Burmeister presented his paper “Against the Cognitive Ideal Argument” at the Edinburgh University graduate conference on epistemology in June 2015. He enjoyed seeing the sights as well.

Adam Koszela, MA '13, successfully defended his dissertation, *Compensation as the Moral Foundation of Jus Post Bellum*, in May, directed by Peter Vallentyne. Congratulations, Adam!

Katy Shorey successfully defended her dissertation, *A Salience Account of Explanatory Power*, in May, directed by André Ariew. Shorey took up an appointment at Bridgewater State University in the fall. Congratulations, Katy!

Kenny Shields presented “Quasi-realism and the Problem of the Schizoid Attitude” at the Central American Philosophical Association meetings in February. He’s continuing to work with Joshua Knobe, of Yale University, compiling and organizing x-phi lab results into a publication-worthy paper concerning metaethics and judgment internalism.

Garrett Marks-Wilt presented results of some research Philip Rob-

bins and he conducted in a paper titled, “Asymmetric Moral Assessments of Men, Women and Sub-Groups of Women,” at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Meeting in Long Beach, California, in April.

Alex Howe presented his paper, “If Mind Matters: Navigating Panpsychism’s Daunting Moral Implications,” at the 2015 Toward a Science of Consciousness Conference, in Helsinki, Finland.

Lynn Chiu is a visiting student in Vienna, Austria. She presented “Finding a Niche in Systems Biology,” at the 2012 International Society for History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) meeting at Arizona State and “Niche Construction and Insides and Outsides of the Modern Synthesis” at the ISHPSSB conference

in Montpellier, France. During this conference, she was elected the chair of the Student Affairs Committee of ISHPSSB and the student representative of the board. She arranged two student events this year at the 2015 ISHPSSB conference in Montreal. Among her other talks were a paper on natural selection and situated cognition at Os nabruck, a talk on the propensity interpretation of fitness in Vienna, and, at the Pacific meeting of the American Philosophical Association in 2015, a talk on the acquaintance theory of perception at National Yang Ming University. Chiu and biologist Scott F. Gilbert co-published a paper titled “The Birth of the Holobiont: Multi-species Birthing Through Mutual Scaffolding and Niche Construction” in a special issue of the *Journal of Biosemiotics*.

Joshua Smart presented “Toward a Theory of Agent-relative Rational Beliefs” at the Midsouth Philosophy Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, in March as well as his paper, “An Own-standards Theory of Rationality,” at the Northwestern/Notre Dame Epistemology Conference in May.

Ethics Bowl

In 2014, the philosophy department—along with the Florence G. Kline Endowment in Philosophy, the MU Center for Health Ethics, and Columbia College—sponsored the first annual Missouri High School Ethics Bowl. An ethics bowl is a competitive, yet collaborative, event in which students analyze and discuss real-life, and timely, ethical issues. The ethics bowl differs from debate in that students are not assigned opposing views; rather, they defend whatever position they believe is right and win by showing that they have thought more carefully, deeply, and perceptively about the cases in question.

Four area high schools competed in the 2014 Missouri High School

Ethics Bowl. Hickman High School, from Columbia, won the event and went on to compete at the National High School Ethics Bowl at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Parr Center for Ethics. Hickman High School went on to place third at the national event—a great accomplishment!

The department also helped sponsor the 2015 Missouri High School Ethics Bowl. This year’s bowl included participants from seven regional high schools! Rock Bridge High School, from Columbia, won this year’s bowl and went on to compete at the National High School Ethics Bowl this past April.

In just the second year, the Missouri High School Ethics Bowl has already made an impact on the local community. Students and teach-

ers in local high schools are now incorporating philosophy and ethics into their instructional program. And students, teachers, and parents have all expressed their gratitude for providing this opportunity in our community. The future for the Missouri High School Ethics Bowl looks bright, indeed.



Faculty Accolades



André Ariew's most recent interest is in the nature of natural selection theory, in particular in the differences between

Darwin's version of natural selection and the modern theories where evolution and population genetics are unified in a statistical framework. Darwin's theory was not statistical. Ariew's question is: Are there any significant differences in the type of theories Darwin and modern theorists (of today) employ? He thinks there are. The modern versions are a different type of theory. He is working on a book project, tentatively called *How Statistics Changed Natural Selection*, but he would welcome help in finding a catchier title.

He has developed a new interest in theories of strategic management and entrepreneurship. It turns out that many theories of how entrepreneurs innovate rely on philosophical theories of explanation, knowledge, and metaphysics. Randy Westgren, the McQuinn Chair of Entrepreneurial Leadership, and Ariew have presented papers at meetings of Academy of Management and at the Strategic Management Society and are in the process of writing up several papers.

Ariew is in his second term as a humanities representative on the Faculty Council. He also serves as the humanities representative of the Mizzou Strategic Plan evaluation committee, formed to aid the provost and chancellor. He is co-founder (with Heidi Appel in the Bond Life Science Center) of the Evolutionary Studies Group at Mizzou.

He is most proud of the recent PhDs under his supervision who

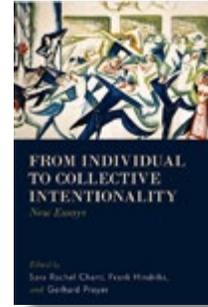
have recently earned university jobs. Collin Rice is an assistant professor of philosophy at Lycoming University. Yasha Rohwer is an assistant professor of philosophy at Oregon Tech. Most recently, Jake Wright started a position at the Center for Learning Innovation at the University of Minnesota Rochester.

Kenny Boyce's past year has been a good one in terms of research. He is happy that "Existentialism Entails Anti-Haecceitism," a paper he wrote on the metaphysics of propositions (originally in graduate school, back when he was a believer in such creatures of darkness!), has finally come out in *Philosophical Studies*. Another paper that he wrote on the paradoxes of confirmation also recently came out in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A*, as did a book chapter in a collection of essays (published by Oxford University Press) on skeptical theist responses to the problem of evil. You may find drafts of each of these papers on his website at kennethboyce.com.

His current research has been focused on epistemology and philosophy of science. Andrew Moon, PhD '10, and he have been working on a paper defending proper functionalism from Sosa's swampman objection. While he is happy that there are now folks from Missouri defending epistemic externalism, this also (in light of other views represented in the department) motivates him to think harder about the epistemology of disagreement! Along those lines, Allan Hazlett and Boyce now have a forthcoming paper in *Ratio* defending a steadfast view of what to do in cases of peer disagreement. Boyce's current research in philosophy of science has been focused on issues surrounding the no-miracles argument for scientific realism as it pertains to indispensability arguments for the existence of mathematical entities. He will present some of the results of this research in the form of a paper at the upcoming

meeting of the Central Division of the APA.

Sara Chant is on research leave and spending the year as a visiting associate professor of philosophy at Tulane University after receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor at MU. She has recently



published an edited collection, *From Individual to Collective Intentionality: New Essays* with Oxford University Press (2014), "The SANE Approach to

'Real' Collective Responsibility" with Springer (2014) as well as an entry on "Collective Goals" for the *Encyclopedia of Philosophy of the Social Sciences* (2013). She has given talks on collective responsibility, agency, and freedom at the Social Ontology workshop in Helsinki, Finland (2013), the VU University in Amsterdam (2014), University College London (2014), Indiana University Bloomington (2014), a workshop on the many faces of intention, in Bochum, Germany (2014) and will be giving additional talks at Wayne State's colloquium series (2015), the Pacific APA in Vancouver (2015) and a workshop on the practical crisis as a perspective on ethical and political philosophy at the University of Patras in Greece (2015). She has two papers "Collective Action and Agency" and "We-Intention in the Mexican Standoff" under commission as well as a paper titled "Collective Responsibility in a Mexican Standoff" under review.

Marina Folescu, a philosopher of mind and language, is primarily working in the history of philosophy. Her research investigates Reid's project of developing a science of the mind, based on what is now called faculty psychology. Although his work on perception is well known, his views on memory, conception, and imagination are

not as well understood. Spending time with Reid's views on perception and imagination shaped several of her other philosophical interests. In philosophy of mind and language, a central question she's puzzling about has to do with the nature of the objects imagined and of the imaginings themselves. Taking a closer look at the language employed by people when expressing what they can imagine has led her to research the essentially first-personal aspect of this mental capacity. The study of imagination is also central to aesthetics, where she is researching the role of this faculty in the appreciation of mechanically produced artworks. In the near future, Folescu will have several papers dedicated to these key areas of research.

Recent publications include "Thinking About Different Non-existents of the Same Kind," forthcoming in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*; "Perceiving Bodies Immediately: Thomas Reid's Insight," in *History of Philosophy Quarterly* (2015), and "Reid's Philosophy of Mind" for *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Peter Markie continues to teach in the department and the Honors College, to do research in philosophy (mainly in epistemology, these days), and to serve on various university committees. Two examples of his publications over the last few years are "The Search for True Dogmatism," in *Seemings and Justification* (OUP, 2013) and "Rational Intuition and Understanding" in *Philosophical Studies* (2013).

In the last few years, **Matthew McGrath**, has worked on a new project that fascinates him. It's a truism that we go by the looks of things in forming beliefs based on vision. Standardly, it's assumed that looks should be understood as subjective states of the subject, but this seems incorrect, since it is things (external things) that have looks, and they retain their looks whether anyone sees them or not. What, then, is it for a thing to have a cer-

tain look, and how is it that we go by looks in forming visual beliefs? He gave a talk on these issues at the Rutgers Epistemology Conference in 2013, which will be published (at some point!) in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. He continues to work on issues related to how knowledge bears on action, having published several new papers on this topic in the last three years. McGrath has published papers on topics in epistemology as well, e.g., whether cognitive penetration compromises the epistemic force of perceptual experience, how to understand the justification of memorial beliefs, and whether appealing to immediate or noninferential justification helps us counter the skeptic. Finally, he will be spending early summers in Scotland for the next five years, having accepted a professorial fellowship from the Arché Institute at St. Andrews University.



Andrew Melnyk has been enjoying the relative freedom of no longer being department chair,

though he is now serving the department as director of undergraduate studies. He has been teaching graduate or undergraduate courses in philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, ancient Western philosophy, and logic and reasoning. He has completed or begun papers on the formulation of materialism, the nature of phenomenally conscious mental states, especially pain, and the relationship between science and metaphysics. Recent publications include "Pereboom's Robust Non-reductive Physicalism" in *Erkenntnis*, "Can Metaphysics Be Naturalized? And If So, How?" in *Scientific Metaphysics* (OUP, 2013).

Alexandru Radulescu's research has been at the intersection between philosophy of language, semantics, and logic. He has, thus, been teaching graduate classes in philosophy of language and, soon, history of analytic philosophy. He has been particularly interested in

thinking about context sensitivity, which is something that contemporary philosophers started doing early in the 1970s. The most obvious example is the word "today," which changes its referent depending on when it is used. Radulescu's overall research goal is to provide a finer picture of the various kinds of context sensitivity, to develop more powerful logical systems for each of these kinds of expressions, and to use all this to solve some of the problems that have been pointed out about the framework, as well as some problems that have gone unnoticed thus far.

Philip Robbins has been continuing on his (possibly misguided) quest to make the world safe for experimental philosophy. Recent publications include "The Phenomenal Stance Revisited" with Tony Jack in *Review of Philosophy and Psychology* (2012), "Experimental Philosophy" with Joshua Knobe et al., in *Annual Reviews of Psychology* (2012), "Modularity and Mental Architecture" in *WIREs Cognitive Science* (2013), and "More than a Feeling: Counterintuitive Effects of Compassion on Moral Judgment" with Tony Jack et al., in *Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Mind* (2014). He is writing a book on cognitive architecture for the *New Problems in Philosophy* series published by Routledge. Robbins' recent conference activity includes talks at the annual Buffalo Experimental Philosophy Conference (2012, 2014), the Mindreading, Understanding, and Emotion conference at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2013), and an upcoming presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology at Duke University with Garrett Marks-Wilt.

In **Peter Vallentyne's** research, he has been focusing on two kinds of questions: (1) How strong are our rights of self-defense? For example, may we kill an innocent windblown person to prevent his body from crushing us to death? May we kill

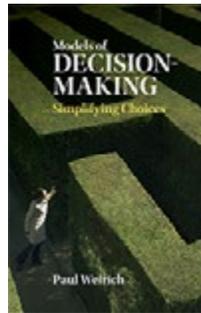
someone who is intentionally and culpably stealing our chocolate bar, when this is the only way to prevent the theft? (2) Is rational choice possible, and, if so, how, when: (a) the expected value of alternatives is infinite or not well defined, and when (b) there are cyclical rankings of the alternatives (e.g., $a > b$, $b > c$, $c > a$).

Two years ago, David Sobel, of Syracuse University, Steve Wall of University of Arizona, and Vallentyne started the Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy series. Each year, they hold a workshop (Tucson in 2013, Columbia in 2014, and Syracuse in 2015) and then a volume based on these papers, plus a few others, is published by OUP. They hope that the workshops and volumes will become central events/publications for political philosophy. In 2016, the workshop

will be held in Barcelona, Spain, and they're all really looking forward to that!

Recent publications include "On the Duty of Altruism" in *The Journal of Social Philosophy* (2013) and "Self-defense against Rights-intrusions (Non-Culpable and Culpable)" in *The Ethics of Self-defense* by OUP in 2015.

Paul Weirich spent fall 2012 at Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, Australia.



The department there has the wonderful tradition of gathering each morning and afternoon for tea, and the university has generously provided a tea-

room with an outdoor balcony and personnel to serve modestly priced tea and snacks. This creates a great environment for exchanging philosophical ideas and gathering professional advice. While at ANU, Weirich worked on his book, *Models of Decision-making: Simplifying Choices* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), which justifies common methods of simplifying choices. The methods focus on the future, the events one may influence, or the consequences of options. The book argues that a maximally efficient general method of deliberation considers only the consequences of options.

Thank You!

The department sends a special thanks to Jonni Paxton, our longtime department secretary, who retired in 2015. Jonni, thank



you for your support, your knowledge, and your good humor for these 10 years. We couldn't have survived without you! Best wishes for your retirement!



Justin McBrayer

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dence for which of the many competing moral claims is correct."

It's a powerful piece. And it's one that resonated with the public. It was the second-most emailed *NYT* article of the week, and as of May 2015, there were 2043 comments in the comment thread! Great work, Justin!

Thank you, Bina Gupta & Joseph Bien!

Two longtime faculty members retire

By Matthew McGrath

Professor Bina Gupta has retired from the department after 41 years on the faculty. She has had a distinguished career by any standard, with seven single-author books and six edited books, more than 50 articles, and more than 20 book reviews. These works investigate a wide range of metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical questions in Indian and comparative philosophy. Bina is a past president of the international Society of Asian and Comparative Philosophy. At Mizzou, she has been the recipient of numerous awards for research and teaching, culminating in her acceptance of Curator's Distinguished Professor in 2004. She served as the director of the South Asia Language and Area Program for 36 years. The list of her service contributions within the department, the college, the university, and internationally, is pages long and spans the whole of her time at Mizzou.

The department owes her a great debt, not only for her contributions to philosophy, but for her founding role in giving non-Western philosophy its rightful place within the department and on campus.

Bina has generously agreed to allow the inclusion here of her remarks at her retirement dinner Nov. 9, 2014. I'm going to let Bina tell the story of her career in her own words (below).

Thank you, Bina! You will be missed.

By Bina Gupta

Wow—40.5 years at MU!!! I have spent most of my adult life in this department.

It is so gratifying to see each of you here, in this very room, at this particular milestone in my life. What a journey it's been! I have been moved on this occasion to take an inventory of where I've been, how I've gotten to where I am now, and what it might mean.

Given that no philosophy, no philosopher, originates and develops *in vacuo*, in order to understand my journey, I will share with you a few key events, settings, characters, and tensions that have shaped my life up to this point.

I will tell my story in three phases. *Here is the first.* My father, a very religious man, often discussed with his children the basic Advaita Vedanta thesis that all human beings share the same universal consciousness (*atman*, or soul), and that wisdom comes in seeing all beings in one's self and seeing one's self in all beings. AV is one of the nine schools of Indian philosophy.

Apart from this basic Advaitic belief, there was another point that my father indelibly stamped upon my

By Matthew McGrath

This year Joseph Bien retires after 42 years as a member of the University of Missouri's Department of Philosophy. I sat down with Joe to talk about his background, his education, and his career. As anyone who knows Joe knows well, he always has an interesting story to tell, especially when you can get him to talk about his days in Paris.

Joe's path to philosophy was through history. Raised in Cincinnati, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Xavier College in Cincinnati. Along the way he had taken French, which played a key role in his path to philosophy. After spending a summer at Laval University in Quebec and a year in Europe "technically studying," as he put it, he had the first of many—as he sees it—strokes of luck.

Joe was the recipient of a yearlong fellowship to study French and linguistics at Emory University. (He attributes his acceptance to a case of mistaken identity!) While at Emory, he had the good fortune to meet a French cultural attaché. Through more good luck—as he says, he was shooting 100 percent—Joe began his studies at the University of Paris in the early 1960s. He began to see a future for himself in the areas of philosophy of history and European social and political philosophy.

At one point at the University of Paris, he was told by a famous Hegel scholar, "You're an American, you'll write on Dewey." Joe's response—not given aloud—was "no thanks." Eventually, through a favorable recommendation, he was introduced to the renowned French philosopher Paul Ricoeur. Joe would write his dissertation under Ricoeur in French on the topic of Marxism and the question of terror in Merleau-Ponty. Joe thoroughly enjoyed his time in Europe, with all it has to offer, which is much to a lover of history, philosophy, and the arts, especially opera and classical music. It was in Europe that Joe met his wife, Françoise.

Also in Europe, Joe met many cultural and philosophical luminaries, including Jean Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, the famous Hegel scholar Jean Hyppolite, as well as a number of well-known English philosophers, including, most notably, Bertrand Russell. Joe remembers well Russell's manservant and his love of Scotch. He tells me that he impressed his mother-in-law immensely when de Beauvoir stopped by their table in a café and conveyed the best wishes of her dinner companion, Jean Paul Sartre.

The Paris Joe left was not the one he had come to. By 1968, tanks were in the streets and many student protesters were jailed. Joe left a troubled Paris for the



Bina Gupta

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mind; namely, that women are not second-class citizens, that they can do anything they set their minds to do. Bear in mind, this was a very progressive and unusual attitude given both the time and the cultural context. My surroundings, friends, and neighbors however told quite a different story—they repeatedly reminded me that being a woman is bad (and it is worse still, if your complexion is dark). In India, marriages are arranged; as a girl, I repeatedly heard my neighbors telling my mom that it would be difficult for her to “find a boy” for her youngest daughter—to get me married—because of my dark complexion, and that my mom should have no such worries for my older, fair-skinned sister. (Interpolation)

I thought, “Huh. I can’t compete with my sister in the color of my skin, but I can certainly compete with her in studies!” and so I dedicated myself to studies. I have four siblings, and my father would always give a prize to whomever made the highest grades. I *always* won that prize.

This was, in short, one of my first struggles to reconcile the Vedantic doctrine of the ultimate identity and equal worth of all human beings with the treatment that female children actually received. With these unresolved tensions in my mind, I left India after completing my MA in philosophy, which takes me to the second phase of my journey.

Here’s the second. In 1970, within weeks of my marriage, leaving Madan behind to finish his CPA and having only \$60 in my pocket, I emigrated from India to the United States, the country that I now call home, to pursue my doctoral degree in philosophy. This was the first airplane ride, a long airplane ride in every sense of the term.

Those of you who know Indian culture, know that it is highly patriarchal, and so it may be no



surprise to you when I say that I came to America totally unaware of the struggles taking place to achieve equal treatment of women. I remember watching the Billy Jean King and Bobby Riggs tennis match being referred to as the “battle of the sexes” by American television. That expression, “Battle of the Sexes,” was being flashed on the TV screen repeatedly...and I found myself asking, “What the heck is this battle of the sexes?” I was about to find out. A series of experiences, to use the words of a famous philosopher, “aroused me from my dogmatic slumber,” and I soon discovered that, as a woman working in a male-dominated field of academia—in which the rational ability of women has historically been suspect—would not be easy. Additionally, I was completely taken aback not only by the prevalent attitudes about women philosophers, but also about the persistent misconception that Asian philosophy is not a proper philosophical enterprise.

I accepted the challenges these misconceptions presented to me, and decided that I must take them straight on, to the best of my abilities. The question became: How? I determined that I must do something to improve the status of women and minorities, and that I must achieve conceptual clarity regarding the logical, epistemological, and analytical bases of Indian philosophy. Who could have predicted that these concerns would preoccupy me for the next four

decades—that they would, so to speak, become my destiny? *Here begins the final phase of my journey.*

In 1974, I joined the philosophy department at MU as an assistant professor. The first two decades here were enormously challenging, and those challenges assumed many forms. I faced the task of balancing parenthood with teaching, service, and research. I will share with you some of the challenges.

Challenge #1: Balancing parenthood with professional life. When I moved to Columbia, my daughter Swati was only nine months old, and I had to balance my newly embarked career with parenthood. Swati kept me on my toes even as a toddler, constantly causing me to notice when my professional life and my family life were swinging out of balance. One day, for example, I had a lot on my mind when I picked her up from the babysitter, and so I was not paying much attention to her when I put her into her car seat. I finally realized that she was chanting to herself, “Swati, do not bother Mommy, Mommy is in a bad mood; Swati, do not bother Mommy, Mommy is in a bad mood...” I began to laugh, and my bad mood disappeared immediately as my perspective was restored. Swati did this for me over and over again. I have too many examples to mention here.

Challenge #2: In terms of teaching, the challenge was to go beyond the traditional Euro-centric mode of doing philosophy and help students achieve an integration of different cultural perspectives. To this end, I invited my students to rethink central philosophical issues from a cross-cultural perspective. The teaching load made things still harder. In the early ’70s, most assistant professors taught six courses a year, which amounted to 9 credit hours per semester. In my case, since I took care of the Hindi language program and since the first-year Hindi courses were 5 credit hours each, I taught a minimum of 13 credit hours a semester; and because some eager beavers also

took on the second- and third-year Hindi courses as well, there were semesters when I had a teaching load of 20 hours. It is a good thing that women are uniquely endowed with the power to do everything at once! For years I had a sign on my office door that read: *A woman has to do twice as much as a man to be considered half as good; fortunately, it isn't difficult.* Believe it when I tell you: This sign was a great source of comfort in those days. Eventually things settled down, I got an assistant to teach Hindi, and I started teaching philosophy full time.

Challenge #3: Serving the interests of women and minorities. I served well over a decade on the Status of Women Committee at MU and on a number of campus grievance committees, and I played a significant role in writing the grievance procedures ultimately adopted by this university. My commitment also extended to the profession at large, and to this end, I served on national committees dedicated to developing policies concerning sexual harassment and overseeing the status of Asian philosophy in the United States. In the words of Angela Davis, “We have to raise others as we climb.” That was my motto. This brings me to the final challenge that I am going to share with you.

Challenge #4: Correcting misimpressions about Indian philosophy. Finally, to correct the misimpression about IP, I began an in-depth study of Advaita Vedanta to demonstrate that Indian philosophy is an intensely intellectual, complex, discursive, and relentlessly critical pursuit. Provoked by Western analytic thinking and criticisms of Indian philosophy, I began pondering the following questions: Could analytic thinking and logical analysis make sense of the Advaita Vedanta thesis that *Brahman* alone is real, and that the world is simply an appearance? Could phenomenology make sense of the Vedantic notion of a pure, non-intentional consciousness? To what extent could the Vedanta conception provide a

room for autonomous choice, role responsibilities, and personality development?

When I, as an Indian, began my philosophical journey, it was tempting to claim that there is nothing in Western philosophy that is not found in Indian philosophy. That may well be the case, but I also knew that such a declaration only feeds one's cultural-political interest and does not express true philosophical wisdom. Although my initial intention was focused solely on the elucidation of the principles and theories inherent in Indian philosophy and on making them accessible to Western scholars, I soon discovered that a full expression of the complexities of Indian thought requires using the conceptual apparatus of Western philosophies in order to make them intelligible to the Western audience.

Because the study of East-West had no comparative models from which to originate discourse, I had to create a methodology based on my knowledge of two diverse cultural world-views. This necessitated the ability to speak to one tradition from inside the other—that is, to examine issues from within each tradition to see how they might enlighten and enhance each other, in order to place living philosophical questions in their full context. I tackled issues and questions by invoking whatever seemed relevant and useful to the task. Any exercise in comparative philosophy makes one transcend stereotypical methodologies and move to a more equitable and comprehensive perspective.

For Indian philosophers today, it is not a choice between rejuvenating traditional philosophical ideas and embracing the analytical or phenomenological traditions of the West. I am guided by the conviction that no matter which tradition I am engaged in, I am, above all, a *philosopher* whose primary business is to *think*. Phenomenology allows access to the structure of consciousness regarded as transcendental; existentialism reveals a human being's place in the world;

analytic philosophy shows how philosophical arguments and conceptual rigor work.

It is my hope that future generations of philosophers in reviewing the nature of Indian philosophy, give due recognition to its three strands: language, logic, and theories of consciousness. It cannot be emphasized enough that these three form a structure that has provided the foundation of Indian philosophy. Panini's linguistic achievements; Nyaya's heights of Indian logic; and the theories of consciousness found in Samkara, Advaita, and Buddhist schools of philosophy constitute the deepest achievements of Indian philosophy. Let us not ignore the strength, fertility, and resilience of Indian philosophy. I was very gratified to see the emerging consensus among my departmental colleagues to hire a person to teach Indian philosophy after I retire, and I am grateful for that. We have come a long way since Roger Kipling said, “East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.” We have done good work in bridging that divide; and it is a labor that I am gratified to know will be carried forward by others.

Having said all of this, before closing, I am going to make an important confession: professional circumstances left me no choice but to enter the seemingly endless rat race of publishing and traveling to give presentations at conferences across the U.S. and across the globe. That's what the academic life is all about in the U.S.—“publish or perish.”

However, I have never lost sight of the fact that what defines me, what is important to me, does not depend upon my professional achievements, but lies in my relationship with my family. No matter how difficult things got in other areas of my life, I knew that Madan, my anchor for more than four decades would be there to comfort me, to make things right for me; I do not have words to express my

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The department appreciates hearing from alumni and friends. Send announcements or milestones to the address listed above.

Joseph Bien

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very different world of Austin, Texas, to take up the position of assistant professor at the University of Texas. Apparently the job season in 1968 wasn't much like the job sea-

sons these days. Joe received in the neighborhood of 80 interviews for philosophy positions (80!) and received some 40 offers. Joe casts it as another instance of his good luck, but one can't help but think that his expertise and deep immersion in French philosophy made him stand out among applicants.

After a number of interesting years at the University of Texas (Joe recounts meeting LBJ at a party and coping with a rough and tumble culture in the department), Joe arrived at Mizzou in 1979.

It was quite a change of pace from both Paris and Texas. Joe likes to say that Columbia is much *better* now than it was then in nearly every respect. He had to drive two hours to hear the St. Louis Symphony.

Joe's service to the department over the years is substantial. He was department chair three times, 1976–80, 1981–83, and 1993–99, for a total of 15 years, and was director of graduate studies three times as well, 1974–76, 1986–87, and 1989–91, for a total of 11 years. He served



on numerous committees across campus. It's widely recognized that Joe was particularly skilled in the more personal aspects of academic placement: making the phone call to the search committee chair, making conversation at the smoker, and

generally spreading the word about MU job candidates.

Joe's list of publications is enviable. He published a monograph, *History, Revolution and Human Nature: Marx's Philosophical Anthropology*, with B.R. Gruner Publishing Company in 1984, many edited works and translations,

as well as more than 70 academic articles and more than 40 book reviews. The topics of his works span a rich gamut of philosophical history, from Machiavelli and Rousseau, to Hegel, Sartre, Mearleau-Ponty, Lukacs and many more, most of it in the broad areas of social and political philosophy and philosophy of history.

We'll miss you, Joe.

Bina Gupta

Continued from previous page

feelings for him. Swati, my only child, has been the light of my life since the day she was born; she has always had me wrapped around her fingers. Claudio, my son-in-law—in truth, the son I never had—is a voice of sanity and reason, of measured judgment and good advice. (It is no surprise that under his influence, my five-year-old granddaughter said to me recently, “Nani, we are going to buy Apple stocks when they are the right price.”) You have no idea how much I look forward to spending time with my three grandchildren, who could not join us today.

I would like to thank Laurel,

Philip, and Melanie, for organizing this party. Laurel has recently joined our departmental family, and is such a nice addition. She is a breath of fresh air. Philip, a dear friend, has made some of the best cups of coffee for me. I think it is I who learned about coffee from him, rather than the other way around! Melanie...what can I say? I know that she has put a lot of herself into this event, while teaching six classes and doing everything she does with the Columbia College undergraduates. She has done so much over the years: she created the first website for the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

when I was its president, and lectured in my classes—she is a member of my extended family.

Sang, Richard, Mary, Paul, Robin, Kerby, my colleagues in the university and Columbia community, thank you for all your help.

Andrew, Robert...I thank all of you with whom I have been privileged to work in the Department of Philosophy. The challenges I have experienced here have helped me grow, have given me a sense of self, have contributed to my growth directly and indirectly. I love you and give you my heartfelt thanks. If you ever need me, I am always just a phone call away.