The theme of this year’s newsletter is the new—new faculty members, new books, new graduates, new jobs, new programs (and that’s without even mentioning the new budget model or the new UO president). Being a new department head, and only the second woman ever to hold this position (Nancy Tuana was the first more than a decade ago), I feel particularly close to this theme of newness as I try to learn the ropes, keep things running, let the new people and the new projects we’re all engaged in grow and flourish, and just as importantly—not wreck “the old” in the process.

This much beginning all at once can certainly be unsettling, and I’m as susceptible as the next person to the uncertainty that any new arrival—whether person, program, idea, or job description—brings with it. But it is also clear to me that, as Hannah Arendt reminds us, the capacity to begin is the feature of the human condition that saves us from both boredom and ruin. “The miracle that saves the world,” she wrote in The Human Condition, “the realm of human affairs, from its normal, ‘natural’ ruin is ultimately the fact of natality... It is, in other words, the birth of new men and the new beginning, the action they are capable of by virtue of being born” (247). Reacting against Martin Heidegger’s focus on being-toward-death, Arendt emphasized the beginning that marks the arrival of each one of us in the world, and then stays with us as the capacity for starting anew throughout our lives. For her, the capacity to begin was intimately linked to freedom, in fact, she claimed, “freedom as an inner capacity of man is identical with the capacity to begin” (473).

Of course there is a danger inherent in this human capacity as well. Arendt warned that the new was to be welcomed and allowed to flourish, checked by a sense of responsibility to an inherited world—or it could become destructive rather than creative. I am acutely aware of this dual responsibility—to embrace the promise of the new while honoring and nourishing the best of what has characterized our work in philosophy at the University of Oregon for a long time. I am delighted to be joined in that effort by colleagues, students, and the vibrant extended community of philosophy alumni who have shown us over and over again that the capacity to begin is at the very heart of a meaningful life.

Bonnie Mann
Department Head
New Books by UO Philosophy Faculty

Mark Johnson *Morality for Humans: Ethical Understanding from the Perspective of Cognitive Science*

What is the difference between right and wrong? This is no easy question to answer, yet we constantly try to make it so, frequently appealing to some hidden cache of cut-and-dried absolutes, whether drawn from God, universal reason, or societal authority. Combining cognitive science with a pragmatist philosophical framework, this book shows that appealing solely to absolute principles and values is not only scientifically unsound, but even morally suspect. The standards for the kinds of people we should be and how we should treat one another are in fact frequently subject to change. And we should be okay with that. Taking context into consideration, the book offers a remarkably nuanced, naturalistic view of ethics that sees us creatively adapt our standards according to given needs, emerging problems, and social interactions.

Alejandro Vallega *Latin American Philosophy from Identity to Radical Exteriority*

This book offers a new interpretation of Latin American philosophy by looking at its radical and transformative roots. Placing it in dialogue with Western philosophical traditions, Vallega examines developments in gender studies, race theory, postcolonial theory, and the legacy of cultural dependency in light of the Latin American experience. He explores Latin America’s engagement with contemporary problems in Western philosophy and describes the transformative impact of this encounter on contemporary thought. From the back cover: “Many have been anticipating this book with some excitement; it will exceed their expectations” (Linda Martin Alcoff, Hunter College).

Bonnie Mann *Sovereign Masculinity: Gender Lessons from the War on Terror*

After 9/11, gendered narratives of humiliation and revenge proliferated in the US national imaginary. How is it that gender, which we commonly take to be a structure at the heart of individual identity, is also at stake in the life of the nation? What do we learn about gender when we pay attention to how it moves and circulates between the lived experience of the subject and the aspirations of the nation in war? What is the relation between national sovereignty and sovereign masculinity? Through examining practices of torture, extrajudicial assassination, and first-person accounts of soldiers on the ground, the book develops a new theory of gender. It is neither a natural essence nor merely a social construct. Gender is first and foremost an operation of justification that binds the lived existence of the individual subject to the aspirations of the regime.

Scott Pratt (with Erin McKenna of Pacific Lutheran University) *American Philosophy: From Wounded Knee to the Present*

This is the first historically framed introduction to the tradition of American philosophy and its contemporary engagement with the world. Born out of the social and political turmoil of the Civil War, American philosophy was a means of dealing with conflict and change. In the turbulence of the 21st century, this remains as relevant as ever. Placing the work of present-day American philosophers in the context of a history of resistance through a philosophical tradition marked by a commitment to pluralism, fallibilism, and liberation, this book tells the story of a philosophy shaped by major events that call for reflection, and illustrates the ways in which philosophy is relevant to lived experience. This book presents a survey of the historical development of American philosophy, as well as coverage of key contemporary issues in America, including race theory, feminism, indigenous peoples, and environmentalism. It is the ideal introduction to the work of the major American thinkers, past and present, and the sheer breadth of their ideas and influence.

continued on next page
New Member of the Faculty

Nicolae Morar will soon be joining the Department of Philosophy as a new regular tenure-track faculty member. Professor Morar specializes in bioethics (especially biomedical, genetics, environmental, and research ethics), philosophy of biology and ecology, and recent continental philosophy. He also has interests in ethical theory, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of sexuality. Morar is the editor of five books in print or forthcoming, the author of a number of articles, and he is currently working on a monograph titled Biology, BioEthics, and BioPolitics: How To Think Differently About Human Nature.

Morar earned his PhD from Purdue University in 2011 and was subsequently a visiting scholar at The Hastings Center and a postdoctoral scholar with the Rock Ethics Institute at Pennsylvania State University. This year, Morar is a visiting assistant professor in philosophy and biology and an associate member with the Institute of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Oregon. Next year, his position will convert to a regular tenure-track appointment in both the Department of Philosophy and the Environmental Studies Program at UO.

The Thinking Duck sat down with Nicolae Morar for a few questions about his vision of philosophy.

TD: Your work ranges across such a variety of fields. Can you say a little bit about what draws you to such seemingly different approaches?

NM: I am interested in questions across many different domains of philosophy. I try to pursue these interests by hooking together conversations that are sometimes assumed to be different. For instance, I find many important links between work in continental philosophy on biopolitics (the dramatic growth of the politics of living populations in recent times) and analytic philosophy on bioethics (devoted as it is to thorny ethical questions concerning how medicine and other domains treat life). These areas are often treated separately, but I believe we need to explore the connections.

TD: Not only do you span philosophical traditions in a pluralistic way (which we love here at UO philosophy!) but you are also an interdisciplinary thinker.

NM: It is important for my work to know how other disciplines are approaching the issues I study. For my work on bioethics and biopolitics, I need to know how biologists are thinking about life. For my work on environmental ethics, I need to understand current controversies in ecology. Thus, I am eager to collaborate with scientists here at UO. For instance, I am working with biology professor Brendan Boiunnan and others on a project focused on issues of conceptualization involved in the study of microbes. For me, it's all part of the job—and it's a job I love!

New Books by UO Philosophy Faculty continued from previous page

Beata Stawarska Saussure's Philosophy of Language as Phenomenology

This book draws on recent developments in research on Ferdinand de Saussure's general linguistics to challenge the structuralist doctrine associated with the posthumous Course in General Linguistics (1916) and to develop a new philosophical interpretation of Saussure's conception of language based solely on authentic source materials. The book exposes the difficulties surrounding the official Saussurean doctrine as paradigmatically structuralist, reclaiming instead the writings from Saussure's nachlass in the service of a linguistic phenomenology, which intersects individual expression in the present with historically sedimented social conventions.
Home and Homelessness The 2014 Community Philosophy Institute

On Friday, November 7, 2014, the UO Philosophy Department held its annual Community Philosophy Institute (CPI). The CPI is a recurring event promoting discussion between philosophers and their communities. The 2014 topic on homelessness was led by philosophy professor Naomi Zack. The conversation focused on the ethics of equality, the existential conditions of homelessness, and the possible role of the University of Oregon with respect to homelessness in Eugene.

The Thinking Duck sat down with Professor Zack, who is the author of six books, including Race and Mixed Race (1993), Ethics for Disaster (2009), and The Ethics and Mores of Race: Equality after the History of Philosophy (2011).

TD: What is the purpose of the CPI?
NZ: The CPI was designed with the aim of local relevance. The main idea is that the UO philosophy department "does philosophy" with members of the community on a subject of both practical interest to them and intellectual interest to us.

TD: Why homelessness, as a topic?
NZ: Homelessness is a global, national, and local social problem. There are more homeless people in the US alone (as many as 3 million) than people in the prison system (about 2 million). Because Eugene does not have a comprehensive full-time shelter system, local homeless people are visible throughout public life. In philosophy, ideas of home and homelessness evoke both traditional notions of civic identity and deep ethical questions.

TD: What were the components of the event?
NZ: The event this year consisted of an afternoon public lecture by Chad Kautzer of the philosophy department at the University of Colorado at Denver. This was followed by the main event—a roundtable the next day. The roundtable was attended by local homeless service provider representatives, the mayors of Eugene and Springfield, and a representative from the Eugene Chamber of Commerce. Community members, faculty, students, and UO administrators were in the audience. At the same time, I was teaching a new course on home and homelessness and overseeing the construction of a multimedia website. The website contains scholarly articles, videos, photographs, a list of local service providers, and syllabi. Much of the graphics were furnished by artists who participated in a show that Chad Kautzer had curated. The website is deliberately beautiful. TD notes: Visit the site at homelessness.philosophy.uoregon.edu.

TD: How do you think it went?
NZ: I think it went well. Both the public lecture and roundtable were very well attended. The website is unique and is an ongoing academic project. Challenges consisted in getting commitments from the UO administration regarding the subject of the roundtable, "What is the Role of University in Addressing Local Homelessness?" I am still optimistic that those commitments and activities related to them will be forthcoming.
TD: What were the successes and challenges? Did anything about how the event unfolded surprise you?

NZ: The great success was that people came—there were at least 100 people in the room for each event. I was surprised by the degree of enthusiasm from local service providers and homeless advocates, and their welcome of university involvement in this issue.

TD: What were the results of the event?

NZ: One important result of this event is that it will lead to more events and motivate students and others to engage in practical projects. Also, it is the beginning of a new wave of attention to homelessness by philosophers. I support and hope to contribute to home and homelessness studies as an emerging subfield in philosophy. Beyond this, I will be teaching the home and homelessness course again next year. I think there was enough interest and enthusiasm to support a multidisciplinary anthology on homelessness, as well as an international conference on campus, which I hope to coordinate over the next few years.

Thank you, Professor Zack, for the interview and for your organizing work!

The Thinking Duck is also pleased to report that an interdisciplinary group of graduate students, including the philosophy department's Jon LaRochelle, will be coordinating a forum on housing justice and sustainability in the fall, with help from the University of Oregon's Student Sustainability Fund. The forum is intended to continue the efforts initiated by the CPI, both by continuing the conversation and by addressing the community's need for undergraduate volunteers and interns, as well as curriculum and research support.

In addition, the University of Oregon's Community Service Center (CSC) is sponsoring a project to evaluate Eugene's current “rest stop” and “microvillage” program, using the expertise of PPPM graduate students. This project is part of the administration's efforts to respond to the CPI events. For more information about the CSC's project, visit the following blog post by a UO graduate student: blogs.uoregon.edu/csccenter/2015/02/16/voices-of-eugenes-homeless-community.

For more information about Naomi Zack's other work in philosophical ethics and political philosophy, see her recent interview in the New York Times available online.
New Minor in Ethics

The philosophy department is excited to be offering a new minor in ethics come fall term. It took a good deal of work this year putting together a proposal—and recently it all paid off as the minor was approved by both the College of Arts and Sciences and the Undergraduate Council. With these approvals the ethics minor will be coming online in fall of 2015. The minor was designed to be attractive to a large and diverse student population. In particular, the department hopes that the minor will attract students who have strong interests in philosophy, but feel compelled to major in other fields such as journalism, education, business administration, marketing, accounting, biology, psychology, political science, conflict resolution, environmental science, women’s and gender studies, economics, English, and religious studies. Ducks from across UO will add value to their degree with this course of study in ethics. And the wide variety of courses that can be used for the minor ensure that students across the board will be able to construct a course of study that is both rigorous and relevant.

In presenting the minor to prospective students, the department is emphasizing two main reasons why an ethics minor might serve their needs. First, the study of ethics naturally complements many majors in other fields addressed to social and ethical contexts, ranging from human organization problems in business to patient-caregiver issues in medicine and psychiatry. By providing students with a nuanced conceptual framework for understanding ethical dilemmas, the minor will help prepare students for future careers, and attract the interest of potential employers who want to hire workers who are not only smart, but also ethical.

Second, as Socrates points out in Plato’s Apology, the unexamined life is not worth living. Everyone faces ethical, social, and political dilemmas and debates in the course of their life. The rigorous study of ethics is a lifelong pursuit (we hasten to remind our alumni). Ongoing ethical inquiry can, and surely does, help the inquirer to not simply live, but to live well.

New Class Philosophy of Film

Students often operate with an assumption that philosophy, and academic thought in general, is concerned with reading books and writing essays, and that “movies” are for fun, entertainment, and relaxation. Steven Brence’s Philosophy 332 class, Philosophy of Film, challenges this habit of thinking. Brence’s innovative and popular course uses films as potent philosophical sources and resources for helping students engage in substantial and precise philosophical reflection and inquiry. Rather than an exploration of problems of film in general or in the abstract, which is often known as “film theory,” PHIL 332 investigates philosophy through film by studying particular individual films and questioning what that film is thinking about and how it articulates that thought via the medium of film (using color, sound, perspective, and image quality, as well as characters and events).

As Brence says, “If Plato, Descartes, or J. S. Mill had been able to make films rather than write dialogues, meditations, or books, I suspect they might well have done so... Films may
New Indigenous Philosophies Research Group

With the faculty assistance of Scott Pratt, two UO graduate students have created an interdisciplinary RIG (research interest group) titled Indigenous Philosophies. After participating in an informal indigenous philosophy reading group over the previous academic year, Lauren Eichler and Jon LaRochelle, both third year PhD students, decided to formally apply for RIG status to better secure institutional support, reach a wider audience, and have the resources to embark on more ambitious projects. Most notably, with the additional support of the Oregon Humanities Center, the group has organized an Indigenous Philosophies Symposium, which was held in late April. The research group is a model of interdisciplinarity, with participants including graduate students and faculty from philosophy, English, anthropology, education, archaeology, and women’s and gender studies. This diversity of training and methodologies has contributed to a rich and ongoing series of conversations. The group has even attracted scholars from neighboring universities, with one member making the trip from Portland State University.

The group meets every two weeks to discuss current work by indigenous thinkers, with particular interests in contemporary political, material, and social justice issues. In addition, the group workshops papers in progress by participants. This winter, the focus has been on work by the invited speakers for the Indigenous Philosophies Symposium. The symposium, titled “Colonial and Decolonial Connections,” seeks to complicate disciplinary, intellectual, and formal distinctions between philosophy, history, story, drama, performance, and the law by exploring the interdisciplinarity of contemporary indigenous studies. Featured speakers include Ty P. Kawika Tengan (University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Anthropology), Kyle Powys Whyte (Timmick Chair in the Humanities, Michigan State University, Department of Philosophy), and UO alumna Beth A. Piatoe (University of California at Berkeley, Department of Ethnic Studies). It was held on Thursday, April 30 and Friday May 1, 2015, and was free and open to the public.

For more information about the Indigenous Philosophies RIG or the symposium, please contact Lauren (leichler@uoregon.edu), Jon (jon@uoregon.edu), philosophy PhD student Anna Cook (acoock@uoregon.edu), or Scott Pratt (spratt@uoregon.edu).

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New Class Philosophy of Film
continued from previous page

...even provide more effective ways of examining certain kinds of issues and problems in as much as they allow one to work out the operation of some issues with a greater attention to context. We can literally see how things might work out—how certain kinds of values might be experienced in a wider human setting."

The course pursues these ends through specific study of a diversity of films, from classics such as Casablanca or Little Caesar to relatively obscure “art” films (The Battle of Algiers), contemporary Hollywood blockbusters (The Dark Knight or V for Vendetta), or even animated films such as WALL E. Students attend weekly screenings, and then discuss and respond to the courses in lecture and discussion. By the end of the course, students have developed more critical and reflective viewing habits, helping them sort through, learn from, and evaluate the barrage of visual information in the world in which we live.

In collaboration with the course, Brence has also developed a web forum called FilmTank at www.filmtank.org. The site is dedicated to philosophical reflection through and about films. The site, free and open to everyone, features forums for discussion at www.filmtank.org/forum.

They kept saying they believed in nothing.
New Philosophy PhDs

Congratulations to our newest cohort of philosophy PhDs, all of whom have met the highest standards of rigor for academic excellence in satisfying all of the requirements for a PhD in philosophy.

Megan Burke
Dissertation Title: “Temporality and Gender” • Dissertation Committee: Bonnie Mann, Ted Toadvine, Daniela Vallega-Neu, and C. J. Pascoe (of the sociology department) • Plans: Megan will begin a position as an assistant professor of gender and women’s studies and philosophy at Oklahoma State University in August 2015. In this position, she will be responsible for developing the gender and women’s studies undergraduate and graduate programs and will be teaching the first courses in feminist philosophy in the philosophy department.

George Fourlas
Dissertation Title: “Justice as Reconciliation: Political Theory in a World of Difference” • Dissertation Committee: Naomi Zack, Cheyney Ryan, Rocío Zambrana, and Shaul Cohen (of the geography department) • Plans: George is currently a visiting instructor in the philosophy department at Worcester State University, and researcher with the Globenrnce Institute (of Spain).

Alan Reynolds
Dissertation Title: “The Perils of Pluralism: An Exploration of the Nature of Political Disagreements about Economic Justice” • Dissertation Committee: Colin Koopman, Rocío Zambrana, Cheyney Ryan, and Burke Hendrix (of the political science department) • Plans: Alan is defending at the end of spring term 2015 and will be searching for a position at a university so he can do what he most loves: teach philosophy.

New Media?

Our lives increasingly take place on social media, peer-to-peer media, and creative media platforms. We commonly think of all these technologies as new media. But how new are new media? Why do we focus on their newness when all media have a history?

These were the questions posed at an interdisciplinary conference at UO in February 2015 titled Living Data: Inhabiting New Media. The conference was coorganized by Associate Professor of Philosophy Colin Koopman with colleagues in history, comparative literature, art history, and law.

Participants heard from Natasha Dow Schull (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) on the contemporary quantified self movement and its historical precedents in ancient Roman practices of keeping records on one’s daily activities. Sarah Igo (Vanderbilt University) delivered an address on the politics of the Social Security Card by examining the history of its reception in the United States in the late 1930s. And Markus Krajewski (University of Basel, Switzerland) delivered a multimedia address on the history of automated home appliances in the 1960s and 1970s, with an eye toward how kitchen automation anticipated more recent ideas of computer automation. Other presenters at the conference included nationally renowned scholar and UO Wayne Morse Center Chair for 2014–15 Wendy Hui Kyong Chun (Brown University), as well as an interdisciplinary team of researchers including Erkki Huhtammo (UCLA), Rita Raley (UCSB), Kris Paulsen (Ohio State University), and Tung-Hui Hu (University of Michigan).

continued on next page
Alumnus Spotlight

Nathan Pai Schmitt, BS ’11, completed his degree at UO before embarking on a two-year commitment with the Teach for America program (TFA) at a public school in a lower-income neighborhood in the beautiful city of Denver, Colorado. Denver is one of the leading metropolitan areas for education innovation. Because Nathan’s interests while at UO were in the philosophy of education, this TFA placement was perfect for him! And he has certainly made the most of it. He has been busy teaching social justice and identity classes at Strive Preparatory Schools, an inner city school, while working with various education innovation programs such as Design Edu (www.designedulab.org), Hive Denver (www.hivelearningnetworks.org), Denver Curriculum Hack (ottl.du.edu/blog/ join-a-curriculum-hack/), and others. He is now in the process of starting his own school, called Hackschool Colorado (be sure to check this one out at www.hackschoolcolorado.org), which Nathan describes as “having emerged from my thesis work at UO philosophy.” This thesis work focused on pragmatist philosophy and it spurred Nathan to develop his own version of what he calls “methodological pragmatism.” These ongoing philosophical explorations help Nathan envision the design of the school he is working on. The goal of the school is to create an emergent model capable of gradually reconceptualizing American public education. Nathan’s work defines education as the process through which a society enables its people to do things that it values, and learning is only involved in education in cases where people want to do something of value they are not yet capable of. Hackschool is essentially a reworking of education using this definition, rather than the common definition that conflates learning with education.

Alumni Updates

Kellye Byal, BA ’13, recently finished her master’s degree at the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy at Kingston University in London, England. While there she participated in the Erasmus Exchange Programme at Université Paris 8, Vincennes-St. Denis in Paris, France. She finished her MA with a dissertation on Freud titled “Monsters on the Couch: Art-Horror and Psychoanalysis”, written under the direction of Professor Stella Sandford. After living in both the UK and France, Kelly has settled back in “Portlandia”, where she has plans to start freelancing while taking time off before pursuing her PhD. In the meantime, she has an article forthcoming in a volume titled Stephen King and Philosophy. The article uses Simone de Beauvoir to think through Stephen King’s Carrie. Check out her writings at kellyebyal.com.

Scott F. Parker, BS ’04, edited two books that were published last year. The first is titled Conversations with Ken Kesey and is out in the Literary Conversations Series at the University Press of Mississippi (2014). Kesey’s collected interviews make clear his central place in American culture and offer his enduring lesson that the freedom exists to create lives as wildly as can be imagined. The second is titled Eminem and Rap, Poetry, Race: Essays, which was also published in 2014, by McFarland. This book draws together writers from history, philosophy, sociology, musicology, and other fields to consider Eminem’s place in hip-hop, the intellectual underpinnings of his work, and the roles of race, gender, and privilege in his career.

The Thinking Duck congratulates Kellye, Nathan, and Scott for their achievements. We love our alumni and want to hear what they are doing! Write to us with your updates and adventures. Or—watch out—maybe one of your former professors will write to you one of these days so that we can include an update about you.

New Media? continued from previous page

Following the public conference, the international team of participants joined UO faculty for a day of intensive seminar and brainstorming on the philosophical implications of new media. Following the day’s session, the group took some time to enjoy the garden that is Oregon. It was a rare sunny February day, and participants hiked up Spencer Butte on the south end of town for an invigorating view east to the Cascades and the Sisters Mountains. There at the top, a plan was hatched to continue the collaboration with another conference in two years. Fortunately, by then, today’s new media will already be an old trick.

For further reading on this topic, see Koopman’s piece in the New York Times article from last year, “The Age of Infopolitics,” available online.
Support the UO Philosophy Department

Faculty, students, and staff members in the University of Oregon’s Department of Philosophy are committed to advancing the educational and scholarly mission of the university. Although we are a public university, only 5 percent of the university’s funding comes from the State of Oregon. Budget cuts during economic downturns over the past two decades have forced the legislature to shrink allocations for higher education. We are thus grateful that many of our alumni, friends, and supporters share our educational, scholarly, and cultural ideals, and that they are able to support our efforts through financial gifts.

The philosophy department depends on gifts from our alumni and friends to support and enrich the content and form of the philosophy education that we provide. If you would like to help, one good way to support us is to make a donation to the philosophy department’s general fund. To make a contribution online you can give to the University of Oregon Foundation Philosophy Department Fund on the UO Department of Philosophy website.

At this time, the UO Department of Philosophy would greatly benefit from funds earmarked for the following:

- Travel funds for graduate students to attend professional conferences and conduct research at archives and field sites
- Undergraduate and graduate student essay prizes
- Research funds for undergraduate and graduate students to buy books, or to purchase books for the departmental library
- Funding for our Teaching Children Philosophy program, which brings philosophy to grade school classrooms
- Support for inviting speakers to campus, including stipends for video conferences
- Support for conferences on specific philosophical and cultural topics hosted by the department

In the past, donors have made innovative suggestions for program development and enrichment and we continue to welcome such contributions.

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Recent and Coming Events

A Sample of Some of Our Events from the 2014–15 Academic Year

Home and Homelessness: Community Philosophy Institute
October 22–23, 2014, Knight Library Browsing Room
A community conversation on the ethics and politics of homelessness, and the philosophical-existential meaning of home. See the story on pages 4 and 5.

Living Data: Inhabiting New Media
February 19–20, 2015, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Ford Lecture Hall
An interdisciplinary conference on new media, and the history of “new” media. See the story on page 8.

Colloquium Talk with Nancy Tuana
"Being Affected by Climate Change: The Anthropocene and the Body of Ethics"
March 2, 2015, 202 Ford Alumni Center
Tuana is DuPont–Class of ’49 Professor of Philosophy, and Director of the Rock Ethics Institute at the Pennsylvania State University.

Presentation by George Lakoff
"Mind and Freedom: Why the Brain Matters for Politics and Social Issues"
April 24, 4:00–5:30 p.m., 180 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall
Lakoff is the Richard and Rhonda Goldman Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics, University of California at Berkeley, author of Don’t Think of an Elephant (2004) and coauthor with UO philosophy professor Mark Johnson of Metaphors We Live By (1980) and Philosophy in the Flesh (1999).

Conference on Embodying Philosophy: Embodied Mind, Meaning, and Values
April 24 and 25, John E. Jaqua Academic Center for Student Athletes, 101 Harrington Auditorium
Organized by UO philosophy professor Mark Johnson

Colloquium Talk with Justin Weinberg
May 7, 4:00–5:30 p.m., 202 Ford Alumni Center
“Wishing Some Things Were Different”
Weinberg is associate professor of philosophy, University of South Carolina

Undergraduate Philosophy Conference
May 16, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
276 Looey Education Building

Pragmatism and Social Science Conference:
"Making Social Science Pragmatic"
May 22 and 23, Browsing Room, Knight Library
Organized by Colin Koopman (UO philosophy), with Gerald Berk (UO political science), and Dennis Galvan (UO international studies and vice provost of international affairs).
Focal topics of this interdisciplinary event included political theory, political history, the politics of race, institutionalism, and more, all from the perspective of philosophical pragmatism.

Department of Philosophy Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, June 13, noon–1:30 p.m.
Beall Concert Hall

Synthesis and Selection of Host-Microbe Systems Symposium
July 31–August 2
Hosted by the Microbial Ecology and Theory of Animals Center for Systems Biology and the UO philosophy department. Contact Nicolae Morar (nmorar@uoregon.edu)

Fall 2015

Trans-American Philosophy Conference
November 5–7
Contact Alejandro Vallega (vallega@uoregon.edu)

Ethics Minor Kickoff Party
Fall term 2015, date and location to be announced on our webpage. Contact Colin Koopman (koopman@uoregon.edu)

And Some of What Is Coming Up in the Next Academic Year . . .
Keep in Touch!

If you are a UO philosophy department alumna, a supporter of the department, or simply a local fan of philosophy, please take a moment to tell us about yourself and write some feedback or comments about the department. Contact us via e-mail at uophil@uoregon.edu.

In your comments, please tell us how the department has been relevant to your life, or share your thoughts about the role of philosophy in life. If you are an alumna, please include the year you graduated and your present occupation. (Unless you request anonymity, we will make every effort to include your comments in the next *Thinking Duck*.)

Or, if you prefer, you can send a check made payable to the University of Oregon Foundation at

Department Head
Department of Philosophy
1295 University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403-1295

The department has a number of continuing community outreach and intellectual enrichment projects, as well as prizes for student achievement. Funds contributed to the department will be allocated by faculty where needs are most pressing or projects most promising. However, if you would like to have your gift support a specific goal or item, please include a note to Bonnie Mann, department head (or contact her via e-mail at bmann@uoregon.edu).