

Alumni News

Matthew van Cleave (PhD '07), assistant professor at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., co-authored a paper with UC Professor Christopher Gauker, "Linguistic Practice and False Belief Tasks," that was accepted for publication in *Mind and Language*. Their paper seeks to resolve the debate between Jill de Villiers, who argues that children's mastery of sentential complements plays a crucial role in enabling them to succeed at false-belief tasks, and Josef Perner, who argues that mastery of false-belief tasks requires an understanding of the multiplicity of perspectives. Van Cleave and Gauker explicate attributions of desires and beliefs as extensions of the practices of making commands and assertions. In this light, they explain why desire-talk will precede belief-talk and why even older children will have difficulty attributing desires that conflict with their own.

Anthony Landreth (PhD '08), a postdoctoral researcher in Professor Alcino Silva's neurobiology lab at the University of California, Los Angeles, is co-author (with Silva and UC Professor John Bickle) of "Engineering the Next Revolution in Neuroscience," forthcoming from Oxford University Press in 2010.

Arthur L. Morton (PhD '06), a tenure-track assistant professor at St. Xavier University in Chicago, recently presented work on Hume's account of intelligibility at the Hume Society meetings in Iceland. He also has an article on the American chemist Robert Hare forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of the American Enlightenment*.

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Tabula Rasa

McMicken
College of Arts & Sciences
June 2009

Colloquium Focuses on Eye, Mind and Art

The 45th annual University of Cincinnati Philosophy Colloquium was held May 14, 15 and 16, 2009. Titled "Eye, Mind and Art," this year's colloquium was organized by Professor Jenefer Robinson and brought together philosophers of art and cognitive science to investigate how visual art can enrich theories of perception and emotion, and how philosophical work on the latter topics can shed light on artistic strategies behind painting, photography and film.

Keynote lectures by two internationally renowned philosophers of art headlined this year's event. Gregory Currie, professor of philosophy at the University of Nottingham, UK, editor of *Mind and Language* and author of "Arts and Minds" (2004), "Recreative Minds" with Ian Ravenscroft, (2002), "Image and Mind: Philosophy, Film and Cognitive Science" (1995) and "The Nature of Fiction" (1990), discussed the nature of irony in pictorial representations. Noel Carroll, distinguished professor of philosophy at CUNY Graduate School and author of "The Philosophy of Motion Pictures" (2008), "Comedy Incarnate: Buster Keaton, Physical Humor and Bodily Coping" (2007), "Engaging The Moving Image" (2003), "Beyond Aesthetics" (2001), "A Philosophy of Mass Art" (1999), "Interpreting the Moving Image" (1998), "Theorizing the Moving Image" (1996), "The Philosophy of Horror or Paradoxes of the Heart" (1990) and "Mystifying Movies" (1991), spoke on visual cognition, humor and emotion as expressed in single-panel cartoons. Both talks were sponsored by the Charles P. Taft Research Center.

Six other lectures rounded out the three-day event. Jesse Prinz, distinguished professor of philosophy at CUNY Graduate School,

articulated a two-stage model of aesthetic appraisal in which emotions involved in the first stage fundamentally contribute to how visual artwork is seen in the second. Amy Caplan, assistant professor of philosophy at California State University at Fullerton,

talked about how movies evoke mood responses in viewers. Cynthia Freeland, chair and professor of philosophy at University of Houston, examined the history of sciences of the face – approaches to classifying and explaining how inner-emotional states are expressed in outward, visible form. John Kulvicki, assistant professor of philosophy at Dartmouth College, discussed different ways of modeling the experienced "two-foldedness" of pictures, the simultaneous visual awareness of both the picture's surface and its content. Bence Nanay, assistant professor of philosophy and adjunct assistant professor of biology at Syracuse University, related picture perception to distinct functions in the two

visual subsystems of the primate brain. Mark Rollins, chair and professor of philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis, addressed recent claims that neuroscience can shed light on the history of artistic styles.

The colloquium set a unique precedent at the conclusion of this year's events. It is now the longest continually-running annual departmental philosophy colloquium in the United States.



What's new with you?

Please help us update our alumni files. Write your news in the space provided or on a separate sheet and attach it to this form. You can also go on-line and give us your news at www.artsci.uc.edu/updates.

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Degree(s) _____ Year(s) _____

Spouse's Name _____ UC alum? yes no

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email (home) _____ (work) _____

Your news (attach an additional page if needed)

New Faculty Hires



Vanessa Carbonell

Vanessa Carbonell will receive her PhD in philosophy this summer from the University of Michigan. She received her BA in Philosophy from Wesleyan University.

At Michigan, Vanessa taught introduction to philosophy, ethics, contemporary moral problems, logic and bioethics. She also studied writing pedagogy in a program designed to place writing ambassadors in disciplines across the curriculum.

Vanessa's research focuses on ethical theory and moral psychology, with additional interests in the history of ethics (especially Hume and Aristotle) and medical ethics. In her dissertation, she addresses various puzzles that arise when we consider the existence of so-called "moral saints." She argues that ultimately, moral saints serve to "ratchet-up" the level of moral obligation faced by ordinary people. Her article "What Moral Saints Look Like" will appear in *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* in 2009. Vanessa's research was supported in 2007-2008 by a Charlotte Newcombe Fellowship awarded by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation in a national competition. Vanessa has additional teaching interests in metaethics, political philosophy and the history of ethics.



Lauren Hartzell

Lauren Hartzell will receive her PhD in philosophy this summer from Stanford University. She is writing her dissertation, "Rethinking the Precautionary Principle and Its Role in Climate Change Policy," under the direction of Debra Satz.

Lauren graduated summa cum laude in 2003 from Connecticut College, where she majored in philosophy and environmental studies. Her primary research interests are in environmental philosophy, especially issues related to anthropogenic climate change. She understands environmental philosophy as being interdisciplinary both within and outside of philosophy.

Lauren hopes to teach a broad range of courses related to environmental philosophy, but she also has teaching interests in political philosophy (especially global justice), ethics and bioethics. Prior to joining the department in Fall 2011, she'll serve a two-year postdoc at the University of Washington, Seattle.

From the Head



John Bickle

Hello again, Philosophy alumni of the University of Cincinnati! For the second consecutive year we present to you this departmental newsletter.

On a very sad note, long-time department member and Professor Emeritus Don Gustafson passed away this past February. As head throughout the 1970s, Don built this department into its current form and gave it the research and teaching focus for which it is now internationally known. Professor John McEvoy provided the fitting tribute to him in this newsletter and Don's wife and fellow UC faculty member, Penny Freppon, provided the photo. He will be sorely missed.

Our department made two new faculty hires this past winter: Vanessa Carbonell, an ethicist out of the University of Michigan, and Lauren Hartzell, a philosopher of science and environmental policy out of Stanford University.

The Philosophy Department's Web site received a new facelift! Check it out at www.artsci.uc.edu/philosophy.

The department's administration will be changing hands next year. Professor Robert Skipper will take over as department head, Professor Tom Polger as graduate program director and Professor John Martin as undergraduate program director.

It's been an honor—and a great nine years—serving as Philosophy department head.

John Bickle, PhD
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Faculty & Alumni Awards



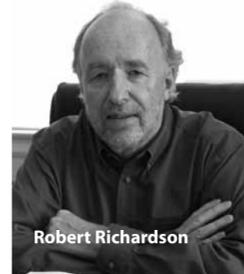
Robert Faaborg

Associate Professor of Philosophy **Robert Faaborg** is slated to receive the UC Faculty Award for Exemplary Contributions to Service, the university's highest service award. This is an honor that he richly deserves.

At the departmental level, Bob has served on countless committees, organized colloquia, and served as both graduate and undergraduate director. He also served as interim department head for three different terms. At the college level, Bob contributed to the old correlation committee, the dean's advisory committee and the undergraduate council, where he served as vice president.

In addition, Bob served on the faculty senate for a total of 22 years, chairing many of its committees. He also served as vice chair and eventually as chair of the faculty senate and the all-university faculty from 2000 to 2002. For many years, Bob was the elected faculty representative to the UC board of trustees and has served on the faculty senate cabinet for 15 years. This university service award is not only deserved, but well-timed, as Bob plans to retire next year.

Charles P. Taft Professor of Philosophy of Science **Robert Richardson** was selected to receive the 2009 University of Cincinnati Distinguished Research Professor award. The university-wide title represents the highest level of recognition for achievements and contributions in research at the University of Cincinnati.



Robert Richardson

The award caps off an extraordinary year for Bob. In February 2008, he was elected Fellow of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science. At that time his book, "Evolutionary Psychology as Maladapted Psychology," was published by MIT Press. It received a very favorable full-page review in a May 2008 issue of the journal *Science*. Congratulations on a great trifecta, Bob!



Joseph W. Shea, III

Joseph W. Shea, III, (BA '69) was the recipient of the 2008 Ohio State Bar Foundation's Ritter Award.

The Ritter Award is given annually to an Ohio attorney who has attained and promoted the highest level of professionalism, integrity and ethics in the practice of law while assisting others to improve Ohio's justice system.

Shea is well known throughout the Ohio legal community, having served as the youngest president of what is now the Ohio

Justice Association and as chief bar examiner for the Ohio Supreme Court. He authored several books, including a widely-used courtroom evidence manual, and has penned numerous articles, all while maintaining an extensive high-level civil litigation practice.

Shea has been named one of the top 100 lawyers in Ohio or top 50 in Cincinnati each year since 2004. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Society of International Barristers and American Board of Trial Advocates. He currently serves as the Ohio State Bar Association's chairman of the advertising, marketing and solicitation ethical standards committee.

Shea has just released the third edition of his courtroom evidence manual, "Shea's Ohio Evidence Manual." The manual is available through the Ohio State Bar Association's Web site: www.ohiobar.org.

Faculty Research News

Christopher Gauker was awarded a 2008-2009 Taft Center Fellowship for his book project, "Words and Pictures: An Essay on the Origin of Ideas." Philosophers and psychologists have usually supposed that general concepts, such as the concept CHAIR or the concept DOG, are somehow embedded in perceptual representations. According to John Locke, as well as a number of contemporary psychologists, concept formation is a process of abstracting from perceptual representations. According to Immanuel Kant, as well as contemporary counterparts, concepts are thought of as rules by which we "synthesize" perceptual representations. Others think of concepts as regions of some kind of a mental similarity space. Gauker's alternative account instead draws a sharp distinction between two kinds of representation, the imagistic and the linguistic. Imagistic representation is the medium of a kind of problem solving that does not depend on the application of concepts at all. Linguistic representation may be understood as a tool by means of which people coordinate their actions with one another. Language learning and word choice may be explained as products of language-independent imagistic representation, so that conceptual thought may be identified with linguistic representation.



Christopher Gauker

Lawrence Jost was awarded a 2008-2009 Taft Center Fellowship for a book project on Aristotle's ethics. While Aristotle's theory in his "Nicomachean Ethics" has always seemed strongly and firmly committed to a hierarchical and universally essentialist conception of the good life, with philosophical contemplation trumping practical virtue as the highest ideal, Jost instead explores the somewhat more individualist focus in Aristotle's less familiar "Eudemian Ethics." Human good in that work turns



Lawrence Jost

out to be individually various, even while remaining objective. The right mix for each of us varies, perhaps markedly so. Rather than deeming any other type of eudaimonia (happiness, well-being) other than theoria as – at best – a secondary sort of happiness, the virtuous life is different for different human beings, depending on innate or situational differences. The naturally brave, for example, will have less difficulty being brave than the timorous, the attractive more trouble with temperance in sexual matters, the irritable compared to the placid, and so on. If we can make sense of the idea that we differ in our talents and intellectual abilities, and not just emotionally and developmentally, Aristotle's "Eudemian Ethics" might open a door for a full recognition of a satisfying "mixed-life," with room for both friends and virtue, and aiming at the right combination of achievement and enjoyment.

In fall 2008, **Tom Polger** hosted a workshop, "Philosophical Approaches to Minds, Brains and Multiplicity," funded by an anonymous donation to the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences. The main question addressed by participants was:



Tom Polger

What do neuroscience and scientific psychology tell us about how to identify and distinguish neurological and psychological processes?

This question was explored through two themes. One concerned the extent of structural and functional variations (multiplicity) in human and non-human brains and the consequences of the empirical data on this point for philosophical theories of particular mental faculties, such as learning and memory.

The second theme concerned the ways in which bodily and environmental factors are as important as – or perhaps more important than – neurological factors in sustaining our mental processes and content.

The workshop brought six distinguished philosophers to campus for two days: Ken Aizawa (Centenary College), Carl Craver (Washington University, St. Louis), Carrie Figdor (University of Iowa), Carl Gillett (Northern Illinois University), Larry Shapiro (University of Wisconsin, Madison), and Jacqueline Sullivan (University of Alabama, Birmingham). These six were joined by UC philosophers John Bickle, Chris Gauker, Tom Polger and Rob Skipper along with numerous graduate students.

In Memoriam: Don Gustafson (1934-2009) By John McEvoy

The department mourns the loss of Don Gustafson (1934-2009). Don was a seminal figure in the recent history of the department. Appointed as head in 1971, he quickly doubled the size of the department and reinvigorated its intellectual and social life. His benevolent and astute leadership fostered an atmosphere of intellectual engagement and critical discourse appropriate to those turbulent times. He showed great patience and considerable humor in his dealings with feisty junior faculty and graduate students who were not slow in coming forth.



Cowboy Don, at home in the wilderness. (photo provided by Penny Freppon)

Although he was a proficient administrator, he viewed his headship not as a rung up the corporate academic ladder, which he abhorred, but as a mere means to a higher intellectual goal, namely the creation of a space, or place, in which research flourished, scholarship prospered, and teaching advanced. Don was also a great booster of the athletics program at the University of Cincinnati, serving on numerous committees and helping student-athletes whenever and wherever he was needed. His creative tenure laid the groundwork for more recent trends, expertly nurtured by John Bickle, toward greater disciplinary and professional visibility for the department.

Don's talents as a philosopher were numerous, considerable and unique. In his early papers – noted for their pith, rigor and elegance – he played the counter-example game as well as anyone in the field of philosophical psychology. But he soon tired of the "funsters" of conceptual analysis, who substituted for the real world a "purely imaginary, totally fictional" one. Don was heir to another tradition in philosophy, that of A. N. Whitehead and nineteenth-century British idealism. Intimately conversant with the history of modern philosophy, from Descartes through Marx and American Pragmatism to his twentieth-century contemporaries, he valued Kierkegaard above all others. A twentieth-century child of the Enlightenment, Don upheld the redemptive power of science which, he believed, if

practiced wisely, provided a path not only to greater material progress, but also to the elimination of rank and privilege, stupidity and superstition, and narrow parochialism from the affairs of humankind. Compelled by this philosophical nexus, Don developed a form of Wittgenstein's normative descriptivism, designed to "do justice to all sides of our common human nature."

In his later years, Don brought a formidable array of scientific knowledge and philosophical insight to illuminate issues of poverty and environmental degradation endemic to capitalism. More poignantly, he responded to the trials and tragedies of his later life with a concerted effort to give philosophical shape and scientific understanding to human grief and pain, which he hoped would not only illuminate his own experiences, but also enable others to deal better with the dark sides of our lives. He did all this with characteristic elegance, wit, irony, compassion and courage, beautifully summed up in his favorite mantra: "endeavor to persevere."

The department has lost an iconic figure, who will be memorialized accordingly. Some of us, in the old guard of senior faculty and ex-students, have also lost a dear friend and a formative presence in our intellectual and emotional lives. We will "endeavor to persevere."