This has been a busy and a successful year. Perhaps most exciting, we had two searches for new faculty. Christina Rulli is joining the department as an Assistant Professor in ethics and bioethics. She received her doctorate from Yale University in 2011, with a dissertation on the duty to adopt. Tina had a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health from 2011 to 2013, and joined the Philosophy Department at Purdue in 2013. She will be teaching in the fall.

Hanti Lin will join us as an Assistant Professor in philosophy of mind and decision theory. He also works in formal epistemology, philosophy of language and philosophy of science. Hanti received his PhD in 2013 from Carnegie Mellon with a dissertation on propositional reasoning and probabilistic reasoning. Next year he will complete his second year of a postdoctoral fellowship at the Australian National University. He will begin teaching in fall 2015.

In the fall of 2013, we learned that a 1982 graduate of UC Davis, Alan Templeton, has established the Templeton Endowment for the Arts and Letters (TEAL). We were excited to learn that Philosophy is among the departments in the College that he selected as beneficiaries of his generosity. We look forward to discussing ways that the endowment can be used to improve our programs. In the meantime, Mr. Templeton has been attending some events in the department and we have come to enjoy his friendship.

This was the second year we awarded the Barrall Family Philosophy Scholarship for philosophy juniors and seniors who do solid work in philosophy and who also have a demonstrated social conscience and financial need. The scholarship has already been a great opportunity for our majors. An excellent group of undergraduates finished their degrees this year and we awarded Departmental Citations to those with the highest GPAs. Many of our majors enrolled in graduate seminars, which gave them a valuable kind of experience that is not possible in larger classes. Departmental Citizenship Awards were made for the first time, recognizing undergraduates Natasha Haddal and Nicolai Haddal for their undertakings on behalf of the department. Our two Food for Thought meetings this year featured Professor Oshana and alumnus Tommy Dombrowski, who has just completed his final year at King School of Law at UCD.

An important new development is u-POW, a mentoring group for undergraduate women in philosophy that was begun by Marina Oshana. U-POW will meet each quarter during the academic year to discuss philosophical issues and issues about the discipline of philosophy. All the signs are that this will be a valuable group and that it will contribute to making the department a friendlier and more welcoming place.

Another development at UC Davis is a new major in cognitive science, a significant project spearheaded by Bernard Molyneux. This will be an interdisciplinary major involving psychology, linguistics, and the Center for Mind and Brain in addition to philosophy.

We also graduated a superb group of new PhDs. Sarah Roe won a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh and is taking up a tenure track position at the Southern Connecticut State University. Brian Coffey has a visiting position at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. Jared Poon is taking up a research and planning position with the government of Singapore.

Our colloquia series was supplemented by DEX II, the Davis Extravaganza Philosophy, Adam Sennet’s branchchild. DEX II was a huge success, well attended by graduate students, visiting faculty, and undergraduates. Thanks to Ted Shear, who oversaw its organization, and to Adam. We hope that DEX will become a tradition for the department.

This year our administrative staff was organized under the Yellow Cluster, headed by Carmina Caselli. We have enjoyed getting to know Carmina and we value her support. Nicole, Heidi and Edie continue to be our wonderful office staff.

We look forward to a rewarding year in 2014/2015, and hope to see you in the department. With best wishes for the summer, David Copp

Chair’s Letter

u-POW kicks off!

The Fall of 2014 marked the birth of the undergraduate group for Philosophically Oriented Women at the University of California, Davis, better known as u-POW. Our purpose is to provide mentoring and support for undergraduate women who are philosophy majors, philosophy minors, or who simply have a strong interest in philosophy. Our current and planned activities include meetings, movies, conferences, and writing feedback sessions. In addition to fantastic undergraduate women, the group includes two graduate student mentors, Hannah Jones and Noel Joshi-
Undergraduate Student News

The Philosophy Club was more active than ever. Co-president Natasha Haddal notes that the group built “a community that became supportive and accessible for all types people, no matter who they were or where they came from, and still maintained a platform for rigorous and difficult philosophical discussion.” In addition to a full schedule of meetings, the club organized its first undergraduate conference in April. It was a great success, and featured talks by Bryan Gonzales, Amelia Duplanet, Daniela Coronado, Chelsie Liberty, and Joseph Moreno. Notable presentations at weekly club meetings were by members Frederic Johnson on Philosophy of Religion, Lawrence Bevir on political philosophy, Nicolai Haddal on Ethics, and Natasha on marriage and sexual metaphysics. Graduate students M.A. Hunter spoke on Populations, Individuals, and Biological Race, and Ted Shear gave a talk on The cost of consistency: contraction and the loss of true belief. Professor Adam Sennett was a super supporter, meeting with the club several times: his talk on “how to write a philosophy paper” was especially popular. The club also heard from Prof. Bernard Molyneux on The Sleeping Beauty Paradox, Prof. Oshana on personal autonomy, and Prof. Mattey on the continental / analytic divide in philosophy. The club’s first Bake Sale in November was a hit, selling out of everything (those brownies were amazing!) and accomplishing quite a bit of outreach that day. The club also arranged a few socials around Davis, including a big one during Halloween. … Chelsie Liberty took first place in the Undergraduate Essay Contest for her paper “Realism, Austere Nominalism, and Transivity of Exact Resemblance,” while 2nd place went to Charlie Bishop, a visiting student from King’s College in London, for “The Problems of Paraphrasing.” … Jasmine Gunkel is the recipient of the 2014-15 Barrall Family Scholarship in Philosophy. Kareem Jarada will continue his second year as a McNair Scholar for 2103-15, taking his research training to the next level. Torrance Fung has been admitted to the philosophy PhD program at the University of Virginia, and Greg Lauro will be pursuing doctoral work in philosophy at UC Irvine in the fall. Marvin Martinez spent the Spring 2014 quarter studying abroad in Japan. Christopher Rasmussen interned at the White House in the Fall of 2013, the first UCD student to do so, and at the CA Governor’s Office from Jan- June, 2013. Wesley Hirsh, a Philosophy minor, will join the MA program at UCD’s School of Education this fall. Megan Kennedy is serving as Interim President of the Davis Student Veteran Organization, an advocacy group for student veterans, service members, spouses, and dependents on campus. Chris Lam won the 2013-2014 American Studies Writing Prize for Best Undergraduate Paper (Lower Division category). The winning entries and will be featured on the AMS website. Shelly Welbinks received a 2013-14 UCD Community Service Award for middle school special education work.

Life after UCD Philosophy

Marissa Cuevas graduated with a minor in Philosophy and a B.A. in Sociology in December:

When I transferred to UC Davis I wasn’t quite sure what career path I wanted to pursue. Initially, I gravitated towards studying Philosophy because of my interest in Ethics, and Philosophy of Law. I found that the skills I developed throughout my coursework proved to be invaluable. During my time at UCD I was also involved with on-campus organizations such as La Raza Pre Law and the UCD Student Labor Organization. This really enhanced my overall experience at UC Davis. After graduating last December with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Philosophy, I entered the work force. I got an internship in the California State Assembly, which turned into a salary position as a Legislative Aide where I work on issues in Health, Education, and Immigration. The exposure to challenging language that I had in my Philosophy courses gave me a huge advantage. Additionally, I developed the ability to deconstruct complex arguments and formulate my own. Next year I plan to attend law school where I know my Philosophy degree will continue to benefit me.

Undergraduate Spotlight: Nicolai and Natasha Haddal

The Haddal siblings have been the backbone of undergraduate philosophy for two years, heading up the Phil Club and assisting with departmental events such as Preview Day and DEX2. Nicolai’s interests are primarily in ethics and the philosophy of language. He’s interested in intersections between language use, semantics, and law. Nicolai plans on applying to law school to study constitutional law and civil rights, as well as becoming involved in prison reform. When he is not doing philosophy, Nicolai does research on Guantanamo, works out, plays music, strolls through the Arboretum, and enjoys the occasional drink. Natasha’s primary interest is in the philosophy of language, especially context sensitivity and micro-cultural variations. She is also a research assistant for the Philosophy of Human Sexuality class, and spent the last year researching intersex disorders, trying to figure out whether or not physical sex is gradient (rather than binary) and the implications of such thinking to gender identity and sexual identity. Natasha served as co-president of the philosophy club this quarter. She has a passion for expanding the accessibility of philosophy to other students and emphasizing the importance of philosophical thinking in all fields. Natasha is a member of u-POW, an important part of her life at Davis. In her spare time, she enjoys taking road trips with her dog Mish, philosophizing with friends over drinks (and food), and singing badly when no one is around.

undergraduate spotlight
Faculty News

David Copp was elected President of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association. Last summer, he taught metaethics at Munich University's summer school in philosophy. In February and March, David gave lectures at four universities in Brazil. He published several papers. One, co-authored with Adam Sennet, discusses slurs and criticizes semantic accounts of what makes them pejorative. Last spring, David was promoted to Distinguished Professor! Gerald Dworkin spent five weeks this year at the Bogliasco Foundation Ligurian Study Center in Italy, "one of the most beautiful places in the world." Last summer, Cody Gilmore gave talks in Geneva, Switzerland and Bergamo, Italy, including "Compositional nihilism and the cogito". This year he’s presented papers in Vancouver and in Oxford ("Why 0-adic relations have truth conditions"). In July 2014, he will be in Geneva as an external examiner for a dissertation defense. Cody was named a Chancellor’s Fellow for 2013-2018, which honors the achievements of outstanding faculty members early in their careers. He also won a research fellowship under John Martin Fischer’s Immortality Project funded by the John Templeton Foundation! Jim Griesemer’s many publications included a co-edited book, Developing Scaffolds in Evolution, Culture and Cognition, (MIT Press). Robert May was a visiting scholar at Columbia University for the Fall, and for the spring was Visiting Professor at Ecole Normale Superieure and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. He gave a lecture series on "Leibniz’s Problem, Frege’s Puzzle" at the Institut Jean-Nicod. Roberta Millstein participated in a “Genomics and Philosophy of Race” research cluster, with events at Stanford, UCD, and at UCSC. She gave the Rod P. Dixon lecture on Leopold’s land ethic at the University of Utah and a public lecture on GMOs at the University of Texas. Roberta serves on the American Association for the Advancement of Science and co-chairs the Philosophy of Science Association Women’s Caucus. In July 2013, she’ll be presenting a paper at the Int’l Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology in Montpellier, France. Marina Oshana presented "Is Substantive Autonomy a Plausible Ideal?” at Pomona College, last fall and in the spring spoke on "Trust and Autonomous Agency" at St. Louis University, at workshops in Brazil, and to the Society for Analytical Feminism in San Diego. She spoke on “Occupying Autonomously” at the Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil, and at the Federal University of Amazonas. Marina completed a 3 year stint on the Program Committee for the Pacific Division of the APA. Adam Sennet published in Mind and Language with Ernie Lepore on presupposition. With help from Ted Shear, he threw DEX2, and arranged the second annual philosophy - linguistics talk. Adam lectured at four cities in Brazil, enjoyed the Carnival in Rio (with David, Marina, and fiancée Lana), and sampled the cuisine (piranha, maggots) in the Amazon. Jan Szaif spent the Spring quarter at the University of Tartu in Estonia as a visiting professor.

The department welcomed two visitors this year. Jun Otsuka is a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science postdoctoral fellow and associate member of the Center for Population Biology at UCD. Flavio Williges, Professor of Philosophy at the Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil, spent the month of May here, attending seminars, colloquia, and reveling in his first experience of snow in the Sierras.

Faculty Spotlight: G.J. Mattey

I grew up in Ohio, spending a school year in Mexico as an exchange student when in high school. My BA, with honors, was in philosophy from The Ohio State University. I received my MA from the University of Pittsburgh in 1975, and I completed my Ph.D. at Pittsburgh in 1979, with a dissertation on "The Idealism of Kant and Berkeley," directed by Wilfrid Sellars. In 1977, I began my career at UC Davis, this year being my thirty-seventh. (I believe that I have served the longest time pre-retirement of any faculty member in the history of the department.) My current position is that of Senior Lecturer. I have taught over 200 classes during the period. The range of courses I have taught include introduction to philosophy, critical thinking, Asian philosophy, ancient philosophy, modern philosophy, continental philosophy, epistemology, logic, and ethics. For many of my courses, I have developed extensive Web-based teaching materials, including e-texts in epistemology and modal logic. I have served in a number of capacities in the department, including undergraduate adviser, graduate adviser, supervisor of teaching assistant training, and financial officer. I have also served in numerous positions in the Academic Senate, having chaired committees on Courses of Instruction and Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction. I currently serve as Secretary/Parliamentarian of the Assembly of the Academic Senate of the University of California. My main hobbies are golf and gardening.
Graduate Student News

Kyle Adams married Loic Bourdeau (PhD, French Literature, 2014) last July. They are raising Albert, an adorable shar-pei. Brian Coffey presented ‘Reinterpreting the Mere Means Principle’ at Felician College in April. Scotty Dixon spoke on “What Is the Well-Foundedness of Grounding?” at the Center for Mind and Metaphysics Graduate Conference in Leeds, UK, and at the APA Pacific, San Diego, CA in April 2014. Scotty won a dissertation year fellowship for 2013-14, and will be conducting research at the Australian National University this summer. Tyrus Fisher’s co-authored (with Adam Sennet) paper “Quine on Paraphrase and Regimentation” was published this year in G. Hacking and E. Lepore (eds.) A Companion to W.V.O Quine (Wiley-Blackwell). Ty will present “Counterlegal Dependence and Causation’s Arrows” at the North American Summer School for Logic Language and Information in Maryland this month. Tim Houk presented “How (Not) to Solve the Luck Problem” at the Society for Christian Philosophers Eastern Conference and at the Talbot Philosophical Society Graduate Conference in the fall 2013. Tim organized the 2014 Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference and gave comments on Caroline Arruda’s “Shared Intention and Reasons for Action” at the Pacific APA. Tim’s paper “Deliberation, Transparency, and the Aim of Belief” was accepted to the Edinburgh Graduate Epistemology Conference. He and his wife, Kate, are expecting their second child this month. Earlier this year, M.A. Hunter presented “Individuals, Populations and Biological Race” to the Philosophy in a Multicultural Context II: Genomics and Philosophy of Race Workshop, UC Santa Cruz, the UC Davis Griesemer/Millstein Lab, and the Philosophy Club. In July, he’ll return as a Graduate Student Mentor at the 17th Annual Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy. Josef Kay presented “Scientific Representation, Deflationism, and the Semantic View,” at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate conference in March. Shawn Miller’s article “The e-Mouse Atlas Project” is forthcoming in the Embryo Project Encyclopedia, a history and philosophy of science digital humanities project run by the Center for Biology and Philosophy at Arizona State University, where Shawn was a visiting scholar in 2012. Presentations included “How to Make Theory Travel: Methods and Modeling of Simulated Ecological Systems” at the Society for Social Studies of Science, “No Function without Abstraction, No Simulation without Silicon” at the UC Davis Science & Technology Studies Graduate Student Conference, and a talk to the Undergraduate Philosophy Club entitled “Microprocessors and Protein Folding, or, Are You Sure This is Philosophy?” Johnnie Pedersen’s paper, “A Defense of the Evidential-Role View of Intuitions,” has been accepted for publication in Teorema, an International Journal of Philosophy. Ted Shear spent the fall at Carnegie Mellon University’s Center for Formal Epistemology, working with Kevin Kelly. His paper “The cost of consistency: Contraction and the loss off true belief,” coauthored with Konstantin Genin, was presented at several conferences, including the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science; the Association of Symbolic Logic at the University of Colorado; and the Conference the Columbian Conference on Logic, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science in Bogota; the USC-UCLA Graduate Conference in Philosophy, and at the University of Miami Graduate Epistemology Conference. Ted organized DEX2, and received the Provost’s Dissertation Year Fellowship for 2014-2015.

Graduate Student Spotlight: Sarah Roe

Sarah received a BS in biology and philosophy at Elmhurst College, just outside of Chicago. She then received an MA from Northern Illinois University, where she learned to combine her interests and began studying philosophy of biology. In June, Sarah plans to defend her dissertation, “The Salmon-Roe Approach to Mechanistic Explanations”, which focuses on particular kinds of explanations found within the biological sciences. Not only is Sarah active in the philosophy department, she can frequently be found across campus working with a lab group that studies porcine lactation. On weekends, Sarah can be found traveling (international is her favorite), remodeling bathrooms, tiling any floor/surface she deems unsightly, and trying out new recipes on her fellow graduate students. Sarah has accepted a tenure track position at Southern Connecticut State University starting in the fall where she will be teaching Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Bioethics, and Feminist Philosophy. This summer, she is looking forward to moving to the eastern seaboard and beginning her life as an employed philosopher!
MILESTONES

Kudos to our 2013-14 PhDs: Brian Coffey, Josh Earlenbaugh, Emily Earlenbaugh, Johnnie Pedersen, Jared Poon, and Sarah Roe! David Copp was promoted to Distinguished Professor (prompting his sister-in-law to call him "your Excellency"). Chancellor’s Fellow Cody Gilmore will spend 2014-15 bringing us closer (philosophically if not metaphysically) to immortality.

Thirteen seniors were recognized for their achievements at the annual citations and awards reception in June. Before enjoying refreshments and socializing with family and friends of the honorees, Professor Mattey awarded citations in recognition of outstanding accomplishment in philosophy, and certificates for honors on the basis of cumulative grade point average. Congratulations to Nicolai Haddal, Department Citation and Highest Honors; Harrison Smith-Jaoudi, Department Citation and Highest Honors; Gregory Lauro, Department Citation and Highest Honors; Paul Min, Department Citation and Honors; Matthew Kabala, Department Citation and Honors; Philip Powers, Department Citation; Torrance Fung, Department Citation; Connor Beebout, High Honors; Parker Lewis, Honors; Ana Echeverria, Honors; Corey Huang, Honors; Josh Kelley, Honors; and Marcy Shieh, Honors. The reception also recognized Jasmine Gunkel’s selection as recipient of the 2014-15 Barrall Family Scholarship, and Chelsie Liberty, first place, and Charlie Bishop, second place, in the 4th annual Undergraduate Essay Contest. Special, first time citations for Departmental Citizenship were awarded to Natasha Haddal and Nicolai Haddal. Each of you has made UCD undergraduate philosophy rewarding for your professors and fellow students. We wish you the best!

Alumni Spotlight: Janet Broughton

Janet Broughton, Class of ’72, is a professor of philosophy at UC Berkeley, where she also serves as the campus’s vice provost for the faculty. She is author of Descartes’s Method of Doubt and a number of essays about Descartes and Hume. She transferred to Davis from Sacramento City College, where she had been taking night classes, and she is still amazed at the luck that brought her into philosophy. “As a transfer student, I needed to get a faculty signature on a form declaring a major,” she recalls. “I assumed I would major in English, but I couldn’t find anyone to sign my form. Wandering down a corridor in the philosophy department, I saw Ron Arbini in his office and explained my predicament. He said he’d sign me on in philosophy and wouldn’t be offended if I switch to English later, but he made me promise to take one philosophy class first. I kept my promise by taking John Malcolm’s introduction to ancient philosophy; it got me hooked, and I never looked back.” Janet loved talking philosophy with fellow students, including Nick Perovich, Leslie Cohen, and Don Hubin, and recalls with appreciation the close community of students and faculty at Davis. Faculty mentoring was especially important to her. “I hadn’t ever thought of going on to graduate school until Mel Beal. Joel Friedman, and Marjorie Grene encouraged me to apply,” she says. “I’m so grateful to all my teachers at Davis for their support and advice.” Janet began teaching at UC Berkeley in 1979 and served as dean of arts and humanities from 2006 to 2011 before becoming vice provost. At the beginning of the great recession, she was also the acting executive dean of the College of Letters and Science and posted an essay about her passion for public higher education in California. It included these reflections: “Over two millennia ago, Aristotle wrote, ‘All men desire by nature to know,’ and he is right. Even when we can see no special advantage to our inquiries, we human beings passionately seek to learn more about ourselves and the world around us. In the search for knowledge, we must be able to start with the most challenging questions and then pursue the answers tirelessly, whether we are in the laboratory, the library, or the studio…. A great university makes these quests for knowledge possible, along with economic and social goods. It’s a remarkable fact about California that it has identified itself with this wide vision of human potential. In the words of Joan Didion (UC Berkeley ’56), the University "seems to me more and more to be California’s highest, most articulate idea of itself, the most coherent — perhaps the only coherent — expression of the California possibility."

-Read Janet’s essay in its entirety at: http://ls.berkeley.edu/?q=node/994