

From adding new faculty, to expanding community outreach, to engaging in new and exciting intellectual endeavors, the philosophy department has been expanding, growing, and reaching new heights throughout the past year.

In this issue of CONNECT, we will highlight these exciting endeavors and offer a glimpse of what's to come.

... FACULTY NEWS ...

THE DEPARTMENT IS GROWING

The philosophy department is excited to announce the addition of two new faculty, Joshua Blanchard and Sharon Berry.



Professor Blanchard joins us as a visiting assistant professor. Professor Blanchard received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He specializes in ethics, epistemology, and philosophy of religion, with a special focus on Jewish philosophy. In addition to ethics courses, Dr. Blanchard will be growing the

department's regular course offerings by teaching Philosophies/Religions of Asia.



Professor Berry hails from Harvard University and specializes in philosophy of math, logic, epistemology and science. Her dissertation focuses on the access problem for math realists. Since graduating from Harvard, Professor Berry had two post-doc research fellowships. Most recently, she was at the Polonsky Academy

in Jerusalem, which awards only six fellowships a year to international scholars. Professor Berry is excited to expand our course offerings in logic and philosophy of math.



PROFESSOR HAVSTAD CHOSEN FOR INAUGURAL PI ACADEMY CLASS

Nominated by Professor Rigstad, Professor Havstad was one of only 30 junior faculty to be chosen as part of the inaugural class of Oakland University's PI Academy. The PI Academy pairs junior faculty with top professors from universities across the nation. Professor Havstad chose to invite Sandra Mitchell as her mentor. Mitchell spent two days at OU and gave a talk entitled "Perspectivism: Learning from Model Divergence." Professor Havstad said of her experience, "it helped me with positioning as well as funding opportunities for my research. It also fostered a real sense of community amongst a group of professors here at OU."



PROFESSOR HARBIN AWARDED TENURE

Congratulations to Professor Harbin on her promotion to associate professor with tenure! Professor Harbin teaches in both the philosophy department and the Department of Women and Gender Studies. Her ability to teach across disciplines mirrors her ability to write for audiences across disciplines. She wrote the very well-received book "Disorientation and the Moral Life." In it, she draws on both feminist and traditional analytic approaches to ethics to argue against the assumption that moral agents have to be oriented in order to choose responsibly. Her recent focus on trauma and the resilience of marginalized groups is poised to have an impact on other fields, like medicine and psychiatry. For example, in her article, "Trauma-Informed Psychological Research," she makes the case for bringing in a trauma-informed lens to research in clinical psychology.

Department of Philosophy

Mathematics and Science Center, Room 752

146 Library Drive

Rochester, Michigan 48309-4479

(248) 370-3390 | oakland.edu/phil



DEPARTMENT HOLDS FIRST PHILOSOPHY CAMP

Initiated by students Samantha Sinclair, Genevieve Schmidt, Ian Anderson, Nicole Dieroff, Nikole Fisher, Robert Biehl, Rolly Giberson, Mitchell Lacombe and Emily Lawrence, the department held its first summer philosophy camp. The camp, under the guidance of Professors Daniel Propson and Lisa Campbell, focused on the topic of civil discourse, but campers were also introduced to a variety of subjects ranging from epistemology to logic. In addition to amazing presentations from the students, campers were treated to lectures from Oakland University professors Propson and Campbell, along with Elysa Koppelman-White, Paul Graves, Mark Navin and Ami Harbin. Feedback from campers was great. One student said, "This camp is what confirmed my decision to become a philosophy major in the years to come." Another said, "I thought that the camp allowed deep and thoughtful discussion on the foundation of philosophy. I believe that the various ideas have encouraged me to rethink the way I look at society and what makes modern discourse effective."



DEPARTMENT ADDS ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL TEAM, BRINGS ON STUDENT MENTORS

Last year, the department sponsored Oak Park High for the High School Ethics Bowl. The team had an intellectually stimulating experience and fared quite well at the regional competition. This year, the department will field two teams from Oak Park. Under the guidance of Professor White, two of our students will join in preparing the teams for the competition; Genevieve Schmidt and Nikole Fisher.

Richard J. Burke Lecture in Philosophy, Religion and Society



ANNUAL BURKE VISITING SCHOLAR

Last year, the philosophy department brought in Charles Mills, whose work focuses on oppositional political theory as centered on class, gender and race. He gave a talk entitled "Christianity and Racism," in which he discussed what we can learn from the history of racism in Christianity in order to build a better future.

This year, we are excited to bring in Anthony Appiah on Thursday, March 28, from 7-9 p.m. Professor Appiah has interests in African and African-American literacy, ethics, political philosophy and philosophy of social sciences. His talk, entitled "The Lies That Bind Us," will focus on how social conflicts, such as those embodied in race, religion, gender and class, create our identities, and how those identities, riddled with contradictions and falsehoods, fuel some of the world's greatest atrocities.

Look out for the formal invitation in the mail.

SPEAKERS TO ENGAGE ENGINEERING ETHICS STUDENTS

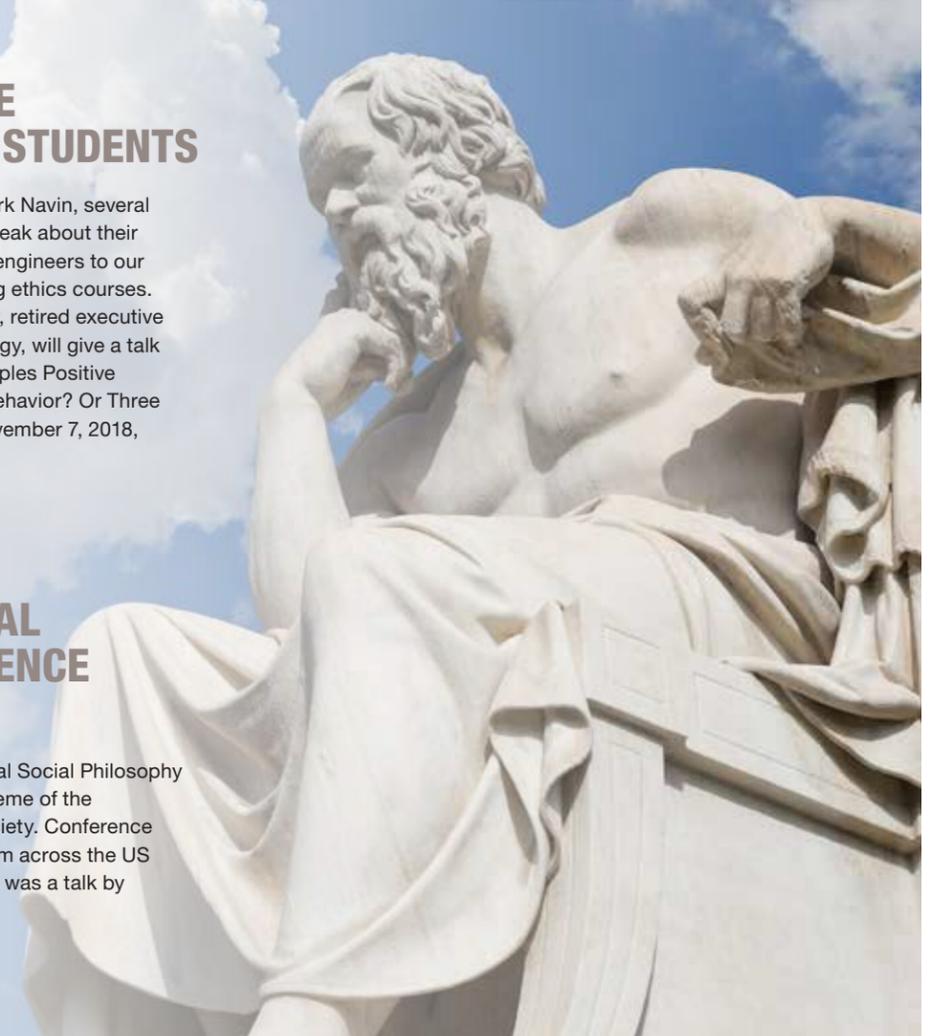


Arranged by Professor Mark Navin, several speakers are coming to speak about their experience with ethics as engineers to our students in our engineering ethics courses. As a highlight, Ronald May, retired executive vice president of DTE Energy, will give a talk entitled "Leadership Principles Positive

Engagement: What is the Basis of Ethical Behavior? Or Three Personal Moral Stories." The talk will be November 7, 2018, at noon, Engineering Center Room 275.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE HELD AT OU

Professor Navin hosted the 35th International Social Philosophy Conference on campus in July 2018. The theme of the conference was Health, Well-Being and Society. Conference attendees included faculty and students from across the US and Canada. Among the keynote addresses was a talk by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha.



C·O·N·N·E·C·T DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

phil19759/11.18

CONNECT ENGAGE SUPPORT

Join us in this adventure.

Rekindle your love for philosophy, visit the department website to see what the faculty is currently working on and become a part of the Center for Ethics as it continues to grow.

CONNECT

- Visit the alumni page and tell us what you're up to!
- Are you in a career that has you facing moral issues? Consider being a guest speaker in any of our ethics courses. Contact Professor Navin for more details: navin@oakland.edu
- The Ethics Bowls need judges! Come spend the day engaging in moral issues with student teams from all over the region and help determine which team will go to nationals.
- Rekindle your love for philosophy. Jump on the department website to see what the faculty is up to! Interested in learning more? Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

ENGAGE

- Come hear the many speakers our department brings in for our colloquium series. Jump on the website to see this fall's agenda! oakland.edu/phil/news
- Come hear the philosophy department's annual Burke Lecture. In the past, we have hosted Arthur Caplan, Judith Butler and Amartya Sen. This year's speaker, Anthony Appiah, is one you don't want to miss! Look out for the formal invitation in the mail!
- Discuss with us! Visit our Facebook page to read interesting articles, find out what's happening, and to interact with interesting philosophical topics.

SUPPORT

- From our introduction to the ethics charity program, to our ethics bowl scholarships and more, there are many opportunities for you to support your department. Your tax deductible donation will help us to keep expanding, growing and reaching new heights!
- If you donate through the all university fund drive, please be sure to designate your donation to the philosophy department or the Center for Ethics. To donate directly, please go to the department home page. We thank you for your support!