A Note from the Chair

I hope this newsletter both prompts fond memories of your experience as a student of philosophy at Baylor and underscores some of the terrific things going on in the department. Our undergraduate program remains healthy and productive. The philosophy club meets every Thursday afternoon for Socratic conversations on important topics. Often, 15 to 20 students attend, along with several faculty. In addition to the good news about Shannon Sandridge, in December Sune Abuke (2015) graduated from the Baylor Law School. Autumn Averitt continues to fare well in the Ph.D. program at Indiana University, and Ashley Davis (2012) is attending medical school at the University of Virginia. Victor Boutros (1998) continues his efforts to eliminate the evil of human trafficking.

Our graduate program continues to flourish. We graduated seven with Ph.D.s in 2016 - 2017 and admitted four new aspiring doctoral students who will begin the program in August 2017. During the year, our graduate students had 12 publications and made 42 presentations at national and regional conferences. We are pleased to announce that Chris Tweedt accepted a position as permanent lecturer at Christopher Newport University. There he joins Eric Silverman, who matriculated with an M.A. in philosophy from our department before he successfully completed the doctoral program at Saint Louis University. John Giannini has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Hope College.

You may have heard that beloved Dr. Elmer (Bud) Duncan died in May 2016. He joined the Baylor faculty in 1962 and retired in 2005. Over his many years of service, he taught and mentored many, many undergraduate and graduate students. Also, he and Rosemary, his wife, were especially important to the Alpha Tau Delta social and service club for the School of Nursing as mentors and friends. A scholar and a gentleman, his syllabi for Moral Philosophy and for Aesthetics or Philosophy of Art were, themselves, a work of significant scholarship. He is missed, indeed!

We are excited to have Tim O’Connor and Tom Ward joining our faculty this fall. They will strengthen an already strong department, both by their teaching and their scholarship. I know you are proud of the BU Department of Philosophy. As you are able, please help strengthen our work by promoting us to others and financially, as well. Sic ’em, Bears!

Dr. Michael Beaty
Michael_Beaty@baylor.edu
The department is excited to welcome Dr. Francis Beckwith back on campus following the completion of his year-long adventure as CU-Boulder’s Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy. Created four years ago, the position was a pilot program developed by donors and alumni who thought CU-Boulder, a predominately progressive campus, was not adequately diverse in ideology. Though this role was somewhat controversial initially, Beckwith never felt out of place. He is the fourth scholar to hold this position. “The first three scholars had backgrounds in history,” Beckwith began. “I was the first philosopher and the first with legal background. I like that CU-Boulder is not ‘cookie cutter’ when it comes to choosing their scholars, but strives to incorporate those with different disciplines.”

As a visiting scholar, Beckwith taught two courses each semester, brought in guest speakers and served as a guest speaker himself, giving more than 25 talks during his time in Colorado. Beckwith taught two courses in the philosophy department and one in the political science department: “Philosophy and Religion” (which he taught in both the fall and spring semesters), “Religion and the U.S. Constitution,” and “Thomas Aquinas,” which he team-taught with Dr. Robert Pasnau. Beckwith admitted that while he was excited to have these opportunities, he was initially anxious by the scope of his responsibilities. “It was a good kind of pressure,” Beckwith said. “I had to prep extensively on the weekends, but I’m glad I did it.”

Beckwith’s fondest memory in his time at CU-Boulder was team-teaching the “Thomas Aquinas” course with Dr. Pasnau. “At the time, I wasn’t fond of the idea, as I was very intimidated,” Beckwith said. “However, once the class began, it was a marvelous experience. I learned so much from him, and I’m more confident than ever to teach Aquinas at Baylor.” Beckwith returns to the department with an impressive year of work completed and fresh perspective to share with students and faculty. He will teach two sections of “Law and Religion in the United States” in the upcoming fall semester, and a course on Thomas Aquinas in the spring.
Dr. John Haldane chosen as one of 50 Most Influential Living Philosophers

The department is pleased to announce that Dr. John Haldane, who serves as Sr. Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, has been named one of the “50 Most Influential Living Philosophers” by TheBestSchools.org. TheBestSchools.org is a leading resource for prospective students seeking a college degree and for those wanting to keep up with education-related news. The website receives approximately 30,000 unique visitors a day, with over 1,000,000 views per month.

Dr. Haldane is the 17th name to appear on the alphabetical list, which features contemporary philosophers who are influencing the world today. The list claims Dr. Haldane is most notable for his work on Thomas Aquinas, noting that his coined term, “Analytical Thomism,” is spearheading a revival of Aquinas’ ideas in modern studies of philosophy. We are proud to have Dr. Haldane as a distinguished faculty member!

Shannon Sandridge named fellow in Lilly Graduate Fellows Program

The department would like to congratulate Shannon Sandridge on being named a Fellow in the Tenth Cohort of the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program. Shannon, class of 2017, is a University Scholar with a concentration in philosophy. The Lilly Graduate Fellows Program supports well-qualified young men and women who have a bachelor’s degree from LFP Network Schools in their graduate studies and pursuit of becoming teacher-scholars. The Lilly Graduate Fellows Program “seeks to renew and enhance the connections between Christianity and the academic vocation at church-related colleges and universities.” “I am very pleased that Shannon has been chosen for this honor,” said Michael Beaty, Ph.D., professor and chair of philosophy. “She is a bright, hard-working and humble student. She is serious about the importance of philosophy in a university education, and I am eager to follow her development as a Christian scholar-teacher.” Congratulations, Shannon!

Editor: Andrea Gaul
Contributing Writers: Andrea Gaul, Jessica Smith, Thomas Ward, Timothy O’Connor, Anne-Marie Schultz, Tae Hun Park and Chris Tweedt
Headshot contributions provided by either the department or the individuals themselves. Special thanks to Marilyn McKinney, Michael Beaty, Todd Buras and Tyler Miller
Dr. Timothy O’Connor and Dr. Thomas Ward join faculty

After months of careful consideration, the department has chosen Dr. Timothy O’Connor and Dr. Thomas Ward to join our faculty. We are certain these individuals will be an invaluable addition to the department and they are excited to introduce themselves.

Dr. Timothy O’Connor

Tim O’Connor grew up in Chicago. Before joining Baylor, he taught at Indiana University for 24 years, interspersed with year-long research fellowships at the Universities of Notre Dame, St. Andrews, and Oxford. Having traveled very little as a child, he now does so as often as he can manage, and he has given academic lectures in 23 countries. His main areas of scholarship are metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of religion. He has published more than 70 scholarly articles, edited seven books, and written two monographs, Persons and Causes and Theism and Ultimate Explanation. He enjoys teaching a wide range of courses and has taught 26 different courses from introductory to graduate. On his website, he claims to be the ‘Philo-Pong World Grand Champion’—the #1 table tennis player among professional philosophers. He successfully defended that title in Beijing earlier this year.

He and his wife Gail have three children, the youngest of whom is starting college this fall. They are embracing the move to Texas as an opportunity to start a new adventure as empty nesters.

Dr. Thomas Ward

“I’ve admired Baylor Philosophy from a distance for a long time now, so I am happy and honored to be joining the department this fall. I think it will be an ideal community in which to continue my research in Medieval philosophy, which focuses on metaphysical, ethical, and theological topics in a variety of thinkers, including Anselm, Aquinas, Scotus, Ockham, and Buridan. I know we have a good number of PhD students who are interested in Medieval philosophy, and I’m looking forward to working with them, both in and out of the seminar room. For the undergraduates, I’ll be teaching a variety of courses, starting this fall with a survey of Classical Philosophy and a First Year Seminar focused on philosophical themes in the Inklings. I won’t be moving to Waco alone! My wife, Katie, and I have three daughters: Edith (7), Sophia (4), and Lilian (1). We look forward to settling down and building a new community of friends through Baylor, our church, and the girls’ school. Katie spends most of her time with the kids, but is a painter by training who has worked part time as an art teacher for the last few years and looks forward to getting involved in the local arts community. We’ve found a nice place to live, close to campus, and plan to enjoy all that Waco and the region have to offer, especially things like walks in Cameron Park, long bike rides in the country, and local camping.”
Alumni Spotlight

Tae Hun Park (2016)

When did you graduate and with what degree? I graduated May 2016 with a BA in Philosophy.

What are you doing now? I am currently enrolled in UNC School of Law. For the summer, I am an intern for Justice Keys at the First Court of Appeals of Texas.

How do you feel the department prepared you for your future endeavors? I think the department, by hosting philosophy clubs, has prepared me to be a good speaker. I am part of a moot court team at my law school. In moot court, you make appellate-level oral arguments.

Why study philosophy? Study philosophy because it will help you become a critical and coherent thinker. Moreover, since you will inevitably be in situations where there will be passionate disagreements, you will eventually learn to handle conflicts in a temperate and adult manner. Over the course of four years as a philosophy major, I found I was able to handle heated discussions better than my peers. This has been especially true in law school... so far!

Chris Tweedt (2017)

When did you graduate and with what degree? I graduated in May 2017 with a Ph.D. in Philosophy.

What are you doing now? In the fall, I’ll be teaching at Christopher Newport University, a 5,000-student public university on the coast of Virginia. My primary job is to teach Business Ethics, though I’ll also teach Medical Ethics, Epistemology, and other courses.

Which faculty members were especially helpful during your time at Baylor and in what ways? Alex Pruss, aside from modeling many moral virtues, helped me to think in creative ways I hadn’t before. He has given me a perspective that I often revisit and try to model when talking with others. I don’t think he knows how much our sporadic conversations have influenced not only my philosophical positions but also how I do philosophy. Jon Kvanvig provided a model for how to be available to students while maintaining a rigorous research schedule. He was also able to simply describe complex theories and then enumerate the complexities with surprising clarity, often bringing up distinctions I hadn’t heard of before to make an argument or to reply to one of mine. I should also mention that Jon was my dissertation director, and the way that he directed...
Dr. Todd Buras selected as 2017-2018 Baylor Fellow

The department is pleased to announce Dr. Todd Buras’ selection as a 2017-2018 Baylor Fellow. The Baylor Fellows program seeks to honor faculty members who exhibit excellence in teaching and desire to transform student values, dispositions, and patterns of thinking through teaching innovations. The fellowship program, begun in 2011, is sponsored by Baylor’s Academy for Teaching and Learning (ATL). This year’s theme will be “Forming Christian Character.” “Teaching philosophy is such a privilege,” Buras said. “You get to discuss humanity’s best answers to its biggest questions with terrifically bright and earnest students. The encounter is always exhilarating and can be deeply personal. Teaching is therefore a craft one never really masters. So I am delighted to spend the year studying the craft with some of Baylor’s most experienced teachers. It is a real honor to get to participate in the teaching fellows program.”

Department hosts annual APS conference

The department hosted the Ancient Philosophy Society Conference April 27-29, 2017. Numerous other departments contributed time and resources to make this event the amazing success that it was. The Ancient Philosophy Society is one of the most prestigious societies for work in Greek Philosophy and it was truly an honor to host it at Baylor. We had three keynote speakers: Arlene Saxonhouse of University of Michigan, Ronna Burger from Tulane University and Drew Hyland, Professor Emeritus from Trinity College. Each of them spoke on the political relevance of ancient philosophy for contemporary democratic flourishing. We also had two engaging book panels. The first on David O’Connor’s Plato’s Bedroom and the second on Emma Bianchi’s The Feminine Symptom: Aleatory Matter in the Aristotelian Cosmos. Scholars from across the United States, and some from as far away as Verona and Tel Aviv, made the journey to participate in this event. We also had strong local participation as well, with Baylor graduate students and faculty presenting, responding and chairing sessions.

baylor.edu/philosophy
Student Highlights

Luke Tucker presented “Revisiting the Tribesman Analogy: A Challenge to Skeptical Theism” at the 2017 Saint Louis University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference and at the 2017 Rutgers University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. Luke is majoring in philosophy and English and will graduate in May 2018. His presentations were based on a paper he wrote for an undergraduate Philosophy of Religion course. Tucker is grateful for the excellent instruction in philosophy he has received at Baylor, especially from such outstanding faculty such as Dr. Charity Anderson and Dr. Brad Rettler.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, Sabrina Little presented at five academic conferences. She continues to pursue questions of virtue ethics and theology, as well as moral pedagogy and sports. She has a forthcoming TED talk on moral formation and distance running. Outside of school, Sabrina serves as the head track and cross country coach, as well as a senior thesis advisor and the Philosophy Club leader, at Live Oak Classical School.

This June, Derek McAllister is teaching two critical thinking courses for junior high and high school students at University for Young People (UYP), a subsidiary of Baylor’s School of Education. Earlier this summer, Derek initiated a social media group for those in the Philosophy Department with children where parents can connect more efficiently to arrange play dates for their children. In November, Derek will be presenting a paper at the National EPS meeting in Providence, RI, on the topic of absent fathers and influences on a person’s religious beliefs.

Brandon Rickabaugh published four peer-reviewed essays and made ten academic presentations in 2016-17. Also, Brandon was honored with Graduate Student Paper of the Year, Evangelical Philosophical Society and Best Graduate Student Paper, Evangelical Philosophical Society Southwest. On the domestic front, Brandon and his wife, Laura, welcomed a son, Sawyer James, into the world on May 23, 2017. Brandon learned some woodworking skills, and built a crib and changing table for Sawyer. He plans on building more furniture this summer.

Christopher Tomaszewski celebrates several recent publications, including: C. Tomaszewski and J. Rosenbaum, “Access Denied: A Reply to Rickabaugh and McAllister” and his own “Christian Materialism and the Imago Dei.” Christopher also presented at two regional SCP conferences and attended a workshop on divine hiddenness at Oklahoma State University. His paper, “Intentionality as Partial Identity,” was awarded the President’s Prize at the 78th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society for the best paper from someone not more than three years beyond the PhD.

Matt Wilson published one peer-reviewed essay and co-authored a chapter with C. Stephen Evans on Kierkegaard’s conception of faith, which is in a forthcoming collected volume by T&T Clark. He also presented at six academic conferences in 2016-2017. His biggest accomplishment was becoming a first-time dad to his daughter Evelina Joy Wilson in March. She is already helping him with a conceptual analysis of the virtue of taking-ownership, the topic of his dissertation.
August 2016

Karl Aho: “Living, Like the Lily, in the Present: Kierkegaard’s Philosophy of Time”
C. Stephen Evans, Alexander Pruss, Michael Beaty, Robert Krushcwitz

Trent Dougherty, Alexander Pruss, Michael Beaty, Francis Beckwith

Brandon Dahm: “Knowing the Transcendent: Analogous Properties and Speaking about God”
Tom Hibbs, Alexander Pruss, Trent Dougherty, Francis Beckwith, David Jeffrey

Daniel Padget: “A Relational View of Time”
Alexander Pruss, Todd Buras, Trent Dougherty, Jonathan Kvanvig, Jon Harrison

May 2017

John Giannini: “Quantifier Variance and Interpretive Charity”
Alexander Pruss, Todd Buras, Trent Dougherty, John Haldane

Christopher Tweedt: “Starting with the Obvious (and Where to Go After That)”
Jonathan Kvanvig, Todd Buras, Trent Dougherty, Alexander Pruss, Jon Harrison

Pete Younger: “Civic Friendship and A Value of Assumptions in Rawls”
Francis Beckwith, Robert Baird, Michael Beaty, Robert Kruschwitz

A recent Ph.D. graduate announcement

Christopher Shrock, who graduated with a Ph.D. from our department in May 2013, has recently accepted a position at Ohio Valley University as the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. The College of Arts & Sciences is OVU’s largest and most diverse among their four colleges. In addition to serving as dean, Shrock will teach a combination of history, religion and humanities courses. Congratulations, Christopher!
Charity Anderson is currently spending six weeks conducting research in Oxford, England as part of her summer sabbatical award. In July, she will give a talk at an epistemology conference in Equador, the proceedings of which are to be published in the journal *Episteme*. In addition to four papers that are forthcoming, Anderson is working on two invited pieces: one on the Gettier problem and fallibilism, the other on miracle reports as evidence for religious beliefs.

Michael Beaty continues his interest in the virtues, with special attention to the virtue of prudence. He is especially interested in the role and place of prudence in Christian higher education, especially as it relates liberal arts ideals and general education. Beaty prepared and presented three papers this year on topics in these areas. One, “Educating the Whole Person: Whose Narrative, Which Curriculum?,” was presented at Hong Kong Baptist University at an International Symposium celebrating the 60th anniversary of its founding. A second, “Wisdom and the Christian University,” was present at the annual IFL conference in October 2016. A third, “Roles, Morality, and Prudence,” was presented an Oriel College, Oxford University on January 7, 2017. Accepted for publication are “Military Leaders, Fragmentation, and the Virtue of Integrity,” (with Nathan Cartagena) in *Ethics in Military Leadership*, Peter Olsthoorn and Jelena Illic eds., “Theism and Ethics,” Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks Philosophy and Religion, and the essay presented at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Trent Dougherty shepherded to a successful conclusion a three-year grant for which he was a Principal Investigator, with co-PI’s at Western Washington University and Washington University in St. Louis, MO. The grant was with the Templeton Religion Trust, and the total value of the grant was $2,204,810.00. Over the course of the three years, these funds paid for dozens of participants to attend summer seminars and conferences in San Antonio, TX; St. Louis, MO; Columbia, MO, and Bellingham, WA. All these activities were focused in the nature, value, and virtue of faith. During this three-year period, Dougherty published about a dozen items related to faith, gave about a dozen presentations in five countries, including England, Iran, Switzerland, and Poland.

C. Stephen Evans was a speaker at the 2017 Logos Conference held June 1-3 at the University of St. Andrews. The theme of the conference was “God, History, and the Incarnation.” Evans spoke on “Kierkegaard’s View of the Incarnation, Faith, and History: How Faith Can Have Historical Content without Being Based on Historical Evidence.” Other speakers included philosophers Eleonore Stump, Sarah Broadie, and Sarah Coakley, Biblical scholars N.T. Wright and Richard Bauckham, and theologian Oliver Crisp. Evans is a Professorial Fellow at the Logos Institute for Exegetical and Analytic Theology at the University of St. Andrews.

David Jeffrey’s new book, titled *In the Beauty of Holiness: Art and the Bible in Western Culture*, will be published July 2017 by Eerdmans Publishing Co. Incorporating sample artworks ranging from the Roman catacombs to Marc Chagall, Jeffrey demonstrates that the Bible has consistently been the
most profound and productive resource for the visual arts in the West. He contextualizes Western European art from the second century through the twenty-first in relation not only to the biblical narrative but also to liturgy and historical theology.

**Jim Marcum** concluded his fourth year as Faculty-in-Residence at Earle Hall, Baylor’s Science and Health Living and Learning Center. Marcum’s work in medical humanities was featured in Baylor Research Magazine. Richard Marshall of 3:AM Magazine recently interviewed Marcum on his scholarly work. Before coming to Baylor, Marcum was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, where he made substantial contributions to the biomedical mechanism of the blood thinner, heparin. Marcum, along with other prominent researchers, was interviewed on the 100th anniversary its discovery. Finally, Marcum was awarded the Senior Vice-Presidental Medal for his work in the philosophy of medicine by the European Society for Person Centered Healthcare, Aula Magna, Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Madrid, Spain, on June 18, 2015.

Last year, Yale University Press published **Robert Miner’s** translation of Thomas Aquinas, Questions on Love and Charity: Summa Theologiae, Secunda Secundae, Questions 23-46. Last summer, Miner gave an invited talk on Aquinas’s thinking about virtue at the University of Notre Dame-Australia. This Fall, an article on Peter Lombard and Aquinas will be coming out in Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies. He is collaborating on a new English edition/translation of Vico’s magnum opus, The New Science, to be published in 2018 by Yale University Press.

**Alexander Pruss**, together with Joshua Rasmussn (Azusa Pacific University), has co-written Necessary Existence, a book forthcoming from Oxford University Press. Pruss and Rasmussen give a number of arguments, both old and new, that there exists a necessary being—a being that has to exist. The book is part of a project that tries to find some common ground between theists and atheists. For instance, theists will think that the necessary being is God, while atheists may think that the necessary being is the universe or space-time. Prototype versions of some of the arguments are also available in an interactive quiz site, http://necessarybeing.com. Pruss is also completing a book on paradoxes that involve both infinity and causation. The upshot of the argument is that infinite causal histories are impossible. This, in turn, implies that there must be a First Cause.

**Stuart Rosenbaum** is excited that the newsletter is alive and well! He has been working on his third monograph this past spring and summer in Minneapolis where his daughter and two grandsons live. He has completed his current book project, which will be titled something like “Justice, Race and American Intellectual Traditions.” Rosenbaum’s next project, titled A Lineage of Love, is well underway.

**Anne-Marie Schultz** is working on a follow-up volume for Plato’s Socrates as Narrator (Lexington 2013) which is currently titled Plato’s Socrates on Socrates: Autobiography as Public Dialogue. On November 3, 2017, Anne will give the keynote address at the Southwestern Philosophical Society that Paul Carron (BIC-Philosophy) is hosting here. Anne has been invited to give a keynote for the fourth annual History of Philosophy Society in San Antonio in Spring 2018. Her topic will address the epistemological status of narrative in the Platonic dialogues. On a more personal note, Anne and her husband, Jeff, will study yoga in India this July and then will spend some time in Buena Vista, Colorado where her parents have relocated to live with her sister and brother-in-law.
“Dear Philosophy Department,

Please accept the enclosed donation in honor and memory of Dr. W.J. Kilgore, who taught me and challenged me to think during 1953 to 1957 and beyond.

I graduated from Baylor in 1957, spent five and a half years in the Air Force, went to graduate school at George Washington University and spent the next 29 years in federal civil rights work, first with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and later in the civil rights office of the Department of Agriculture. I was the point man for the USCCR on USDA programs and had a hand in beginning to desegregate the USDA county offices in the south, desegregate the local extension offices, enable farm loans to black farmers, provide school lunches to minority students and improve federal financing to historically black colleges. Dr. Kilgore inspired me to devote most of my public life to civil rights and was a key factor in my ethical and spiritual development.”

Sincerely,
William C. Payne, Jr.
Class of ‘57

If you’d like to make a financial contribution, please log on to www.baylor.edu/philosophy and click on the “Give” tab at the top of your screen. Thank you.