

# COLORADO COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

## *Newsletter*



ISSUE 1, FALL 2018

### Words of Wisdom

"Could the activity of thinking as such, the habit of examining whatever happens to come to pass or to attract attention, regardless of results and specific content, could this activity be among the conditions that make men abstain from evil-doing?"

- Hannah Arendt

### In This Issue

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### Philosophy's Newsletter Has Arrived!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the CC Philosophy Department's NEWSLETTER. We hope that this newsletter will allow the Department to keep in touch with our students, alumni, and friends. Send us news from you to include in future issues!



### Celebrate 50 Years with John Riker

In 1968, Colorado College hired a young philosopher who would go on to bring philosophical reflection alive for generations of students - Professor John Riker. Now, 50 years later, join us in recognizing John's ongoing engagement with challenging questions. On Thursday, October 11th, John will present the opening Philosophy Colloquium lecture at 3:30 p.m. in Gaylord Hall, Worner Campus Center. Then, as part of the 2018 Homecoming, faculty members, former students, and John will give talks celebrating this grand milestone from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Celeste Theater of the Cornerstone Arts Center. The Colloquium lecture is open to the public. Sign up for John's Homecoming event at <https://preview.tinyurl.com/RikerDance>.



### Keep in Touch

Students and parents often ask, what good is a degree in philosophy? Let us know by telling your story about where philosophy has led you. Send us your story about where you have gone since CC at [philosophy\\_lives@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:philosophy_lives@coloradocollege.edu). In future issues, we want to tell your stories.

# Philosophy since the Millenium

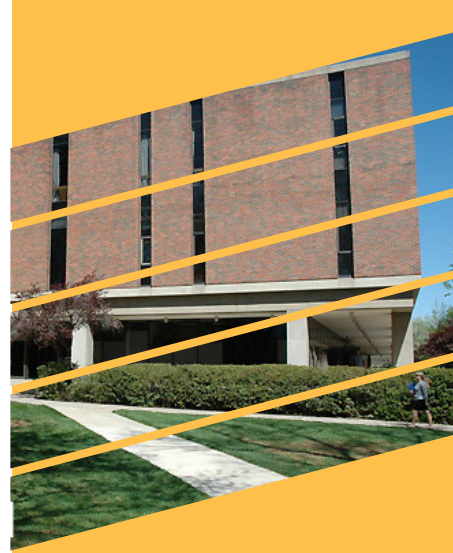
Graduates from before 2000 may not be aware of how the Department has changed and grown. In the 1990s, the Department had six faculty members: Professors Jane Cauvel, John Riker, Harvey Rabbin, Judith Genova, and Jonathan Lee. By 2000, Jane Cauvel and Harvey Rabbin had retired, and over time several new colleagues were hired to join John, Judy, and Jonathan: Professors Alberto-Hernandez-Lemus, Rick Anthony Furtak, Dennis McEnnerney, Marion Hourdequin, and Helen Daly.

JOHN RIKER, as noted on p. 1, is celebrating his 50th year of teaching at the College. He continues to explore the ethical implications of psychoanalytic thought, while teaching courses on ancient Greek, modern European, and American philosophy. He is author several works, including "Ethics and the Discovery of the Unconscious" (1997), "Why It Is Good to Be Good: Ethics, Kohut's Self Psychology, and Modern Society" (2010), and most recently, "Exploring the Life of the Soul: Philosophical Reflections on Psychoanalysis and Self Psychology" (2017).

JUDY GENOVA, who retired from the College in 2011, brought to the curriculum courses focusing on twentieth-century analytic philosophy and feminist philosophy. Author of "Wittgenstein: A Way of Seeing" (1995) and editor of "Power, Gender, Values" (1987), Professor Genova was an active member of the Women's Studies program, which she directed for over a decade.

Diversity of interests has been the mark of the teaching and research of JONATHAN LEE. Jonathan has offered courses on Indian and Africana philosophy, Lacanian psychoanalysis, continental and French philosophy, sound art, speculative realism, and his first love, ancient Greek thought and poetry. In 1990, he published "Jacques Lacan," one of the first English-language works on Lacan. He also co-edited "I Am Because We Are: Readings in Africana Philosophy" (1995, revised 2016), a pioneering collection of African and African-American philosophy.

The first new colleague to join the department after the millennium was ALBERTO HERNANDEZ-LEMUS, himself one of the first graduates of Colorado College's Comparative Literature program. Alberto, who became a full-time member of the department in 2003, has strong interests in aesthetics, the cinema theory of Gilles Deleuze, and social and political philosophy, particularly in relation to contemporary social movements in the global South. In the department, he regularly offers courses on Latin American philosophy, aesthetics, philosophy and race, and the history of philosophy. In recent years, he has directed the Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Studies program.





RICK ANTHONY FURTAK was hired as a regular faculty member in philosophy in 2004. Rick's philosophical interests include the moral psychology of the emotions, the relations between philosophy and literature, and the tradition of existential thought (especially Søren Kierkegaard and his legacy). His publications include "Wisdom in Love: Kierkegaard and the Ancient Quest for Emotional Integrity" (2005) and "Knowing Emotions: Truthfulness and Recognition in Affective Experience" (2018). Rick regularly teaches courses on philosophy and emotions, philosophy of mind, existentialism, Greek philosophy, philosophy and literature, and the history of philosophy. He served as department chair from 2012-2016.



DENNIS McENNERNEY joined the faculty as a visitor in 2004 and became a full-time member of the department in 2017. Dennis' research focuses on political philosophy and critical theory, especially the philosophical implications of identity politics and resistance movements. He has published articles and collections on Frantz Fanon, French resistance movements, James Tully, and John Rawls. Dennis regularly offers courses on contemporary political philosophy, critical theory, identity and identity politics, and the history of political philosophy. He has served as co-director of the Feminist & Gender Studies program.



The department expanded in 2006 with the hiring of MARION HOURDEQUIN, a specialist in environmental philosophy. Marion's current research focuses on climate ethics, climate justice, and the social and ethical dimensions of ecological restoration. She is the author of "Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice" (2015) and co-editor of "Restoring Layered Landscapes" (2015). Her research and teaching interests include ethics, comparative philosophy, animal studies, and philosophy of science. She was appointed department chair in 2016 and has served as director of the Environmental Program.



In 2011, HELEN DALY joined the department, strengthening its commitment to logic and analytic thinking. Her dissertation research on vagueness combines "ordinary language" sensibilities with a commitment to the value of classical logic in the understanding of arguments. She has wide-ranging research interests, centered in analytic metaphysics and the philosophy of language, including work on the metaphysics and language of sex/gender, the metaphysical possibility of heaven and hell, and the nature of insults. Helen regularly teaches courses in her research areas as well as in the history of philosophy, logic and critical thinking, and cognitive science.

# PHILOSOPHY SENIOR ESSAYS - CLASS OF 2018

Since 2010, the Philosophy major has required completion of a Senior Essay. We ask students in their Senior Essay to investigate in some depth the work of a significant philosopher or a challenging problem in philosophy. These essays are written and rewritten in one block under the supervision of a faculty member, who has been appointed to that role by the Department as a whole. Senior Essays are limited to 15 pages and must be completed by the end of block 6. In block 7, all Philosophy seniors enroll in the Senior Seminar, a course in which the students then present their work orally in a setting that models an academic conference. The class of 2018 wrote and then presented senior essays on the topics listed below.

Silas Babilonia, "Socrates, Plato, and the Cave: Death of the Real"

Nicholas Dobbs, "21st Century Stoicism: An Argument for the Sage's Path"

Mira Fisher, "The Humormensch: Forcing the Void"

Ben Garfin, "Rethinking Agency with Zhuangzi: Flowing with the River"

Matthew Harris, "Knowledge and Governance: Skepticism in the Zhuangzi"

Andrew Hill, "Anthropocentrism and the Origins of Consciousness"

Michaela Miller, "The Ontological Argument: Can We Finally Say that God Really Exists?"

Lachlan Nutting, "Individuality in the Objective Order of Values: An Examination of Max Scheler's *Ordo Amoris*"

William Pak, "From the Aesthetic to the Ethical: Strip-Mining the Self, in a State of Despair"

Cameron Pattison, "Illusion and the Contest between Passion and Reason"

Joe Purtell, "Faith and Action: What Does It Mean to Try the Impossible?"

Lauren Robinson, "Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds: An Exploration of Meaningful Coincidences"

Jared Russell, "Hope's Role Within the Present"

Will Schneiger, "Threats of Replacement in Nuclear Catastrophes"

Antonio Soto, "The Existence of God"

Sam Stallings, "Bad Faith of Whiteness: Whiteness as Capital within the Colonial Matrix of Power"

Izzy Steucek, "Lingering with the Wonder of the World: Lessons from Hannah Arendt and Martin Heidegger"

Samuel White, "Behavioral Abnormality and the Social Experience of Agency"

Philosophy Student  
Survey Responses:

- WHY STUDY  
PHILOSOPHY?

"To access other realms of human experience ... and keep the world new."

"We study philosophy in order not to get a job and then with the levelheadedness and numerous perspectives the discipline gives us, live and perhaps even love--said joblessness. Just kidding ... I study philosophy to get closer to the significance of things, and to maintain a fresh, child-like appreciation for the oddities and incongruities of all types of life."

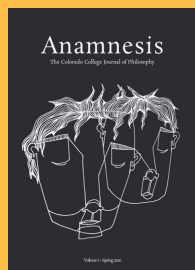
"Because it makes you read well, and develops useful skills, and is endlessly interesting."

"Because everything is philosophy!"

"To create novelty."



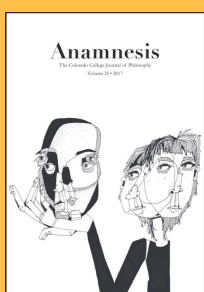
Colorado College's student philosophy journal, ANAMNESIS (ancient Greek for "to call to mind"), was conceived of three and one-half years ago by philosophy major Willow Mindich '16.



Launched with the help of Professor Rick Furtak, the Cutler Board of Publication, the Dean's Office, and a student editorial board, the journal took up the mission of providing a forum for the Colorado College community to engage with philosophy that was free from overly-technical language and obscure topics.

From the first, the journal invited submissions by undergraduates writing on philosophy from across the nation. The journal has published essays by students from California Polytechnic University, Boston College, Appalachian State University, and Bowdoin College, as well as from Colorado College students.

The 2018-19 editorial board will issue its call for papers grappling with philosophical issues and written in a clear, nontechnical style later this fall.



## THE VOLUMES OF ANAMNESIS

The journal's first volume, published in the spring of 2016, contained two undergraduate essays as well as an interview with Shaun Nichols, professor of philosophy at the University of Arizona. The second volume, issued a year later, was again composed of two student essays as well as an interview with Professor John Riker on the semicentennial of his tenure at Colorado College. The third volume, released last May, included three student essays and an interview with Linda Martín Alcoff, professor of philosophy at the City University of New York Graduate Center. All three issues are available on the Anamnesis website, <http://www.ccphil-anamnesis.com/the-journal/>.

## THE DISCUSSIONS

The 2017-18 editorial board – philosophy majors Will Schneider '18, Mira Fisher '18, Cameron Pattison '18, and Ethan Cutler '19 – wanted to further engage students, especially non-philosophy majors, in philosophical discussion. To this end, they inaugurated an open group that met twice a month to discuss relevant philosophical topics. Over twenty students from a range of disciplines turned out to the first meeting for a lively discussion of the proposition "Society needs noble lies."

## 2018-19 EDITORIAL BOARD

This year's editors-in-chief will be Anne Daley, Natalie TeSelle, and Lizzy Vian. They can be contacted at [anamnesis@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:anamnesis@coloradocollege.edu)

## - WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?

"To learn how to think critically about the world."

"To experience the paradoxical nature of our existence which is essential to humanity."

"I can never identify the chain of events that led me to make philosophy my focus in school... I've always been a philosopher. We've all always been philosophers... How can that be? I think everyone inherently studies and practices philosophical thinking every day (Who am I? What is my purpose? How ought I act? How to treat myself and other people?). I think we humans are perpetually in search of answers for how to live our lives. For me, as I have read and been introduced to thinkers such as Nietzsche, Gloria Anzaldua, Thich Nhat Hanh, Sartre, Hume, Dostoyevski, I've found that most often it is the philosopher who contemplating and proposing the most applicable theories who dominates my life. Philosophy pervades every aspect of our phenomenal world... I want to learn, spread, and recreate the ideas put forth by philosophers. Philosophy is just where it is at for me."

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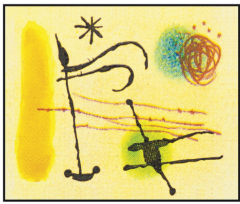
# PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

## Recent Faculty Books

### KNOWING EMOTIONS

Truthfulness and Recognition  
in Affective Experience

RICK ANTHONY FURTAK



Rick Anthony Furtak, *KNOWING EMOTIONS: TRUTHFULNESS AND RECOGNITION IN AFFECTIVE EXPERIENCE*, Oxford University Press, March 2018.

From the publisher: "Knowing Emotions attempts to clarify what kind of truth may be revealed through emotion, and what can be known."



John Hanwell Riker, *EXPLORING THE LIFE OF THE SOUL: PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTIONS ON PSYCHOANALYSIS AND SELF PSYCHOLOGY*, Lexington Books, February 2017.

From the publisher: "John Hanwell Riker develops and expands the conceptual framework of self psychology in order to offer contemporary readers a naturalistic ground for adopting an ethical way of being in the world."



Jonathan Scott Lee and Fred Lee Hord (Mzee Lasana Okpara), eds., *I AM BECAUSE WE ARE: READINGS IN AFRICANA PHILOSOPHY*, University of Massachusetts Press, 1995, revised edition, April 2016.

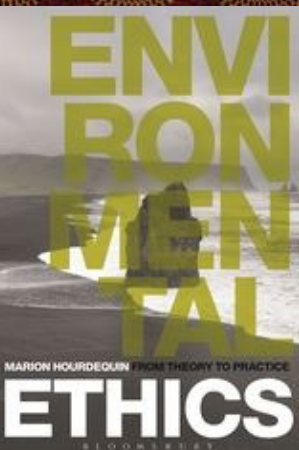
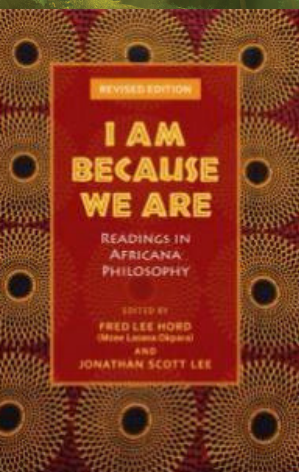
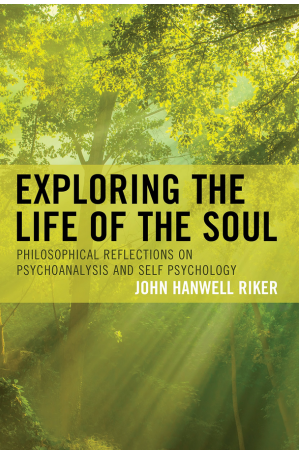
From the publisher: "A major, canon-defining anthology, bringing together writings by prominent black thinkers..., ma[king] the case for a tradition of "relational humanism" distinct from the philosophical preoccupations of the West."



Marion Hourdequin, *ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE*, Bloomsbury Academic, March 2015.

From the publisher: "ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS offers an up-to-date and balanced overview of environmental ethics..., provides an historical perspective on the relationship between humans and nature, and explores the limitations and possibilities of classical ethical theories in relation to the environment."

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# Faculty Reflections

## *An Interview with Rick Anthony Furtak*



Interview by Silas Babilonia, class of 2018.

SB: What was the primary inspiration for your work?

RF: I was inspired to write this book by the fascinating yet perplexing world of human emotions, and I wanted to follow the lead of other philosophers who have made insightful contributions to this field of interdisciplinary research.

SB: Are there any specific philosophical movements or philosophers you are working in conversation with?

RF: Important resources for my book are found in phenomenology, especially in the work of such authors as Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Max Scheler. Overall, my book cites a diverse array of other texts.

SB: What role do emotions play in the context of everyday life?

RF: It is through our emotions that we perceive meaning in life: our emotions orient us toward significant values and reveal what matters most to us. This is why they are such an important mode of experience.

SB: How has Colorado College and the Philosophy Department supported your writing process?

RF: CC and the Philosophy Department provide a stimulating intellectual environment, and they also supported me in the form of allowing time for me to write – through a sabbatical as well as my non-classroom blocks.

SB: What was the most surprising thought, discovery, or insight you had while working on the book?

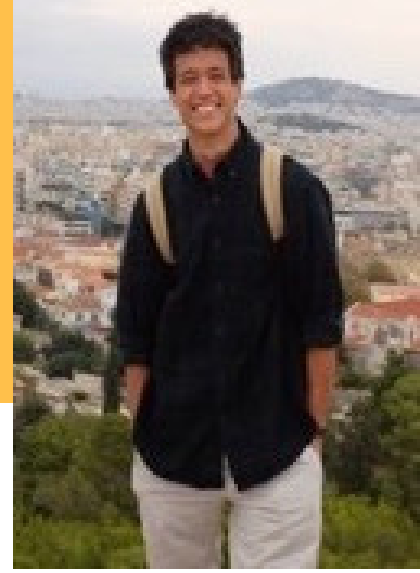
RF: One surprising discovery was that prominent empirical research on emotion has been widely misinterpreted, so my book aims to reverse this trend and to set the record straight.

# Student Reflections

*An Interview with*

*Cameron Pattison '18,*

*Editor-in-Chief of ANAMNESIS*



Interview by Silas Babilonia, class of 2018.

SB: What has your experience been like working as editor-in-chief of ANAMNESIS?

CP: I've really enjoyed working as editor-in-chief of ANAMNESIS because I think it is one of the few sites on campus that encourages philosophic thinking outside of class. With the discussion group – which we added to the program this year – you start to get a sense of how philosophy can be participated in in life beyond school.

SB: What do you look for in papers that prospective writers should know about?

CP: When reading over the papers, we are – broadly speaking – looking for meaningful insights into how we live our lives and understand the world around us. Now, this is intentionally broad, because I think that these insights can be accomplished by way of innumerable methods. It might be best accomplished for some using an analytic paper that takes apart a single author, or it may be done by way of a story. We really don't mind which method is preferred, but only insist that the writer finds the paper truly worth reading.

SB: What direction do you see ANAMNESIS going into the future?

CP: I don't see the journal itself changing much... However, I think that the discussion group could expand significantly. It has a lot of promise and is a fairly unique idea on campus – viz., a discussion group that focuses on and debates propositions without assigned readings, in the hopes of engaging what people think and believe about a given proposition. I think that oftentimes we're all too quick to defer to the authority of the great minds, but we do this enough in class; and our own beliefs and arguments supporting our beliefs get too little exercise.

SB: What role has philosophy played in your time at Colorado College?

CP: I find, "what role has philosophy played in your time at CC?" a hard question to answer, because I am inclined to say that it has played the major role that shaped my entire experience here. I have always been academically engaged, but philosophy in its riddles and insights has turned tasks that were once satisfying – i.e., finishing homework – into essential parts of my day and life. Also, philosophy has certainly changed my life

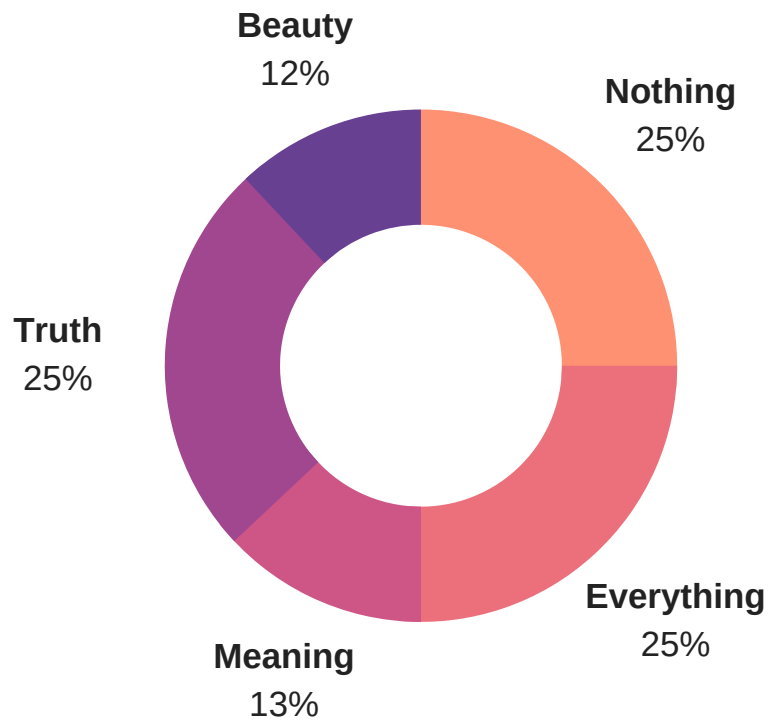
path, for I had thought I'd be a scientist of one kind or another before I was lured in by political science, and then ambushed by philosophy. I can hardly imagine the person I'd be if I had never engaged in philosophy at CC.

SB: Do you have any current plans for after graduation?

CP: My plan is to return home to Vermont to live in a cabin I built there right after high school. I have applied for a couple jobs teaching, but I will probably end up working for a farm there. I find building projects to be extremely meaningful, satisfying, and entertaining, so I think I'll be building new things too, starting with a pizza oven, a developed spring, and a significant expansion to the orchard I started planting this past summer. With any luck, it'll be a pastoral paradise – but also a time to read and write, and to think about graduate school.



Question: What Is Most Important to the Philosopher?



## THE PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Inaugurated in 2006, the Philosophy Colloquium series has enabled the Department to offer lectures and seminars by leading and emerging scholars working in a wide range of philosophical discourses. Colloquium lectures typically take place on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m and are open to the public. This year's preliminary lecture schedule includes:

Block 2: Thursday, 11 September - John Riker, Colorado College, "Philosophy and Psychoanalysis: Re-Vitalizing Contemporary Living" (Gaylord Hall, Worner Campus Center).

Block 3: Thursday, 1 November - Mary Ann Cutter, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, "Managing Uncertainty in Medicine: What Philosophy Can Teach Us" (Max Kade Theatre, Armstrong Hall).

Block 6: Tuesday, 5 March - Sharon Krishek, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Title TBA (Bemis Great Hall).

Block 7: Thursday, 28 March - Jana Mohr Lone & Sara Goering, University of Washington, "Why Philosophy for Children Matters – Both to Philosophy and to Children" (South Hall Commons)

## LET US KNOW YOUR NEWS!

In future issues of the Philosophy Department Newsletter, we hope to include news about our alumni. Please let us know what you have been doing by writing to the Department at:

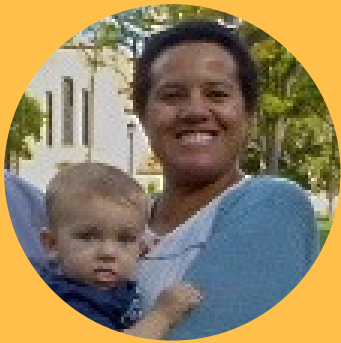
[philosophy\\_lives@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:philosophy_lives@coloradocollege.edu)

# Philosophy Sponsors Riley Scholars-in-Residence



The CC Philosophy Department embraces diversity in philosophical inquiry, offering more courses in "diverse" areas than do almost all major university philosophy programs. The College has supported our commitment to the diversification of philosophy by enabling us to hire two Riley Scholars-in-Residence in recent years. Riley Scholars, who are recent recipients of doctoral degrees from underrepresented backgrounds (or who are near the end of their doctoral studies) are hired for one or two years at full entry-level salaries. The program, which has been developed in collaboration with a consortium of liberal arts colleges, aims to familiarize Riley Scholars with liberal arts teaching and bolster faculty diversity. The scholarship provides recipients with experience teaching (typically two or three blocks per year) and significant support for their research and writing, thereby increasing their chances of success on the academic job market.

In 2018-19, the Department is happy to welcome back to Colorado College YONG-DOU (MICHAEL) KIM, a 2005 sum cum laude graduate of the College. Michael is completing his dissertation, "Image and Phenomenon: For a Critique of Appearance," at Villanova University. He has taught as a part-time visitor for the past few years and will offer courses this year on Feminist Philosophies, Ethics, and Formal Logic.



In 2015-16 and 2016-17, the Department hosted CAMISHA RUSSELL, a graduate of Penn State University. While at CC, Camisha offered courses on the Epistemology of Race and Gender; Race, Gender, and Bio-Ethics; Feminist Philosophies; Philosophy and Race; and "The Hunger Games" and Social Philosophy. After two years at the College, Camisha was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor at the University of Oregon.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Philosophy Department is indebted to SILAS BABILONIA '18, who not only conducted the interviews and the survey of the class of 2018 for this issue, but also developed the initial prototype for the NEWSLETTER. His work made possible this publication.

The final version of the NEWSLETTER was assembled by Dennis McEnerney, with the editorial oversight of the full Philosophy Department faculty.

Finally, the Department is grateful to RORY STADLER, our dedicated administrative assistant, without whom the Department could not function.

