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Geneseo's Philosophy Gossip Column Number 9 November 2015

Institutional

As you probably know, Chris Dahl retired after about 20 years as president here, during which time SUNY Geneseo made significant advances in college rankings. We now have a new president, Denise Battles, who seems to bring much energy to the campus, as well as her husband, Dr. Michael Mills (who is now Director of National Fellowships and Scholarships), and their Basenji dog, Texas Lucy. Geneseo continues to send a very respectable number of its graduates to grad schools, law schools, and med schools, as well to other interesting futures. One particularly notable accomplishment this year is that Geneseo had four of our students who received Fulbright awards to teach English abroad (and one of them, John Carlson, was a Philosophy minor and had been a Logic TA for several years; he is teaching in Poland). It is very interesting to contrast this achievement with an entry noted in Syracuse University's recent "Arts and Sciences" publication, which they titled "World-Class Scholars" and bragged about having "six Fulbright Scholars teaching English all over the world" – and those six were spread over three graduation years (2011-2013), so we seem to compare to this big university record quite favorably!

I think you will appreciate a sendoff given by Dan O'Brien (one of our notable Philosophy graduates) to the graduating class this past May, 2015, so it is enclosed here.

2015 COMMENCEMENT NEW ALUMNI WELCOME

(Dan O'Brien)

Graduates:

Now is the big moment! The symbolic gesture that marks your undergraduate years of study and learning, changing and growing:

PLEASE MOVE YOUR TASSELS FROM RIGHT TO LEFT!

As a proud Geneseo graduate, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you, members of the Class of 2015, to the fellowship of Geneseo Alumni. We are a community of individuals who are forever bound by the common experience of having our lives transformed by this unique and wonderful college.

I urge you to continue investing in the relationships you forged at Geneseo. Like me, you undoubtedly have nurtured relationships with faculty and staff, and developed special friendships with many of your fellow students. Many of these will be sustained throughout your lives. Value them highly. Treasure the friends you have made here and the experiences you have been given here.

You gain here today a joyful responsibility. This is your college. Come back often. Care for this special place. Give back to it with your knowledge, skills, time and resources – and help those who will follow in your footsteps. Your support will make a difference.

Your fellow graduates of every generation welcome you. Do good things for yourself, your families and your college. Do good for your communities and your world. I know that you will. That is your calling as Geneseo Alumni. You are and will always be Geneseo. Congratulations!

Departmental

David Levy received a much-deserved SUNY Excellence in Teaching award. We are very proud of him!

Steve Bein, who we were fortunate to have here for two years on a visiting line shared with History, but unfortunately could not keep longer, has begun a tenure-track position at University of Dayton.

Our students continue to do very well, and we support them as best we can. Seven of our top graduating seniors this May received monetary awards from the department to recognize their achievement and wish them well. Four of our now-seniors received Bill Edgar Tribute scholarships of roughly \$500 each to help with their senior years. Stacey has instituted "Socrates scholarships" (in honor of Bill, who President Dahl called "our Socrates") since 2012 to give 4-year scholarships to an average of 4 entering freshmen each year in the Humanities (including foreign languages), the arts, or music. These are ways in which the department encourages our students in philosophy and the humanities. If you want to help us with this support, please consider making a contribution to the Geneseo Foundation, for the Philosophy Department or for these specific scholarships and awards.

Faculty

Ken Asher - I have a joint appointment in English and Philosophy. And I thank the philosophy dept. for being so welcoming to me as a weird hybrid. Everyone has been great! My current area of research involves the ways in which literature can contribute to our ethical understanding. At the moment, I have a manuscript entitled *Ethics, the Emotions, and Literature* under consideration. My main earlier publication was *T.S. Eliot and Ideology* (Cambridge, 1995). I thoroughly enjoyed teaching a course on Philosophy and Literature last spring, and will probably repeat it (or maybe a course on aesthetics) this spring. Along the lines of aesthetics, Carlo has been trying to teach me the beauty of a one-nil soccer game, but it's not working.

Stacey Edgar - Stacey still enjoys her students and teaching her classes -- Humanities I and II, Logic every semester, Bill's Honors 101 Nature of Inquiry every fall, and sometimes Intd 105 Writing Seminar: Philosophy of Love (Plato and Shakespeare are a good combination!) or Computer Ethics (using her text MORALITY AND MACHINES), and in Spring '14 she taught a senior seminar on Hume (because he was probably Bill's favorite philosopher) in a class of 17 students and it was a lot of fun, so she hopes to do it again. This coming spring she will teach an experimental course on "(Alan) Turing and Thinking" (too bad we can't get Benedict Cumberbatch to be a visiting collaborator!).

Ted Everett - In the past year, Ted served his first year as chair without meeting violent resistance. He also published articles (one forthcoming) in each of the four main areas of philosophy: logic, metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. He believes on zero evidence that he is the only philosopher ever to bother to do that.

Carlo Filice - Carlo is still trying to improve his tennis game, with mixed results. On the academic side, he continues to toy with perennial ideas about values, purpose, and divine beings (as he did in his book, *The Purpose of Life: An Eastern Philosophical Vision*). He is happy to report the completion of a 9-year karmic penance as Department Chair. Now he has more time to garden and to read fun books. He continues to expect that students read and think a lot -- here, also, with mixed results.

David Levy - David Levy keeps very busy as one of the co-Directors of the Edgar Fellows (College Honors) Program. He really enjoys working with many of Geneseo's brightest students—and is honored to steward the program that Bill Edgar founded and that drew David himself to Geneseo back in the early 1990s. In the classroom, he continues to teach a wide range of courses (everything from Homer and Plato to Business Ethics to Theory of Knowledge). He was recently recognized with the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. His most recent publication is "Socrates vs. Callicles: Examination and Ridicule in Plato's *Gorgias*" (*Plato*, 2013). He and Sara do a reasonably good job maintaining their sanity as they shuttle their children, Anna (9) and Jonah (6), to and from a healthy variety of activities.

Amanda Roth - I am a new assistant professor of philosophy and women's studies as of fall 2014. I was an undergraduate at Lafayette College, completed my Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Michigan in 2010, and had a number of short-term positions before coming to Geneseo. My interests are primarily in ethics, political philosophy, feminist philosophy, and gender & sexuality.

My teaching is split evenly between philosophy and women's studies and my recent and upcoming philosophy courses have included Phil 136 Medicine and Morality, Phil 130 Ethics, an experimental course on political philosophy, and INTD 105 courses on pornography and abortion.

My current research projects focus on moral and political issues regarding abortion, fetal status, the use of reproductive technologies, and lgbq families.

I live in Henrietta with my wife, 2-year-old daughter, 4 cats, and a dog.

Heidi Savage - Heidi is one of the recent appointment hires in the philosophy department joint w. women and gender studies. She spent 2 years here previously as a visiting assistant professor. She is very happy to have found a home here at Geneseo. Her interests in philosophy are fairly wide-ranging. They include primarily philosophy of language, but also meta-ethics, epistemic rationality, logic, personal identity, and free will. She has published on philosophy of language, and has more work in progress on the topic. She also has work in progress on personal identity, free will, and meta-ethics.

This past year, Heidi was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to allow her to do research for her book entitled *Naming and Referring* which she is currently working on. She is also working on revising an introductory text to philosophy of language, *The Meaning of Language*, with Robert M. Martin, under contract with MIT Press.

In the upcoming semester, Heidi is engaging in a research project on the topic of free will with one of the department's philosophy majors, which will enable her to combine both the research and teaching aspects of her appointment here at Geneseo. She will also be giving a talk at Pepperdine University in the spring.

Elias Savellos - Elias just completed 25 years at Geneseo. He continues to teach his favorite classes (Metaphysics and Reasoning and the Law) and has recently added an online offering of the Business Ethics class. He also continues administering the Mediterranean Roots study abroad program with considerable success: According to StudyAbroad101, the biggest study abroad rating site, Roots is now the second best study abroad program in the country in the traveling category. His book on events is still being revised.

Walt Soffer - Played lots of table tennis this summer, working on my backhand. Did extensive course revision for upcoming year. And began work on two papers: "Shifting the Burden of Proof to the Perceptual Skeptic," and "The Theodicy of Descartes's Fourth Meditation."

In addition to our full-time faculty, we have three long-term adjunct instructors who deserve to be mentioned:

James Bennett, '86 (BA English) – Twenty plus years as secondary English Teacher. Currently teaching Humanities within the Department of Philosophy. If I were to win the lottery (unlikely, since I do not play the lottery), I would continue to teach Humanities, just as I would continue to be a student of Humanities. From the epics of Babylon composed at least 2400 years before the "Common Era" to the novels of the 21st Century, the literature of the Humanities explores the great themes of all humanity: the nature of evil, of love, of friendship, of government, of justice. What better way to spend a day than to discuss great ideas with great students inspired by great literature? My wife, Elaine Bennett, is also a graduate of Geneseo ('85). We live in the village of Geneseo (sometimes I walk to work) and enjoy meeting students at local stores and events. You may see me taking a course from time to time. SUNY Geneseo has some world-class professors who are renowned for their expertise in their fields. It is certainly a perk and a privilege to participate in classes as their colleague and as their student. I sincerely hope to continue doing so for the remainder of my days.

John D'Onofrio - I started to think after attending a lecture (at RPI) on Norwegian philosophy. I don't remember whether I attended because I wanted to know about philosophy or because I had dated a Norwegian girl in high school. Either way, by the next academic year, I was studying philosophy, got my undergraduate major, applied to Syracuse for graduate work, and that was my star.

The current wisdom re: career paths suggests that most people will have three major changes. I almost fit that pattern. I taught philosophy at Geneseo, Hamline U., Salem State, and Alfred SUNY. But I spent the majority of my working life teaching physics at Geneseo Central School. Physics and Philosophy? Einstein and Heisenberg would find no problems there, though I have had to explain the combination many times, once while being "vetted" for jury duty. I retired from teaching science a few years back, and within a few months, I developed a disturbing case of deadly sin #4.

INTD 105 to the rescue. I began reading all those old friends (Plato, Aristotle, Sophocles...) added some new... Alexander Nehamas worth some investment of time and attention. My content for 105 is philosophy of art, which I taught a few times in the '70's. But the Internet has changed everything. I show a lot of art, play music from opera to jazz, and have a lot of fun doing it.

Oh yes...personal stuff. I married the Geneseo Central School librarian, Marie, and a few years later we had a son, Nick. He is 19.

Chuck Hertrick - I am looking forward to my sixth year as an adjunct at Geneseo. This Fall I am co-teaching Western Humanities Two with Professor Everett as well as a section of Hum One. I am impressed that the college offers this curricular sequence, preserving a commitment to the liberal arts during a time when other universities have yielded to the marketplace pressures of the moment. And I am impressed on a daily basis with the eager, thoughtful, and courteous classes of bright students who grapple with the important issues the readings present.

Our love and gratitude go out to our retired faculty – Larry Blackmon, Dennis Bradford, and Gary Cox.

Alumni

Benjamin Allee, '99 - I've been working for about seven years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. It's a great job. We have lots of good cases. I finished up a trial of one in July, U.S. v. Thomas Libous, involving a public official charged with lying to FBI agents investigating public corruption. At home, my wife and I have three amazing children, Cecilia (6), Owen (4), and Henry (2). There's not much else to report – work and taking care of the kids pretty much takes up all of my time! Occasionally I mow the lawn, less occasionally I catch the Mets on TV, and even less occasionally I think about the problem of other minds or some other such issue I used to ponder so much about with the help of Dr. Everett and others there. I do listen regularly to many podcasts (on my long commute), and would be happy to hear of any recommendations of good philosophy podcasts folks up there listen to. Thanks and take care! benallee@yahoo.com.

Jim Anderson, '71 - I am into my 3rd year of retirement from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I taught Environmental Ethics, Philosophy of the Arts, and was the Assistant to the Chair for the last 22 years. Last year at this time, Peg and I moved our entire sheep farm - 70 sheep, 7 border collies, 2 guard dogs, tractor, etc. - from Blue Mounds, Wisconsin to our new farm in Chickamauga, Georgia. The farm has 60 acres of fields, a large woods, and a well-stocked farm pond. Peg trains her dogs for herding competitions. I tend to my chickens and orchard of plums, peaches, pears, persimmons, and apples.

For the last eight or nine years I have been studying Buddhism with various scholars and friends. I am happy to report that I have found a person here, just a few miles away on the top of Lookout Mountain, who is a fine teacher. I am a middling meditator but I enjoy the more philosophical aspects of the Dharma.

My niece's recent graduation from Geneseo has brought back many memories—entirely good ones. Of course, there is the foundation upon which my entire professional life has been based—Geneseo to the core.

Lauren Aulet, '14 - After graduating from Geneseo in May 2014, I took a year off to prepare my graduate applications. During this time, I worked as a SAT/ACT and GRE tutor for Kaplan Test Prep in Rochester, NY. This past spring, I accepted an offer to attend Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where I will be working towards my Ph.D. in Cognition and Development in the Department of Psychology. I feel especially thrilled and fortunate to be pursuing this opportunity because the work of my graduate advisor, Dr. Stella Lourenco, served as the basis for the honors thesis I completed at Geneseo with Dr. Jeffrey Mounts.

Since moving to Atlanta in June 2015, I have continued to work as a GRE tutor/instructor for Kaplan. Additionally, although my graduate program did not officially start until fall 2015, I began my work at Emory early. At Emory, I am studying spatial and numerical cognition; specifically, I am interested in how concepts related to space, time, and number develop and are represented in the brain. Further, I will be working with another professor at Emory, Dr. Daniel Dilks, to research these questions utilizing fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging). While I am no longer studying philosophy formally, much of what I learned still plays a major role in my research (especially Kant). I plan to pursue a graduate certificate from Emory's Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture so that I can continue with the interdisciplinary approach I developed at Geneseo. Overall, I feel so indebted to Geneseo's Philosophy Department, Psychology Department, and Edgar Fellows Honors Program for providing an encouraging environment where I could explore my interests. I know the curiosity and critical thinking skills I developed there will be with me the rest of my life.

Matthew Austin, '05 - Nichole Hungerford ('07) and Matthew Austin ('05) married on October 8, 2011. Nichole currently works as associate senior editor for *Frontpage Magazine*. She previously served as a research assistant for two books written by Steve Forbes, publisher of *Forbes* magazine, and author Elizabeth Ames.

Matthew is a licensed attorney currently working in the field of Workers' Compensation Law at the law firm of Buckner & Kourofsky, LLP. He graduated from Albany Law in 2010. He is an active member of the Federalist Society and has recently become a Free Mason.

Matt and Nichole have two cats (Sophie and Socrates) and a dog (Axle) who are the source of much frustration and love. Matt and Nichole are expecting their first child in January 2016.

Zachary Ballas, '13 - Post-Geneseo has been a whirlwind for certain. I moved down to Long Island after graduating in December 2013 and worked in a restaurant 4PM to 4AM for nine months before starting law school at Cardozo and luckily enough even received a scholarship. I lived in the village (truly a wonderful experience - restaurants, bars, people, atmosphere), but I moved back to Long Island to save some rent money this summer. I found out that I had herniated a disk in my lumbar spine in March, nearly completely ruining my semester. I was bedridden at the end of May and had surgery June 15th. Somehow I managed to get a (ridiculously well-paid) internship at a large investment firm in their in-house legal department. My recovery is going well and I have started physical therapy for twelve weeks and I started my second year, taking Bankruptcy, Corporations, Trusts and Estates, and Contract Drafting - and I'm on a journal too. Pending approval by payroll, this company will keep me part time throughout the fall, which is as much a boon to my resume as it is to my wallet. I am now living in Stuyvesant Town in a

3BR and it is phenomenal. If I wasn't working I wouldn't even be able to afford the ramen lifestyle. I somehow managed to wind up in a relationship with a woman who is comprised of a set of characteristics I never would have bet money on wanting to be attached to. And I'm happy too, for what seems like the first time since Geneseo. It surely isn't as fun or meaningful as my time in Geneseo. But this time two years from now I should be able to start paying off my loans, maxing out my 401(k), paying my rent on time, and maybe even saving some money too.

For the young hopefuls out there, I don't think I would find much of a career with philosophy except by using the skills it provides you. I got to law school and almost everyone around me couldn't analyze complex writing, but it was little effort for me. The reading isn't as interesting. In fact, the opposite. But it's manageable. I don't for a second regret my decision, though people often relish the opportunity to scoff at my choice for lack of something more practical. Nonetheless, it prepared me mentally and emotionally for my time in law school, which would be a waste if not for the slip of paper they hand me at the end that allows me to take the bar exam, and then lets me advise people on what to do with their problems. If all goes according to plan, I'll be engaged in five years, a handful of kids in ten, partner at my firm and living in the suburbs in fifteen, travel extensively in twenty, retire in twenty-five, and go back to philosophy in thirty, not that I'm sure I've really left it at all.

Tenaya (Kilburn) Bannon, '99 - I've had a very good couple of years since the last update. I haven't worked in my field since my daughter, Maeve, was born in 2010, but recently, the job of my current dreams fell into my lap. At the beginning of August, I started as a part-time local history librarian at our local library. The library is gorgeous, appreciated by the community, and staffed with wonderful people. Its local history room is the depository for the historical documents of the town of Clifton Park. I've already learned a lot about the town that I did not know before. I also get to work on the reference desk and the children's desk, and have other honest-to-God librarian duties. I didn't realize how much I missed being a librarian until I started working again. It's the perfect fit for me, and I'm thrilled to have found it.

My family's doing well, too. We're homeschooling Joe (7) and Maeve (almost 5). Maeve just finished preschool at a wonderful nursery school in town, and she's excited to be joining her brother's activities at home (and elsewhere). There's a vibrant homeschooling community in the Saratoga/Clifton Park/Albany region, and lots of local offerings for homeschoolers, so it's going well so far. And with my new work schedule, Jon, my husband, is able to participate more in their schooling, which is appreciated by all of us.

I often think of Geneseo and the wonderful experiences I had there. It gave me such a great foundation in so many ways. I may not have a career in philosophy, but the logic, problem solving, critical thinking, and desire for knowledge that the philosophy department engendered inform my home and work lives virtually daily. And while I may be terrible at keeping in touch with people, the friends and mentors I had there continue to be very important to me. I haven't been back to Geneseo since 2001, but my time there still feels as close as it did all those many years ago. The people who touched my life while I was there will always have a special place in my heart.

Meghsha Barner (formerly known as Meghan Barner), '09 - Meghsha is a licensed attorney in Nashville, TN. They currently practice as a capital defense attorney at the Post Conviction Defender Office, directly representing individuals who are facing the death penalty in Tennessee. Previously, they were a licensed attorney in New Orleans, LA and had a wide-ranging practice that included representing disabled children seeking Supplemental Security Income, representing tenants in pro bono and low bono actions, and representing individuals with unconstitutionally harsh prison sentences. They are active in social justice movements addressing the death penalty and mass incarceration in the United States. Currently they are working on creating a Books to Prisoners project in Middle Tennessee. They are particularly proud of their contributions to Nola to Angola, a fundraising bike ride every October from New Orleans to Louisiana State Penitentiary (Angola) to raise money for the Cornerstone Bus Project, a free bus that brings friends and family of incarcerated folks to visit their loved ones in prison. They are currently raising money for this project and anyone interested in contributing can contact them at m.sqawsan.b@gmail.com.

Meghsha is active in other social movements as well. They are active in LGBTQ advocacy, including as a Trans Buddy in Nashville, where they act as a trained personal advocate for transgender individuals seeking healthcare in Davidson County. They are also in solidarity with Black Lives Matter Nashville and regularly attend actions and meetings in that capacity. Finally, they sometimes like to do fun things as well: they especially love biking up the hills in Nashville, canoeing the beautiful rivers of Tennessee, hiking and camping in the hills and mountains of Tennessee, and making their own kombucha in increasingly complicated flavors. Meghsha attributes their critical thinking, foundation in philosophical thought, and desire to make the world a better place in large part to their philosophical training at SUNY Geneseo.

Marnie Barnes, '96 - The fact that I have a pair of underwear in my purse and this morning I was overheard saying, "I don't want to be in a movie when I don't have clothes on!" might lead you to the conclusion that I am living a pretty wild lifestyle. The following disjunction is true: I am living like a rock star OR I am the mother of two little kids. In either case, it is a party! I am living in Brighton, finishing up my 14th year working for Thomson Reuters, married to the soon-to-be chair of the philosophy department at SUNY Brockport, and mother to Simon (6) and Molly(4). I still credit Larry Blackman with my husband's initial interest in me (no other way to get his hands on a copy of Larry's out-of-print anthology -- had to marry me to acquire it). And I

credit Stacey and Bill with instilling me with the confidence that I can do anything I set my mind to. This has served me well over the years, as I have had more than a few unexpected adventures come my way. This is my zoo, and these ARE my monkeys, and I wouldn't have it any other way!

Sidhartha Baxi, '97 - I got my MBA in Finance at Pace University in NYC, I am now a Director of Business Analytics at premium television network EPIX in NYC, NY. I currently reside in Asbury Park, NJ with my partner, two dogs, and a cat. Life's been good after leaving Geneseo and I remember my time there very well with all the lifelong friends that I've made.

Cathy Bijur, '12 - I graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a Philosophy and French double major and a minor in English Literature in the spring of 2012. I have since spent much of my time teaching in various major cities around the world. I am most excited about the next year, during which I will be pursuing a Master's Degree at Freie Universitat Berlin in English Literatures and Cultures. The thesis I propose includes the study of literatures while including elements of Social Epistemology into my analysis. This will hopefully eventually lead to a PhD in Comparative Literature at any number of international schools.

The year directly after graduating from SUNY Geneseo, I put my French degree into practice by teaching English in two elementary schools in Paris, France. Upon my return to the United States, I continued my career in education via teaching art at VOICE Charter School in Queens, New York. I continue to work for the Scheduling Department for this forward-thinking charter school from abroad. I am also about to work on a project with the superintendent of this school this summer. We will be editing and reworking the current core reading list and ethics training each new and returning employee receives at the beginning of the school year. Although Kant is already on the core reading list, I hope to incorporate more of the readings Dr. Soffer introduced me to years ago during my Ethics course! Anyhow, after having taught a year in the USA, I moved to Madrid, Spain in order to teach English once again, but with a personal goal of learning Spanish. I reached a conversational level of Spanish during my two years living in Madrid.

Throughout my past few years as a graduate, I believe I have made use of all of the degrees I received. Clearly, I have been constantly working on developing my foreign languages. The skills I learned in Philosophy have come in useful in the job I continue to hold at the charter school in New York City, but also in navigating foreign countries, cultures, and systems. I have had great success in developing survival skills in unfamiliar places, and have been able to critically analyze my experiences due to the education I received at Geneseo. I feel that my advisors in both majors supported me through both undergraduate and post-graduate choices. I am excited to continue my studies in the coming years!

Jacob Boutte, '14 - I worked at the corner gas station in Geneseo the summer after I graduated with my philosophy degree. I was drifting personified. One day I called up the principal at my old private high school in Connecticut to see if I could get a job. It was the newest boarding school in Connecticut when I went there, they were always desperate, and I knew I could get a job there. They told me "no," all the positions were filled. A few weeks later the principal called me back. She had the same excited desperation in her voice that made me suspect they would hire me in the first place. Sure enough, one of their teachers had left, and they needed someone for Psychology and ESL, classes were starting in one week. That was more or less in my wheelhouse and I was ready to teach whatever they would throw my way anyway. I packed up and caught a train to Bridgeport, CT.

Now I teach British Literature, World Literature, an ESL class for seniors, and, for the first time ever, this year I'll be teaching a philosophy and world religions class. I'm psyched! In the past three years I've also taught Drama, Health, Phys. Ed., and directed two school plays!

It's been a valuable experience, and I also hope to make better money this year by tutoring more at the local community college, a job I began this past year. Thanks to the Philosophy Department at Geneseo for all they taught me. Although I'll always be drifting, teachers like Ted Everett and Stacey Edgar made it impossible for me to have any other major, and I'm glad I stuck it out.

Paul Brown, '00 - Paul Brown is currently working on his PhD in Higher Education at Boston College and is nearing the end of his dissertation work (aiming to finish by the end of this year!). His research relates to the impact of social media on college students' development and concepts of selfhood. Paul is also working as a speaker and consultant to make ends meet. He frequently speaks to college students about understanding their digital identities, behaviors, and choices online and talks to college administrators about how to engage students in the life of the college via social media. Most recently, Paul finished an interim position as the Dean of Students at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

Jerry Brydges, '89 - I have fond memories of my time in Geneseo, in large part because of my education in the Philosophy program. Stacey and Bill, together with Walt Soffer, Larry Blackman, and Carlo Filice, were outstanding and made a lasting impression on me. I started as an English major and, on a whim, took "Minds, Dreams, and Machines" with Professor Soffer. There was no going back. I am a partner at Harter Secrest & Emery in Rochester, NY, where I have practiced law for the past 12 years. I maintain a commercial litigation practice. After graduating from St. John's University School of Law in 1996, I served as a federal law clerk and then as an associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in New York City.

Nancy (Price) Bucceri, '80 - My husband and I just celebrated our 33rd wedding anniversary in June and our oldest child, Julia, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in April. Our youngest, Ben, is now starting his junior year at Temple University in Philadelphia. I am continuing my career at a company I joined a little over a year ago, leading the product marketing effort for a technology firm based out of Dallas, Texas that develops solutions for population health management. It has been a great career and I have never forgotten that it was my philosophy professor and advisor, Walt Soffer, who first pointed me down the path that led me here. It was on his advice that I took a minor concentration in computer science. This would use the analytical skills I was honing in philosophy and develop technical skills that would help me find employment upon graduation. In the spring of 1980 I landed a job with a small company outside of Philadelphia installing hospital information systems. By the time I left in 2000 it was sold to Siemens AG, having grown to a value of \$2 billion. I realize now, watching my children try to figure out their own paths, that all advisors are not created equal, and I was lucky to have Dr. Soffer as mine.

Jamie Cassata, '07 - I still look back fondly on my time in the Philosophy Department at SUNY Geneseo. Easily the most influential class I took there was Stacey Edgar's Leibniz Seminar. Years later I still find myself wrestling with Leibniz's philosophical world view, even inclining to it in so many respects (inclining, though without necessity). Having earned master's degrees in Theology and Philosophy, I'm now a High School Religious Studies Teacher at McQuaid Jesuit. One class I'll be teaching this year is Religion in Film. Certainly I'll be thinking about the old days at Geneseo, watching Bergman films with my fellow philosophers and agonizing about the big existential questions over one too many glasses of wine. Stay cool, Geneseo Philosophy.

Steven Cherry, '77 - Until recently, I was a staff editor at *IEEE Spectrum*, the member magazine of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (about a half a million members worldwide). For the final years of my dozen there, I was the senior editor on the digital side, and had a podcast series, Techwise Conversations. Two years ago I moved to TTI/Vanguard, a think-tank of sorts that conducts five conferences a year for its members, who are senior technology executives at Fortune-500-sized companies. Since the last NOUS, Rachel, my wife of 20 years, passed away in 2011. I have two grown kids, Kevin, an architect in Philadelphia, and Juliane, a music teacher in Denver.

I also teach creative writing and journalism part-time, currently at NYU's Polytechnic School of Engineering, and before that at The College of New Rochelle. In my copious spare time, when I'm not rock climbing in the Catskills and the Adirondacks, I also serve as an adjudicator for the NYC International Fringe Festival and write theatre reviews for nytheatre.com. With the exception of the climbing, I don't think I could have had a better preparation for the "me" that I became than my time at Geneseo. (Of course there's a self-fulfilling circularity to that, but I'm pretty happy about the way things turned out.)

Jared Chester, '08 - I graduated in 2008 as a Philosophy and Communication double major. Immediately upon graduation, I joined Teach for America and taught 5th grade for two years in Bridgeport, Connecticut. That was an extremely rewarding experience that gave me the ability to impact the lives of underprivileged children. Afterwards, I attended law school at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana. After graduation, I began working as an Assistant District Attorney for the Nassau County District Attorney's office on Long Island, prosecuting misdemeanor offenses. I currently work there and will begin work on prosecuting felony cases shortly.

I am extremely grateful to my Geneseo education for giving me a background in philosophy. I am particularly grateful for the training in logic and ethics. I still use the lessons learned in these areas every day in making the weighty decision about whether to prosecute particular cases. I look back on my time at Geneseo fondly.

Justin Christy, '11 - In the four years since graduating from Geneseo, I've been enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. Currently, I am in the early stages of work on my dissertation, which will explore various ways in which human subjects represent themselves in conscious experience. If all goes well, this project should be complete by the spring of 2017, at which point I hope to secure a tenure track job teaching philosophy.

In addition to writing my dissertation, I am currently putting together the syllabus for an intermediate-level undergraduate Philosophy course that I will teach this spring semester. The course concerns a range of philosophical issues that arise in connection with developments in the study of linguistics in the last century, including the nature of linguistic knowledge and the extent to which the language someone speaks affects their experience of the world. This will be my first time teaching a course of my own (as opposed to serving as a TA), and I'm very much looking forward to it.

Dennis Cooley, '87 - I've become Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at North Dakota State University (NDSU) and Director of the Northern Plains Ethics Institute at NDSU. In addition to ethics and biotechnology, I'm working on ethical matters involved in death and dying, including making a Kantian argument supporting a duty to die. (Unsurprisingly, this has not made me popular in certain Kantian circles.) My latest publication is Springer's *Death's Values and Obligations: A Pragmatic Framework*, which came out in July 2015. Obviously, philosophy has had a huge impact on my life, but I think that would have been the case even if I had not pursued a career in academia. My classes at Geneseo made me a far better thinker than I otherwise would have been. It is far easier to be able to perform well in our careers if we simply know how to identify problems or goals, weigh

evidence, consider alternatives, and do the rest of the complex tasks falling under critical reasoning. And let's face it, the subject matter opens a world of deeper reflection on things that matter most. So, philosophy is a wise investment. Finally, the professors from my time at Geneseo were some of the most challenging, supportive, encouraging, demanding, student-oriented people I encountered there. They, especially Bill Edgar, Stacey Edgar, Walt Soffer, and Larry Blackman, set the paradigm of what it is to be a teacher and philosopher to which I still aspire today.

Matthew Cordella, '13 - I've been doing criminal and civil mediation full-time at a "restorative justice" practice in Indiana. A few nights a week, I lead a class that uses young adult literature to teach virtue ethics to juvenile offenders. For the past year or so, I've been a live-in helper for a quadriplegic friend. I just recently bought a house on a double lot. I'm looking forward to what will either be a very large garden or a very small farm. (It's feeling more like a farm, lately. I just rented a tiller, and borrowed a friend's pickup truck to haul cow sh*t back and forth.) I've gotten on pretty well with the local Mennonites, and they've invited me to study at their seminary for free. I'm hoping to improve my carpentry skills, but the going is slow.

Andy Correia, '92 - As I am getting a bit older and my two kids (16 and 14) are thinking more seriously about college, I find myself thinking back to my time at Geneseo more often. After graduation in 1992, I played music for a couple of years with friends I met at Geneseo. Eventually I decided to go to law school. My Philosophy degree prepared me for the intellectual rigors of law school well, both in the precision of my writing and the mental agility required to make concise and persuasive arguments, often on the fly.

While in law school I married my wife Melissa whom I had met at Geneseo (Class of 1990). After law school I chose to become a Public Defender and have been doing that work for 19 years. I now live in the small village of Newark, NY and work at the Wayne County Public Defender Office. I recently became the President of the Newark School Board, and have had the opportunity to serve on the Boards of many other local and statewide non-profit organizations in my field. In whatever free time I have I still try to play music, and often play local gigs as a duo with a friend who sings. I continue to talk to many of the friends I lived with and played music with while I was at Geneseo.

When I look back at my last two decades, there is no denying Geneseo's vital importance to the current state of my family, my work and my music. For me, those things taken together are my life. I can only hope that when my children make their decisions about what to do after high school, they will be so lucky.

Kevin Cunningham, '09 - is a medical speech-language pathologist and clinical researcher who recently began practice at the Voice and Swallowing Disorders Clinic at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston Salem, NC. He and his wife Charli Cunningham, née Klotz ('09), celebrated the birth of their first child in June. They welcome thoughts and perceptions from philosopher friends at kevintrcunningham@gmail.com.

Paul Curtin, '76 - Though it's hard to believe, I'm old enough I could be considered semi-retired. We closed Alcohol Services after 31 years. Instead of a licensed and regulated treatment facility we morphed into a "mom and pop" consultation and support service for addiction and recovery related matters. We only do it one day a week so it's fun rather than a burden.

With Alcohol Services only one day a week, I'm now developing an exciting and creative project with judges in New York State. I get to travel around the State and work with judges, both individually and in groups, in the areas of community building and dealing with the isolation, stress and anxiety that comes with the job. It's ironic after thinking I had all the answers back when I was at Geneseo that I find myself saying to a lot of judges "I'm not sure, what do you think?" and surprising myself. Perhaps there are benefits to aging.

I now qualify for "senior rates" at State Park Golf Courses, some movie theaters and McDonalds. Last week I went to get a cup of coffee at McDonalds and the counter person took one look at me and yelled to her colleagues "One Senior Coffee!!!!". I was hoping she'd proof me. I've accepted being older than cops but having younger physicians' means time is flying. I can name all the Philosophy courses I took, who taught them and what fellow majors were in them, but I can't tell you the name of a person I met a day ago. Come to think of it, maybe that's not too bad.

Eileen Daly-Boas, '91 - I'm currently the Philosophy, Religion and Classics Outreach Librarian at the University of Rochester. While I'm technically ABD for my Philosophy Ph.D. (Rochester), I don't think I'll finish it. I have a pretty sweet job now: I get to talk to philosophers and classicists on a regular basis, as well as make good use of the teaching skills I gained at Geneseo. Part of every day is solving problems and figuring out new solutions to research puzzles. A good portion of the rest of the time is spent talking with fellow Geneseo alumna, Kate Phillips, who works in an office not too far from me! In 2013, I married a Geneseo alumnus Mike Boas (1996), who studied studio art. (After our first date, I checked to make sure I hadn't been his Hum I or II teacher...nope. Whew!) We're happy with our new-to-us-house in Irondequoit, and are enjoying the company of our two new-to-us-cats.

Morgan Davies, '14 - I recently graduated from Geneseo in May 2014. Towards the end of my academic career I decided I wanted to pursue a career in the field of my minor, philosophy, due to certain questions that I could not stop inquiring about, specifically in philosophy of mind. Since graduating I served with AmeriCorps teaching at an elementary school with a high poverty rate in the Rochester City School District. I loved it but always planned on going on to graduate school for philosophy. This fall I have an opportunity to do that.

I am a philosophy master's student at Virginia Tech. There I hope to develop experiences that will allow me to become a doctoral student at another school. This master's program will allow me to strengthen my philosophy background (which was limited due to only minoring in the subject), making me a more competitive applicant for candidacy in a doctoral program. I am so very grateful to the philosophy department at Geneseo; it is only because of their teachings and recommendations I was able to get into Virginia Tech's selective master's program with a Graduate Teaching Assistantship. I am very indebted and proud of my past at Geneseo and very excited for the future it helped me create. For any wishing to reach out to another person passionate about philosophy (specifically, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and philosophy of logic), my email is med613@vt.edu .

Bob Dixon, '83 - I came to the University of North Carolina in 2003 to do a fellowship in Interventional Radiology. Interventional Radiology is a little-known specialty which combines imaging and minimally invasive surgery. We work on a variety of conditions across all ages, and we fix blood vessels, treat cancers, biopsy tumors, drain abscesses, work on failing livers, drain swollen kidneys, and stop bleeding from all sorts of causes, including trauma, gastrointestinal bleeding and post-operative complications. It is exciting and satisfying, and I love doing it.

For the last four years I have been the Radiology Residency Program Director at UNC, managing 32 residents. It takes a lot of time to recruit, train, and eventually graduate eight residents per class over a four-year program, but it is rewarding to see them mature and become fantastic radiologists. This year I will be moving over to be the Program Director for a smaller subset of trainees, the interventional radiology residents. This too will be challenging, but it is a smaller, select group, focused on my subspecialty, so I am looking forward to it. In addition to teaching medical students, residents, and fellows at UNC, I also have had the opportunity to speak nationally at a number of meetings for radiologists, interventional radiologists, nurses and radiology technologists.

Outside of work I spend most of my time riding bicycles. After completing an Ironman in 2007, I retired from triathlons, but I continue to ride and run a bit. These days I am usually just riding for fun, but will occasionally enter a mountain bike race or a road race. Fortunately, the climate in Chapel Hill allows me to pedal a bike most months of the year.

Leigh Duffy, '00 - I am currently in my second year as a visiting full-time professor at Buffalo State College. There, I have been teaching a variety of lower-level courses including Introduction to Philosophy, Meaning of Life, Introduction to Logic, Introduction to Mathematical Logic, Philosophy of Yoga (a course I designed), and a couple of upper-level courses as well: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Emotion, and an independent study on Women in Philosophy. Last year, I was honored to receive the SUNY Chancellor's award for excellence in teaching as an adjunct (for work done before receiving the full-time position) and an outstanding faculty member award given by the Student Success Unit at BSC.

When not in the classroom, I have most recently been working on publications on modal epistemology (under revision), yoga and philosophy (in progress), women in philosophy (also in progress), and some fun stuff on meaning of life issues in popular culture (one on "Orange is the New Black" and another on youth, technology, and meaningfulness). I've also become interested in the peculiar absence of women in philosophy as compared to the rest of the humanities. I read a really interesting book on the topic, "Women in Philosophy: What Needs to Change?" and just had a review published in *The Journal of Value Inquiry*. A colleague and I also founded two unique groups in the WNY area because of these concerns. The first, Women in Philosophy (WIP) is a support group for female philosophy majors and minors at BSC. The other, Buffalo Ladies in Philosophy (BLIP), is a network for women philosophers in the greater Buffalo area. Both have received positive feedback from the women involved and BLIP hosted a workshop in September at BSC.

Outside of academia, I'm also a yoga instructor and the mother of two children. One is about to start kindergarten and the other just turned three. My husband (also a Geneseo alum) and I are about to become new homeowners in the village of Hamburg, NY. For so many reasons, this is going to be a busy and exciting year full of lots of changes.

Michelle (Humble) English, '07 - After graduating Geneseo in 2007, I obtained M.A. degrees in English and Publishing from Rosemont College in Philadelphia, PA. I worked as a Project Editor for a number of publishers on college-level science textbooks before moving to my current position at J&J Editorial. We're a small-niche company that focuses on peer review management for scientific, technical, engineering, and medical journals. I've helped grow the company from 8 employees to now almost 70 in the span of 5 years. I started here as a managing editor and I'm now the Director of Operations. I'm very active in a number of professional organizations such as the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors, the Council of Science Editors, and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). I think many Philosophy Department alumni might be interested in COPE, which advises on best practices in scholarly publishing-- <http://publicationethics.org/>.

To speak a little bit about my personal life, in 2009 I married my husband Justin English and we've lived in and around Chapel Hill, NC since then. We just bought a house in April of this year and are really enjoying the ownership life after having rented for so long. We have a son, Maceo Gregory English, born August 31 2014, and an American Foxhound named Mabel. I can't wait to hear how everyone else is doing. Please reach out if you're ever in the Chapel Hill area or would like to reconnect. (greenhumble@gmail.com).

Marianne (Upham) Erhardt, '03 - I've been lucky enough to have many adventures in my years since graduating Geneseo. These include nonprofit work, serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA, getting my MFA in Poetry, teaching writing in a prison, working for a literary magazine, and traveling and parenting with my husband and fellow Geneseo alum, Rob. Some of the most profound philosophical questions I'm pondering these days are posed by my 4-year-old, Nolan. "Where is the internet?" "Are my bones me?" "Why do stickers lose their stick?" Just when I think we've arrived at a good answer, his 2-year-old brother Silas will chime in, "Why?" I do not say this in jest: parenting toddlers is a fascinating way to study philosophy.

When I'm not with my boys, I teach writing at Wake Forest University. This semester, I am teaching a freshman writing course called "On Playing," which looks at the significance of games and playing from a variety of fields – literature, psychology, sociology, biology, and philosophy. I am having so much fun delving into this literature alongside my students, and remembering the playful nature of the best philosophical discussions I was a part of at Geneseo. What might strike some as a dry, serious, or futile field, always felt to me like an open and intricate landscape. A place to indulge curiosity, to dig, to play with raw materials, to build, and climb, and leap.

At times, this play leads to some finished creative work. My fiction can be found in *Conjunctions (Web)*, *Phoebe*, and *Ninth Letter*.

I am indebted every day to the wonderful faculty, community, and playground of Geneseo.

Jerry Erion, '94 - Veteran NOUS readers may remember that Jerry Erion completed his Ph.D. with Barry Smith at the University at Buffalo, then moved across town for an appointment at Medaille College. Jerry is now a Professor in Medaille's Division of Liberal Arts, teaching philosophy -- mostly ethics, logic, and epistemology -- and interdisciplinary core courses. He also teaches regularly in the honors program, though he no longer serves as Honors Director. He is writing these days on ethics, critical thinking, and the teaching of philosophy, and he has been surprised to discover his new and growing interest in architecture.

Amazingly, Jerry's wife Bridget (Becca) Palmer continues to tolerate all of this. They live in Buffalo's Parkside neighborhood, and they both think about Geneseo every day. Things are good.

Shep Fagan, '77 - Following graduation I tried my hand at selling life insurance in southwestern NY (Amish country) and this decision did not work out very well, probably for the better. The realization that this was not what I wanted to be doing for the rest of my life determined my decision to enter the military, the United States Navy. In August of 1978 I entered Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida which was 16 weeks of hell somewhat accurately depicted in the movie "An Officer and a Gentleman". I entered the school with 55 other cadets and graduated with 26 Naval Officers in December. Then off to flight school where we learned how to fly aircraft travelling at over 500 miles an hour. The following December I learned how to fly the F-4 Phantom fighter aircraft. My assignment was to Fighter Squadron 161 stationed on the USS Midway home ported in Yokosuka, Japan. The Ayatollah had taken over in Iran at this time so there was plenty of action on patrol during that time.

After three years I was reassigned to a teaching slot in Va. Beach. My training in Philosophy and the discussions we had prepared me well to teach hundreds of sailors over the course of the next three years. During this time the Falkland War between the UK and Argentina had just ended. I got to meet and teach with a Soviet fighter pilot who had defected to Japan during the cold war period.

My last active duty assignment was the commissioning of the new aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71). It took two years to completely assemble the ship that ultimately houses a population of over five thousand. We also underwent an underwater blast test that was similar to the shock we would sustain if hit by a large torpedo. The blast lifted the 93 thousand ton carrier out of the water.

I was hired by Grumman Aerospace Corporation in August of 1989 as a Flight Test engineer conducting tests on the latest Navy fighter aircraft, the F14D Tomcat. During my career I was able to flight test the EA-6B Prowler Electronic Warfare aircraft, the A-6F advanced bomber, and test fly the E-8 Joint STARS Ground Surveillance aircraft, the E-2C Hawkeye Airborne Early Warning aircraft and numerous weapons systems carried aboard different types of helicopters. I was transferred to Melbourne, Florida to put together a training program for the first cadre of Joint STARS aircrew. I built the courseware and provided the training for the Mission Crew Commanders and Airborne Intelligence Officers before their deployment to Bosnia during Operation Joint Endeavor. Following this assignment while working on a Computer Replacement Program for Joint STARS, I received a Master of Science Degree in Technical Management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. I was able to

acquire close to 1000 hours in numerous types of helicopters I flew in testing different systems involving navigation, radar, communications, and electronic warfare.

Concurrent with my engineering career I continued my naval career in the reserves and served as the Operations Officer for a Tactical Control Squadron during Operation Desert Storm, as the Executive Office of an Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) on an aircraft carrier stationed at Norfolk, VA, and as the Tactical Planning Officer for Central Commands Special Operations Forces located at McDill AFB, Tampa, FL.

I am now moving on to my third career of travel, ministry and volunteering. I am married with three daughters, a step daughter and step son, eight grandkids and reside in Melbourne, FL. I am an avid golfer and enjoy motorcycle riding and gardening. My email address is sfagan31381@att.net.

Robert Fischer, '04 - After I finished at Geneseo, I went to a seminary; then, I did my PhD in philosophy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I finished in 2011, got a job as a lecturer at Texas State University, and then got a tenure-track at Texas State in 2013. I did my dissertation on modal epistemology, on which I still work. However, more and more of time is devoted to issues in applied ethics--particularly animal ethics--and a book that I edited on this topic comes out this November (*The Moral Complexities of Eating Meat*, from Oxford University Press). I'm excited to see where things go as I get more deeply involved in the animal ethics community.

On the personal side: after graduating, I married the woman I met--and began dating--during my first semester at Geneseo. (As it happens, we met in one of Larry Blackman's writing classes. Thanks, Dr. Blackman!) Jennifer celebrated our tenth anniversary earlier this summer. We now have two sons--Jeremiah (5) and Frederick (3 months)--and we've built a good life for ourselves in Central Texas.

We often think fondly of our time at Geneseo, and now as a faculty member, I can better appreciate how special it was and is. I'm so grateful for the way that faculty members invested in me during those exploratory years. I doubt that I'd be the person I am now otherwise.

Sergio Fratarcangeli, '98 - Completed a Ph.D. in Mathematical Logic at McMaster University in 2006. He now teaches math at John Abbott College just outside of Montreal. Together with wife, Marie-France Gravelle, he is raising an (almost) 3-year-old daughter, Gabriella. In domestic tranquility, he continues to study philosophy, history, and music as an avocation. Humbler than in his college days, he gives thanks to the prior countless generations for discovering and bequeathing their hard-won knowledge, and to the universe itself for being comprehensible at all.

George Fricke, '11 - In the autumn after graduating, I left for Europe to begin my yearlong study abroad at the University of Leipzig in eastern Germany. I decided to attend Leipzig because of the university's excellent reputation and large philosophy program. Initially I planned to take graduate courses in epistemology but soon discovered I'd be eligible to attend lectures within the Master's Logic program. Over the course of the year I took a mix of seminars in classical and non-classical topics such as reference logic, induction and probability, and symbolic.

My German ability was conversational at best when I began and, depending on the professor, some lectures were challenging to follow. To improve quickly I avoided using any English aside from contact with family and friends in the US. Beyond speaking with German friends, transcribing lectures I had recorded with my phone, though time-consuming, was particularly helpful, as well as watching dubbed American films and reading local newspapers. Toward the end of the first semester I had a firm grasp of the language's structure and began accumulating vocabulary.

Though I had visited Germany in the past, this was my first experience in a former East German territory apart from Berlin. Walking through the city's center and immediate surrounding areas I found few traces of the former regime. On the outskirts, however, clusters of austere tenement buildings still remain, one of which I had the pleasure of living in, which had been converted to student housing. Space was tight though I spent so little time there and paid rock-bottom rent, I didn't mind.

By the end of my stay I became accustomed to life in Leipzig: getting around by bike, taking trips by train to nearby Dresden, Berlin, and Prague, listening to the Gewandhaus's symphonies and spending long nights in the library with Frege's *Grundgesetze*. I'm glad I chose to stay for the entire year rather than just a semester, especially after graduating which afforded me the freedom to take courses I was most interested in.

Upon my return to the U.S. I was able to put my German to use for a short while helping to catalog and annotate a large collection of documents supplement to my grandfather's Leica camera collection (a German manufacturer). Much of the collection has since been installed as a museum exhibit just north of Frankfurt. Since then I've been working as an analyst for CooperVision, a public contact lens manufacturer. The hiring manager was most interested in my background in logic and familiarity with the computer software used. Within the analytics department I work alongside IT and statistics graduates, designing trend and forecast models for our North American division.

Eben Friedman, '94 - still lives in Skopje (Macedonia), where he has lived since 2005. Unlike Eben, who has aged roughly ten years since his arrival in Skopje, the city has aged hundreds of years over the same period, due mostly to the efforts of an authoritarian government to make the city's architecture better representative of a history that, by most accounts, simply never was. *Nous* readers who have not yet had the chance to visit Las Vegas now have a more distant option.

Working as an independent consultant since 2012, Eben spends most of his time writing policy reports read by nearly no one. For example, his midterm report on the Decade of Roma Inclusion, which runs from 2005 to 2015, was published in [insert awkward pause here] 2015. Occasionally, Eben also does more academic work, including a forthcoming special issue of the journal *Social Inclusion* with a theme of how different ways of talking about Roms ('Gypsies') relate to policies toward them.

Eben's non-work activities have expanded slightly since the last issue of the *Nous*. These now include not only bicycling (mostly alone) and navigating supermarkets with a five year-old who likes to call his name – vulgar in Macedonian – from one aisle to another, but also mowing the lawn which he acquired together with his current residence in 2012.

Rob Garafola, '08 - I graduated from Geneseo in 2008. Afterwards, I worked as a paralegal before going to St. John's University School of Law in 2011. I graduated from St. John's in 2014 and I am currently working as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review, in New York, NY.

I loved my time at Geneseo and think about those four years very fondly. I live in Woodside, NY and many of my Geneseo friends live close by. We get together often and reminisce about the wonderful times we had. In my spare time I like to travel, cook, and bake. I would love to meet up with other philosophy alumni in the NYC area!

Jesse Goldberg, '12 - First and most importantly, my girlfriend since high school, Sarah, and I got married this summer -- on May 31st to be exact. We are both Geneseo class of 2012 made sure Geneseo was well-represented at the wedding! Less important, a few weeks before the wedding I passed my A Exam and officially earned my Master's degree and moved on to the dissertation stage of my PhD program at Cornell (African American Literature). I also have my first two professional scholarly publications slated to come out in the next year: an article about Stop and Frisk Policing for the publication *CLA Journal* and an essay on Black motherhood analyzed through thinking Toni Morrison's most recent novel, *God Help the Child*, alongside the story that went viral of the mother who disciplined her son for participating in protest action on Baltimore this year for a book on motherhood and mothering on Toni Morrison's novels.

Matthew Harris, '12 - Matthew Harris is currently in the 4th year of the Philosophy PhD program at Duke University. His dissertation research concerns the intersection of the phenomenology of the self and the metaphysics of consciousness. In his spare time he enjoys being asleep and making music. He is grateful for how well the course offerings, faculty, and class discussions at Geneseo prepared him for grad school.

Anna Hope, '09 – Since my days at Geneseo, I have been lost, taken a 45-day road trip across the USA, worked at Barnes & Noble, and received a master's in Mental Health Counseling from St. John Fisher College. I'm currently working at the Rochester Institute of Technology in a service project with college students and enjoying working with them. They have taught me so much more than I feel I've been able to teach them.

Stacey Edgar helped me enormously by believing in my abilities as a female in the philosophy field, teaching me the great foundation of logic, hiring me as one of her logic TAs, and encouraging me in every way possible to be the best I could be at Geneseo and in the future. Carlo Filice and the students who sat around the circle with me in his classes were another huge emotional support to me during my time at Geneseo. Those classrooms felt like home and were fun and playful AND I felt like I learned a lot about the meaning of life. I continue to be inspired by Carlo's teaching methods to this day. He used to start classes by having students sit in a circle and share their favorite movie or book on the topic at hand. So, if this is an electronic class of graduates sharing post-graduate experiences, my current recommendation is: *I Heart Huckabees*. "There is no remainder in the mathematics of infinity."

Todd Hughes, '94 - I attended graduate school at University of Wisconsin-Madison after graduating from Geneseo in 1994. I studied philosophy of mind and completed my doctorate in 2001. While I was ABD I got a job as an Ontological Engineer at an artificial intelligence company, Cycorp, Inc. (<http://www.cyc.com>). A couple of years later, Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Labs (<http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/atl.html>) recruited me to work on research programs for AI and cyber security. Then in 2006 I was offered the opportunity to join the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (<http://www.darpa.mil>) as a Program Manager. That position is designed to last a few years so DARPA can rotate new people and new ideas into the organization. I stayed there until 2011 leading a number of research and development efforts in machine learning, computer vision, neurotechnology, human-machine interfaces, and other areas. When my time ran out, I was appointed Chief Technology Officer of Next Century Corporation. We are a software company that builds visual analytics and decision support applications. Most of our work serves the Intelligence Community, which I can't say much about. But in the last few years we have expanded into the research domain, including involvement in a number of DARPA programs:

XDATA <http://www.darpa.mil/program/xdata>

Memex <http://www.darpa.mil/program/memex>; <http://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2015/04/17/darpa-nasa-and-partners-show-off-memex/>

DEFT <http://www.darpa.mil/program/deep-exploration-and-filtering-of-text>

LORELEI <http://www.darpa.mil/program/low-resource-languages-for-emergent-incidents>

It's all very interesting and rewarding work that's contributing not only to general scientific knowledge but also to the welfare of the nation.

So my post-Geneseo life continues to be meaningful and prosperous. Looking back I can honestly say my concept of "living and doing well" emerged from my experience of studying philosophy at Geneseo. That concept has been my guide throughout my career, which has taken me in a direction I never expected as an undergraduate student (or graduate student for that matter) of philosophy. But I've been fortunate to find a way to make an impact on the world through technology.

On a personal note, my wife Laura and I have been married for fourteen years. Laura has an MA in Museum Education from George Washington University and now advises graduate students in that program. Our daughter, Ellery, is now in elementary school. We live in Arlington, VA and enjoy traveling to Europe whenever we can. Laura writes a blog (<http://www.temporaryexpats.com/>) about our adventures abroad.

David Hunter, '97 - After graduating from Geneseo in 1997, I did a little of this and a little of that--including some freelance writing and a 2.5 year stint in the Peace Corps in the country of Kiribati. Eventually, I landed on a career in nursing. I got MSN and MPH degrees at Johns Hopkins, and currently work in Rochester Regional Health as a clinical educator for long-term and post-acute care. Although my path through the Humanities is unusual for my field, the skills in asking insightful questions and in thinking creatively and critically that my time in Geneseo provided me have proven both useful and valuable. I am constantly grateful.

Holly Kantin, '99 - After graduating from Geneseo, I moved to Boston where I worked for several years before applying to graduate programs in philosophy. I received my PhD in May 2014 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I focused primarily on metaphysics and epistemology. I currently have a two-year appointment as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. The department is wonderful--it is a very interesting change from an academic philosophy department--and I am grateful for the opportunity to expand my area of focus into bioethics and ethics. I plan to apply for faculty positions in philosophy for the fall of 2016.

Before arriving at Geneseo I knew nothing about philosophy. It was only by chance that I enrolled in Bill Edgar's course, Minds Dreams, and Machines, my first semester. I chose the course because I was intrigued by the name, but had no idea what it was about. That course completely changed my ideas about what I wanted to do with my life.

I'm currently living in Washington D.C. After New York, Boston, and Wisconsin, I welcome the warmer climate! I enjoy running and I play (and watch) tennis whenever I get the chance.

Dr. Sean Kelly, '92 - Philosophy at Geneseo cultivated a true care for truth in me. More importantly, it provided me a rigorous framework within which I could care for it appropriately. Because I was so keenly interested in how metaphor worked in truth production, I attended graduate school in a program that linked philosophy with literary theory (SUNY Binghamton's Philosophy, Literature, and Theories of Criticism Program), studying continental philosophy and comparative literature. I defended my dissertation in 2001, earning an MA in philosophy and a PhD in Comparative Literature through this program (I had to take doctoral comprehensives in both disciplines). My specialization is philosophy of history from a posthumanist perspective, focusing primarily upon how humans' relationships with non-human animals challenge our basic concepts in ontology and ethics. I'm currently working in animal rights philosophy.

Out of graduate school, I was hired at West Texas A&M University to revive their philosophy minor and build the program. In 2004, I was lured to what was then Florida's newest comprehensive university, Florida Gulf Coast University (Fort Myers, FL), to build their philosophy program. FGCU had about 4,000 students when I arrived and we are now around 15,000. After successfully building a pluralistic philosophy program, I became Director of the Honors Program, creating a program that now enrolls over 600 students. In 2015, I became the Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies. I now oversee offices like Honors, Service Learning, General Education, the tutoring center, The Writing Center, Internships, Undergraduate Research, and the collegiate high school, among other programs. At the conclusion of this post, I hope to retire from administration to live the good life as a philosophy faculty member.

In the recent past, I have taught courses like Intro, Animal Rights, Jacques Derrida, Contemporary French Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Logic, and Ethics. My most recent article appeared in *The Journal for Critical Animal Studies* in 2014.

Michael Khoury, '86 – When I left college, I started working at the US Department of Justice in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division. After a few years, I left and joined the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division as a paralegal, working on the prosecution of things like hate crimes and police misconduct. Three years later, I decided to go to law school at the University of Pittsburgh, worked in private practice for four years, then returned to the Department of Justice, where I've been ever since, doing various types of civil rights work. Bill, Walt, Larry, and Dennis all had a profound effect on me and my career. I couldn't have done it without them.

Christine Kirwan, '92 – After graduation, I went to UB to study philosophy of language, wrote 120 pages of my dissertation and just decided that philosophy as a career wasn't for me. I loved teaching but viewed the content skeptically. So I left and have been working in education ever since, training adults, teaching middle school, writing curriculum, and now I develop training systems for the Girl Scouts. I've been involved with the Girl Scouts since I was a child and I feel passionately about their mission, so it's a great fit. I live in Buffalo, I'm divorced, and I have two hilarious children, 3 and 6. My training in Philosophy allows me to be the most interesting, most annoying, and most obtuse person at any party. I can argue both sides of whether to order pancakes. I'm training my kids using the Socratic Method.

Jennifer Hartman Klee, '95 – I am married to Eric Klee and I live in Northern Westchester with my family including our three children, ages 9-15. After graduating from Geneseo in 1995, I attended Syracuse University School of Law. After graduating from law school in 1998, I worked as an Assistant Corporation Counsel at the New York City Law Department, and I subsequently worked at a private law firm practicing insurance defense law for several years. I am currently a stay-at-home mom, and a solo practitioner handling mostly local real estate matters.

Craig Knoche, '75 - 1996 – was CEO of a small software company that developed the world's first multi-media web browser. Unfortunately, Microsoft and Netscape were giving theirs away for free, so no opportunity to raise funding. Sold the company to Microsoft who took the technology to build parts of IE, their first XML program (XAML), and laid the design foundation for the HTML5 standard. We had a vision of what the web was going to become – as a very rich interactive, multimedia platform that could reach everyone in the world.

1995-1998 – Training in wilderness medicine (liked climbing and hiking in remote mountains of the world). Learned that there were two parts to medicine – the “book” learning, fact recall as assessed by multiple-choice questions – and application, e.g., in simulated patient encounters. The latter were much harder – and there were little-to-no technology applications to help with that.

1999 – Diagnosis of cancer. Survived treatment, in remission, but put above 2 ideas together and founded what is now i-Human Patients. Web-based simulated patient encounters for learning and demonstrating competency in diagnostic reasoning.

Along with way, garnered support from the American Medical Association, National Science Foundation, and the Reliance Foundation (the latter is philanthropy of Mukesh Ambani – the “Bill Gates” of India).

Dave Krawczyk, '96 – Philosophy hones our critical thinking skills and wonderfully broadens our view of the world in a way that is advantageous for many life paths. Philosophy is, for the most part, not a degree that lends itself to any specific career but instead provides a wondrous flexibility in making career and life choices.

Impulsively, I moved to Las Vegas after graduating from Geneseo in 1996 to pursue employment in the casino industry. I imagined it would be fun, a city and a career with untold promise of adventure, and it was. For seventeen years I worked in Las Vegas casinos. First, I worked in slot operations fixing slot machines, paying cash jackpots, and ultimately, supervising slot floor operations for a strip casino. The later thirteen years of my casino career were spent working in table games operations for a major Las Vegas strip property first as a casino dealer, and after, a table games supervisor and assistant casino manager. My experiences interacting with people from all backgrounds and walks of life, both casino customers and employees, have provided stories and memories so unusual and fantastic that if retold, few would believe them. Experiences of exceptional caring, kindness, and benevolence are juxtaposed against having borne witness to unabashed materialism, excess, and greed of ultimate magnitude.

A life happenstance in 2006 foretold that a career in the legal profession would be my future. A testament to the marvelous flexibility afforded by a Geneseo philosophy degree, I changed my life path to focus on law. Continuing to work full-time in the casino industry, I attended Boyd School of Law at UNLV where I was privileged to work on the staff of the Nevada Law Journal. A proud 2011 Boyd Law honor graduate, I passed the Nevada and California Bar Exams and bowed out of the casino industry. Now, I work for a Las Vegas area law firm where I practice primarily in civil litigation matters.

Currently, I reside in Henderson, Nevada, together with my wife Sheila and our three boys, Andrew, Charles, and Christian.

Nick Kreuder, '14 - Since graduating from Geneseo last spring, I have been enrolled as a graduate student in SUNY Binghamton's Social, Political, Ethical and Legal Philosophy PhD program. At the start of this upcoming semester, I will be taking my comprehensive exams and (hopefully!) receiving an MA in ethics, and social and political philosophy. My personal research has primarily focused on normative and environmental ethics, although recently I have read much literature on Plato's political theory and will be presenting a paper at the upcoming Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy conference in Manhattan this October. While I have enjoyed my academic endeavors over this past year, they've paled in comparison to the experience of being able to lead a classroom. Through aiding in the instruction of introductory courses on Asian Philosophy and Environmental Ethics, I have found teaching to be a very rewarding experience and look forward to being able to grow as both an educator and philosopher in the near future.

While I am excited to be onto the next stage of my life, part of me will always miss Geneseo, and I will always have fond memories of the years spent there. Although some may bemoan the fact that Geneseo is a small school, located in a small town, these qualities made Geneseo great to me; the relationships this setting helped foster between myself and my fellow students, the faculty of the school, and the surrounding community were incredibly impactful, meaningful and will hopefully last a lifetime. My time at this school was crucial in shaping my desire to teach. After having first-hand experience with instructors who had such a profound impact on my intellectual development, there was no doubt in my mind that I would find nothing more rewarding than working as an educator. I likely will never be enrolled at an institution like Geneseo as a student again, but there is no place I would rather teach than a school such as this.

Nicholas LaGrassa, '12 - I spent my first two years after graduating in 2012 teaching Physics and Chemistry through Teach for America. I worked in the Mississippi Delta learning what education and life is like for some of our most marginalized citizens. I decided to commit to disrupting the steady trend of educational inequity and was promoted to a regional content and leadership development position at the end of my second year. An unexpected family illness brought me back to New York where I worked as a Special Projects Coordinator for a city charter school in Rochester.

I quit my job in July after one year because I wasn't accomplishing the work I had set out to do. The school I worked for wasn't closing the achievement gap as effectively as it should have and my work wasn't an integral part of the areas that were working. I started a degree in Computer Science at the end of August. I will use the skills I develop through that degree to build new education software and improve on existing software so that individuals have access to free, high-quality educational programs on the Internet.

I am thankful for the Geneseo Philosophy Department and all that I've learned from its faculty and classes. The department has helped me strengthen my skills in logic, critical thinking, and drawing connections out of data. It's taught me to regularly reflect on the small questions as well as the big ones and to always make sure I am acting with purpose and intent.

Ben Lieberman, '14 - Hi! I'm Ben Lieberman and I graduated from Geneseo in 2014. I've spent the last year in medical school realizing how much more I enjoyed studying epistemology than learning any actual episteme. I even failed my first exam and thought that it would be an excellent opportunity to skip town and come back to philosophy, but eventually I started to get the hang of things and figured it would be easier to just stay put.

I'm really excited for this upcoming year because I'm going to start planning some discussions on topics in bioethics. I felt like I needed to take the ethics education into my own hands because there is not much of a focus on ethics in my school. We do have lectures with "ethics" in the title, but a lawyer teaches them so they become more like lectures on how to not get sued. I'm sure those lessons are also important but their virtue is lost on me.

Overall I've enjoyed my time spent in the library here, although it doesn't quite have the charm of Milne. I sincerely miss my time spent at Geneseo and I miss the faculty, staff, and students of the Philosophy department. The lessons that you taught me are still the ones I dwell on the most, and my grades at school reflect that. I hope everyone is doing well and I wish them all the best. A special thank you to Professor Edgar for putting this all together; without her my life has been bereft of clementines, cake, and Hume.

Jessica (Wollam) Logue, '01 - I moved to Portland, OR ten years ago while I was finishing my Philosophy PhD and began adjuncting locally. After finishing my PhD and adjuncting for a couple of years, I was hired as a VAP by the University of Portland in 2008; two years later they made me a full-time, permanent lecturer, a position I have held since. I married my college sweetheart in 2006. In 2009, our first daughter was born. We are expecting our second daughter now, due on Halloween.

Tim Loughrist, '04 - I earned my doctorate in philosophy May, 2015 from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln under the supervision of Dr. Albert Casullo. The dissertation is entitled, "Reasons Against Belief: A Theory of Epistemic Defeat." In it I develop and defend the deceptively simple-sounding thesis that defeaters are simply reasons to not believe. Hopefully, chunks of it will be published over the next year.

Katie Lamie (class of 2005) and I were married in 2007 and divorced in 2008. Hi, Katie! I married Kathryn Segrist in July, 2014. We've both changed our names to Loughrist, a portmanteau of Loughlin and Segrist.

I'm currently employed as an assistant program coordinator for the William H. Thompson Scholars learning community at UNL and I'll be hitting the philosophy job market this fall...hard.

Joe Marhamati, '06 - Since the last writing, I have completed a rotation at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, where I served as an Energy Adviser to the Chief Sustainability Officer, who oversees sustainability policy for the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. I oversaw the President's \$4B commitment to energy efficiency upgrades in Federal buildings, and developed a new Administration Initiative to create an innovative model for solar power financing at Federal buildings, called the Capital Solar Challenge.

Since returning to the Department of Energy in October 2014, I have overseen technology reviews and new applications to the Loan Program Office, the Federal Government's Green Bank, where \$40B in loan authority remains in areas including renewable energy, energy efficiency, advanced fossil technologies, nuclear power production/enrichment, as well as advanced technology vehicle manufacturing. To date, LPO has guaranteed \$30B in loans to companies such as Tesla for production of its Model S sedan, Caithness for development of the largest wind farm in the world, and companies such as Solar Reserve, Abengoa, and Sempra for development of the world's largest solar power plants. Currently, I am focused on monitoring of the Solar Reserve Crescent Dunes Solar Project, which uses 10,000+ mirrors to heat molten salt for storage of energy that can produce power day or night. It will be the first application of this technology, and has the potential to displace traditional fossil fuel power plants worldwide.

On the side, I have developed a sustainable goods website called Goodnet with a partner in California, consulted with Clean Capital Partners, a solar crowdfunding platform, and designed a net-zero energy home in Washington, D.C... I hope to continue with LPO, and pursue new opportunities in clean energy and sustainability over the coming few years.

Gian Martinelli, '11 - After graduating from SUNY Geneseo with degrees in English and Philosophy, I went on to Colgate University, where I earned an M.A.T. in English Education. After completing my graduate studies, I taught high school English for two years. However, I soon realized that I wanted to pursue a career in higher education, and I took a job as an Academic Services Coordinator for Medaille College, located in Buffalo, New York. I now serve as the Director of Academic Services for Medaille's Adult, Graduate, and Online programs.

The office I oversee is primarily responsible for providing exceptional instructional design in our curriculum. We work closely with faculty to create innovative and engaging strategies for teaching our adult and online students. During the program and course development process, we help ensure that curriculum meets institutional requirements and state-approved time on task requirements. Indeed, once new curriculum is finalized, Academic Services is also responsible for the deployment and management of course content in Blackboard, our learning management system.

In this way, I have the unique opportunity to work behind the scenes with faculty and staff as our programs continue to grow.

Christian Mason, '06 - After graduation I went and worked on some farms and a vineyard in Europe through WWOOF. Coming back to New York I worked odd jobs - night watchman, a pet store - before setting off to Togo in West Africa with the Peace Corps as an agriculture volunteer in late 2008. I was there for two years, working with different farmer and gardening groups to try to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers, increase crop yield, and generally trying to make sure more people had more food. I developed a few projects including one to spread a certain tree that is quite nutritious and very beneficial to new mothers and their infants. I also sweat quite a lot. I have bounced around since coming back, but am currently in Washington, DC working for the BBC in their finance office.

I'd also like to add that while this all seems fairly disjointed, my philosophy classes have greatly benefited me as I've meandered through life in the last almost-ten years. Being an active listener with a well-honed critical mind - as long as you are not a jerk about it - means people connect to you, feel you are interested in them, and generally like you even if they do not know why. You were right when you told me a philosophy degree meant getting a job would be hard, but keeping it would be easy. The very thing happened at the BBC: I got the job by chance, through a temp agency, since I simply needed a job to hold onto while looking for something more "suitable." It was one, maybe two, weeks of work, but they hired me permanently after the first week. I credit that to my philosophy courses and teachers.

Jennifer Prescod May-Parker, '88 - Jennifer P. May-Parker is the Chief of the Appellate Division at the United States Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of North Carolina, a position she has held since 2010. She is responsible for supervising attorneys who specialize in handling all of the criminal appellate and post-conviction practice of the office. Prior to being the Appellate

Chief, Mrs. May-Parker was an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in the Appellate Division, starting in 2005, where she authored briefs and argued numerous cases before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has served as an Assistant United States Attorney since 1999.

From 1998 to 1999, Mrs. May-Parker served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Environmental Division of the North Carolina Department of Justice, handling hearings and trials before Administrative Law Judges. She began her legal career by serving as an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney's Office starting from 1991 to 1998. There, she was assigned to a Trial Division and later an Investigations Division where she prosecuted numerous cases that ended in jury trials.

Mrs. May-Parker received her J.D. in 1991 from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School and her B.A. in Philosophy (with distinction from the Philosophy Department) in 1988 from the State University of New York at Geneseo. Mrs. May-Parker and her husband, Claudius May-Parker, met while at Geneseo. They have been married for 24 years and have two college-aged children. They live in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mrs. May-Parker says that there is no doubt that her success is grounded in the rigorous training she received while obtaining her BA at Geneseo. She also credits the sound advice and guidance she received from mentors like Professor Bill Edgar (Philosophy Chair), Professor Kenneth Deutsch (Political Science Department), and Isom and Betty Fearn (EOP Program). Because of the May-Parkers' appreciation for Geneseo, they established the May-Parker Academic Achievement Annual Scholarship at Geneseo in 2005, available to an Educational Opportunity Program student with an interest in law or physical therapy.

Anna McDermott, '12 - Since I graduated from Geneseo, I've been living and working in Rochester. I got married in August 2013, and my husband (Pat) and I are currently working on restoring our circa 1905 house to its former glory. We also own and rent out a 3-unit house around the corner from where we live. It's very exciting and fulfilling work. In my spare time, I like to cook and garden.

I currently work at the registrar for a local private school. I owe a great deal to the Geneseo philosophy department for allowing me to get that job in the first place - being able to formulate a good argument in favor of you being hired is, as it turns out, a pretty valuable skill! - and for allowing me to succeed. Much of it involves working with fairly complex computer systems that I had no experience with. However, what I learned in that freshman-year logic class allowed me to pick up the basics very quickly, and to take on more challenging work with confidence.

I think back on my Geneseo experience often and fondly. If anyone would like to be in touch, I can be reached at annatags@gmail.com.

Art Mellin, '96 - thought Bill would become Geneseo's President then SUNY's Chancellor. He married Brianna Marie Hoyt in 2013 and is the proud father of 4-month old Janie Marie. He works for GeoShack in Dallas, TX as the Database & GeoSync Coordinator and is finishing an associate's degree in Programming and Web & Internet Services at Tarrant County College. Philosophically he began believing "strictly speaking everything that occurs is good" after reading the Qur'an. Circa 2000, he used Roland synthesizers to record orchestral music that turns out to be opera music, available on YouTube channel "orchestramachine" or search "orchestra machine mellin". The style is predominantly melodic and diatonic. Art believes Marnie is next to be a composer.

Thanks for pointing out the Andrew Lloyd Webber melody in my music, I ended up finding some other composers' as well. It's a privilege to start from somewhere even when unaware. I went through many years of failing to see where my music fits. I'm gradually improving and composing mentally and will have an opera composed by the next ten or twenty years. A lot of music and where/what to sing is decided though it's "all or nothing" as far as production. Some music can tend to sound like clockwork. My mother's maiden name is a town in Switzerland. Without some intentional order in music, it might be more of a performance than composition per se, which could be better. I imagine each part's performance before composing it, a technique called development that is hopefully a good way to a good result.

I look forward to visiting sometime with Brianna and Janie, and hope it doesn't require becoming a college professional. I know college professionals have goals and pray they are able to reach them. Stay strong and say hello to Jack Johnston. I think he's Poseidon aka Neptune. I'm proud my music can sound like a storm at sea.

David Merli, '94 - David Merli is associate professor of philosophy at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster PA, where he has taught since 2003. He recently completed an eventful three-year term as department chair and hopes that's the last time he ventures into administrative positions. (Unlike Bill Edgar, he took the course release.) He teaches classes on ethics, meta-ethics, rationality, well-being, and other topics in the vicinity. He is working (slowly) on papers about amoralism, physician obligation, informed consent, and transformative experiences. Outside of work, his time is spent mainly on fitness, musical shenanigans, and family time.

Mark Mitchell, '00 - I currently work as a lawyer in Albany at the New York State Office of the Attorney General. After graduating from Geneseo, I pursued degrees in philosophy and law at Wisconsin-Madison. I'm happy to report that I finally finished my dissertation and received a Ph.D. in philosophy in 2012. I'd like to thank the many philosophy professors at Geneseo who helped me over the years.

Stiylord Morocho, '14 - I graduated from Geneseo in the fall of 2014. When I was asked to write about my days post-graduation I was very hesitant. You see, I didn't think I had done anything particularly interesting since leaving Geneseo. I did what most responsible college graduates do and that is, I got a job. I'm currently employed in the Receiving Department of a high-end retailer on Long Island. I'm mainly tasked with unloading 40-foot trucks and getting merchandise "to the floor". It's physically demanding work, so you can imagine I do very little to no philosophizing at work. Getting paid to philosophize, now, that's a dream job.

For the uninitiated (and even initiated), a degree in philosophy may seem limiting, especially if you're like me who majored in it alone. I, however, have never been of that mindset. My degree has afforded me with one of the greatest opportunities I have ever been given. After two years of trying to become selected into the United States Marine Corps Officer Candidates School (OCS), I was finally accepted this past summer (July 2015). For some the journey is quick, for others it is a long battle.

So today I write to you all with only five weeks left until I ship out. As the old saying goes, this is the calm before the storm, and I welcome the storm.

Michael Neary, '91 - Still working as a middle school counselor - in my twentieth year now. I've been at it long enough to see that what people say about education is really true - everything is cyclical. What's old becomes new with startling regularity (I keep hoping the same will one day be true of me!). I've been fortunate to work with some really great people in my career and I love working with kids - every day is a new challenge and offers endless opportunities for growth and learning new things. I still live in the Rochester area - up near Lake Ontario, which is nice most days, but can be a little problematic in the winter. I have two children - Emma is entering 10th grade and Aidan is going into 5th grade. Both of them have been doing karate for six years and in the next month or two will be earning their black belts, which is reassuring in that now I'll have my own personal bodyguards. It also means it's risky to rough house with my son. When I'm not at work, I still enjoy exercising and working out. I run most every day and try to stay as active as I can. I'm still playing music occasionally, too, and front a Celtic rock/folk band with some friends. All in all, I stay pretty busy. Mostly it seems like I'm carting my kids back and forth, but I wouldn't trade that for the world. Watching them grow up has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life. On a recent trip we were in a bookstore and I was encouraging both my kids to pick out a book that I would buy for them. My daughter came back with a volume on metaphysics and I had to laugh. Maybe it's that whole cyclical thing of life playing out again!

Joseph Noschese, '92 - I still live in Valhalla, NY and still pursue my solo guitar/vocal act. Tonight I'm playing at a Country Club in Greenwich, CT but also host a weekly acoustic open mic that has been running for over 5 consecutive years. My open mic has a recap page on Facebook (TUESDAY Open Mic Night w/ Joe No!) that lists all participating performers dating back to the gig's inception: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/284682948398/>

October 2014 I left a full-time theatre spotlight operator position and in search of a "real job", recently took a NY State "Tax Compliance Agent Trainee" civil service test. I received a score of 95 along with a #17 ranking that is apparently state-wide among about 1700 test takers. I am currently in the interview process.

Dan O'Brien, '73 - Dan is an attorney and partner with Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP, a law firm with offices in Rochester, Buffalo, and Phoenix. Dan has practiced with the firm for more than thirty-five years and is the Chair of its Litigation Department. His current focus is on intellectual property litigation, although over the course of his career, he has handled cases from Town Court to the U.S. Supreme Court. Dan and his wife, Jo-Ann Rubin O'Brien '74, have two daughters, Lauren, who works with the FBI in Washington, D.C., and Julia, who works with Tauck Tours in Connecticut. Lauren and her husband have two sons, Dylan and Gabriel. A past president of the Geneseo Alumni Association, Dan remains active in Alumni affairs.

Tim O'Connell, '00 - I graduated from Geneseo with my philosophy degree in 2000. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Geneseo, and I think of those days often. I took Dr. Bill Edgar's class, "Minds, Dreams and Machines," in my first semester of my freshman year, and I never looked back---taking every philosophy class that I could and completing a minor in psychology as well. Despite my passion for philosophy, I wound up wanting to pursue a career in counseling. Regardless, I still draw on my training in logic, metaphysics, and ethics every single day.

Since graduation, I earned a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology and a Certificate of Advanced Study in School Counseling. I have worked as a school counselor at a middle school for over 13 years. I have been happily married to my wife Stacie for the past eight years, and we have two amazing sons---Caleb (age 5) and Ryan (age 2 1/2). We live in Charlton, NY, a small town about thirty minutes South of Saratoga. My interests include reading, playing basketball, camping, hiking, fishing, and spending time with my family and friends.

I keep in close contact with the many good friends I made while at Geneseo. I hope that all my former professors and fellow philosophy graduates are doing well and enjoying life as I am. I wish you all well.

Kevin O'Regan, '76 - I graduated from Geneseo as a philosophy major in 1976. I travelled around the world for a year and then went to Brooklyn Law School, graduating in 1981. I clerked for a federal judge, worked in a large NY firm for three years and in 1986 became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Brooklyn, New York. I got married in 1987 and we moved to Springfield, Massachusetts in 1988, where I have worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office for 27 years. I have taught Professional Responsibility (Legal Ethics) at Western New England University School of Law as an adjunct professor for 24 years. My wife and I have three grown children and a young grandson.

I have fond memories of the Department, particularly of Bill Edgar. I still think about a multi-disciplinary course he taught – “Synthesis” I believe – which helped to shape my world view. [Note: this was the prototype for what were to become the Humanities sequence, thanks to Bill, Ron Herzman, Bill Cook, and others. - S.E.].

Luke Ortner, '03 - After graduating from Geneseo in 2003, I took a two-year elementary school teaching position with Teach for America in Texas's Rio Grande Valley. I spent the first year being demoralized by nine-year olds, but stuck with it long enough to gain a small measure of competence. I also met my lovely wife, Mamie. After two years in the Valley I moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I vowed to quit teaching and mostly bum around and rock climb as much as possible. I stuck to the plan for a while, enjoying the New Mexico mountains and serving on the local mountain rescue team, but I soon found myself working as a reading coach and then as the acting principal of a small elementary school in Santa Fe. In 2007, feeling quite certain that smarter and more capable people than me should be in charge of educating children, I began law school at Duke University. In 2010, yearning to move back west, I took a job in Denver with the Office of Chief Counsel to the Internal Revenue Service. I'm still in Denver, and still working for the IRS. As a trial attorney and adviser to various IRS personnel, I focus on civil fraud, international transfer pricing, research credits, conservation easements, and other tax shelters. I am also one of the primary coordinators of the IRS's response to state-legal marijuana. Mostly, however, I try to spend my time with Mamie and our two children, 4-year-old Max and 3-year-old Rosie. When I'm not working or spending time with my family, I can usually be found skiing, biking, or climbing in Colorado's mountains and foothills. My favorite book from the last year was *The Orphan Master's Son*. Please send book recommendations and notes to lukeortner@gmail.com.

Katie Owens-Murphy, '07 - Katie Owens-Murphy received her doctorate in English from the Pennsylvania State University in 2013. She spent 2013-2015 as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth and has moved to Florence, Alabama with husband Brian and daughter Addie to begin a tenure-track position at the University of North Alabama this fall. She frequently makes use of her philosophy degree in her research and teaching, which explore intersections of philosophy and literature.

Mieko Ozeki, '01 - Since graduating in 2001, my career has evolved around two themes: education and the environment. My Geneseo education, both in Philosophy and Honors Program, prepared me to be a generalist and gain employment in a variety of organizations that aligned with my passions and interests. This skill has helped me through good economic times and the recession. My first job was a teaching fellowship at Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, a residential high school in Estes Park, Colorado. I taught art education, where I got to integrate multiple subjects while teaching studio art and create courses with titles such as "Finger painting with the Buddha" on Buddhism and Buddhist art. I met my husband Josh Blumberg, who was also serving as a teaching fellow at Eagle Rock School. After one year of service, I attended Lesley University's Audubon Expedition Institution, a traveling environmental education graduate program. I lived on a retrofitted school bus and traveled in different bioregions of the country for 2 years, including the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii, and the Atlantic Coast. I had the opportunity to learn about a variety of ecosystems in our country; in particular, I learned about the impact humans have on the environment and how the environment impacts people, by interviewing people in those communities. For my last semester, I completed a curriculum development capstone at the Urban Ecology Institute in Boston. I earned a Master of Science in Environmental Education.

I settled in Cambridge for 4 years (2004-2008) after graduating from my first master's program. I worked for The Food Project, a Boston-based nonprofit involved in youth development and sustainable agriculture, and then for an alternative high school called Boston Day & Evening Academy. I started working on my second masters at Harvard University's Extension School, focused on Sustainability & Environmental Management, as a part-time student and earned a Master of Liberal Arts in 2011. My husband and I were engaged in 2008 when we decided to leave Cambridge to find a new state to settle in. We were fortunate to gain employment at schools in Vermont, just as the 2008 recession began at that time. I have worked at the University of Vermont's Office of Sustainability, where I serve as the Sustainability Projects Coordinator, since 2008. At UVM, I manage a student green fund called the Clean Energy Fund, which supports renewable energy education, infrastructure, and research projects on our campus. This fund provides opportunities for students to learn about renewable energy while meeting part of our climate neutrality goals and commitments. I also coordinate an internship program with a career development focus on sustainability-related jobs. Nationally, I have published articles on best practices for implementing sustainability programs in higher education and have had the opportunity to take part in training sustainability leaders, including some members of Geneseo's Office of Sustainability.

In addition to my job at UVM, I have my own career coaching and organizational development business called Radiance Studios. I serve on a variety of sustainability-related committees and in 2011 became a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program, a national professional network that recognizes environmental leaders from diverse sectors of the environmental movement. My husband and I live in Burlington, VT where we enjoy skiing, paddling, and the localvore culture of the state. Mieko Ozeki and Josh Blumberg welcomed the arrival of their daughter, Naomi Ling Ozeki-Blumberg, born on August 4, 2015 in Burlington, VT.

Rena Pazienza, '14 - I graduated from Geneseo in May of 2014 with a double-major in Psychology and Philosophy. One week later I began the Master's in Mental Health Counseling program at the University at Albany, SUNY. In addition to my courses, I spend three days a week interning at the Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) program in Greene County, a community mental health day treatment program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Additionally, I am a research assistant in a behavioral health research lab, presently working towards two publications. I will graduate in December with my M.S. in Mental Health Counseling. From there, I may pursue licensure and work in a clinical capacity, or continue on to pursue my Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology.

While my present path is more directly related to the field of psychology, my experience as a philosophy major at Geneseo was invaluable. It was in my philosophy courses that I found myself challenged to read, write, and *think* at a higher level. Both professors and fellow students were eager to engage one in discussion and debate, challenging one another's ideas and offering different perspectives. Majoring in philosophy taught me critical thinking and analytical writing skills that are sure to serve me well, no matter what path I choose.

Roy Pellicano, '94 - Roy is currently living in the nether region of Queens—yes, the part of “the New Brooklyn” that is not considered “the New Brooklyn”—and commutes every day to Jamaica—no, not the Caribbean Isle, but an area that is so un “the New Brooklyn” that hipsters may never consider moving there. While threatened with the hell of middle management after having run his own business for 20 years, he has not successfully settled into life as a civil servant, and is spending as much of his time as possible enjoying his family. The eight-year-old is enjoying an early adolescence (and the rest of us are suffering) while the two-year-old is bent on make the world bend to her will (and doing a damn good job of it). Roy and his wife, Agnès, are just trying to survive. ;-) Working at Queens Library, that denizen of fiscally irresponsible executives, does have its benefits as he has a fine-free library card, which he and his family use to the extent that they find ethically acceptable.

Heather Pence, '89 - Last year I bought a house in Sharon MA and I currently work as a project manager at Zebra Technologies. Zebra makes mobile printers, so if you've ever gotten a receipt from Avis while you stand in their parking lot – that was probably our printer. In my free time, I'm a volunteer tour guide with Boston By Foot, so I give historical and architectural tours on the weekends in Boston and the surrounding area. I've learned a lot about Boston and relearned a lot of revolutionary war history that I had forgotten before I moved here.

One of my other interests is travel and I've been visiting and hiking lots of national parks, and occasionally doing international travel. In 2013, I went on a trip to Ethiopia to volunteer with a group offering medical and dental clinics for a remote village in the south of Ethiopia. I didn't have to pull any teeth, but I was amazed at the ability of the volunteer dentists (from the US) who had to work without any electricity and were basically using tools from the 1920's. (Although they did have Novocain). I never thought I'd be grateful that my dentist has an electric drill.

I think back fondly on my Geneseo experience and I'm still glad I was a philosophy major.

Jennifer Peng, '98 - After graduating from Geneseo, Jennifer attended NYU School of Law. While at NYU Law, Jennifer was a teaching assistant, an editor on the *Journal of International Law and Politics*, and interned at the Legal Aid Society. Jennifer also interned for the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She co-authored a speech with the judge on judicial independence, which was presented at the Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico and subsequently published in their law journal (Sonia Sotomayor y Jennifer Peng, *La Independencia Judicial: Que Necesitamos Para Conservarla*, 60 REVISTA DEL COLEGIO DE P.R. 59 (1999)).

After graduating from NYU Law with a J.D. in 2001, Jennifer joined the law firm of Shearman & Sterling in their Corporate Finance group as an associate and relocated to Hong Kong. In 2007, Jennifer made a career switch to investment banking and joined Morgan Stanley. She worked first in their Mergers & Acquisitions group and then their Corporate Finance group, where she was promoted to Executive Director.

Jennifer eventually left full-time corporate work to focus on her desire to live a more meaningful and balanced life, and to pursue her love of traveling. She is currently working on various creative ventures (ranging from fine art and writing to photography and design), while investing in and advising startup and other early-stage companies. She was recently appointed to the board of

directors of Cryptyk, a company focused on revolutionizing the field of cybersecurity. When she is not traveling the world, Jennifer lives in Lake Tahoe. She loves to rock climb, snowboard, surf, and scuba dive.

Irene Penney, '82 – I graduated from Geneseo with a B.A. in Philosophy and started working as a Computer Operator at IBM in 1982, just as the Internet was starting to be used by entities outside of defense and research. The logic and critical thinking courses that I took at Geneseo served me well – not only helping to get me hired, but as my career progressed and I was sent to “Basic Programmer Education” (teaching people IBM’s preferred methods for programming, as well as teaching PL/1). And, although the IBM Systems Engineer that taught the “Intro to Computers” course that I took advised against starting in operations, I found it gave me a solid foundation for the path that my career has taken. After leaving Operations, I moved through multiple areas supporting IBM’s internal IT, learning MVS (z/OS), VM, AIX, and SAP along the way. I also learned about raised floor management (systems hardware and physical plant infrastructure), IT architecture, and softer skills, like communications, presentation and planning.

That background led to my role in IBM’s CIO organization. Until a couple of months ago, I was part of the group that set the strategy for the infrastructure (servers, network, etc.) that we use for our internal IT, as well as defining the consumption models (aka “hosting offerings”) which our business units use to create and deliver products and services to IBM’s customers. Then, in March, I was moved into a new group within the CIO, which is focused on expanding our internal use of various kinds of cloud environments. Given my background, my focus is on Hybrid IT – helping our business units bridge from the “old”, or “legacy”, world into the world of clouds. I’m working with teams that look at our internal workloads and identify opportunities to either migrate or “refactor” the applications so that they can use the new technologies and capabilities that cloud brings. I’m periodically invited to present to clients and at conferences to share our internal experiences with cloud, which I enjoy doing as it gives me the opportunity to talk to others and learn new things and see how others accomplish similar goals.

John Petrella, '85 - Professionally, I am a Partner and the Director of Employment Litigation with Genova Burns LLC in Newark, NJ. We represent management in employment disputes. I am the Chair for the New Jersey State Bar Association on Restrictive Covenants and a Member of the Labor & Employment Section’s Executive Committee. Personally, I live in Mendham, NJ, with my wife of 23 years, Theresa A. Kelly, Esq., and my 3 sons, Jack (aged 20) and twins, William and Conor (aged 17). After graduating from S.U.C. at Geneseo in 1985, I received my JD from Boston University School of Law in 1988.

Amanda Phillips, '99 - Life these days for this alum is, in a word, hectic. Following the birth of my second daughter, I decided to commit to being a full-time mom. My two girls keep me very busy these days, and although I do at times miss my career as an interior designer (and miss adult conversation....), I am grateful to have the opportunity to do this and feel alive and filled with wonder and happiness on a daily basis as I watch them explore and begin to understand the world around them. Nothing grounds me and gives me perspective like seeing the world through their innocent eyes.

Prior to this phase in my life, following a 10-year stint as a construction supervisor for Habitat for Humanity of Washington DC, I decided it was time for a change in career and decided to go back to school to get my MFA in Interior Design. I worked for 5 years as a Commercial Interior Designer, focusing on green design, and quite enjoyed it most of the time as it allowed for some degree of creative expression. I have established my own business while I am at home with my children, and still do keep a tiny presence in the industry by taking on 1 or 2 projects at a time that I can fit in between naps and story time. I am currently finishing up a large renovation project for a solar company in the Ithaca area which has been a really fun project to work on.

I returned to Geneseo for the first time (!) since graduation last summer for Reunion weekend with 3 Geneseo friends for a girl’s weekend. We stayed in the dorms and poked around the buildings. I won a really nice school chair which I am sitting in right now as I type. So many things have changed, yet so many things have stayed the same. I equate it to the warm feeling I get when visiting the town where I grew up, where, although things have changed, it still feels like home. The entire weekend was spent chatting about good (and bad) times had, walking through Brodie and Welles (where I spent so many hours chatting with Bill and Stacey), reminiscing about our college days. Then we all stopped to buy onesies for the next generation of Geneseo attendees.

Kate Phillips, '06 - This has been quite a year for me! This May I received my Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Rochester after six long (and short) years. I defended my dissertation, “Towards an Empirically Adequate Virtue Ethics,” on March 25 in front of an audience of colleagues, friends, and family. I felt very lucky to have a few of my family members here with me in Rochester, and it was probably the most enjoyable public lecture I have ever given, even though I was quite nervous. In my dissertation, I responded to recent objections to virtue ethics that philosophers have been developing from research in the empirical domain about character. In addition, I began to develop a framework for virtue ethics to show the empirical adequacy of the virtues, vices, and eudaimonia.

In other very exciting news, I started working as a full-time faculty member in the University of Rochester Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program. I couldn’t imagine better colleagues or a more nurturing academic environment. I teach a couple of sections of freshman writing, in addition to working with upper-level psychology students and psychology faculty to integrate

writing more clearly into the curriculum. This is an exciting opportunity to work with psychologists, and get exposed to more empirical work on morality and character. This way I get to think more deeply about how empirical and ethical concepts are connected, or not!

Judy Panko Reis, '74 - Philosophy has played a major role in my two key non-academic careers as well as my personal life. After graduating from Geneseo in 1974, I put my analytical philosophical skills to good use in the corporate world as a researcher for William M Mercer, an actuarial consulting firm.

Then, complementing my physical rehabilitation from a traumatic brain injury incurred from a random bludgeoning in 1980, I earned a MA in Philosophy from the University of Chicago focusing on the philosophy of Science (mind-brain connection). Drawing upon the rigors of my philosophy studies at both Geneseo and Chicago, I embraced the world of healthcare advocacy and policy in my work at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and in my current position as a Healthcare Policy Analyst at Access Living in Chicago.

I have written numerous articles, on issues of healthcare disparities and healthcare access for people living with chronic conditions and disabilities, for medical and healthcare publications. My recent article, "Under the Volcano," chronicles my personal evolution following the bludgeoning that murdered my fiancé and left me for dead with multiple disabilities. It was published in the March 2014 issue of the *Shambhala Sun* magazine, the largest English language Buddhist publication. Here is the link: <http://bit.ly/1mkO1W4>. I live happily in Wilmette, Illinois with my husband Sheldon Reis. With our son Lewis we enjoy engaging in intellectual sparring on all matters philosophical, artistic, and political, as well as winter vacationing on the Florida Gulf.

Dr. Barbara Ann Rieffer-Flanagan, '97 - I am still teaching at Central Washington University. I teach classes on international relations, religion, and politics and political theory. I was just promoted to full professor this year. I am currently working on my third book on religious liberty. It will examine how religious liberty developed over time and how the US government has attempted to promote this human right around the world. Aside from teaching and research, I try to travel as much as possible. I recently visited Spain, Portugal, Morocco, and Thailand.

Fr. Francis Mary Roaldi (Peter), '96 - After graduating from Geneseo, I moved to New York City to work as a volunteer at a Church in Harlem, afterward finding employment for a couple of years as a foster care social worker. During this time, I met a group of Catholic Franciscans, called the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (interested parties can check out the web page), and over a number of years, through a great deal of prayer and receiving counsel from others, I decided to enter the community.

A common part of entrance to become a friar (imagine a monk – basically the same) is a name change, so I took the name Francis (like the Pope). After entering in 1999, I served the materially poor (a primary work of our order) in various areas. In 2004 I made my dedication to God through the Catholic Church permanent through the profession of perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. At this point I also began seminary studies (when my philosophy background came in handy).

After my ordination to the priesthood in 2008, I was immediately sent to Central America, where I lived first in Nicaragua and then in Honduras, again serving the materially poor (which is very different in Honduras than New York City) and the local Church. Most recently the brothers in the community asked me to come back to the States to act as a teacher and formator for the young men entering our community. I am now living in a one hundred and thirty year old monastery (previously inhabited by cloistered nuns) in inner-city Newark. Honestly, it would be hard for me to imagine anyone more surprised than I at the way my life has developed in the last 20 years, but God has a tremendous sense of humor and I'm extremely grateful to for the way He has led me. The future is a mystery, but one I look forward to seeing unfold.

Sean Roche, '09 - After graduating from Geneseo in 2009, I pursued a Master's in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University in Boston. In fall 2012, I began my PhD in Criminal Justice at the University at Albany, SUNY. My research interests are criminological theory, crime trends, and public opinion about crime and criminal justice issues. I also enjoy teaching a great deal, having most recently taught an undergraduate course in research methods at SUNY Albany. After I finish my PhD, I hope to get a job as an assistant professor.

I have fond memories of Geneseo, and the Philosophy Department in particular. The Philosophy classes I took helped me learn to think critically and abstractly. Geneseo's professors taught me what great teaching can do for a young person, and that care and attention is something I try to emulate in my own classroom. Perhaps most importantly, I met my best friends at Geneseo. These are people I still see and talk to on a daily and weekly basis, and I would not have it any other way.

Andy Romanow, '93 - In all honesty, I fell backwards into Philosophy as a major because I had yet to declare halfway through my Junior year, and did not have the money to stay on longer than 4 years. I was very lucky to have done so. Learning how to process and apply information, whether in writing or in conversation, was critical to success in law school. Moreover, the older I

get, the more I realize the subject matter of law school classes (with obvious specialty exceptions, e.g. an LLM in tax) were for the most superfluous. The process is designed to reinforce the ability to process information and write or talk about it coherently. That process, which I began to learn as a philosophy major, is the foundation upon which I am able to approach opportunities and issues with my customers. Simply stated, the process philosophy teaches in terms of attacking problems and questions is a great way to help organize your mind and thoughts, which is critical to professional success in just about any field.

Matthew D. Ryan, '94 - has wandered about a bit since his years at SUNY Geneseo. After leaving college, he worked in Boston for a year as an Office Administrator before traveling around the country with a friend. When he returned home, he jumped from job to job a bit before going back to school for computer science. After a couple computer science jobs, he decided to go in a different direction and has embarked on an independent writing career.

Currently, Matthew D. Ryan lives in northeastern New York on the shores of Lake Champlain, writing and taking care of his father. His writing has been featured at Aphelion.com and YesteryearFiction.com. He is the operator of the web-site matthewdryan.com which features his blog, "[A Toast to Dragons](#)," a blog dedicated to fantasy literature, and, to a lesser extent, sci-fi. He is the author of the dark fantasy novels "*Drasmyr*," "*The Children of Lubrochius*," and the soon-to-be-released novel, "*The Sceptre of Morgulan*," as well as a growing number of fantasy short stories including: "*Haladryn and the Minotaur*," "*The River's Eye*," and "*Escape*."

Times have been tough. He's had his share of hard knocks, but he remains hopeful of the future. He remembers his years at Geneseo with fondness—the friends he made, the things he learned—and credits that time for his many intellectual interests and pursuits. It has certainly helped him through the years and given him a great many tools to approach real-life problems. Being a philosophy major, he couldn't help but interject a few philosophical rants and raves in his current writing. After all, who can resist a "philosophizing" vampire?

Louis Sapirman, '91 - Nadine ('90 - French), my wonderful wife of 22 years, and I have lived in Hillsborough, NJ for the past 18 years. We have two great boys, Jared and Evan, both in High School. Much time has been spent recently figuring out where Jared will be attending college (and, continuing his love of Baseball). We are actively involved in several charitable organizations, including the Giving Network. Nadine is a speaker for the Climate Reality Project and is a local leader for the Citizen's Climate Lobby.

Professionally, I have worked for the Dun & Bradstreet Corporation for almost 10 years. I am VP, Associate General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer. The Chief Compliance Officer part of my role has created a whole new world of learning for me, since I took on this work 4 years ago. I have become a rather active traveler, spending meaningful time in China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, India, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, The Netherlands, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Australia. This has allowed me to become a student of business culture around the world, as it is one of my roles to find ways to make connections with our employees, wherever they may operate.

I continue to look back at my time at Geneseo with great fondness. I often cite my degree in philosophy as an important driver of the way I think and the calm, logical demeanor I bring to my work on a regular basis. Feel free to reach out to me (sapirmanl@dnb.com) or follow me on twitter (@LouisCCODNB).

Justin Smithline, '96 - I graduated in '96 and then my career went into the direction of business and entrepreneurship. Since graduating, I got my MBA from Cornell and have started 3 companies, mostly in the internet software space. Critical thinking and logic play an important role in entrepreneurship so I'm grateful for my Philosophy degree. I've lived in SF, Boston, and NYC since Geneseo and am currently in NYC. The best news is I recently got married and we had a little boy.

Brandon Spun, '01 - Brandon Spun is currently living just outside of Nashville, TN. He is beginning his sixth year as an adjunct professor at New College Franklin where he teaches arithmetic, literature, philosophy, etc. As a part-time UPS warehouse worker, he gets to handle lots of cardboard. In his free time, he likes to play and learn with his children, eight-year-old Elijah and six-year-old Beatrice. In his non-existent extra free time, he cuts the grass, toys at woodwork, and blogs on sameandother.com. He is currently applying to a PhD program in theology and looks back fondly on his time at SUNY Geneseo.

Joe Stewart-Pirone, '95 - has been practicing law with Frost Brown Todd in its Cincinnati office since 2012. He's been a dad for about seven months longer than he's been an attorney. Although he uses the argumentation skills he learned at Geneseo daily in his professional life, he is only the third best advocate in his immediate family. Somehow his wife -- also a lawyer -- persuaded him that having a first child and beginning a completely new career at the age of forty were not completely insane things to do. (They were.) Joe's three-year-old daughter also regularly outmaneuvers him in negotiations, and his fifteen-month-old son gives every indication that he will follow in his big sister's footsteps. Those who knew Joe at Geneseo will be amused by the photo that now accompanies his law firm bio on the web. SUNY Geneseo remains the standard by which Joe measures every community of which he is a part, and he continues to try his best to make each of them a bit more like the Geneseo that he fondly remembers.

Brian Stokes, '88 - I am a proud graduate of Geneseo and was very fond of Bill Edgar. Bill played a pivotal role in my persona and my development as student while I was at Geneseo (1984-1988). I took several classes - including an independent study - with Bill. He was also my Advisor outside of the advisement that I received from Betty and Isom Fearn and Ed Reiman. I loved Geneseo...every bit of it. It was most certainly the best choice that I could have made coming out of the Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn, New York, where Ed Reiman recruited me. My time at Geneseo (and studying philosophy) prepared me for the critical thinking that was to come in the professional world. I have people like Bill Edgar, Dennis Bradford, Larry Blackman, and Walt Soffer to thank for it. I have nothing but great memories of Geneseo and the four years I spent there.

Currently, I live in Miami, Florida and work for Miami Dade College as a Senior Director of Campus Administration at the Kendall Campus. The Kendall Campus is the largest of the College's eight (8) campuses. The Campus has a budget of over \$40 million, consists of 1.3 million gross square feet of facilities space, 185 acres, 16+ buildings, a 9-acre ecological preserve, and enrolls over 40 thousand students annually. My responsibilities include managing the Campus' budget and facilities, including Campus Services, Public Safety, Events & Rentals, Health and Wellness Centers, and Aquatic Facilities. I recommend and implement approved policies and procedures associated with effective administration of the Campus budget. I monitor the budget and all fiscal transactions, including purchasing, disbursements, budget transfers, contracts, grant awards; and I conduct campus fiscal analysis and prepare financial and staffing reports. I also manage the preparation of Campus master plan for facilities, facilities utilization reports, and other state, College, and Campus reports. My duties also include overseeing the Campus' emergency preparedness action plan.

I am part of the College's senior leadership and a member of the Miami Dade College Executive Committee. The Executive committee serves as the prime decision-making entity between board meetings; is a forum that vets strategies, key policy and procedural decisions; evaluates recommendations made by College/Campus Academic and Student Support Council - established to provide a monthly forum in academic affairs and student services programs with faculty, staff and administrator participation; and guides the Strategic Planning Process and other major College-wide functions. Members of Executive Committee include the Provost for Academic and Student Affairs, Provost for Operations, Vice-Provost of Business and Financial Affairs, Vice-Provost of Human Resources, Vice-Provost of Facilities, Vice-Provost of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Campus Presidents, Academic Dean Representative, Student Services Dean Representative, Administrative Service Representative, and the College President's Chief of Staff.

Since leaving Geneseo, I have completed a master's degree in Public Policy and Management from the University of Southern Maine and this fall I will complete my doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in Higher Education Leadership and Development from the University of Miami. My wife, Caroline, and I have three gorgeous daughters (Breannah, Ciomarah, and Jasmynh). I have not returned to Geneseo in a number of years but plan to do so some time in 2016.

Joshua Stoll, '09 - My years at SUNY Geneseo, especially the last two where I was double majoring in Psychology and Philosophy while minoring in Cognitive Science, were extremely formative in my intellectual development and my general growth as a person. During this time, I learned to love learning and took this new insight to heart. After graduating, I entered the Master's program in philosophy at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), the world's foremost department for East-West comparative and cross-cultural philosophy. During my two years as an MA student at UHM, I learned some Sanskrit and pursued my early interests in Indian Buddhism while developing an extremely broad and varied set of interests.

After receiving my MA, I began to pursue a PhD at the department. Currently, I am writing my dissertation on various issues having to do with intersubjectivity and other minds ranging from epistemological and ontological considerations to metaphysical and axiological (i.e., ethicomoral, aesthetic, and political) considerations. It incorporates work on intersubjectivity from traditions ranging from Continental philosophy to Analytic philosophy of mind to Cognitive Science/Developmental Psychology to Indian Philosophy.

During my time at UHM, I participated in several of our graduate student conferences (the Uehiro Graduate Philosophy Conference) and coordinated one which we are currently working on anthologizing. More recently, I had the chance to attend some big conferences in fields relating to my research interests. This past June, I went to Helsinki, Finland to attend the Towards a Science of Consciousness (TSC) 2015 conference at the University of Helsinki. It was a surreal environment where I not only got to be in the presence of such philosophical legends as David Chalmers, Susan Blackmore, and Patricia Churchland, but to actually socially and intellectually interact with them. Having a drink with Patricia Churchland and Susan Blackmore was indeed one of the most surreal experiences of my life. This past July, I was able to attend the Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy (ASACP) 2015 conference. This conference included such big names in the field as my dissertation advisor Arindam Chakrabarti, his wife Vrinda Dalmiya, as well as Purushottama Bilimoria, Morny Joy, Frank Jackson, Miri Albahari, Koji Tanaka, Bronwyn Finnigan, Sonam Thakchöe and the infamous dialetheist logician Graham Priest (the latter five thinkers being instrumental to recent developments in Indian Buddhist studies).

None of these journeys, advancing both my intellectual development and overall growth as an individual, would have been possible were it not for my time at the philosophy department at SUNY Geneseo. It was there that I began my intellectual

journey, and under great tutelage. I am grateful to the department for playing such a formative role in my life and wish it continued success!

Alissa (Hurwitz) Swota, '96 - I am now an associate professor in the department of philosophy and religious studies at the University of North Florida. I direct our Florida Blue Center for Ethics as well (it is a COAS center). In addition, the largest hospital/healthcare system in the area bought out part of my time so I can continue to do my clinical work. I am the clinical ethicist for Baptist Medical Center. While I do work on the adult side sometimes, I am predominantly in the children's hospital. I absolutely love working in pediatric bioethics. I started a pediatric bioethics conference, now in year 8, that has become the largest pediatric bioethics conference in the region and, as far as I know, the second largest in the nation. You are always welcome to come!

I consult at the hospital, work on policy (revision and creation), and do lots of education for the health-care providers. I just started a group in both inpatient and outpatient adolescent behavioral health. It is something akin to philosophy for children (that is huge now in schools), but this is in the clinical setting. As far as I can tell (and I have searched and asked far and wide), this is the first sort of group like this in the clinical setting. We are in week three, but so far so good....At UNF I teach both graduate and undergraduate students. The best thing I have done since graduating from Geneseo is marry my husband Joel, and have two amazing kids, Hannah (10) and Max (5).

Tom Talleur, '71 - After graduation from Geneseo, I spent 40 years in public service and private sector careers. I retired from NASA in 1999 as an Advanced Technology Programs Executive. My role there was both practical and theoretical: address present day cyber-attacks while devising counter-exploitation strategies of novel technologies (biotech, robotics, genomics, intelligent systems, and others) in future space systems. In the private sector, I was a senior executive for large international consulting firms.

I now travel more than 300 days a year abroad, leap-frogging from country to country in a roving semi-retirement, pursuing interests. They include learning modern and ancient languages, history, photography, and, most of all, just sitting down and talking with peoples from around the world, in their native tongues if I can.

Over the years, thoughts about studies in philosophy were never far from my mind. I took great pleasure applying my "Bill Edgar training" to defeat sophistry in public policy discussions in a town filled with sophists — Washington, DC. It's not hard to do. Politicians hate logic. And sophistry flourishes in our "Jerry Springer" society. Over the years, I always found refuge in my handwritten notes from Bill's classes. And the only remaining hardcover books in my possession are my philosophy textbooks.

Philosophy studies matter now more than ever because they teach students to think. And that's why the philosophy program at Geneseo matters. I'm glad Bill's pioneering work continues at Geneseo in the hands of those he knew would carry on his work effectively.

Chad Taylor, '99 - I have been at Medaille College now for about six years. As is pretty typical with a Library Science degree, I started out as part-time Reference and Instruction, became a cataloger two years later and am now full-time as Support Services Coordinator. I oversee the library's cataloging, library databases, serials, and collection development. I am also trying to get a College Archives up and running again, but that is taking a little longer than I had hoped. We are a small enough library that I still get to do quite a bit of Reference and Instruction as well. In addition to playing with ontologies and logic problems all day, lately I have been doing a lot of work with personal epistemologies, background knowledge, and metacognition.

Marie (Morr) TenBrink, '93 - I visited Geneseo for a day last Summer and refreshed my wardrobe with a new sweatshirt. I hope my 12-year-old daughter will seriously consider Geneseo. The latest for us is that my partner and I recently became certified foster parents so we could open our home to children in care. It's been a very rewarding experience to expand our family in this way and I'd be happy to share more about it with any fellow alumni who might be considering it.

Russ Thompson, '93 - Since 1998, I have been teaching for Loudoun County Public Schools in Virginia. More specifically, I still teach AP US history, Economics, and Introduction to Philosophy at Woodgrove High School in Purcellville, VA. I plan to stay in teaching for the foreseeable future. I feel lucky to have ended up at a high school that offers Philosophy and, better, lets me teach it.

Currently I live in Shepherdstown, WV with just my 3 sons.

Cathy (Beyler) Umphrey, '76 - Since 1984, Cathy has lived in Annapolis, Maryland with her husband, Stewart, who taught at St. John's College until his retirement in 2009. Cathy pursued a life in the world of horticulture: gardening at home; working at nurseries; writing gardening columns for local publications and one essay, entitled "Companion Planting or Gardening with Walter," for the British journal "Hortus" (which was reprinted in their anthology, "Hortus Revisited"); giving talks to

horticultural societies and garden clubs; running a small garden design and maintenance business; and finally serving as Director of Horticulture for Historic London Town and Gardens from 2004-2010. Now, semi-retired, she currently works with the non-profit organization, Grow Annapolis, whose mission is to promote community gardens and urban agriculture. In all these endeavors, familiarity with botanical nomenclature (by way of ancient Greek, studied in order to read Plato and Aristotle), and a reputedly logical approach to problems (amusing given how much of a struggle “Introduction to Logic” was) has been a boon. And one that is thanks to the wonderful education she received at Geneseo.

Monica Wendel, '07 - Monica Wendel is an assistant professor of composition and creative writing at St. Thomas Aquinas College, and is an associate editor at the *Bellevue Literary Review*.

After graduating from SUNY Geneseo in 2007, she worked as a web content developer in Rochester, then moved to Brooklyn to pursue her MFA in poetry writing at NYU. At NYU, she was awarded Goldwater and Starworks teaching fellowships, through which she conducted creative writing workshops for patients in New York City public hospitals. She also taught creative writing at NYU.

In 2012, her chapbook *Call it a Window* was named the national winner of the Mississippi Valley Poetry Prize and published by the Midwest Writing Center. In 2013, her full-length collection, *No Apocalypse*, was named the winner of the Georgetown Review Poetry Prize and published by Georgetown Review. Her most recent chapbook, *Pioneer*, was published by Thrush Press in 2014.

Along the way, Monica has also been published in journals such as *Rattle*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Nimrod*, and *Gandy Dancer*. She has garnered three Pushcart nominations. In spring 2013, she was the writer in residence at the Jack Kerouac Project of Orlando, Florida.

She would like to express her gratitude and appreciation to the Geneseo faculty, especially professors in philosophy and English. Their immense support is still felt today.

Caryn Rivett West, '99 - After graduating from Geneseo, I went to Washington and Lee University School of Law. After graduation, I moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where I still live today. I am currently a partner at Clarke, Dolph, Rapaport, Hull & Brunick, PLC, specializing in Estate Planning and Administration, Business Law and Real Estate. I am married to my husband, Marc (10 years in October) and we have two (very spoiled) yellow labs, one of whom is a Children’s Hospital Therapy Dog. We have also taken up sailing and enjoy sailing the Chesapeake Bay on our 30-foot Catalina, the Marion Marie.

Drew Wilkinson, '75 - I have been a full-time volunteer activist working with labour organizations across the country since 1989. I currently am concerned with fracking, Utility rate hikes, privatization of utilities such as water, the indigenous movement for taking back sovereignty over the natural resources.

Don't play guitar so much due to carpal tunnel, but I can still read and write with many mistakes (now I can blame my bad spelling on carpal tunnel). I would love to hear from any of my classmates or other Alums. I don't have a Facebook page (the NSA knows quite enough about all of us) but Email is fine. Thanks for finding me.

Love and Solidarity, Drew

Andrew Zimdahl, '05 - Professionally, I'm a business development manager for Energy Management Company in DC that specializes in solar PV and runs an energy brokerage. Having a background in philosophy is very beneficial for helping prospective clients overcome irrational fears and fallacies.

I have written and published a text book on the former subject, which you can see at [this link](#).

In my free time, I design board games as a creative outlet and run through the forest daily with my dog.