

Cybersecurity Ethics Research Internship



Many of our alum pair their Philosophy degree with a second major. Mark Reuter, one of our current students, is following in this path, pairing Philosophy with a major in Computer Science.

Mark is putting his learning to work. He spent the summer at Old Dominion University, working as

research assistant for the NSF-funded project *Ethics for Cybersecurity Professionals*. The objective of this project, beyond what its name implies, is to discern the extent to which the cybersecurity professions raise distinctive ethical issues, beyond those present more generally in existing fields of computer and professional ethics.

Mark's mentor was Dr. D.E. Wittkower, an associate professor specializing in the philosophy of technology and culture. (One of Dr. Wittkower's more famous projects involves developing a theory of internet cats, according to which "the internet is made of cats.")

Mark spent 10 weeks with Dr. Wittkower. Here's how Mark recalls it: "I came in as a research assistant to look at the history of computer ethics, so my focus was on how ethical issues that deal with cybersecurity in academic, government, and corporate settings are argued. But actual research is different from just going online and looking at something! It's more thorough. I had to go through 40 or 50 articles on the topic, and then reduce that down to 9 or 10, which was more reading than I think I've ever done for a class."

Mark and his fellow interns were also required to give a summary of their work at their weekly meetings, make two presentations at the end of the summer, and complete a research report. In Mark's case, the latter will take the form of a co-authored journal article on cybersecurity ethics that he and Dr. Wittkower plan to submit to the journal *Philosophy & Technology*. "My contribution to the paper will be a historical account of computer ethics, and how it became viewed as a legitimate discipline of applied ethics," he says. "This will be in aid to Dr. Wittkower's argument for the need to talk about the ethics of cybersecurity."

Adapted in part from original story.
www.uah.edu/news/research/uah-students-cybersecurity-internship-combines-philosophy-and-computer-science

FACULTY

Philosophy Faculty: What We're Up To



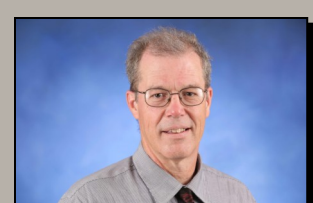
Deborah Heikes, Professor, is working on a book about overcoming liabilities of socially constructed ignorance. Her goal is to examine what it means to understand another's social reality, and to consider how both moral and epistemic obligations attach to demands for understanding others.



Jeremy Fischer, Assistant Professor, will be presenting his research about ethics and emotions this fall for the Tennessee Philosophical Association's annual conference at Vanderbilt University. He is also continuing research into the question of what justifies our beliefs about our emotional experience.

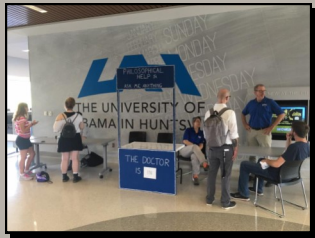


John Nale, Assistant Professor, is finishing his first book, *Another Mind-Body Problem: A History of Racial Non-Being*. He is working on projects dealing with violence in the Middle East and Anti-Arab racism. Most importantly, though, he now owns a single-speed mountain bike and enjoys getting lost on Monte Sano.



Andrew Cling, Professor, continues writing *Reasons and Tragedy*, a book on the problem of the criterion—whether we can show that our intellectual standards are correct without assuming that they are—and the implications of this problem for questions about what makes life meaningful.

Student Outreach



Fall 2017

During the Week of Welcome, the Philosophy Department sponsored an Ask Me Anything booth in the Charger Union.—2 hours of freestyle philosophizing, mostly with newly enrolled undergraduates.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from UAH Philosophy

This is the Philosophy Department's third newsletter. We've been busy since last year's edition.

Dr. Heikes has finished her term as department chair. She guided us through the daunting accreditation process, and she's given the department a solid plan for building our major into the future. I thank her for her service.

Our undergraduates are making philosophy relevant to our technology-laden world. Mark Reuter is pushing the boundaries of research for cybersecurity ethics. (This is our cover story.) Last year, Will Shankles presented his Advanced Epistemology seminar research, "Star-Teching: Technological Relations in Scientific Observation," at the 2016 meeting of the Alabama Philosophical Society.

Our Class of 2016/2017 also seems to be on track for success

after graduating. Three have gone for graduate school (in Math, Philosophy, Education). The other three in the cohort have secured various jobs: in retail, as a web developer, and as an ACT test prep teacher and tutor.

Our department is taking a few steps toward a brave new technological future as well. We're offering *Introduction to Ethics* online for the first time this fall, and we'll offer our first online upper-level course, *Asian Philosophy*, in the spring.

We're trying to make the transition from academia to the work world less daunting and more transparent for our students. We're trying to compile information about our alums' job histories, to give current majors some idea of possible career trajectories. We're also searching for more internship opportunities (on which, check out the "Internship Spotlight" below). Other projects, still in the planning



Nicholaos Jones
Professor and Interim Chair

stages, include some sort of meet-n-greet with majors and local alum, and developing contacts for "externships"—that's a fancy word for "shadowing someone on the job for one day, to see what they do for a living." If you're able to help with these projects, or if you have ideas for other ways we can help our students, please let me know. This is a case where more cooks don't spoil the soup.

We're also trying to stay connected with a more active Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UAHPhilosophy/. Stay in touch with us, too. If you'd like to submit an item for inclusion in our next issue, or just let us know what you're up to, send an email to philosophy@uah.edu

Speakers

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT



The Philosophy Department has a new Internship!

We are pleased to report that one our alumni, Erin McCulley, has arranged an internship for one of our current majors at her start-up, E Squared Research, Inc. Her company focuses on conducting trials for clinical research.

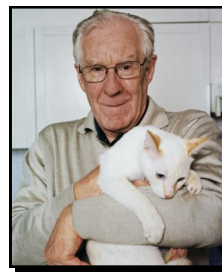
If you are interested in providing an internship opportunity for our current majors, please contact nick.jones@uah.edu for more information.

Philosophers Who Came to Speak at UAH



Michael Lynch Connecticut

Michael Lynch (Connecticut) was a Visiting Eminent Scholar in November 2016. He provided a guest lecture in Philosophy 150, a faculty workshop on the nature of understanding, and a public lecture: "Knowing More and Understanding Less in the Age of Big Data."



Alain Badiou European Graduate School

Alain Badiou (European Graduate School), world-renowned French philosopher and author of *Being and Event*, provided the keynote address, on Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, for the UAH Humanities Center symposium, *The Real Possibilities of Fiction*.



Phyllis Rooney Oakland

Phyllis Rooney (Oakland), noted feminist philosopher, visited in August 2016 as part of our Distinguished Speaker Series. She offered a public lecture, "Adversarial Argument and Diversity," as well as a workshop for faculty on adversarial argument and embattled reason.

Curriculum

What will Philosophy faculty be teaching?



From Dr. Heikes: In Modern Philosophy, we will consider the development of epistemology and metaphysics through the rationalism of Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz, as well as the empiricism of Locke and Hume. We will end with Kant, the great synthesizer of the rationalist and empiricist traditions. Along the way, we'll discuss the existence of God and what sort of Epistemic work God can/cannot do in saving us from skepticism concerning reason.

From Dr. Fischer: In Philosophy of Mind, we will consider some of the models, theories, and argu-

ments generated by research about the mind. The first part of the course critically assesses the reaction of philosophers of the mind in the 20th century against Descartes' mind-body dualism and Ryle's behaviorism. We explore metaphysical questions about qualitative states (such as emotions and pleasures), intentional states (such as beliefs and desires), brain states, and the relations between these states. The second part of the course focuses on a special topic, which may include theories of the nature and rationality of the emotions, or theories about how we can be justified in our beliefs about our own minds.

From Dr. Nale: In Contemporary Political Thought, we will cover foundational texts in postcolonial theory. We will look at problems in the production of knowledge, the metaphysics of time, and the politics of representation from the perspective of non-European au-

thors. Tying these topics together is the overriding theme of colonial violence and its genocidal nature. Classic works from Edward Said, Frantz Fanon, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Gayatri Spivak, Sylvia Wynter, and Christina Sharpe will be studied.

From Dr. Jones: In Asian Philosophy, we will trace debates about self, identity, change, and wholes, as developed in Buddhist and Daoist traditions from India, China, and Japan. We'll discuss literature from Abhidharma and Madhyama Buddhism from India, Neo-Daoism as well as Tiantai and Huayan Buddhism from China, and Soto Zen from Japan. Concepts of concern include no-self (*anatta*), emptiness (*sunyata*), mind-only, *yin-yang*, no-doing (*wu-wei*), and the Great Ultimate (*taiji*). This is also the first upper-level *online* class offered by the Philosophy Department (the others being *Intro to Ethics* and *Critical Thinking for Intelligence Analysis*).



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UAH Philosophy News

is a publication of the Department of Philosophy at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. It is published at least once a year and sent to alumni and other interested parties.

Want to share your successes with other departmental alum?

Want to come back to UAH and share your experience with current students?

Contact any of the faculty listed above and let us know. We very much want to hear from you.

Where are the Philosophy alum now?

What can you do with a Philosophy degree? Quite a lot! Here's a sampling from the past few years. The list isn't comprehensive, and we won't mention names—see if you can guess who they are!

Class of 2016-2017: Ph.D. Candidate at Vanderbilt. Ph.D. Candidate at Notre Dame. Web Developer for UAH's System Management and Production Center.

Class of 2015-2016: Recruiter at Aerotek. Software Developer for Zero Point Frontiers Corp. Claim Agent at Infinity Insurance. Student Advisor at Calhoun Community College. High Ropes Facilitator at the Bronx Zoo. Recruiting Assistant at Express Employment Professionals.

Class of 2014-2015: Technician at Greenway Health. Sales Rep for Allergan. Hospital Corpsman in U.S. Navy.

Class of 2013-2014: J.D. Candidate at Cumberland, at Vanderbilt. Classification Specialist for AL Department of Corrections. Regional Vice President of Sales for Airspan Networks.. XML Analyst for Yulista Aviation.

Class of 2012-2013: Technical Writer at Sanmina, at Command Alkon. Manager at Black Hall Aerospace, at Sigmatech. Mobile Developer for Motova. Associate Production Planner at Remington Arms Co.

Class of 2011-2012: Marketing Program Specialist at Mentor

Graphics. Law Associate at Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff, and Brandt LLC. Supply Chain Manager at Amphenol Tecvox. Lead Buyer for Efi Automotive. RUF Campus Minister at University of California Berkeley.

Class of 2010-2011: Ph.D. Candidate at Howard, at Missouri, at Vanderbilt. Benefits Specialist for American Assistance Senior Programs. Law Clerk for Alabama Legislature. Technical Writer at Intergraph. Program Director at AL Department of Corrections.

If you're on not on this list, reach out with an email. Our faculty—and our students—want to know what you're doing and how you got there. And if you're on the list, we want to hear from you too!



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