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“What made you decide to become a philosopher?”

It’s a question that, in some form, we always ask people who apply to become philosophy professors at Furman. I ask Dr. Aminah Hasan-Birdwell, our new professor of philosophy, a version of this question in my interview with her in this issue of the newsletter. (See page 5.) For myself, the full answer to this question has a lot of components, but since I am writing this on his birthday, I want to highlight the role my dad played in my becoming a philosopher. Gene E. Anderson was born on September 25th, 1928. If he had lived, he would have been 89 years old this year. Unfortunately, he died of cancer in 1998, when I was still in graduate school. When I think about my decision to become a philosopher, it is inevitable that I think of him.

Dad grew up in the proverbial Podunk town of Parker, Arizona, in the Western part of the state along the Colorado River. Neither of his parents went to college. Roy Anderson was a carpenter who worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Esther Anderson was a homemaker who spent her days raising four rambunctious sons. In our age of helicopter parenting, it is amazing to me that at the age of 13, my dad would go on hunting trips by himself for two or three days in the desert, and that he and his brothers would try to catch and ride wild horses.

Dad enlisted in the army during the Korean War, but was stationed in West Germany. I don’t know the details of his military career, but I know that he drove tanks and became interested in the ways army engineers devise mobile bridges that enable tanks to cross rivers. When he left the army, he took this interest with him to the University of Arizona, where he studied civil engineering on the GI Bill. For the rest of his life, he worked as a land surveyor, civil engineer, and land developer.

His life took a more philosophical turn when he graduated from college. As he often related to me, the Dean of the College of Engineering made some remarks to the graduating seniors that had a profound impact on him. “Congratulations,” the Dean said, “you’re all engineers. Now you’re going to have to go out and
get yourself a real education.” While ninety-nine out of one hundred graduation speakers have no discernible effect on their audiences, this one speaker did, on my dad at least. He realized that while he now had some marketable skills, which was not a trivial thing, he knew virtually nothing but engineering and could not be counted as a well-educated person. He devoted a substantial portion of the rest of his life to remedying this deficiency.

Dad engaged in a life-long attempt to educate himself in the sciences and humanities. He was an autodidact who read books on astronomy, biology, ecology, paleontology, history, literature, theology, and philosophy. He was a lifelong student of the Bible, even taking night classes at the local community college on scholarly approaches to the text. By the time I came along, he had managed to become fluent in Spanish and proficient in German. Before it became trendy to do so, my dad’s learning often involved an experiential component. He studied Greek and Roman history before taking my sister and me on a trip to Rome and Athens; he traveled frequently and extensively in Mexico to learn and practice Spanish; he read up on marine biology and astronomy before taking me on a fishing trip to the Sea of Cortez where we encountered whales, porpoises, sharks, and manta rays and saw night skies that were completely untainted by city lights. (I remember him reading me passages from Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* one night as we anchored off Isla Tiburón.) Not all of our learning “adventures,” as my dad called them, were so grand. Sometimes we would just spend the day hunting javelina or exploring abandoned mines in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson. But whatever we did, there was always an educational aspect, since my dad had a seemingly limitless curiosity and appetite for knowledge.
Above all, my dad loved books. He would get book lists from colleges that listed either books they recommended students read before attending or books that were in their core curricula. He had read Plato, Shakespeare, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Camus, Kafka, and Nietzsche before I had even heard of them. He especially loved Thoreau and Emerson, two writers he perpetually returned to throughout his life and with whom he shared a love of nature.

When I approached him with the radical idea that I attend a small liberal arts college in the Pacific Northwest rather than the University of Arizona, Dad was fully behind the idea. He wanted me to have the kind of liberal arts education that he wished he could have had. He supported me when I majored in philosophy, when I studied abroad in London, when I grew a beard and long hair and started wearing Birkenstocks and tie-dyed shirts, when I became a liberal Democrat and a feminist, when I wrote a senior thesis on Nietzsche and the death of God, and even when I decided to go to graduate school in philosophy. He supported me because he loved me, of course, but also because he saw that he had raised a kindred spirit when it came to the love of books, learning, and experience.

Dad taught me that a good life is one spent in continual learning, and that passion and hard work are more important than pedigree. Sadly, he never got to see me complete my PhD and get my job here at Furman. But I know that he would be proud of me, and that if he were here, he would want to know what he should read next and what our next adventure together should be.
Meet Our New Faculty Member: Dr. Aminah Hasan-Birdwell

(1) Tell us a little about your background. Where are you from? Where did you go to college and graduate school? How did you end up where you are today – as a professor of philosophy at Furman University?

I grew up in Los Angeles, California. But Los Angeles is so big, and my family moved quite often around town, so it often feels like I have lived in many different cities within a city. I ended up wanting to leave the west coast towards the end of high school and went to college in western Massachusetts at Hampshire College. I started my undergraduate degree as a fine arts major with an interest in film but by the end of my first year, I was more directed towards doing critical theory. I believe it was because of my first year advisor I had in undergrad, Tina Falguni, who is at Emory now, taught a very convincing course on 20th century philosophy where I was introduced to Martin Heidegger, Michel Foucault, Hannah Arendt and others. The most convincing part of this course was the section on Heidegger. We read “Question Concerning Technology,” which blew my mind and had a long-standing effect on my intellectual development. I spent weeks reading and re-reading the essay trying to understand his concept of ‘enframing’ (Gestell). I never had been more committed and determined to understand anything, frankly. However, it was not until the end of my undergrad career that I returned to Heidegger and philosophy in general.

During my early graduate work at Loyola Marymount I was finally able to devote my studies one hundred percent to philosophy. Loyola offered an alternative middle or in-between space before I went on to my doctorate degree at Penn State University, namely because studying philosophy was more of a spiritual exercise than a profession. I was not just understanding ideas and constructing...
arguments but cultivating myself internally as a human being. After I finished my
doctorate at Penn State it was really only then I began to fully appreciate my time
at Loyola and the type of philosophical life I led during that time. I defended my
dissertation in August of 2017, was awarded a postdoctorate fellowship at Penn
State for the following year, and then went on the job market. And now here I am!

(2) What was the topic of your doctoral dissertation? What are your
philosophical area(s) of specialization? What are your research interests?
What philosophical authors and issues are you most passionate about?

My dissertation was primarily on the work of Emmanuel Levinas, a 20th Century
French philosopher. I focused on his critique of the notion of the conatus (the
urge or inclination to preserve oneself). The critique of the conatus, as I argued
and am still committed to believing, is essential to ethics (which is opposed to
the idea that we are essentially self-interested beings) as a whole but itself
also frames his critique of Western ontology and identity and provides a link from
his political thought to his metaphysics or speculative philosophy. The idea of the
conatus itself can be traced back to ancient Roman thinkers like Virgil but is
clearly treated in the philosophies of Thomas Hobbes, Baruch Spinoza, and
Gottfried Leibniz. Levinas’ engagement and later revision of the idea should also
be seen, as I argued, as a direct engagement with modern philosophy.

In terms of my broader research, my areas of specialization are in Early Modern
Philosophy, Twentieth Century Philosophy (with an emphasis on phenomenology),
History of Political Thought, and Critical Philosophy of Race. My research interests
are directed towards the study of ontology and if and how it converges with
phenomenology in the classical sense of phenomenology. A lot of my past
writings and research have been on the critique of ontology as it pertains to
issues of identity, ethics, politics, etc. But my work now is moving more towards
constructive insights and moving beyond mere critique. The philosophical issues I
am most concerned with at the moment are varied but I believe they all intersect:
I am, as I already mentioned above, focused on the relationship between
ontology and phenomenology; I am still perplexed on the various ways to under-
stand Levinas’ ethics or rather why he thinks ethics is “first philosophy”; and
lastly on the concept of race in the History of Western philosophy. Race, the
idea thereof, encapsulates so many epistemological problems ranging from
universalism, identity, rationalism, natural history and empiricism but it stands as
Meet Our New Faculty Member: Dr. Aminah Hasan-Blrdwell (Continued)

the chief and long-standing philosophical problem because of its violent and destructive history. It is something at least conceptually and in our lived experiences that we as Westerns have not been able to overcome because it is something that is so inscribed into who we are today and in our social, economic, and political structures.

(3) What courses will you be teaching as part of Furman’s philosophy department? Are there any new courses you plan to develop?

I will teach Introduction to Philosophy courses, Modern Philosophy, Twentieth Century Philosophy, and Critical Philosophy of Race. In the future, I would like to develop seminars based on specific topics—such as existentialism, ontology, the politics of war or hatred, religious tolerance, philosophical movements in France, post-racism, Roman and Renaissance philosophy, political thought, and film—and also maybe seminars focused on specific thinkers, such a Du Bois, Spinoza, Fanon, Leibniz, Sartre, Levinas, Deleuze, etc. But honestly, I love doing philosophy in most forms so it is really what the students at Furman want to learn. Unless there is a pressing question or topic I feel that I need to teach, I am open to teaching what the Philosophy majors want. I am a firm believer that students should direct their own questions instead of imposing my own upon them.

(4) Suppose you’re on a sinking ship. For some reason, you’ve got a well-stocked philosophical library on board. You can only grab three books to take with you to a nearby desert island. Which three books do you grab and why?

Obviously, Plato’s Complete Works, Spinoza’s Complete Works, and Walter Benjamin’s Complete Works!

(5) We philosophers should be fearless when it comes to today’s most pressing questions. So, cats or dogs?

Again, obvious, cats! It was recorded Pythagoras would speak of animals who had, or did not have, natural virtue. Clearly cats are the most virtuous and contemplative creatures. And, it must not be overlooked that they make the best writing and reading companions.
Dr. Epright has done very exciting professional work in the past year. Most notably, she was awarded a $231,000 grant from the Templeton Foundation, which provides her and Paige Harden (a 2004 graduate of Furman who is now an Associate Professor of Psychology at The University of Texas in Austin) to complete an interdisciplinary project involving behavioral genetics and philosophical research. The project, entitled, “Fortune’s Favor: Implications of Behavioral Genetic Research for Distributive and Retributive Justice,” will consider the question of “moral luck,” the ways in which this concept impacts the distribution of goods in our society, and whether the effects of luck ought to be neutralized in order to achieve social justice.

The project will result in several papers published in both philosophy and psychology, and it will fund interdisciplinary discussions, research, and the revision of course content at both institutions (Furman and the University of Texas).

In addition to this exciting and new work in behavioral genetics, she continues her work in neuroethics and criminal mental illness, which resulted in two publications and 12 presentations (7 of which were keynote addresses). She was invited to serve as the inaugural McDowell Fellow in Ethics and Public Policy at American University, and was asked to act as an external evaluator for the ethics program at Dartmouth College, as well as for the Department of History, Religion, and Philosophy at Montana State University. In addition, she acted as an outside reviewer for two Ph.D. candidates, one in Sydney, Australia, and the other in Cleveland, Ohio.

On a personal level, she loves her most important roles, being the mother of Luca Blocher, and wife of Kurt Blocher. Luca is a proud “nerd” who loves robotics, astronomy (he had to purchase 3 different T-shirts celebrating the solar eclipse), and is currently enamored with quantum physics – because it allows him to have arguments with his father, who is also his science teacher. Dr. Epright stays out of these discussions because they are above her head, and outside her area of expertise. She is much more qualified to participate in Luca’s love of drama, because she herself was a total ham at 10 years old. Thankfully, Luca also shares Dr. Epright’s obsession with Harry Potter and helped her to create over 90 handmade wands for their shared Harry Potter themed birthday party, complete with a quidditch match featuring several philosophy majors as snitches.
This year Aaron Simmons taught a newly redesigned course in Philosophy of Religion that focused on global-critical approaches to the field. Specifically, the course attempted to engage scholarship in critical theory of religion (because rarely do philosophers ask critical questions about the basic category of “religion” operative in their discourse), and also to draw widely on a variety of world cultural traditions that are classically termed “religious.” This course also attempted to bridge analytic and continental philosophy in ways that are rarely seen in the existing debates and textbooks on the topic. This course was a trial run (and an attempt to gather data) for a textbook project on philosophy of religion, which Simmons is collaborating with scholars of religion from around the world and in a variety of disciplines. In addition to teaching a new course on C.S. Lewis (for the Furman Undergraduate Evening Studies program), Simmons taught 19th Century Philosophy, as well as several sections of Introduction to Philosophy this year. On the research front, Simmons co-edited three volumes that have appeared this year: *Kierkegaard’s God and the Good Life* (Indiana University Press), *Phenomenology for the Twenty-First Century* (Palgrave), and *Contemporary Debates in Negative Theology and Philosophy* (Palgrave). He has also recently finished editing a volume entitled *Christian Philosophy? Conceptions, Continuations, and Challenges* (currently under review at Oxford University Press). He is currently hard at work on a new book tentatively titled *Continental Philosophy of Religion* (for Analytic Philosophers). Simmons is also serving on the editorial board of Lever Press (a new open-access academic publisher), the board of The Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology, and has recently been nominated to serve as the Vice-President of the Søren Kierkegaard Society.
Department News: Dr. Sarah Worth, Chair

Amazon Reviews:

Worth offers a splendid defense not just of reading, but of reading for pleasure. She does this with an eye to challenging the recent obsession with concrete demonstrations of usefulness in academic curricula, something that has cast doubt on the significance of literature inside and outside the academy. The book offers a cogent criticism of such attitudes.

Eva Dadlez, Professor,
Department of Humanities and Philosophy,
University of Central Oklahoma

This important book defends reading literature both because it makes us better people, but also because it is a joy in itself. Anyone working in philosophical aesthetics will profit by reading it, and it should be compulsory reading for those who determine the reading lists of our schools and colleges. This is a significant contribution to our thinking about reading, and the place reading has (or ought to have) in our lives.’

Derek Matravers, Professor of Philosophy,
The Open University

Worth refutes recent philosophical skepticism about the moral value of fiction by summarizing social scientific evidence about the benefits of reading both by individuals and in communities ranging from prisoners to book club members. She also critiques new educational standards that favor “reading for information.” This exceptionally clear book provides an urgently needed defense of the value of literary reading.

Cynthia Freeland, University of Houston
Amy Bedinghaus (formerly Amy Godenick) c/o 2009

Update since graduating from Furman:

I graduated from Furman with a double major in Philosophy and Spanish in 2009. Since then, I lived and worked in Mexico for a year and in Yosemite National Park for 5 seasons. I met my husband in Yosemite, and we spent some time traveling before we moved to Virginia so I could go back to school. I got my Masters in Spanish Language and Literature at the University of Virginia, and now I live with my husband in Columbus, Ohio, teaching middle and high school Spanish.

How has your Furman philosophy major benefitted you in your postgraduate career?

On the surface level, I have followed the Spanish side of my Furman degree, first by teaching English in Mexico and then by getting my Masters and becoming a Spanish teacher. However, my philosophy degree has informed my thought and my choices on a deeper level. Philosophy was and is more personal to me. With it, I learned how to think about the world, and how to think about my own life. My husband Cary, who graduated from Ohio State, also majored in philosophy, and that's part of what attracted us to each other when we met!

That being said, while philosophy has great personal meaning to me, it has helped me greatly in my career as well. It's been a benefit to me as I was applying to and completing grad school--the admissions committee at UVa told me that philosophy made students better writers and thinkers; it's been a benefit to me as I've learned teaching theories and methodologies; and it's been a benefit as I'm currently teaching myself how to computer program (stay tuned for that one!).

What was your favorite class?

I think I first started thinking like a philosopher early on into Dr. Epright's intro course when I read and wrote a response on Thomas Nagel's "What is it like to be a bat?" If you haven't read it, do so!
Amy Bedinghaus continued:

My favorite philosophy course at Furman was Jim Edward's "Happiness" capstone course in which we traced the idea of happiness from Aristotle's eudaimonia to more modern conceptions found in utilitarianism and Wittgenstein (and a lot more). We met once a week, discussed our thoughts on the readings and then wrote a 20-30 page thesis at the end of the semester. In the thesis, we engaged with contemporary scholarship on an issue, and it was where I got a real taste for graduate-level work. I also cannot say enough about how fantastic it was to have Jim Edwards as a teacher.

I took several courses with Erik Anderson, but the one that stands out to me most was the course where we discussed philosophic issues in politics, one of which was abortion. I was in the process of developing my political consciousness in college, and Dr. Anderson's course taught me to be measured in my judgments, to question and lay bare my own assumptions, and to consider carefully the "other side" of an issue. I learned to tolerate ambiguity, and to be ok with not knowing. I wish our country could take this course!

Another great course was Medical Ethics with Carmela Epright. We explored ethics in the medical field and did site visits to local hospitals to observe and conduct interviews. Not only did I learn a lot about applied ethics, I got to see a baby being born, brain surgery and lots of other cool medical procedures that many non-medical students never get to see. I took that course when Furman still had winter trimester--now I don't know what has happened to it.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Dear younger Amy, here's some advice:

- Whatever direction you give your post-college life, it will change. Many times.
- Go to less parties and on more hikes.
- If something fascinates you, explore it.
- Stay in better touch with people. 10 years fly by fast.
- Don't believe everything you think.

By Abby Demare c/o 2018
Philosophy and Political Science Major
Jonathan Cote c/o 2010

How has your Furman philosophy major benefitted you in your postgraduate career?

My philosophy major has benefited me in a number of ways in my postgraduate career. First, the major taught me how to write analytically and honed my writing skills overall. In addition, my job [as a lawyer] regularly requires me to negotiate on behalf of my clients, and my philosophy classes not only taught me how to defend a position extemporaneously, but how to find common ground between competing positions (or better yet, how to tactfully convince someone that my position is right).

Finally, I think my philosophy major broadened my curiosity about the world, which has made my career and life more interesting and rewarding. I think that’s one of the strengths of the liberal arts that I did not appreciate when I was at Furman.

What are some of your favorite Furman philosophy memories?

Having beers with Erik Anderson and my philosophy of law class at the Handle Bar (now closed); dinner with the philosophy majors at Carmela Epright’s house; when Jim Edwards would get excited talking about Nietzsche.

What advice would you give your younger self now that you have been out of college for a while?

I would tell myself to spend more time with my professors. Until my senior year, I would go to class, sit in the back, and then leave. However, the law school recommendation letter process forced me to interact with my professors outside of the classroom. Once I did, I came to appreciate that my professors were fun, interesting people, classes became more enjoyable, and I learned the course material better, and so I belatedly began taking advantage of the opportunities to spend time with my professors.

Do you think there was another major that would have benefitted you more for your current position?

I really don’t. Accounting or business are considered more natural or practical majors for a corporate lawyer. However, I have been able to get on-the-job training in those subjects, and even a writing-intensive job like mine does not provide the time necessary to learn writing and analytical skills. Law school doesn’t teach these skills as the curriculum assumes you have them already.

Philosophy majors are supposed to score well on the LSAT and the MCAT, do you think completing this major gave you an advantage on any tests that you had to take for your current position?

Absolutely. I took a practice LSAT my freshman year of college and struggled, but by senior year, my scores had dramatically improved. All of my philosophy classes taught the type of logical reasoning and analytics that the LSAT tests, but in particular, I think Dr. Stone’s logic class taught me how to handle the logic games section of the LSAT.
John Helsel c/o 2011

Update since graduating from Furman:

After leaving Furman, I spent four years in Boulder, CO hiking the Flatirons and pursuing a PhD in philosophy. I left the program in 2015 and moved to Austin, TX, to start an MS program in Civil Engineering. At the University of Texas I studied transportation engineering and statistics, but philosophy continued to be a large part of my studies as I wrote my thesis on ways to address equity concerns in the creation of transportation network algorithms.

In June I started as a data scientist at the infrastructure consulting firm WSP working on public transit forecasting.

What are some of your favorite Furman philosophy memories?
There's so many to choose from, but hearing Jim Edwards tell how he disabled the Furman Police car and stealing a fire truck is probably my favorite. Jim made it clear that he thought Plato was wrong, but his fervor for Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and the existentialists showed that he continued to accept the ancient understanding of doing philosophy as a way of coming to grips with how to live. And that's a lesson I'll never forget.

What advice would you give your younger Furman student-self now that you have been out of undergrad for awhile?

In my first philosophy class, David Gandolfo had us read Rilke's Letters to a Young Poet to guide a discussion on purpose and meaningful work. In one of those letters, Rilke advised his young interlocutor, "There is only one thing you should do. Go into yourself. Find out the reason that commands you to write; see whether it has spread its roots into the very depths of your heart; confess to yourself whether you would have to die if you were forbidden to write. This most of all: ask yourself in the most silent hour of your night: must I write? And if this answer rings out in assent, if you meet this solemn question with a strong, simple 'I must', then build your life in accordance with this necessity; your whole life, even into its humblest and most indifferent hour, must become a sign and witness to this impulse." I can't come up with any better advice than that. Find something that you love. Do it. And if that doesn't work. Try again.

By Eli Simmons c/o 2020
Philosophy major with an interest in philosophy of religion, phenomenology, existentialism, and Christian mystical theological thought.
Beth Hupfer c/o 2008

Update since graduating from Furman:
Since I graduated from Furman, I attended Virginia Tech where I got my MA in Philosophy in 2011. I then moved to Texas and attended Rice University where I got my PhD in philosophy this past August. In 2016 I got the opportunity to spend a year back at Furman teaching as a visiting professor. My husband, who is also a philosophy grad student, and I moved to High Point, NC, this fall and I have started teaching as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at High Point University. I mainly work in ethics and social political philosophy.

How has your Furman philosophy major benefitted you in your postgraduate career?
My Furman philosophy major has been the largest benefit of my postgraduate career! I loved being a philosophy student at Furman so much that I just kept doing it for about a decade. The Furman professors instilled in me a love of learning that I have not been able to shake.

What are some of your favorite Furman philosophy memories?
My favorite Furman philosophy memories involve having to crawl under a dining room table to come out of Plato's cave, learning how to do research with Dr. Anderson and Dr. Gandolfo in the summer, working with Dr. Epright on the Piper Seminar, and the generally welcoming nature of the philosophy faculty.

What advice would you give your younger Furman student-self now that you have been out of undergrad for awhile?
Now that I have been out of college for a while, I would tell myself to enjoy being an undergrad because there will never be another time in your life like college. I would also tell myself to make sure you, and your classmates, do the reading for class because it is very annoying to be a teacher when no one has done the reading! (Just kidding... sort of.)

By Kathleen Smith c/o 2018
Philosophy and Political Science Major
with a minor in Ancient Greek and Roman Studies
What They’re Doing With That (Continued)

Samuel F. Robinson c/o 2007

Update since graduating from Furman:
Sam Robinson majored in philosophy and history at Furman, where he also competed for the cross country and track and field programs. After college, he worked at a bike shop in Greenville and a few running stores around the country before heading to graduate school. This spring he earned his PhD in History at the University of California, Berkeley. He studied early modern European intellectual and cultural history with a geographic focus on Great Britain. His dissertation focused on the intersections of science, religion, and philosophy, exploring heterodox ideas about the nature of matter and corporeal bodies. Robinson researched how these ideas influenced a few currents of philosophical and theological speculation in the mid-seventeenth century. He still runs competitively and has accumulated a few top-ten finishes at US running championships.

How has your Furman philosophy major benefitted you in your postgraduate career?
The philosophy degree obviously set me up well for graduate study. Doctoral research and debate is more interested in asking new and engaging forms of questions than it is in accumulating a set body of knowledge. One tries to create knowledge, not just learn it. Early in graduate school, many of my advisors stressed that intellectual work is a conversation, one that is ongoing and ever changing. So the open-ended nature of the philosophy courses at Furman prepared me well for the sorts of critical thinking that would be required for graduate seminars and dissertation research. I think this extends beyond academic study. Having a bit of experience in the workplace, you begin to realize that you can always learn more technical knowledge—how to code, how to tune a road bike, how to manage a hedge fund. Indeed work will always require to pick up new skills and tools as you go. But you won’t have much opportunity post-graduation to learn how to think with the sorts of incisiveness and creativity that a philosophy degree requires…and to have your ideas interrogated and pushed by others, for that matter. I’m grateful I got that chance at Furman.

What are some of your favorite Furman philosophy memories?
There were many “aha!” moments throughout my time at Furman… and a lot of them were in the philosophy department. It was a great introduction to that awesome, horrifying, and addicting experience of having your basic presumptions about the world called into question.

A couple specific moments: I remember the enlightening sensation of reading Hume’s Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion for my intro philosophy course. It provided a vocabulary for latent unease with organized religion… God’s existence is, you know, kind of a big thing for most kids who grew up in the South. Additionally, the destabilizing ideas of Nietzsche, Marx, and Foucault made a big impression. But I also recall being struck by the optimism of American pragmatism, especially the work of Richard Rorty, which I’ve re-visited recently for some sense of direction and hope in these uncertain times.
Samuel F. Robinson continued:

**What was your favorite class?**

I enjoyed all of my philosophy courses. I learned something in all of them. But my “Introduction to Philosophy” course with Jim Edwards stands out. I took the course in the fall term of my freshman year. Honestly, I don’t believe I even signed up for the class. But because I was so far down on the course-preference lottery, I think the computer signup program just stuck me in there.

Edwards was so obviously invested in the ideas we were tackling. I recall that in every session he conveyed a sense of real importance to philosophical ideas and inquiry. Even his body language encouraged you to think that the ideas at hand mattered, from his vigorous head nods, to fist pumps, to a sustained corporeal frisson. Edwards was also a very gracious teacher, willing to engage with any thought or criticism, no matter how tepid. He just conducted excitement and energy in a way that was compelling and effective. I took a lot of cues about how to teach from him, including the principle that you owe it to your students to give your utmost in explaining why whatever you are studying is important and worthy of their time, effort, and attention.

**Does philosophy apply to your career?**

It certainly applied over the last eight years of intensive, esoteric study of the past. (I’ve utterly ruined the spines of my paperback volumes of Hobbes, Descartes, and Spinoza.) Looking forward, my guess is that I’ll be relying more on the wider critical-thinking skills I’ve developed, rather than the specific academic knowledge I’ve accumulated. The academic career track is ever fraught, especially in the current moment. So I’ve widened the career search beyond the ever elusive tenure-track job, exploring a broader array of teaching, writing, and research positions in the private sector and public service. Unexpectedly, I’ve developed a little side career as a freelance writer, with a few publications in *Outside Magazine* and other outdoor publication outlets. This work is for a fitness-oriented audience, but humanistic study has made me a bit more provocative than other writers in my approach.

**What advice would you give your younger self?**

Oh, man. A lot. Starting with, “Get out of the library.” I was too focused on my GPA in college. Grades served as my standard of success and that was a mistake. I missed a lot of life while I was trying to memorize my notes for whatever midterm was on the horizon. I wish I’d been more engaged with other students and the wider community. I’d tell my younger self to join a few clubs, to go to more parties, to go to office hours, to ask more advice, to be more political, and to cultivate relationships outside of campus.

I’d also tell my younger self to go to the university career center and take advantage of the institutional guidance and network that Furman provides its students. Because I planned to go to grad school after college, I just expected to wing it through a temporary office job until I started my PhD study. But then the Recession started and I ended up getting lucky just to work retail. So, learn from my mistakes and don’t fall into the trap of thinking that academic success is an assurance of material security.

By Mollie Foster c/o 2018
Philosophy and Music Major
Kristy Tholanikunnel c/o 2012, interviewed by Lynne Waheeba c/o 2018

Lynne Waheeba: I hope this email reaches you well! My name is Lynne Waheeba and I am emailing you because you are one of the chosen philosophy alumni to be featured in the Philosophy Newsletter. I am a senior philosophy major on the pre-med track, weird combination, I know. I chose philosophy instead of a science, like my fellow pre-medicine colleagues, because I saw in philosophy the ability to expand my mind to its fullest potential in regards to the abstract ideas that are not usually mentioned in everyday conversations. I discovered my love for philosophy after taking Intro to Philosophy with Dr. Baba in my first semester of sophomore year. I declared the major that spring and have been in love with Philosophy ever since. I have taken Philosophy of Psychology (with Dr. Epright, aka my hero), Ethics of Globalization (with Dr. Gandolfo), Logic, Epistemology and currently Ethics (with Dr. Anderson and I’m trying to take Philosophy of Sex and Love with him, as well) and 19th Century Philosophy (with Dr. Simmons).

I struggle to find a favorite Philosopher but I am very interested in Kierkegaard now especially because of his views on faith (obviously). I have always struggled to find a philosopher who is willing to argue with/for faith using the Abraham and Isaac story. I am very new to Kierkegaard though so I don’t know how I’ll feel about him by the end of the term. As for my tentative plans after college, I am planning on going to a Post-Grad Program to better my GPA then will be doing a year of research while I wait for my Medical School acceptance letter (I hope).

Dr. Anderson told me that you currently are a lawyer in New York, which is incredibly exciting! Would you mind shedding light on what you have been doing since graduating from Furman and how being a Philosophy major from Furman helped you succeed in the real world? I know one thing that is making me really nervous about graduating this May is leaving all of my friends and memories behind at this beautiful place and going to a completely foreign place to me. Would you mind sharing a few of your favorite memories from your time here and what advice would you give to your younger self after graduating?

Kristy Tholanikunnel: Thanks for reaching out and for the background info about your time in the Philosophy Department and plans after college. It must have been a busy four years majoring in philosophy while still getting all your pre-med requirements! I’m sure you’ll bring some much-needed diversity of background to your med school class.

After graduating from Furman, I went straight into law school (along with a lot of other college philosophy majors!) at Columbia University. While there, I had internships with the US Court of
Kristy Tholanikunnel continued:

International Trade, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, and my current employer, Hogan Lovells. I’m currently a third year associate in their New York office, in the Finance practice group, where I do transactional work primarily in debt capital markets.

I think that having been a philosophy major at Furman has helped me in my life and career in several ways. First, there is the obvious benefit of an education that is focused on developing critical thinking skills and teaching students to look at issues from all sides. But more importantly, because of its great professors and small classes, the Furman Philosophy Department helped me to develop confidence in my own thoughts. The classes I took, and my more casual conversations with my professors and fellow students, were where I learned to voice my thoughts and opinions and be able to back them up, despite there not being clear answers to the topics we discussed.

Knowing that my input can be valuable even when I’m not the most experienced person in the room, and being able to speak up accordingly, has helped me a lot as I start my career. I think this is a mindset and a skill that is particularly important for women to practice, given how common Impostor syndrome is among high-achieving women and how easy it can be to slip into staying quiet because of that.

It’s hard to narrow down my favorite memories while I was at Furman. I loved both of my study abroad experiences - in India and in Brussels - each of which gave me the opportunity to learn a lot about myself, in different ways. Most of my favorite memories come down to the people I met at Furman, including my husband and some of my best friends, but also my professors and classmates. During my junior and senior years, I worked as an assistant in the Philosophy Department, so I spent a lot of time hanging around the offices and had the chance to have great conversations with the professors and other students as they were passing through the department.

If I were able to give advice to myself during my last year of college and after graduating, it would be, first to calm down and be more present in the moment rather than stressing so much about the future. And second, to get into the habit of taking care of myself and my health earlier, because it’s much harder to learn how to prioritize that when you’re working 80-hour weeks than when you’re in school. And I’m realizing as I write this that I sound like someone’s grandmother, rather than a 26 year old!

I am sitting with a philosopher in the garden; he says again and again, “I know that’s a tree,” pointing to a tree that is near us. Someone else arrives and hears this and I tell him: “This fellow isn’t insane. We are only doing philosophy.”

-- Ludwig Wittengstein
ALUMNI UPDATES

Nick Wise  c/o 2012
After graduating Furman in 2012, I came back to Florida and attended Stetson University College of Law. I graduated in 2015 and while taking the Bar Exam and trying to figure out the next step in my life, founded a kayak company with a good friend of mine from law school. I'm currently operating the kayak company, which includes sales and tours, full time trying to grow it and discover my path! I have been dating my girlfriend, who I met in law school, for just over 3 years.

Michael Cheatham, c/o 1973
Retired as a business owner in 2016. Presently serving as pastor of Zoar United Methodist Church in Greer, SC. An avid Furman football fan, also known as "Flagman", he and his wife Jennifer (Mure), ('73) have missed a total of 11 Furman football games (home & away) over the past 31 years.

Nicholas Bryant c/o 2012
I am currently working as a software engineer in Durham, NC.

Tim Powers, C.P.A. c/o 1974
My wife Diana and I have been living in Idaho for the past 15 years. I am CEO of an acute care hospital in southern Idaho and love my role and the responsibilities that come with it. Could not imagine doing anything else. Currently battling non-Hodgkins Lymphoma as a lot of people my age sadly are doing. Cancer is nothing short of evil and needs to be erased from the diseases on our planet.

Trying my best to keep faith in the Paladin football team. It has been a tough few years but I feel the current staff is assembled to return our team to being consistent winners. Thank you for reaching out and allowing me to provide a snippet of my recent life experiences. As Dr. Blackwell so wonderfully put it "FU all the time"!
Dr. Thomas Bandy c/o 2001

I’m now in charge of the musical preparation for the opera program at the Oberlin Conservatory, and teach classes in Italian, German, English, Czech, and Russian lyric diction, as well as coach singers in operatic and song literature. I’m married to Rebecca Bandy (also class of ’01) and we have four children, ages 12, 10, 6, and 3.

David Cross c/o 1997

I graduated from Columbia Law School in 2002 after working at the Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice between Furman and law school. I clerked for the Honorable Michael B. Mukasey, former Chief Judge for the Southern District of New York and US Attorney General. I practiced in New York for a while at Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP and now am a partner at Morrison & Foerster LLP in Washington, DC. I’m a trial lawyer specializing in antitrust litigation and representing a wide range of clients, including Uber, John Deere, CSX, DuPont, Etsy, and many more. I have a robust pro bono practice focused on civil rights, including multiple amicus briefs before the US Supreme Court regarding affirmative action programs involving higher education and a class action lawsuit against the City of Baltimore Police Department for race discrimination in internal disciplinary proceedings. I live in Alexandria, Virginia, with my wife Pam and three children, Colin (11), Healey (9), and Lexi (3) -- and our rescue pup, Brady. I spend much of my time shuttling kids to and from school and activities, hiking and camping with my family, and playing tennis, basketball, and poker.

Philip Lorish c/o 2003

I am currently a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia, Director of Research at New City Commons, and Venture Partner with Praxis Labs. After graduating from Furman in 2003, I was an Americorps Vista Volunteer in Boston before beginning graduate school at UVA. After completing a doctorate in "Theology, Ethics, and Culture" from UVA in 2015, I've been working for a social impact consulting firm called New City Commons. I'm currently working on a book, tentatively titled "Our Permanent Problem: Work and Meaning in the 21st Century." I live in Charlottesville with my wife, Lisa, and our three kids.
**Susannah L. Rose, PhD c/o 1996**

I am Susannah Rose, and I graduated from Furman in 1996, majoring in Philosophy and Psychology. After leaving Furman, I earned a MS in Social Work from Columbia University, and then worked as a clinical social work (counselor) at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in NYC for almost a decade. During that time, I earned a MS in Bioethics, and then left Sloan-Kettering to earn a PhD at Harvard University in Health Policy and Ethics (graduated in 2010). I completed post-doctoral fellowships at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University and at Mass General Hospital in Boston (funded by the National Institutes of Health - NIH). I now work as a Bioethicist at Cleveland Clinic, and I specialize in the intersection of ethics and empirical research. In addition to being an Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University, I am currently the Scientific Director of Research in Patient Experience at Cleveland Clinic. I conduct studies and publish the results, hoping that my research will help improve the lives of patients and their families. My education at Furman was the perfect background to an exciting career, where I regularly integrate my training in philosophy and psychology. I miss Furman, I hope to visit again soon.

**Lane Erwin c/o 2015**

Currently, I am a full time Stunt man for T.V. and Film. This year I have worked on Marvel’s Inhumans for ABC and have a couple more projects lined up for the Fall. I am also working on a web-series with others in the film community. Personally, I am training pretty hard for obstacle course races and now starting to become an advanced climber. My goals this climbing season is to snag a V7 and a V8 boulder problem outside. Also, I am also going to grab a 5.12 A outside as well!

**William Jordan c/o 2010**

William Jordan is a 2010 graduate of Furman, where he met his wife, Meredith Williams. William went to law school immediately after Furman and graduated in 2013. He has been practicing since 2013 in Greenville, and was married in 2014. He now has his own firm in Greenville with a focus on civil litigation, specializing in personal injury. On September 7, William and Meredith welcomed their first child to the world, Zoey Grace Jordan.
Alumni Updates (continued)

Howell Tod Taylor

Practicing law as a public defender in west Tennessee for 23 straight years. I have argued before our Tennessee Supreme Court and am licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. I have tried more than 100 jury trials...from murder to disorderly conduct. I am the proud father of one son...you never know how much God blesses you until he trusts you with a child with a disability. Read the words in red, people.

Grant Allard c/o 2012

One of the lessons I learned from David Shaner's class a la the Daodejing is that water is strong because it flows to the lowest level and can fit around any impediment or disruption. The point of this metaphor is that water is strong because it is flexible. This life lesson has been a boon for me as I negotiate life's challenges.

I am now pursuing my PhD in Science and Technology Policy at Clemson University. I moved to full-time because the company I worked for unexpectedly shut its doors at the end of August. I am thankful to the good folks at Clemson for helping me transition to being graduate assistant at a moment's notice (literally 72 hours!) and I am grateful for the life lessons I learned in our Philosophy classes that gave me a compass by which to navigate this journey.

My research makes it easier for universities, government, and industry to collaborate developing new technologies. Specifically, I focus on the process of technology transfer, which describes how universities and governments transfer scientific findings to businesses that will use them for a commercial purpose. This process is vital for our country's economic well-being and it has produced new technologies such as Google and Gatorade. I am in the early phase of my research and am developing conceptual models that will form a theory base, which I will empirically test. Being philosophically inclined, I am introducing the concept of role morality--the responsibilities and privileges we take on as part of an institutional role such as being a professor--into my work. This fall, I have a visual presentation at the American Society for Information Science & Technology and 2 papers that I will be presenting at the Technology Transfer Society.

If you have an idea for a scholarly research project, industry engagement, conference panel, or just want to find out more about this topic, please reach out to me at <gallard@clemson.edu>. The world of technology transfer, research commercialization, academic entrepreneurship, and university-government-industry linkages is emerging in both the scholarly and popular spheres.

I realize now the full contingency of our lives and the irony in which we live (shout out to JCE!). For all the current students reading this, Philosophy is totally worth it and will prepare you to thrive when life is challenging.
ALUMNI UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Mary Katherine Gleason c/o 2015

I stayed in Greenville following graduation to be close to my siblings, who are all Paladins-- Go Dins! I recently made a job change from a start up focused on engaging and supporting patients in chronic disease states to Dixon Hughes Goodman Healthcare Consulting, where I work closely with the marketing and production of healthcare data dashboards. I spend my personal time involved with my church, working out at Iron Tribe, and hanging out or cooking with my friends! I can proudly say that if I did not take Medical Ethics or Philosophy of Food, I would not have the career or health I have today. Philosophy continues to inform my daily life and decision. I could not be more thankful or indebted to Furman’s philosophy department for teaching me so many important life lessons and skills.

From May X 2017

Slow Food: Italian Style

Emily Wirzba c/o 2013

Emily Wirzba is the Legislative Representative for Sustainable Energy and Environment at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL, the Quaker lobby). She now leads FCNL’s program to foster bipartisan action on climate change in Congress. She works closely with the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus, currently made up of 28 Republicans and 28 Democrats. She was quoted about her work in an E&E News article titled "How do you shift Republicans on climate? Be nice." Emily still lives in Washington, D.C., and is active on the board of New Leaders Council - D.C., a fellowship and training program for progressive leaders.
ALUMNI UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Amanda Powell Giffin c/o 2009
After graduating from Furman in 2009, I went on to the University of Georgia School of Law, graduating summa cum laude. I credit almost all of my law school success to my Furman philosophy degree. It prepared me well. I’m currently an associate at Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP in Atlanta, specializing in professional liability litigation and other complex commercial litigation. Personally, I ended up following the Furman tradition and married a fellow Paladin from my freshman brother hall, although it took us 4 years after graduation to reconnect. We are eagerly expecting our first child in March.

Sam Klein c/o 2015
I recently moved from Greenville to New York City, where I’m coffee roaster for a company called Toby's Estate. I’ve been thoroughly enjoying both the city and the new job and have found no shortage of opportunities to apply what I learned in Dr. Worth’s Philosophy of Food class! In summary, life's a carnival.

Molly Bell c/o 2006
Molly Bell is currently serving as Senator Jon Tester's Regional Field Director in Billings, Montana. In addition to working with the Billings community, she assists the senator with issues related to natural disasters and law enforcement. Molly feels her liberal arts education at Furman prepared her well for her work with the Senate because Senate staffers must constantly absorb new information and troubleshoot a variety of problems. Molly and her husband will also be celebrating their one year wedding anniversary on October 1.
James McRae c/o 1998
James McRae was recently promoted to the rank of Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. His latest book with J. Baird Callicott, entitled *Japanese Environmental Philosophy*, was released by Oxford University Press in May.

Alex Chan c/o 2010
Alex Chan completed his first year with the faculty of the University of Maryland running the Prince George's County 4-H program. Healthy relationship education has been a top priority of his work with teenagers. In exciting news, his program was recently featured on NPR's Education website. Alex continues to do research on the implementation of romantic relationship education programs and will be presenting his work at the National Council on Family Relations in Orlando this November.

Doug Williams c/o 1975
Doug Williams recently retired from a 25 year career in commercial real estate with the Furman Co., founded in 1888 by the same Furmans who founded our alma mater. Married for 41 years to Beck Smith Williams, also a Furman grad. Doug and Beck live in Greenville and have 3 kids and 5 grandkids.

Elizabeth Miller c/o 2002
My family and I live in Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating from Furman, I attended Wake Forest Law School, where I met my husband. We are practicing law together in the field of medical malpractice and nursing home neglect. We love living in such a vibrant city and we try to give back through volunteer work with a local nonprofit. My work is part-time and when I am not working at an office, I work on raising my four year-old son. This fall, my son ended up in the same preschool class as another Furman graduate. Small Furman-world!
ALUMNI UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Fred McKay c/o 1984
This is my 12th year as Principal of The Charleston Catholic School in Charleston, SC. Our school successfully completed our Accreditation review last spring by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Our school was selected by News 2 TV in Charleston as the "Cool School of the Week" in October 2016. We have a presence on Facebook, Instagram and You Tube, if people want to see my school. Our website is www.charlestoncatholic.com
This is also my 30th year in education. I have truly enjoyed my career as a teacher, coach (tennis), and administrator. I have worked in schools / colleges in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Tom Sullivan
I write each morning for the national progressive political blog, Hullabaloo, which attracts 25-30k hits per day. My countywide election mechanics primer, For The Win is available there by request. Activists in 34 states have requested copies. For money I design factories.

Meg Stroup c/o 2002
I completed my MLIS last year and currently work for the South Carolina State Library. Previously, I'd worked many years in a public library, after getting an MA in literature. I am the SCLENS Cataloging Coordinator and oversee cataloging in the consortium. Recently, on a site visit, someone asked me to explain the difference between metaphysics and ontology, so the philosophy degree continues to be useful. My personal life revolves around cats, cardigans, and obscure music trivia.

Brian Babbage c/o 2016
I am living in Washington, DC with 4 fellow Furman Alums, and having a blast. We have been having cook-outs, parties, and even our own Dins Day for DC Alums. I am working for Deloitte Consulting as a Business Analyst in the Federal Practice. I've been doing some biking up here, but the trails pale in comparison to the Swamp Rabbit and Paris Mountain. I will be heading down to Greenville for Homecoming this year and hope to see y'all around.
Oryza Astari c/o 2016

I am currently serving as a second-year Corps Member with Teach For America in Jacksonville, FL. I teach 8th Grade Comprehensive Science in Duval County. What a difference a year makes! I wasn’t able to send an update last year because I was overwhelmed with the duties of my new role as a teacher. The biggest lesson I’ve learned after graduating is that learning never stops—even as a teacher, I still and always learn from my students and the compassionate people in my school community.

I enjoyed great successes in my first year of teaching. I teach a tested subject in a Title I school. Not only did my students exhibit 33% growth in tests from the beginning to the end of the year, 40% of students at my school achieved proficiency at the end-of-course exam, which contributed to our improved school grade—despite being an underperforming school. We are now a “C” school on our way to a “B.” This year, I am thriving in my role. I teach 4 sections of advanced science, one of them is a cohort of advanced students in the STEM program for whom I teach high school Physical Science Honors. I have become a leader in my school community as a mentor to first-year teachers and a sponsor for my school’s chapter of National Junior Honor Society. In addition, I am a leader in my Teach For America community: I was selected by TFA staff to be part of a 6-person leadership cohort to design and lead professional development sessions centered on diversity and identity, implementing core practices of instruction, and reflecting on teaching practices for all Corps Members. I am excited for this school year and the endless opportunities to make a difference.
Across
4 Latin phrase used by philosophers which literally means “at first look.”
6 20th Century American political philosopher who wanted to protect “capitalist acts among consenting adults.”
8 Term that James, Dewey, and Rorty applied to themselves.
9 Harvard psychologist who pioneered the care theory of ethics, or the Skipper’s little buddy on a bad seventies sit-com.
10 Animal that Thomas Nagel wondered what it is like to be.
12 If you are in the Original Position, you are behind one of these.
13 Philosopher of panopticism.
14 A term used to refer to Kantian approaches to ethics.
18 John Stuart Mill said it would be better to be Socrates dissatisfied than one of these animals satisfied.
19 Australian moral philosopher who coined the term “speciesism,” or a contestant on American Idol.
20 Logical term describing an argument whose conclusion cannot be false if its premises are true.
21 According to a recent thought experiment, you should stay out of the path of this mode of transportation if you’re male and have put on a few extra pounds.
22 Philosopher who wrote, “One is not born but becomes a woman.”
23 Philosopher whose theodicy was satirized in Voltaire’s Candide.
24 American philosopher who also played a character in the Matrix movies.
25 What makes Aristotle happy.

Down
1 This philosopher thought the mind was “attached” to the brain’s pineal gland; also what someone with a French accent would say not to put before the horse.
2 Philosopher who famously wrote, “Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent.”
3 What logicians call a compound statement formed when two simple statements are joined by ‘or.’
5 In Umberto Eco’s novel The Name of the Rose, a lost work on comedy by this philosopher plays a central role in the story.
7 Kant’s supreme principle of morality.
11 Name for the logical form of this argument: if Sally is a woman then Sally is a human being. Sally is woman. Therefore, Sally is a human being.
13 What we can know, according to Plato.
14 In Plato’s Republic, Socrates claims that this animal has a philosophic nature.
15 A name for the kind of truth you can only learn through experience.
16 If you’re worried your life may be solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short, you have this philosopher to thank.
17 Name for a person who believes that life is meaningless and rejects all religious and moral principles. A group of this sort of person threatened to cut off the Dude’s “Johnson” in The Big Lebowski.
Cleo Patrick had always enjoyed a close relationship with her cat, Hector. She would tell her friends that she and Hector were more like sister and brother than owner and pet. Hector went everywhere with Cleo. He would ride in the shopping cart as she stock up on his favorite gourmet foods at her weekly supermarket shop. They would regularly watch afternoon reruns of Melrose Place together, she enjoying the occasional After Eight mint, he happily devouring a tuna melt. And at night he would curl up at the bottom of her bed and she would read to him-an Agatha Christie, perhaps, or excerpts from The Owl and the Pussycat.

Hector, unfortunately, was not blessed with great eyesight and this led to his downfall, when one day he mistook a lawnmower for a mouse. Cleo was devastated by his death. But having known that this moment would come, she had, some years before, made herself a promise: as a tribute to Hector, she would eat him for supper. She felt that this was fitting—he would in death become one with her. Also, she had heard that cat meat was extremely tasty and she figured that Hector would have been pleased that he was now satisfying her curiosity in this regard.

So it was, then, that Cleo sat down on the evening of Hector’s death and ate him on toast, washed down with a nice glass of Chianti. Cleo lived to be a ripe old age. She never regretted her decision to eat Hector, never suffered any ill-effects as a result, and told nobody else what she had done.

Philosophical Puzzler:
Was Cleo wrong to eat her beloved cat as if he were just a bedtime snack?

Furman University strives to develop in its students a passionate commitment to liberal learning. The Department of Philosophy is central to this endeavor. We seek to introduce students to the most important philosophical thinkers, movements, and texts in the history of philosophy and in the contemporary world, from both Western and non-Western perspectives. We do so with the aim of teaching students to be critical thinkers, inquisitive learners, clear writers, and engaged citizens.

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