Dear Friends of the Philosophy Department,

The leaves are changing here on campus – adding a colorful backdrop to this gorgeous and inviting place, home to so many fond memories. As the weather turns chilly (or at least from blisteringly hot to warm and breezy), we want to invite you back to Furman for our Homecoming celebration. Find us on Saturday, November 5th under the big tent in front of Furman Hall from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We look forward to renewing friendships, meeting your families, and hearing about your lives.

There is so much to report about the activities undertaken by members of department this year. As you will read below, many of us have taken up new and exciting research projects representing our own academic interests and passions, but we have also embarked upon some exciting projects as a department. First and foremost, we are engaged in a search for a new colleague! The department hopes to welcome a new faculty member in the fall of the 2017-2018 academic year. We are currently accepting applications for a new teacher/scholar who can contribute to our existing offerings and expand our curriculum to include greater awareness of the philosophical issues surrounding race. So, hopefully by this time next year we will be welcoming a new member to the Furman Philosophy family.
Our department and its faculty have always made strong contributions to the university as a whole and to the larger community, and our work this year has amply demonstrated these commitments. Our Department Chair, Professor Sarah Worth, is co-chairing Furman’s university-wide Diversity and Inclusion Committee, a Herculean task that involves the participation of more than 30 faculty, staff, and student members. This committee will focus on every aspect of diversity and inclusion on campus. She is also co-chairing the Strategic Vision working group that is in charge of proposing new initiatives that have to do with cultural humility. We will hopefully be seeing a more diverse student body and a more diverse faculty and we will be prepared with a better range of classes and expertise (hence our hiring in the philosophy of race) to address these issues.

Dr. Worth is also serving as one of the co-chair of the Community Engagement Initiative, which did a great amount of data collection over the summer to catalogue and highlight the work that is already being done by members of the university community to form relationships with, and work in concert with, the larger community of Greenville and beyond. Various members of our department have spent much of their career working with and for various communities, and integrating a commitment to community into their teaching, research, and scholarship. For example, Professor David Gandolfo has been working for 10 years (along with other faculty and staff) to develop and now chair a vibrant Poverty Studies program that conceives of the university as the part of the community that thinks with (not for) community members about how to meet the challenges that they face. The program, now the largest Minor on campus, asks students and faculty to think about, and then enact, the ways in which the tools of their discipline might contribute to efforts to overcome poverty and inequality. Professor Aaron Simmons has worked with a variety of different communities in order to expand the audience for philosophical research. Through the blog he hosts, www.philosophygoestochurch.wordpress.com, and the essays he writes for popular audience outlets, his work on postmodern philosophy of religion has been able...
to connect with far more people than have access to research libraries. I myself have always considered community engagement a cornerstone of my work as a bioethicist, as evidenced by my participation on multiple statewide taskforces and committees dedicated to such issues as improving access to medical care for the poor, pandemic and disaster planning for our state’s hospitals, and the improvement of care for patients at the end of their lives. In addition, I work with mentally ill persons to develop better psychiatric treatment options, and as such, serve as an advocate and researcher for mentally ill persons in prisons and psychiatric institutions. I also engage with individual patients and their families in crisis situations, and help to develop policies to better serve our state’s patients at each of the academic medical centers in South Carolina.

We are pleased that our department’s work has become central to the strategic vision put forth by Furman’s new president – especially because we did not need to reinvent ourselves to serve the needs of, and contribute to, the university and larger communities. Being committed to diversity and community engagement has always been integral to who we are, how we practice philosophy, and how we envision our relationships to our students, as well our research and service.

One last note, we would like to remind you that if you are one of the many alumni who contribute to Furman, you can designate some or all of your contribution to support the philosophy department. With the help of the Development office we have created a “Philosophy Department Special Needs” account that we use to provide current students with the sort of experiences that made your own experiences with our department so valuable. Giving is easy and much appreciated. Just go to https://alumni.furman.edu/donate and in the “designation” pull down menu, please select “other” and then type in “Philosophy Department Special Needs.” All contributions will go directly to the department to support student activities and research.
We hope that you enjoy reconnecting with your professors, fellow alumni and friends through this newsletter, and hope to see all of you during our homecoming celebration. If you are unable to join us at homecoming, know that we would love to hear from you at any other time. We invite you to join the “Friends of Furman Philosophy Department” Facebook group, or to contact any of us via an email.

We hope to see or hear from you soon!

On behalf of the philosophy department and with warmest regards,

--Carmela Epright

Additional updates on Faculty Activity:

**M. Carmela Epright** was honored to receive a second clinical professorship, this one in the department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Greenville (her first was awarded in 2014 by the USC School of Medicine, Columbia, in Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences). She continues to serve as the director of the Medicine, Health, and Culture minor, which, in its first year became the second largest minor at Furman (behind the Poverty Studies minor directed by her friend and philosophy department colleague, Dr. David Gandolfo). She was asked to serve as an external reviewer for two different programs, the ethics program at Dartmouth College, and the philosophy and religion program at Montana State University. She continues her work on the evaluation and treatment of the criminally mentally ill, and was invited to speak in multiple states and in Rome, Italy about the inaccurate but wide-spread belief that most mass shooters are mentally ill. She was also invited to give a Greenville TEDx talk on mass shootings and mental illness. Her most recent projects include work with a genetic psychologist on the social implications of genetics research concerning criminality and mental illness, and an examination of the ways in which various jurisdictions (states and countries) evaluate, treat, and house persons who the courts have found to be not guilty by reason of insanity, or who have been determined by the courts to have reduced criminal responsibility for their actions as a result of their mental illnesses.
From the Editor (continued)

From Left to Right:
Paul AuBuchon, Kate (Walker) AuBuchon, Luca (Carmela’s son) and Carmela Epright. Dr. Epright performed Kate (Furman Philosophy major who will graduate December 2016) and Paul’s wedding on October 22, 2016.

Dr. Epright with her family—Husband Kurt and son Luca.
Aaron Simmons was on sabbatical in the fall of 2015 and since then has had a very productive year. His next book, an edited volume entitled *Phenomenology for the Twenty-First Century* will be published this fall by Palgrave-MacMillan. He also had a co-edited volume entitled *Kierkegaard’s God and the Good Life* recently accepted for publication at Indiana University Press (it should be in print in 2017). His current projects include a book monograph entitled *Continental Philosophy of Religion* that is currently under contract with Wipf and Stock (as part of their Cascade Companion series), and also another edited volume called *Christian Philosophy Today and Tomorrow*, which is currently under review at Oxford University Press. In addition to these book projects, Simmons also wrote a number of articles this year and had other essays appear in print for the first time, including: “Politics and the Third Party,” which is forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook to Levinas*; “How to Recover from Barbarism: Michel Henry and the Future of the Humanities,” (with David Scott), forthcoming in *Pli: The Warwick Journal of Philosophy*; “Continental Philosophy of Religion in a Kenotic Tone,” forthcoming in a an edited volume from Oxford University Press; “Kierkegaard and Pentecostal Philosophy” forthcoming in an edited volume on Kierkegaard, “Personally Speaking . . . Kierkegaardian Postmodernism and the Messiness of Religious Existence, forthcoming in *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*; “Speaking of Silence (Sort of),” published in *Theology Syndicate*; “A Goldilocks God,” (with John Sanders), forthcoming in *Element*; “A Search for the ‘Really’ Real: Philosophically Approaching the Task of Defining Religion,” published in the *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*; “Prophetic Philosophy of Religion,” published in *Common Ground*; and “Retooling Objectivity in the Name of Science: Epistemic Postmodernism and the Social Processes of Truth,” (with Brandon Inabinet). Currently, Simmons is also working on a series of essays on apophatic theology, an essay on phenomenology and responsibility to future generations, an article on hope and eschatology in philosophy of religion, and an essay on Heidegger and the ontological argument. Simmons is also serving on the editorial board of Lever Press, *Syndicate Philosophy, Cogent OA: Humanities*, and also on the executive board of the Society for
Continental Philosophy and Theology as well as a regional committee of the Society for Continental Philosophers. Moreover, he is part of a research team working over the next three years to produce the first global/critical textbook in philosophy of religion. His wife, Vanessa, recently became the marketing director for Chick-fil-a (Cherrydale) and also opened her own event planning business called “Palmetto Party Chicks.” His son, Atticus, just turned 7 and still wants to be a geologist.

Mark Stone:

One of the highlights of this past year was traveling to Japan with 15 Furman students and Dr. Baba. We directed a May Experience course called Garden, Temple, Dojo: Embracing Japanese Arts and Culture. The centerpiece of the trip was our stay at Ki no Kenkyukai, the Headquarters of the International Ki Society in the Tochigi Prefecture. Here we practiced the Japanese martial art of Aikido, experienced Tea Ceremony, and Calligraphy. The Japanese expressions for these different arts, Aikido, Chado, and Shodo, illustrate the way in which these arts find commonality in the pursuit of a way or do.
This is a path or practice that frequently involves a lifelong commitment to the development of this art and to the personal qualities that this art fosters. Our hope was for all the students through their experiences to begin to touch the possibilities in such a rich cultural practice. In addition to our experiences in Tochigi, we spent time exploring the sites in Tokyo, hiking the beautiful Ryokyu Canyon, trekking up Mt. Chasudake, and relaxing in the volcanic hot springs of Nikko. We also had many opportunities to eat authentic Japanese cuisine throughout the trip.

This summer I had the pleasure of working with Sabrina Boone on a Furman Advantage Research Fellowship. We explored various aspects of the emotion of disgust and the way it informs our judgments and the experiences we respond to by saying “Ew!” or “Yuck!”. The significant philosophical issue is whether disgust should have any influence on our moral judgments. For example, most philosophers believe it is not enough to say that cannibalism or incest is wrong because we find them disgusting; we need to provide additional argumentation to back up our views. But it may well be that we find them disgusting because they are wrong. Since we have reason and emotions, not to have negative emotional reactions to wrong doing is itself a problem. This is obviously the beginning and not the end of the story, but maybe it gives you an idea of some of the arguments we examined during our research.
Sarah Worth’s first book will be coming out in January of 2017, *In Defense of Reading*. Here she tackles the question of whether or not reading literary fiction really has any value, specifically moral, cognitive, or social value. In an age where reading hyperlinked articles on the internet, scrolling through social media feeds, and scanning abound our reading practices, Worth argues for the value of deep reading, where one is fully immersed in a book. Worth uses a variety of ways to understand how adults come to have fiction in their lives, including discussions of prison literacy programs, book clubs, and the ways in which reading on the internet is cognitively different than reading print. In the end, she defends reading as an important activity in and of itself and laments the loss of reading fiction in the schools (through Common Core) and for adults more generally.
The Philosophy Scholarship Winners: Nate Bilodeau and Eli Simmons.

Eli Simmons’ Bio

Since I moved to Greenville nearly seven years ago, I have spent many weekends and summer afternoons wandering Furman’s campus with friends and family, walking around the lake and gawking at the surrounding beauty. However, until I began my college search last fall, I never considered that I might end up living and learning on that very campus. After meeting with professors and investigating opportunities, I quickly discovered that Furman was a place I could call home. The philosophy scholarship helped me to turn that into a reality.

I am studying philosophy because I long to wrestle well with questions worth asking, to think well about those questions and their multitudinous answers and, above all, to live well in all that I do. Philosophy keeps me constantly awake and alert, constantly moving, constantly aware of my own finitude. The philosophy department at Furman, and the philosophers therein, provide me with the context and guidance I need to do philosophy well.
Alumni Updates

Thomas Harrison, Ph.D., MFT ('71)

Professor of Counseling and Educational Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno. (1988-present)
I have been Department Chair of Counseling and Educational Psychology (2005-2010) and have been the College of Education Associate Dean (2010-2015).
Married to Terianne Harrison and have 4 grown children (Ryan, Rebecca, Jordan, Iain).
Written several editions of a Substance Abuse textbook and published another book on consultation.
Currently, I am the Chair-Elect of the University Faculty Senate.
As for philosophy, I have written several articles on relational dialectics and am currently revising an article on World Hypotheses (a rather heady metaphysical book, of course!!)

Michael Cheatham ('73)

Earlier this year, I retired from a career of self-employment and accepted an appointment to serve as pastor at Zoar United Methodist Church in Greer, SC. Finally, I’m using my philosophy degree! I have served the United Methodist Church for almost 30 years in local, regional, national, and global capacities.

Judith Carlisle ('16)

I am currently in the Masters program in philosophy at the University of Colorado, Boulder. I am also pursuing a certificate in graduate teaching and cognitive science.
Thomas Blair (‘86)

I am still with AIG working in the Legal Department (as if I had any other commercial option given political science and philosophy majors.) Primarily I work on Group Benefits and Life Reinsurance transactions & that keeps me busy and very entertained – never a boring moment.

Still have the two children, both now out of college and gainfully (?) employed, contributing members of society and am still married to Alma (nee Guiliano ’87) – coming up on 29 years.

We now live in Boca Raton, FL

Luke Crumbaker (‘14)

Since graduating in 2014, I've joined AmeriCorps VISTA. I did a year of service at United Way of Greenville County from 2015-2016 and since completing my service in August, have started on staff at United Way as the Community Impact Assistant. In addition, I'm also working as a contract grant writer/consultant for other nonprofits in the Greenville area. I'm engaged to Melissa Riddley and we will be married in December.
Below will “catch everyone up on my adventures in philosophical seeking:”

JESUS FOR BREAKFAST

I had done my fair share of fretting about driving on the left side of the road in Jamaica. On the flight down there I interviewed the guy sitting next to me on the plane: "Have you ever driven on the left side of the road? Did you ever get used to it?" He had just come up for air from what looked to be a very cheesy novel, at least from the little snatches of written dialogue I snuck a peak at while I was waiting very patiently for someone to talk to (Tracey’s & my lousy places in the boarding line meant we both had last-choice seats, which weren't together).

He told me he had vacationed in Australia, so "Yes" he had driven on the left. And "No," you never got used to it -- he had backed out into the road while looking the wrong way, and almost killed a motorcyclist. As he said this, he seemed to have returned to that rental car backing out into oncoming traffic and looking the wrong way, and a cloud of fear passed over his face. His survival advice was "Just focus on the car in front of you, and do what it does."

Our hotel that first night in Jamaica was only a 3 or 4 minute drive from the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. So the first real driving challenge was the next morning.

We were up and ready to go relatively early. Tracey had already eaten but I didn't want to pay the $20 fee for breakfast at the hotel and figured I'd grab something on the road. We were in the parking lot, putting our suitcases in the car, when a young Dutch couple we'd met at the hotel were also getting ready to go somewhere. I inquired where, and they told us their driver (who they'd hired for the week) was taking them to a Pentecostal church service in the hills above downtown Montego Bay.
The travel guides we'd been reading to prepare for our trip, Frommers and Lonely Planet, made the spirituality in Jamaica sound mysterious and alluring, so on the spot we asked their driver if we could follow his car. He agreed and all was right with the world and a great adventure lay before us, complicated only by two intrusive thoughts: "You can't stand going to church" and "You haven't had any breakfast yet." But my goal for the trip was to get outside my comfort zone, so off we went.

The pervasive poverty of Jamaica was in full view as we followed the Dutch couple's car up the narrow, pot-hole filled streets to Kings Chapel. In sharp contrast, the church goers were all dressed to the nines in highly colorful outfits. The women almost uniformly wore stylish hats. We were greeted by ushers/deacons in smart suits. It was about 9:30 and the service was to start at 10:00, as best I could reckon. The Dutch couple was dark-skinned, their parents having come to Amsterdam from the Republic of Suriname, the former Dutch colony on the northeastern Atlantic coast of South America, so Tracey and I were the only Caucasians present – a polar opposite circumstance from our day-to-day lives in Nashville.

There was still a little time before the service started and the pace was unhurried as people arrived and lots of children went this way and that. I struck up a conversation with the deacon who showed me where to park (his attire was too fine not to be at least a deacon), or perhaps he struck up a conversation with me, and after a few minutes of chit chat, I asked him "Am I going to feel it?" He replied "Oh yes, brother, you are going to FEEL IT." And then he added in sort of a confidential aside "Some peoples say it's better to felt it than be tell't it."

In the church, people came and went as they needed or wanted. The huge rotating fans provided some relief from the heat. Various men and women across a wide age range took turns speaking, some inviting response from the congregation, some leading short songs. I could not discern the structure or order of the service but assumed it would
roughly follow what I was familiar with: singing, a reading, a sermon, more singing. I was not a little freaked out by the length of the service, which promised to be at least 2 hours. But I was really interested in trying to be present with the spiritual experience of these people whose culture was pretty different from mine. I was equally determined not to expend my resources on agreeing or disagreeing with, or having any opinion whatsoever about, the content of their theology. That commitment came in handy.

The sanctuary (open air with a roof but not sides like you'd see in churches in the U.S.), temperature (quite hot), setting (very casual, with people coming and going at all times) and audience participation (lively, loud and continuous) were quite unlike church as I've experienced it. The singing and music was sort-of start and stop, at least at first. I really, really liked it when the band and choir would get in a groove, that's the part I could go with.

Then came the preaching. As fate would have it, the regular preacher was attending a conference in America's IT city, Nashville. The guest preacher was a shouter. The microphone was, in her hands, and to my ears, more weapon than aid. Her sermon was rambling and from a conceptual/intellectual perspective, just a mess. I tried to discreetly plug my ears when it got really really bad, which was not only when she screamed "Not my will but THINE be done!!" If her sermon had a unifying thread, that was it, and she repeated it probably (no exaggeration) two dozen times or more.

The repetition of "Not my will but THINE be done!!" in no way compared to the number of times she invoked the name of JESUS! during her sermon. About an hour into her sermon, and thus almost two hours into the service, we joined the others milling around outside the church. I asked three different congregation members, and I tried to be most circumspect in phrasing the question, whether the length of the sermon that day was typical? longer? shorter? And each of the three responded with utmost respect and with nearly the same words: "This is a special day, the spirit is really at work today."
And here is the most startling fact: not only did the congregants tolerate what to my ears was an incomprehensibly long-winded, incoherent screed -- at 1 hour and 15 minutes she was still going strong, if anything continuing to gather momentum as she mopped her brow with a white rag and paced around and in the pulpit -- over time they had all made their way to the front of the church and were swaying together and calling out "Jesus!" and talking out loud to each other and to nobody in particular. Tracey says they were speaking in tongues, but I'm not sure I could testify to that, I guess I just assumed the Jamaican dialect was why I couldn’t understand them.

Standing outside the open-walled sanctuary, we could still hear it all – and no end was in sight. I struck up a conversation with an earnest congregant who, I guessed, was in his mid-thirties. I told him "Well, I can honestly say that I've had Jesus for breakfast." If I was just being a smart ass, I didn't know it in the instance -- to my mind I was trying to find some common ground to talk about what I had just witnessed, and that's the best I could come up. Too much practice being a smart ass, probably.

Here's what happened next. He, more or less without even the feeblest resistance from me despite my growing alarm – let's go ahead and call it panic – somehow lead me back in the sanctuary within a few feet of the sweat-soaked preacher and in the midst of dozens held in her sway, and implored me "Tell him, Mike, tell him, tell Jesus you love him!"

What were my options?!!! I, who've spent a lifetime avoiding precisely this type of situation, writ small and large, here I was COME TO JESUS. Oh my God. What the hell, literally, what the hell -- I was in the grip of a something of completely of my own doing (or maybe not) that I couldn’t get out of. So I raised my arms and started calling out "Hallelujah" and "I love you Jesus."

That was Day 1 of our Jamaica trip.
Gabriel A. Justus ('06)

I’m a Winter 2006 graduate of the Philosophy Department and recently separated from the US Army after an 8 year career as an intelligence officer. I’m currently enrolled at the University of Georgia School of Law and am pursuing my JD.

Andrew MacLatchie ('16)

In short, Charleston has been a whirlwind of work and fun. I was elected President of the CofC MBA program over several older, and frankly more qualified candidates. My whole platform has been centered upon the philosophy of community service, with the knowledge that indulging in others in your community is extremely powerful. This is a concept I learned through Philosophy of Food. I'm working on several projects where we can use both food, and our graduate learning to help out others.
Alex Chan (‘10)

Alex recently earned a Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Auburn University. While at Auburn, he worked in local high schools delivering healthy dating curricula to teens. He was also involved with the evaluation of Alabama's statewide child abuse and neglect prevention programming. Upon completing his Ph.D., he moved to Alexandria, VA and is currently employed in a tenure-track position with the University of Maryland. He is currently responsible for promoting and evaluating UMD's youth development programming in Prince George's County. He still manages to cite books assigned in FU Philosophy classes in his own scholarly work from time to time.

Jim McRae (‘98)

I’m currently an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Vice-Chair of the Faculty at Westminster College in Fulton, MO. My third book, Japanese Environmental Philosophy, written with J. Baird Callicott, will be released in 2017 by Oxford University Press.

Jim and his son, Jack, hiking this summer in Rocky Mountain National Park. (Picture taken by Jim’s wife, Heather Thornton McRae, also a Furman alum.)
J. Michael Martinez (‘84)

I graduated from Furman with a B.A. in philosophy and political science in 1984. I currently work as a lawyer/government affairs manager for a private company. I also teach political science part-time at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia.

My 11\textsuperscript{th} book will be released in November 2016.


A list of my other books can be found here:

https://www.amazon.com/J.-Michael-Martinez/e/B001IZ1BGS/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1
Abigail Walters Blackmon (‘91)

I graduated from Furman in the summer of 1991 (in 3 years, thanks to AP credits from high school). From there, I took something of a “gap year” and waited tables, traveled, and played, mostly on the low country beaches between Pawleys Island and Hilton Head Island. I attended MUSC from 1992-1996, and went on to a pediatric residency, where I met my husband. We live in north Knoxville, and are partners in a small, family centered pediatric practice. We have 5 smart, gorgeous, and funny daughters, ranging in age from 22 to 11 years old. The oldest 2 are from Greg’s first marriage, we have 2 biological daughters, and we adopted a “sassafras” Haitian beauty, whom we brought home 2 1/2 years ago.

I took my first trip to Haiti in the fall of 2009, and I am now the medical director of a ministry called Harvest Field Ministry. We serve a very small, VERY remote coastal community in southern Haiti called Les Anglais. Les Anglais sits at the western-most tip of Haiti’s southern peninsula, and she is, as of this moment, directly in Hurricane Matthew’s projected path. . . . As medical director, I have helped coordinate quarterly clinics since October 2011. For the equivalent of about $1 US we provide a medical exam, and any meds (that we have) the patient might need. Daily meds such as blood pressure or acid reflux treatments are provided in 100 day quantities. The amazing thing is that by showing up consistently, and using a set of standard protocols and drug formulary we are actually seeing people living a bit longer already! Harvest Field also sponsors an orphanage, a free school where almost 500 kids are receiving quality education and a hot meal every day, several vocational programs (with the goal of teaching trades to adults and reuniting “poverty orphans” with their families), and we care for many local widows and people with special needs. Never, in millions of years or thoughts about life, would I have ever even imagined doing work like this. It is life- giving, soul- filling, brutiful (beautiful + brutal) work of the very best kind. And, I will say, my major in philosophy has definitely helped to shape my understanding that I will NEVER truly understand these people and their culture and heritage. I am a student and a guest every time I travel to Les Anglais, and I remain grateful for the opportunity with every single trip.

The point to this whole “update” is to invite anyone who’d like to see how the majority of the earth’s population lives, or just wants a cool trip, to come and see for themselves!!! Our website is harvestfieldhaiti.org. ALL are welcome!!

Hoping everyone else is well, and loving well, and well loved.

Best,

Abby
Mary Ellis Richardson (‘77)

I treasure my four years at Furman. After finishing my tennis career at Furman, I was the head women's tennis coach at the University of Tennessee for three years, having coached Debbie Southern (who recently retired as Furman's head women's tennis coach after a long and successful career). I have been most fortunate to have been inducted into the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame, as well as the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame for my tennis accomplishments. In 1986 I obtained my J.D. degree, began practicing law, and was appointed an administrative law judge five years ago. My husband and I married a few months after I graduated from Furman and have two grown children. Our older son has many special needs and our journey with him has been filled with many twists and turns. Our younger son is an electrical engineer.
Emily Wirzba ('13)

I'm currently the Policy Associate for Sustainable Energy and Environment at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Quaker lobby in the public interest. I live in Washington, DC, and lobby members of Congress for bipartisan action on climate change. I work with our network across the country to organize constituents to lobby, write, and advocate for bipartisan environmental action in Congress. I also am the co-chair of the Washington Inter-religious Staff Community's Energy and Ecology Working Group, a coalition of 20+ religious organizations working on environmental issues in Congress.

One of my favorite things about my job is seeing how individuals can make a huge difference in achieving structural change. For example, my colleague and I trained a group of six individuals who convinced their Republican legislator Rep. Chris Gibson (NY-19) to write and introduce H. Res. 424, a Republican resolution on climate change. This has led to further climate legislation and the formation of the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus in the House of Representatives, representing a major breakthrough in the era of intense political partisanship on this issue.

I also work a lot with students, some as young as middle and high school, training them to lobby their members of Congress for action on climate change. It's really rewarding, and you can read my favorite story about this work here: http://www.friendsjournal.org/affirming-the-heart-of-climate-advocacy/.

Finally, I'm on the Exec Board of the DC chapter of the New Leaders Council, a nonprofit that works to recruit, train and promote the next generation of progressive leaders. It's an amazing organization, with chapters across the country. I highly recommend it!

Looking forward to connecting with everyone.

Best,
Emily
Amber Locklear ('13)

After graduating in 2013, I moved home to Charleston, SC and managed a small restaurant for two years before road tripping across the country to spend a summer in Estes Park, Colorado. I worked at a summer camp and filled my rare down time with hiking and waterfall climbing. I am now living in downtown Asheville with my partner, Mary Catherine Wilder '14. I am the business manager for a small grassroots nonprofit organization that operates a couple of group homes in Asheville for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. We serve 13 individuals between ages 45 and 65, providing residential and therapeutic supports.
Jason A. Lehn, CCIM (’02)

Jason serves as a broker with Herman Walldorf Commercial Real Estate in Chattanooga, Tennessee, providing sales, leasing, and consulting services to buyers, sellers, landlords, tenants, and developers in retail, office, industrial and investment sectors. He is committed to interacting with clients and customers with respect and integrity, and putting deals together that make economic sense for all parties to the transaction and that benefit the ongoing growth and renewal of the surrounding community. In 2015, Jason was awarded the Certified Commercial Investment Member designation by the CCIM Institute, one of the largest and most prestigious commercial real estate networks in the world. Jason and his wife Sarah live in Lookout Mountain, Georgia with their 4 very active boys: Thatcher, Camp, Tuck, and Forrest; chocolate lab: Jackson; and 8 chickens: Chief, Harriet, Little Blue, Copper, Angel, America, Roosevelt, and Flash.
L. Victoria Ferrer (’15)

I moved to Boston August 2015 to attend the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. I was married this summer, July 2016 to my husband, Felix Barreras (I've enclosed a few photos of the wedding). It took place at Furman's Rose Garden and the reception at the Cherrydale Alumni House. It was so very beautiful and am absolutely thrilled to share!

I am currently writing my Master Thesis for my MA degree in Coexistence and Conflict resolution. It's based on research I did during my internship with Cultural Survival, an international NGO that monitors human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples and advocates for their rights. I learned so much monitoring and doing evaluations for International Human-Rights Standards in Ecuador, Brazil, and India- compiling human rights violations and drafting Universal Periodic Reviews for the United Nations General Assembly that just passed. I'm very grateful for having the opportunity to have completed such an enriching assignment and really look forward to what the future holds.
MayX 2016
Garden, Temple and Dojo: Japanese Arts and Culture

Calligraphy Class with Ishikawa–sensei, 10th dan Japanese.

Exchange with students from five Japanese Universities.
MayX 2016
Japanese Arts and Culture (continued)

Ginza, center of Tokyo.

Nikko Toshogu Shrine.
MayX 2016
Japanese Arts and Culture (continued)

Aikido training at Keio University Dojo.

Farewell dinner hosted by Mitakai and Keio University.
Aikido training at Ki Society Headquarters, Tochigi, Japan.
Sarah Worth took her first group of students on a study away to Italy last May. The “Slow Food: Italian Style” class is a close cousin of her Philosophy of Food class that she has been teaching the last few years. Students spent one week in Rome learning about the Italian food ways and specifically the grassroots movement to keep food slow (the opposite of fast food). Students learned about Italian food production, Italian regulation and distribution of food, how to eat dinner without looking at a cell phone, the difference between tourist food and authentic Italian food, and how to cook slowly. Students also spent two weeks on an Italian “farm” that made olive oil and wine. There, students hiked and ate and hiked and ate. Highlights of the trip included a trip to Pompeii, a 3-hour chocolate class at the Baci chocolate factory, a trip to Assisi to understand the Franciscan approach to food and generosity, hiking, eating, and genuine community around food. She will be leading the trip in May of 2017.
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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