I. Overview

Oklahoma Philosophy Day was an event on the University of Central Oklahoma campus on Saturday, February 25, 2023. The event was intended to be an opportunity for people across the state of Oklahoma to connect around philosophy in a welcoming environment. It was a priority for us in planning the event to create a public philosophy forum that would be inclusive to all kinds of philosophers, from undergraduates and community laypersons to R1 research professors.

II. Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHEDULE OF EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast and Registration .......................................................... LAS Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Remarks and Welcome ........................................................... LAS Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 11:20 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Student Presentations ................................................ LAS L03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariano Gonzalez (OU), &quot;An Account of Memes&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Lopez (OU), &quot;Descartes: The Self, Dreams, and Neuroscience&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tia Perkins (OSU), &quot;The Value and Price of the Possibility of Change&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Room ................................................................. LAS L06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Room 1: Going to Grad School ........................................ LAS L04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Room 2: Philosophy Outside the Academy ................................ LAS L05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Room ................................................................. LAS L06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch ................................................................. LAS Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 - 2:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Presentations ................................................ LAS L03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Baranier (OU), &quot;Beowulf as a Case Study for the Porous Self&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layla Williams (OU), &quot;Avoiding Virtual Reality Exclusion&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Winegarten (OSU), &quot;Oppression in Gaming Circles: Causes for Concern and Possible Solutions that Allies can Implement&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Room ................................................................. LAS L06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 3:50 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Room 1: Philosophy Clubs ........................................ LAS L04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Room 2: Teaching Roundtable ........................................ LAS L05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Cox (Mayfield Middle School), Guy Crain (Rose State CC), Violet Victoria (OU), Jerry Green (UCO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Room ................................................................. LAS L06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Plenary ........................................................ LAS L01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Heather Stewart (OSU), &quot;Finding Philosophy’s Value in a World of Generative AI&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Remarks ........................................................ LAS L01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Funding

Our original budget request was for a total of $2000, from the following sources:

- $1000: APA Berry Grant for Public Philosophy
  - Plenary Speaker Honorarium
- $400: Philosophy Club @ UCO
  - Swag items
- $400: College of Liberal Arts, UCO
  - Food
- $200: Department of Humanities & Philosophy, UCO
  - Food

$2000: PROJECTED TOTAL

Despite having about one-third more attendees than originally expected, we were able to stay under our projected budget, largely thanks to the enterprising work of our College and department administrative assistants. The College of Liberal Arts offered a $1000 contribution to our budget, which greatly helped cover expenses, and we were able to save on swag items by collecting donated items from other units on campus.

Our actual expenditures were:

- $1000: APA Berry Grant for Public Philosophy
  - Plenary Speaker Honorarium
- $137.68: Philosophy Club @ UCO
  - Nametags and swag items (notebooks)
- $513.10: College of Liberal Arts, UCO
  - Food
- $252.06: Department of Humanities & Philosophy, UCO
  - Food

$1902.84: TOTAL

IV. Planning

We submitted the Berry Award application on October 25, 2022, and received notice of receiving the award on December 13. As this was finals week for us and many other local institutions, we had to work quickly to get the word out to possible participants before winter break.

We began by manually collecting email addresses for every philosophy instructor and graduate student in the state (from 2-year colleges to R1 graduate programs, including both public and private schools). For most schools this required simply copying emails from websites into a spreadsheet, but some detective work was necessary to track down contact information for adjuncts at 2-year institutions without formal philosophy programs.
Once this list was compiled, we sent out a ‘Save the Date’ announcement for the event, along with our online RSVP form. At the same time, we made our formal invitation to our plenary speaker.

In early January, we followed up with a second announcement that included plenary speaker details, along with a CFP for student presentations and for other session topic ideas. A final CFP reminder was sent in late January, and submissions were reviewed shortly after.

We received seven student presentation submissions. All seven were accepted, though one student retracted their submission later. We also received one session topic proposal, which we incorporated into our afternoon teaching roundtable discussion.

Along the way, we had significant help from UCO students and staff. Our College’s Graphic Design Coordinator created an event logo and designed our promotional materials. Staff in our Office of Enrollment and Student Success helped us advertise to local high schools. Our College’s Tech Support Specialist helped arrange our tech needs for the day, including running our plenary session. Our Philosophy Club officers helped prepare swag and assisted with other sundry planning and advertising tasks. And of crucial importance was the help of our College Administrative Specialist and department Administrative Assistant, who did a masterful job securing rooms, handling our finances, and ordering all of our food and swag from multiple vendors. Along with some faculty volunteers, they also helped set up and staff our registration tables on the day of the event.

V. Participation

Seventy-six individuals pre-registered for the event. Sixty-one individuals attended, according to our sign-in sheet. That is a 75% attendance rate. Setting aside the four faculty and staff volunteers, that leaves 57 faculty and student participants throughout the day.

Nine Oklahoma institutions were represented:
- Langston University
- Oklahoma City Community College
- Oklahoma State University
- Putnam City Schools
- Rose State College
- Tulsa Christian University
- Tulsa Community College
- University of Central Oklahoma
- University of Oklahoma

UCO was just over half the total audience, 52%. This total includes 6 alumni of the department and 10 current students, alongside faculty and staff.

Audience demographics were approximately:
- 18 current undergraduate students
- 10 current graduate students
- 9 alumni
- 15 current faculty
- 2 parents of an undergraduate presenter
Attendance per session was in the mid-to-high 30s for each main session, and mid-teens for concurrent sessions. An active game room was open during the full event, and attendance varied from two to 18 students throughout the day.

10:00-11:20, Undergraduate Student Presentations – 36
11:30-12:15
   Going to Grad School – 11
   Philosophy Outside the Academy 14
1:15-2:45, Graduate Student Presentations – 32
3:00-3:50
   Philosophy Clubs – 9
   Teaching Roundtable – 22
4:00-5:30, Public Plenary – 37

VI. Feedback

We used a feedback form for participants, available both on-paper and online (distributed via QR code flyers at the event and a follow-up email). We received 28 responses (51.8% of the 54 non-organizer and non-volunteer audience members).

Overall results were uniformly positive:
Among the qualitative comments were:

- I most liked how diverse the attendees were. Various levels of professional and professional non-professional philosophers were represented.
- Mix of people from different schools and backgrounds
- The teaching round table was outstanding.
- It was coordinated for all levels
- The presentations were over interesting, and diverse, topics
- Loved the interactiveness--conversational sessions and the atmosphere made participating in conversations seem welcomed
- I liked the presentations and the games. I liked how in between the presentations, there was an interval of time to just chat about philosophy or play philosophy games. The day ending with a keynote speaker was just the cherry on top.
- Collaborative, open, friendly environment
- Face to face interaction with other philosophers, especially other instructors. The teaching roundtable and the keynote were great.
- I really liked the degree of involvement from undergrad students.
- Broad number of topics & game room

When asked about ways to improve the event, the most common comments were:

- More time for sessions
- More time for discussion
- Include formal paper comments in student presentation sessions
- More sessions offered
- Layout made it hard to enter a session late/leave early
- Better and wider advertising
VII. Looking Ahead

Based on formal and informal feedback, Oklahoma Philosophy Day was a success, and there was immediate demand for hosting the event again next year.

Now that there is precedent for the event, planning for the next iteration should be smoother. In particular, working on a 10-week timeline was difficult. We have more time to begin fundraising and planning early, as well as a better sense of what is required to put on the event.

The late February date was chosen to avoid other commitments by both organizers, but it coincided with the Central Division meeting of the APA, which was unfortunate. Next year we should be able to avoid this scheduling conflict.

Due to the short planning timeline and to internal UCO communication policies, we did not create a website for the event. That is a problem both for advertising and for communicating with participants. This is another easy improvement to make.

We also hope to collaborate more with other relevant local institutions. The UCO Philosophy Club has already submitted a budget request for the 2023-24 academic year to be able to cover more of the event’s costs. We also plan on reaching out to Oklahoma Humanities to find opportunities for collaboration with that group.

Providing free breakfast and lunch to participants was a commitment important to the event organizers, and this is something we hope to continue and expand. There were a small number of complaints about food quality, which we may be able to mitigate with a larger food budget.

Long term, it is not unreasonable to expect Oklahoma Philosophy Day to become a regular annual event. Faculty at other institutions expressed interest in possibly rotating hosting responsibilities, should this happen.
University of Central Oklahoma

Oklahoma Philosophy Day

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023
9 a.m.–5 p.m.
UCO Liberal Arts Building

go.uco.edu/okphilday

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023
9 a.m.–5 p.m.
UCO Liberal Arts Building

go.uco.edu/okphilday
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### 9 a.m.
- Breakfast and Registration .......................................... LAS Lobby

### 9:30 a.m.
- Opening Remarks and Welcome........................................ LAS Lobby

### 10 - 11:20 a.m.
- Undergraduate Student Presentations ................................ LAS L03
  - Mariano Gonzalez (OU), “An Account of Memes”
  - Maria Lopez (OSU), “Descartes: The Self, Dreams, and Neuroscience”
  - Tia Perkins (OSU), “The Value and Price of the Possibility of Change”
- Game Room................................................................. LAS L06

### 11:30 a.m.
- Discussion Room 1: Going to Grad School.......................... LAS L04
- Discussion Room 2: Philosophy Outside the Academy............. LAS L05
- Game Room................................................................. LAS L06

### 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
- Lunch............................................................................ LAS Lobby

### 1:15 - 2:45 p.m.
- Graduate Student Presentations ....................................... LAS L03
  - Jenny Baranker (OU), “Beowulf as a Case Study for the Porous Self”
  - Layla Williams (OU), “Avoiding Virtual Reality Exclusion”
  - David Winegarten (OSU), “Oppression in Gaming Circles: Causes for Concern and Possible Solutions that Allies can Implement”
- Game Room................................................................. LAS L06

### 3 - 3:50 p.m.
- Discussion Room 1: Philosophy Clubs............................... LAS L04
- Discussion Room 2: Teaching Roundtable.......................... LAS L05
  - Jonathan Cox (Mayfield Middle School); Guy Crain (Rose State CC);
  - Violet Victoria (OU); Jerry Green (UCO)
- Game Room................................................................. LAS L06

### 4 p.m.
- Public Plenary................................................................LAS L01
  - Dr. Heather Stewart (OSU), “Finding Philosophy’s Value in a World of Generative AI”

### 5:30 p.m.
- Closing Remarks.......................................................... LAS L01