This month’s “Philosopher in Print” is Alumni, Jeffrey Tolly. His piece titled “Swampman: A Dilemma for Proper Functionalism” is available in this month’s issue of *Synthese*.

**Abstract:**
Proper functionalism claims that a belief has epistemic warrant only if it’s formed according to the subject’s truth-aimed cognitive design plan. The most popular putative counter-examples to proper functionalism all involve agents who form beliefs in seemingly warrant-enabling ways that don’t appear to proceed according to any sort of design. The Swampman case is arguably the most famous scenario of this sort. However, some proper functionalists accept that subjects like Swampman have warrant, opting instead to adopt a non-standard account of design. But critics of proper functionalism hold that this strategy comes at a high cost: the design-plan condition now seems explanatorily superfluous. James Taylor construes cases like Swampman as posing a dilemma for the proper functionalist: either deny warrant in these cases and concede that proper functionalism doesn’t capture our intuitions, or affirm warrant and undermine the explanatory power of the design-plan condition. Proper functionalists have replied to both horns of this dilemma. Recently, Kenny Boyce and Andrew Moon have argued that warrant-affirming intuitions on cases like Swampman are motivated by a principle that has a clear counter-example. Also, Alvin Plantinga presents a set of cases that supposedly cause problems for any analysis of warrant that lacks a design-plan condition. In this essay, I present a counter-argument to Boyce and Moon’s argument, and show that a more robust reliability condition can accommodate Plantinga’s problem cases. I conclude that we’re left with no good reason to doubt that cases like Swampman raise a troubling dilemma for the proper functionalist.

[Link to paper found here](#)

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**Get to know our Philosophers!**

**[Paul Blaschko]**

1. What is the best least-known hangout in SB? *On the deck of Chimichurri, eating empanadas*
2. What’s the best Halloween Costume you’ve ever had? *I once stole an idea from my wife and went clubbing as the letter P with two black eyes. I was a black-eyed pea.*
3. What is your go-to napping strategy? *Gotta nap with Solomon’s napping. If you check your email when he falls asleep, it’s already too late.*
4. What’s your most used emoji? 😛
5. Favorite Kitchen appliance? *Tie between my beautiful dutch oven and my cast iron skillet*
Around Campus

February

First Friday Grad Dinner
6:15-7:45pm
Coleman Morse 1st Floor Lounge
RSVP Here

Workshop: Getting Started in Undergraduate Research
7-8 pm
110 Brownson Hall

Workshop: Gathering Early Semester Student Feedback
3:30-4:45 pm
210-214 McKenna Hall

Blood Drive
11 am - 4 pm
Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore

Junior Parents Weekend
February 16-18

News and Announcements

• Check out grad student Rachel Jonker’s review in “Reading Religion”

• CPR News
  Mike Rea and Sam Newlands have been awarded a grant from the John Templeton Foundation to explore questions related to the nature of the self at the intersection of philosophy, theology, and the social sciences. [Read more]

• LinDa found this little gem from a past APA program. The office staff got a good laugh ;-) 

• New Year, New you, New Shirt!
  Come get your 2017-18 Philo shirt in the office! They are still $10, but now they come in mens and womens sizing and are much softer! Stop by 100 Malloy for yours!

• Grad Student Recruitment Week
  This years recruitment “week” will be held March 19-21. If you would like to volunteer to help, please email Christine.

• Dissertation Writing Group
  Everyone in the dissertation phase is invited to attend the dissertation writing group. They meet every Monday and Wednesday morning at 8:30 at Au Bon Pain in the library to grab a quick breakfast and coffee (paid for by the department). Then we’ll head up to the North Reading Room on the second floor to write for two hours (or longer, if you like). The two rules of the group are (i) no internet and (ii) writing only (so no reading, grading, teaching prep, etc.).

• Do you have any suggestions for our newsletter? Fill out this questionnaire to tell us what!

GRAD CFP’S
SUMMER
CONFERENCE

events.nd.edu for full list