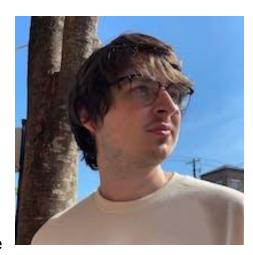Hi there, My name is Girard Katz and I am a junior Philosophy major here at Appalachian State University. I am originally from Charlotte, North Carolina and moved to Boone in order to be in a smaller close knit community. I currently am the Owner of The Gamefather, a local store here in Boone that strives to create a community for anyone who enjoys video games, board games, and other pop culture collectibles.

I decided to study philosophy after an intro course I took with Dr. Foust the department chair. I was fascinated by the subject immediately. The process of analyzing texts from some of the greatest thinkers of all time and seeing how they foresaw a more ethical world amazed me. As I have continued through the program I have met many other great professors who have helped me cultivate a desire to dig deeper into the history of philosophy. Dr. Weiss and Dr. Bartel are just a few of the incredible people who have helped me along this journey.

Being able to study philosophy under these amazing people has allowed me to explore so many topics crucial to the betterment of society. From Critical Race theory to environmental ethics I have learned more than I could have imagined going into this major. Alongside these incredibly important topics I have also been able to explore passions of mine with a philosophical twist. Philosophy in Pop Culture for example is a class I never would have imagined exists but it has provided an outlet for me to use comic books, movies, television, and literature to better analyze the world and see the parallels they provide to our everyday life.

The philosophy department at App State has genuinely changed my life and provided endless opportunities to further explore society and ethics. The professors and department as a whole has been revolutionary to my education and I recommend to everyone to at least experience one class in the department. If you are anything like me it honestly could change your outlook on life!