The inaugural Roseman Lecture in Practical Ethics was delivered last October by John Broome, White’s Professor of Moral Philosophy and Fellow of Corpus Christi College at Oxford. Before speaking on “The Ethics of Climate Change,” he was interviewed by Ellen Roseman, financial columnist at the Toronto Star, alumna (MA, 1969), and benefactor of this new lecture series.

Philosophy professors often steer clear of hot topics appearing on the front page of newspapers, but not John Broome. Maybe it’s because he came to philosophy late in his academic career after spending almost 30 years teaching economics.

Born in Kuala Lumpur, where his father was in the colonial civil service, he went to Cambridge University from 1965 to 1968. He thought he’d study philosophy until a tutor at Clare College talked him out of it. “He advised me to leave the university and get a job building roads, saying that would put the idea out of my head quickly,” Broome says. That advice led him to get his BA in mathematics and economics at Cambridge and his Ph.D. in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1972.

He returned to his first love when hired as a philosophy professor at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and later at Oxford University. (Though he doesn’t have a doctorate in philosophy, he did acquire an MA in philosophy at the University of London in 1973.) “I never enjoyed economics,” Broome admits. “It wasn’t what I wanted to do. It was just an accident.”

In 1992, he wrote a book, Counting the Cost of Global Warming, which was ahead of its time. He drifted away from the subject for many years, but was bitten by the bug again recently. He was persuaded by economist Nicholas Stern to write something for the Stern Review on The Economics of Climate Change, a 700-page report released by the British government in 2006. Stern’s report was savagely criticized by some U.S. economists, such as Martin Weitzman of Harvard and William Nordhaus of Yale. Broome sprang to his defense, “I have to confess they made me angry,” he says. “They thought economics should be an ethics-free zone.”

As a former economist turned moral philosopher, Broome speaks with authority and passion on the ethics of climate change. He gave the inaugural Roseman lecture last fall – it was his first-ever trip to Toronto – and went to the Univer-
Jennifer Bates (BA, 1987; PhD, 1997) has been tenured and promoted to associate professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Her second book, *Hegel and Shakespeare on Moral Imagination*, appears in bookstores this September. She specializes in 19th century German Philosophy and has strong interests in Philosophy and Literature, Environmental Ethics, French Feminism, and Buddhist Philosophy.

Gwen Bradford (Honours BA, Trinity, 2003), finishes her PhD at Yale this year (dissertation title: *The Value of Achievement: It’s Worth the Effort*) and takes up a post at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Her area of specialization is moral philosophy.

Heather Cameron (BA, 1991) was chosen “Professor of the Year” by the German Association of University Professors and Lecturers. She has been at the Free University in Berlin since 2006 and is the first non-German scholar to receive the award.

Andrew Potter (MA, 1994; PhD, 2000) published a new book this year: *The Authenticity Hoax: How We Get Lost Finding Ourselves*. Andrew was the co-author with Professor Joseph Heath of Rebel Sell: Why the Culture Can’t be Jammed. He is currently a columnist and blogger with Maclean’s magazine.

If you have alumni news you’d like to share, please contact Anita Di Giacomo at anita.digiacomo@utoronto.ca.

NEW GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

This summer the Department received a very generous donation for a graduate award in the Philosophy of Science from Stephen Bowman (BA, 1976; LLB, 1979), managing partner at Bennett Jones LLP.

His significant donation will be matched by the University, resulting in an annual award of approximately $5,000, which will be directed towards incoming doctoral students. The department is very grateful to our alumni and other friends for their support of our students.

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**Stephen Bowman**
From the Chair

Donald Ainslie

The word ‘tri-campus’ is ubiquitous at the University of Toronto, and probably has been ever since the Mississauga campus (now ‘UTM’) opened in 1967 (the ‘bi-campus’ period, starting with the opening of the Scarborough campus [now ‘UTSC’] in 1964, was short-lived).

For Philosophy, we entered a new tri-campus era in 2003, with UT’s establishment of a second undergraduate philosophy department at U of T. With UTSC’s establishment of a third undergraduate philosophy department this past summer (see p.4 for details), we now have a fully symmetrical tri-campus structure. Each campus has its own undergraduate philosophy department, with all philosophy faculty on all three campuses participating equally in the Graduate Department of Philosophy.

The new tri-campus model means that the different campus-based departments can develop relatively independently of one another, even if our common participation in a unified Graduate Department means that we share a common vision for philosophy at U of T. Thus UT decided to increase the faculty complement in its Philosophy Department from five in 2002 to 13 in 2010. The new UTSC Philosophy Department expects to grow from its current seven faculty members into a more robust department in the next few years.

Meanwhile, the Philosophy Department on the St. George campus has been on something of a diet, decreasing in size from 47 faculty members in 1989 to approximately 24 today. This reduction was in part the aftereffect of the amalgamation of the old college-based philosophy groups. But it also reflects budgetary pressures, as the Ontario government continues to cut per-student funding (after inflation) and to restrict tuition increases. We have nonetheless learned how to do more with less, and now teach more students than we did in the 1980s. The recent introduction of a new, more rigorous set of program requirements has allowed us to maintain quality even as our student-faculty ratio has more than doubled.

The global financial recession, as well as continued budgetary pressure brought about by such things as the abolition of mandatory retirement, has been particularly challenging for the Faculty of Arts and Science on the St. George campus. This past year, each department in the Faculty was asked to create a plan for the upcoming five years, including contingencies for reduced or flat-lined funding. The Philosophy Department plan outlines a vision for undergraduate education that emphasizes our ongoing commitment to providing our majors and specialists with an excellent education in the history of our discipline and the contemporary debates that have been shaped by it. We would like to maintain the innovative research-oriented initiatives we have developed over the past five years, such as the Socrates Project and the Honours Project (see p. 11). In addition, the Department prides itself on providing students in other programs — be they in science, social science, or elsewhere in the humanities — the opportunity to reflect on their place in society and the nature of intellectual inquiry. Finally, we continue to support several interdisciplinary undergraduate programs in such fields as Bioethics, Cognitive Science, Literary Studies, and Jewish Studies.

Our plan also addresses graduate education, though as a tri-campus program some of the issues discussed here are not specific to the Faculty of Arts and Science on the St. George campus. Nonetheless, we intend to consolidate our recent and stupendous gains in the reputation of our doctoral program, particularly by working to increase funding for our grad students. We still lose good students to richer schools to the south, even to public institutions such as Michigan or Rutgers. Several alumni, such as Sidney Robinson, Michael Herman, Richard Yee, and others, have been particularly generous in helping us to start alleviating this handicap. Another alum has recently established a graduate scholarship in philosophy of science (see opposite page). We continue to need your support.

The Faculty of Arts and Science Planning Committee reviewed Philosophy’s plan, as well as those from over 70 other units, and the results were released this past summer. The Faculty has rightly chosen to emphasize the maintenance of our excellence in research and ongoing improvement in the student experience as top priorities. While the Planning Committee recommended that some units be closed or amalgamated as means to better achieving these goals, Philosophy’s plan was well-received. We will be able to replace our retiring faculty and we received more secure funding for our innovative and award-winning Socrates Project.

Donald Ainslie in Iceland.
The St. George undergraduate philosophy department continues to be one of the most effective units in the Faculty of Arts and Science. The past year has been marked by two teaching awards, the continued success of the Socrates Project and Undergraduate Research Coordinator, admissions success among our senior undergraduates, and the usual sheaf of enthusiastic teaching evaluations from our many students. The Socrates Project itself is set for its fifth iteration, and ten more of our best undergraduate specialists and majors will participate. This year, interviews were conducted by the undergraduate coordinator (Kingwell), the TA coordinator (Niko Scharer, who has since relinquished that position to Tom Berry), and the target course instructor (Peter King, past winner of the faculty’s Outstanding Teaching Award). The past year’s Socrates students, together with those who took the Individual Studies Honours Seminar, held day-long research meetings at the end of the past year.

Many of these students have also been giving conference talks elsewhere and publishing in undergraduate journals. The Socrates Project and Honours Seminar students are joined by many others in successful graduate and professional school admissions. Recent U of T philosophy graduates are now at Yale, Chicago, Columbia, Penn, and Oxford, among others. We wish them and all of our graduates every success and hope they will stay in touch as their careers develop.

Mark Kingwell
Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies (St. George)
From the Graduate Department

In my first note about the graduate program, I want to begin by thanking Phil Kremer, who completed his 3-year term as Graduate Coordinator on July 1.

I can’t do justice here to Phil’s contribution—perhaps only those who have held the grad coordinator position can truly appreciate what he has accomplished. So let me say simply that Phil has built our graduate program into one that can compete with the very best programs in the world. We are deeply grateful to him.

Margaret Opoku-Pare, our extraordinary Graduate Administrator, also deserves many many thanks for the fine state of the program. In all sorts of ways, Margaret is the person who keeps the program and the office running; the job of grad coordinator would be impossible without her.

Phil has also left me in the very happy position of welcoming an extremely strong incoming class. Three students hold Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS) and two hold prestigious Canada Graduate Scholarship Masters (CGSM) awards from SSHRC. Their areas of interest are wide-ranging, from ancient and medieval philosophy and continental philosophy to contemporary ethics and topics in metaphysics and epistemology.

This brings the graduate program to an impressive total of 11 OGS, 2 CGSM, 6 CGSD (Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral awards of $35,000 per year), and 2 Vanier awards (see p.8 for news of Jacob Weinrib’s winning this prestigious award of $50,000 per year).

We also have good news on the job front, in spite of the terrible job market. Three of our PhD’s have been hired as assistant professors, at Merrimack, Carleton, and UMass, and one as visiting lecturer at Illinois; four will take up postdocs, at UCLA, UBC, Holy Cross, and Bayreuth. Two have been hired into short-term teaching-stream positions at U ofT. Congratulations to all of them!

Diana Raffman
Associate Chair, Graduate Studies

UTM Philosophy News

This has been a very exciting end of year for us. We have just created two new awards for outstanding philosophy undergraduate students at UTM: The Erindale Prize in Philosophy and the Gomabay Prize in Philosophy. The Erindale Prize is awarded to a student completing a major or specialist degree in Philosophy on the basis of exceptional academic achievement. The Gomabay Prize is awarded to a student completing a major or specialist degree in Philosophy on the basis of academic achievement in Philosophy and contribution to the intellectual life of the UTM Philosophy Department. The inaugural winners were Rima Basu (Gomabay Prize) and Patrick Shirreff (Erindale Prize). The institution of the Gomabay Prize was also an opportunity to honour the impressive contributions that André Gomabay has made to our program. Those who do not teach at UTM might not know that André is not just a great philosopher and a fantastic human being, he is also an outstanding and much beloved philosophy teacher.

We are so happy to have a chance to show our appreciation for all that André has done for our department.

We also received funding for a series of new initiatives that aim to increase graduate student participation at our campus: the Seminars in Philosophy Series, the Essay Clinic, and the Graduate-Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. We are looking forward to all the intellectual activity that these initiatives will generate next year!

Sergio Tenenbaum
Acting Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto at Mississauga

UTSC Philosophy News

2009-2010 was a milestone year as we accomplished our aim of becoming an independent department! During the external review of the Department of Humanities of which we have been a part, we were able to make a convincing case for the need for departmental status for Philosophy. The process was long and arduous, as well as contentious and even acrimonious at times, making this term as Program Director especially difficult. But we can now build a department that will reflect the decisions taken by philosophers in the best interests of philosophy at UTSC. The next five-year period will be exciting indeed as we form a department from scratch under the leadership of our Chair Professor Philip Kremer. I will help as Associate Chair.

As far as more detailed news is concerned, we were not able to hire in Ethics this year due to the freezing of all Humanities positions during the review process, but we are looking forward to filling that much needed position next year. We hosted our third annual undergraduate philosophy conference in March. The event was a great success with excellent papers by students from both United States and Canada, and a keynote address by Professor Muhammad Ali Khalidi.

Our Emeritus Professor Howard Sobel who was an active teacher, researcher and mentor throughout his retirement passed away in March and will be missed by our whole community.

We are looking forward to being all together again at UTSC, as Professor William Seager returns from sabbatical, Professor Philip Kremer returns from his secondment as Graduate Coordinator and Associate Chair for the Graduate Department of Philosophy, and as we continue to be joined for the second year by Dustin Stokes and Professor Emeritus Ronald de Sousa.

Sonia Sedivy
Program Director, Philosophy, University of Toronto at Scarborough
IN MEMORIAM  by Sonia Sedivy and William Seager

Jordan Howard Sobel

We note with sorrow the passing of Jordan Howard Sobel on the evening of Friday, March 26th, 2010. He was predeceased by both his wife, Willa Freeman Sobel and daughter, Grace. Howard was born in 1929 in Chicago (but later took Canadian citizenship), and received his Ph.D. in 1961 from University of Michigan. His dissertation, titled ‘What if everyone did that?’ prefigured his life-long interest in morality, ethics, problems of social co-ordination and their logical underpinnings. More specifically, his philosophical interests ranged from rational choice theory to free will and determinism, philosophy of religion, and the moral philosophy of David Hume. Howard’s research was widely recognized and admired for its clarity of thought and precision of argumentation.

Howard joined UTSC in 1969 and became Professor in 1976. He taught until his retirement in 1995, but continued to be actively involved, teaching two courses every year until he became ill earlier this semester. He was deeply committed to philosophy; his later years saw an extraordinary synergy between his teaching and his research. He taught highly demanding courses that showed interested students how rigorous thought could be brought to bear productively on difficult issues in ethics and religious belief. As his students have said, they will remember his dedication to them, his energetic discussion, and “his compassion and his fairness.” We will always remember Howard with fondness and respect as a gregarious and enthusiastic colleague with an unbounded passion for philosophical argument.

A highly productive scholar, he published more than a hundred articles over the span of his career. He had four books published between 1998 and 2009 with leading academic publishers. His books are Taking Chances: Essays on Rational Choice; Puzzles for the Will: Fatalism, Newcomb and Samarra, Determinism and Omniscience; Logic and Theism – Arguments For and Against Beliefs in God; and Walls and Vaults – A Natural Science of Morals (Virtue Theory According to David Hume).

During this final fruitful period, Howard enjoyed visiting at St. Andrews University and a regular yearly visit as Research Fellow to the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences (SCASSS) at the University of Uppsala where he was granted an Honorary Degree in 2003. In closing, it seems appropriate to offer two remarks that we received from students just days after Howard passed away.

“Professor Sobel was like a philosophical grandfather; endlessly supportive and knowledgeable. Listening to him talk was as close as a modern philosopher can get to sitting in a Greek symposium. He wrapped philosophy around you and made you a part of it. I will miss him a great deal.”

“Howard was a much beloved professor and person. He will be greatly missed. We remember him for all the discussion he provided us with his great dedication to his students, his compassion and his fairness. Many of us owe much of our philosophical development to Howard, having learned formal logic from him. His contribution to our growth and development as philosophers cannot be overemphasized. He will be forever remembered and forever missed.”

University of Toronto
AWARDS & HONOURS

Faculty Awards

NORTHROP FRYE AWARD
Brad Inwood received the 2010 Northrop Frye Award. This University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA) Award of Excellence is given to a faculty member who best exemplifies the links between teaching and research. Brad was honoured for his leadership in the Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy and his contributions to teaching in Classics and Philosophy.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD
Mark Kingwell received the Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award for 2008-2009. Mark has been teaching introductory philosophy for many years, and his dynamic approach is one reason for the significant student demand for our programs. Mark’s upper year courses are also in huge demand, and typically have waitlists that are larger than the total enrollment of the course.

BEST ARTICLE IN PHILOSOPHY
As the University’s Provost, Cheryl Misak still finds time to write. Her article “Experience, Narrative, and Ethical Deliberation,” which was published in Ethics, was named by The Philosopher’s Annual as one of the ten best articles in philosophy in 2008.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA
Arthur Ripstein has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Arthur, who is cross-appointed to the Faculty of Law, is an international leader in legal and political philosophy. His work has changed our ideas about the relationship between justice, responsibility, and duty.

CPA BOOK PRIZE
Anjan Chakravartty was a winner of the Canadian Philosophical Association’s 2009 biennial Book Prize for A Metaphysics for Scientific Realism: Knowing the Unobservable (Cambridge, 2007). Two other faculty members received honourable mention: Sergio Tenenbaum for Appearances of the Good: An Essay on the Nature of Practical Reason (Cambridge, 2007) and Evan Thompson for Mind in Life (Harvard, 2007). Anjan is the fifth UofT philosopher to win the CPA Book Prize – an impressive feat since this is only the fifth time the biennial prize has been awarded. Former winners are Ronnie de Sousa, Joe Heath, Arthur Ripstein, and Fred Wilson.

...continued on next page
Awards & Honours

Faculty Awards

JHI Faculty Research Fellowships

Mohan Matthen has been awarded a 12-month residential Faculty Research Fellowship for 2010-2011 by the Jackman Humanities Institute to explore this year’s JHI theme, “image and spectacle”; his project will focus specifically on “image and content in sensory representation.”

Evan Thompson has received a 6-month Faculty Research Leave to work on “Self-Experience and the Brain: A Phenomenological Approach.”

We neglected to mention last year that Paul Franks received a Chancellor Jackman Research Fellowship in the Humanities for 2009-2010; the theme that year was “Pressures on the Human.”

Graduate Student Awards

Martha Lile Love Essay Contest


Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship

Jacob Weinrib is one of this year’s winners of the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. Worth $50,000/year over three years, the Vanier Scholarship is perhaps the most prestigious of Canada’s graduate fellowships. Jacob is in his 4th year of the Joint Law and Philosophy program and is currently completing a dissertation that develops a dynamic theory of constitutional law. (Ariel Zylberman, now in his 3rd year of the doctoral program, won a Vanier last year – the first year it was awarded.)

Jackman Award

Eran Tal, who is writing his dissertation on Measurement, Simulation, and the New Conventionalism, has won a Chancellor Jackman Graduate Student Fellowship in the Humanities. He will be spending the year at the Jackman Humanities Institute where this year’s theme is Image and Spectacle.

Undergraduate Student Awards & Honours

JHI Undergraduate Fellowships

Mark Thomson has been awarded a Jackman Humanities Institute Undergraduate Fellowship for 2010-2011. He will be working on “Emotions and Imagination” as part of JHI’s theme “Image and Spectacle,” and he will be supervised by Prof. Mohan Matthen. Mark was also accepted to the International Summer School in Affective Sciences in Switzerland which ran at the end of August. This year’s central topic was “Emotion Regulation and Management.”

Last year (2009-2010) two of our students were JHI Undergraduate Fellows: Charlie Cooper-Simpson and Rima Basu. Rima, who started off working on rationality and its connection with our explanations of human action and agency and eventually settled on working on normative properties in naturalism, writes about her experience:

“...It was a great opportunity to pursue my interests in an eclectic manner that I wouldn’t have been able to do anywhere else. I’m really grateful to those at the JHI for making last year such a wonderful experience and to Paul Franks whose patience I continually tested as I jumped from topic to topic and finally discovered a new research project that I hope to continue to pursue in my graduate studies.”
ethica SCHOLARSHIP

In 2007 ethica Clinical Research Inc. funded a Bioethics Scholarship in honour of Barry F. Brown (MA 1963, PhD 1966), retired professor and founder of the undergrad bioethics program at U of T and St. Michael’s College, and Chair of ethica’s Ethics Review Committee.

Natasha (Natalie) Jesenak, who was the recipient of the 2009-2010 ethica scholarship, writes: “It was a great honour to be selected. The financial support was helpful, but even more importantly, the ethica scholarship reaffirmed how important my studies are to me. It’s already rewarding to be studying subjects I have such a great interest in, and the award provided the extra encouragement to keep working hard and never lose sight of my goals. If anything, I am more passionate about exploring the opportunities that bioethics may present to me in the future. I also felt fortunate to meet Barry Brown and Janice Parente and other staff/faculty in the department who can give me a greater insight into the field.”

Natasha has also been awarded the ethica scholarship for 2010-2011.
Visiting Fellowship at Princeton

Professor Joseph Boyle is spending the 2010-2011 year at Princeton University’s Department of Politics as the William E. Simon Visiting Fellow in Religion and Public Life. This fellowship is supported by a grant from the William E. Simon Foundation and is sponsored by the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions.

Ethics Workshop in Israel

Prof. Sergio Tenenbaum took three graduate students to Jerusalem this spring to participate in a workshop on Practical Ethics. The workshop, sponsored by the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, was organized by Sergio and Prof. David Heyd of Hebrew University to provide an informal forum for grad students from different traditions of moral reflection to discuss their research in theoretical and applied ethics.

Summer School in Bonn

Graduate students Anthony Bruno and Christine Rooks attended the first annual International Summer School in German Philosophy at the University of Bonn. They were selected from a large group of applicants, along with students from N. America, Europe and Asia. The session took place June 14-25, 2010, and this year’s topic was “Transcendental Ontology and Issues in Epistemology in Post-Kantian Idealism.” Prof. Paul Franks delivered a keynote address on “Skepticism, Naturalism, Nihilism.”

Since July 1, 2002, when he retired from the Department, Professor Emeritus Tom Robinson has been busy on a number of fronts. He has published three books, The World as Art Object (2004), Logos and Cosmos (2008), and The Concept of Soul from Homer to Aristotle (2010) [in Portuguese], and has continued to lecture in a number of Latin American countries, particularly Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Peru, with forays into China, Greece, Italy, Spain, France, and elsewhere. He has also (on the principle that one should re-constitute oneself at least once in a lifetime) moved into play-writing. Since 2006 he has written eleven plays, all of them centering on Greek philosophy and culture. Three trilogies (one each on the fifth and fourth centuries and a third on the Peloponnesian War) explore the interface between philosophy, poetry, politics and war. Set at various Olympic Games between 476 and 348 BCE, they constitute an “Olympics of the Mind” as key figures in Greece meet for an evening of vigorous discussion and wine-drinking after each of the three days of athletic contests. Prominent among them are the philosophers Heraclitus, Parmenides, Zeno, Democritus, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle; the tragic dramatists Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides; the comic dramatists...

Participants (left to right): Anthony Bruno, Summer School Organizer Prof. Markus Gabriel, Christine Rooks, and Prof. Paul Franks.

“Victory” for Philosopher-Playwright Tom Robinson in Italy

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“A toast to the victor in the pancration” – from Tom Robinson’s play ‘The Other Olympians’ performed this May in ancient Ascea in Italy.

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DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

The Aristotle Contest 2010
This year marked the fifth anniversary of the Aristotle national philosophy essay competition for Canadian high school students, sponsored and run by the Department of Philosophy, the University of Toronto Schools and the Canadian Philosophical Association’s Philosophy in the Schools project. This year’s questions were in metaphysics and philosophy of mind. Our (winter season!) metaphysics question asked whether the flame that lit the cauldron at the opening ceremonies of the Vancouver Olympics was the same as the flame lit at Olympia in Greece a year before; our (timeless!) philosophy of mind question asked whether it would be possible, in principle if not in practice, to build a machine conscious of its own existence. A wide range of entries came in, and were judged by a team of Toronto faculty and secondary school teachers. The winning essay, by Joseph Wornld of Toronto, tackled the self-consciousness question with resources drawn from the unlikely combination of Descartes, contemporary neurology and early Calvinist theology. In second place, Jane Kobyainski of Richmond Hill submitted an essay on the Olympic flame, taking a surprisingly Idealist approach to the question of the continued identity of an object. The bronze medal position went to Christopher Hillman of Leamington, Ontario, who wrestled bravely with functionalism to argue in support of the possibility of a self-conscious machine.

The winning essays are available for download at <http://www.aristotle.utoronto.ca>.

Grad Conference 2010
Social Bonds: From Self to Polis
The Graduate Philosophy Students’ Union held its tenth annual graduate student conference on May 14-15, 2010. Entitled “Social Bonds: From Self to Polis,” it was centred around the question, “How are the social, political, and moral demands of life together conditioned by what we humans feel for one another?”

Eight graduate students from other philosophy departments across North America came to Toronto to give presentations. Each paper was followed by a commentary by a U of T philosophy student. Raymond Geuss of the University of Cambridge gave the invited keynote address, entitled, “Identification and the Politics of Envy.”

Undergraduate Research and the Socrates Project
On April 5th and 6th undergraduate students from the Honours Project Seminar participated in the Second Annual Philosophy Undergraduate Research Conference. The Honours seminar ran for the full year for the first time, giving students in the program the chance to use the feedback from both their supervisors and their peers to really develop their work, and even submit it for publication in undergraduate journals - with much success!

The quality of the presentations at this PURC was unsurprisingly high, and covered topics from social contract theory and criminal law, to Medieval metaphysics, to the role of emotions in cognition, to musical aesthetics. This year’s presenters included Monica Barbir, Thomas Sanderson, Ljiljana Stanic, Andrew Jehan, Liron Taub, Aaron Henry, Mark Thomson, Luke Davies, Shereen Chang, Dimitri Pisarchik, and Ian Strung.

This spring our department also held the first Socrates Project Research Workshop for students in the Socrates Project program. The Workshop was a day long event, held Friday March 19th, in which students presented briefly on their independent research, and engaged with questions from the audience. This workshop is new to the Socrates Project program, which last year won the Northrop Frye Award of Excellence, bestowed within the university for innovative undergraduate initiatives.

The program offers our top undergraduate students the chance to work as teaching assistants for PHL 100Y, while they take a concurrent seminar that explores at an advanced level the topics and authors studied in the introductory course. Students in the seminar hear from faculty experts, with whom they conduct independent research projects in the second term of the course. It is this research they presented at the Socrates Project Research Workshop. Participants in the this year’s seminar were: Kevin Mills, Andrew Jehan, Jelena Markovic, Karina Vold, Ljiljana Stanic, Arthur Ringis, Harrison Porter, David Zvi Epstein, Liron Taub, and Juan Pineros.

Congrats to all PURC and Socrates Project participants for their innovative and challenging presentations, and much thanks to all the faculty members who came out to these events to support undergraduate research in our department.

– Dr. Vida Panitch, Undergraduate Research Coordinator

Vida Panitch (PhD, 2008), who has been central to the undergraduate research effort in the department as coordinator of both the Honours Seminar (PHL490Y) and the Socrates Project (PHL489Y), has left us to take up a tenure-track position in the philosophy department at Carleton University. Many congratulations to Vida, who will be sorely missed.
What are you working on right now?

For once in my life there is an easy answer. You can record that on Monday 21 June 2010 I came back from a conference in Vancouver and sat down to write the René Descartes lectures which will be given in Holland early in October. The title is “Proof: Calculation, Intuition, and A Priori Knowledge.” There are summaries of all the lectures online at <http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/faculties/humanities/tilps/descarteslectures2010/>.

I am finally trying to write out what I learned from Wittgenstein’s Remarks on the Foundations of Mathematics when I bought the book in April 1959, and which has obsessed me all my life. I actually handed in 2 PhD dissertations simultaneously, one of 30 pages, later published in the Journal of Symbolic Logic. The other was called Proof. I am still writing the second dissertation, which the examiners did not much like. Luckily they liked the theorem I had proved.

In a recent interview you referred to yourself as a “philosopher of the particular case.” Yet your works introduce general concepts such as styles of scientific reasoning and looping effects.

Do these concepts merely denote recurrent patterns in the particulars you have examined, or are they also meant to play an explanatory role in your philosophy?

I do not mind general labels, although I sometimes regret that they are so catchy. I was just asked to write an encyclopedia article on the looping effect, so I guess that one of my labels has become common knowledge. But the original “looping effect” paper, “Making up People,” (a talk given its second reading in Toronto on a wintry night early in 1984) ended with the statement that “I see no reason to suppose that we shall ever tell two identical stories of two different instances of making up people.”

There are, however, some general structural features of the idea – your “recurrent patterns” – that I tried to set out in my 2006 British Academy Lecture, “Kinds of People: Moving Targets.” I would not say the labels play an explanatory role, but they are suggestive pointers to an approach that I develop. So it is useful to have catchy labels that catch on.

The material on “Styles of Scientific Thinking & Doing” – my current label for the other idea you mentioned – began with a paper published in 1982. It does try to make some very general claims about truth and reasoning in the sciences, but once again, it is full of local details. In this case, the work gets more specific all the time. The most recent instalment was given as lectures in Mexico at the end of April. The last two lectures, which deal with taxonomy and evolutionary thinking, are entirely new, and really are rich in particular cases. They are online at <http://public.me.com/sfmarit>, put out by the University of Mexico. (Look under “Hacking Lectures”.)

When discussing your book Representing and Intervening (1983) you once remarked that you used the debate around scientific realism as “a peg on which to hang” your claims about experiment. Have you promoted other novel ideas by latching them onto existing debates?

Not in the same way, so far as I can recall. When that book was written, it felt as if no one had the slightest interest in experimental science. An experimental physicist, Francis Everitt (of Gravity Probe-B) and I wrote a paper called “Which comes first, Theory or Experiment?” but no journal was interested in it.
So the book, which to myself I called a Plea for Experiments (part of a Back-to-Bacon Movement), was hung on a peg which everyone was discussing at the time, but in which I had no serious interest whatsoever. As Richard Rorty once said to me, “scientific realism is Mickey Mouse.” In the course of the 1980s the philosophy, history, and sociology of experimental science did come into its own, but R&I was pretty much the first in that genre, with the great exception of Latour and Woolgar’s Laboratory Life, which I did not even know about when I wrote my own book. Bruno Latour, let me add, is by far the most original thinker about the sciences of our times.

What topics or areas in the philosophy of science would you say are most neglected at the moment?

I have no opinion about that. Frankly, I would not know. Remember, I do not identify as a “philosopher of science”.

I am a philosopher.

Yet you have conducted groundbreaking studies of scientific practices and concepts. Why not identify yourself as a philosopher of science?

I am a philosopher who is interested in many sciences (plural) and many other things as well. I have told you that at the summer solstice I began thinking seriously about the philosophy of mathematics. I count mathematics among the sciences, but even that is a moot point. My stuff on looping effects has occupied a good deal of my attention for the past thirty years. Is that philosophy of science? In December I was at an “authors meet critics” session at the American Philosophical Association meetings in New York. It arose from my contribution to a book arising from an essay by Cora Diamond, called “The difficulty of reality, the difficulty of philosophy.” The book was misleadingly called Philosophy and Animal Life, and featured McDowell and Cavell as well as Diamond and myself. I was asked primarily because of a piece I had written for The New York Review of Books some time ago on Coetzee’s The Lives of Animals. My best academic acquaintances around the world (meaning people I get on very well with, and am always delighted to sit around and shoot the breeze with, though not intimate friends) tend to be anthropologists rather than philosophers.

Did you know that in the 1800 (Jäsche) version of his Logic lectures, Kant added “What is man?” to his previous list of the three questions of philosophy? (What can I know? What ought I to do? For what may I hope?) Then he said that Metaphysics, Morality, and Religion could all “be reckoned to be anthropology, because the first three questions are related to the last.” I would be much happier to be called a (philosophical) anthropologist than a philosopher of science. I am concerned with all things human, including animals and the sciences.

The previous issue of this newsletter featured a photo of you from 1960 marching against the Bomb. Could you say something about your political involvement in those days?

I was a fairly serious Ban-the-Bomber. I like the (true) story that once I was arrested at Trafalgar Square and spent the night in Wormwood Scrubs (a notorious prison) with Vanessa Redgrave.

I continued being an activist when I spent a year in Princeton, interfering with atom bomb shelters and the like. I was the faculty sponsor of a radical student organization I helped found there, called BRINK. When I started work at UBC I was active in the NDP, and was even the riding organizer for West Point Grey, a gerrymandered constituency which in effect disenfranchised the people who worked in the sawmills, long time members of that great union, The International Woodworkers of America, by bundling them together with a large number of upper middle class voters. Of course our candidate lost, but it was a well-fought fight.
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I regret that I have not lived up to my youthful ideals.

In the same issue of the newsletter you gave some advice to younger scholars: do the best at what you care about, and do not pay attention to what figures of authority say you should do to get a job. Could you share with readers some of the institutional challenges you faced when trying to do what you cared about?

I have been extremely fortunate. I have never had any serious institutional challenge. This is partly generational: when I was young there was not much competition, so jobs were very easy to come by. I really hate the way in which so many good young scholars in the humanities now have to scrounge along on sessional jobs for years until they find some security and a decent salary.

Consider the anecdote about my PhD thesis I told in the answer to your first question. I handed in a dissertation called Part I, Proof, plus Part II, which consisted of some results in modal logic. They had nothing to do with each other, and the first would have failed on its own, though it was where my heart was. No institution would let a student do that today. And consider the logic part. I felt no urge to publish this – I had no publications then – and an editor of the Journal of Symbolic Logic, the kindly Arthur Prior, just told me one day he was going to publish it whether I submitted it or not. Such an event is unthinkable today. I lived in happier times, before philosophy had become a “profession.”

I still give the advice to students that you quote, but I also tell them frankly that I know it is tempting to try to position yourself in a competitive market. I do discourage giving in to the mindless professionalization in which from a sociological point of view there is no discernible difference between a young philosopher and a young accountant working on Bay Street, trying to crawl up the corporate ladder.

But it does require a kind of courage that I did not need long ago when I was starting out.

Institutional hindrance? Well I did just think of something I said I came back yesterday from UBC. I was put up in splendid residences named after Dean Walter Gage. I recall that when I applied for a graduating scholarship of $300, Dean Gage personally called me into his office and told me it was absurd that I should ever have thought of applying. Go out and get a job! Actually I was about to go to work for Shell finding oil in Alberta, but late in the summer, I won an entrance scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, so the worthy Dean was just a blip.

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Cratinus and Aristophanes; the sophists Protagoras, Thrasymachus and Gorgias; the military general and historian Thucydides; the military general and politician Alcibiades; and a number of other figures.

The other two plays centre specifically on Socrates and Plato respectively. The first, The Diaries of Socrates, is based on the imagined discovery of three autobiographical diaries that Socrates composed in his jail cell in the last week or so of his life. The second, The Monologues of Plato, is based on the imagined discovery of three autobiographical letters of Plato which, for one reason or another, were composed but never apparently sent. To date, The Diaries of Socrates has been played in Greece, Canada, the USA, Spain and China, with a Spanish-language performance in Venezuela; it will be staged by the Ontario Philosophy Teachers Association in the spring of 2011. The Monologues of Plato was performed in Spain in 2009. And Part One of The Other Olympians (the trilogy on the fifth century) was performed in May of this year in Ascea, Italy, birthplace of Parmenides, as part of the annual Parmenidea symposium held there.

The performance, in Italian, was staged on the archaeological site of the ancient city by the Compagnia del Giulare, of Salerno.

“I created these plays as ‘entertainments with serious overtones’, a bit like My Dinner with André,” says Tom. “If they get people talking about some of the issues raised, and laughing at some of the comic stuff, I shall be more than happy.” They are also very much ‘talk’ plays, he says, so they can just as easily be read round a table (or performed as a radio play) as staged in a theatre. His hope is that various ones among them will prove to be a useful introduction to courses on Greek philosophy, drama, poetry and politics, with students playing the various parts, and serve as a stimulus to engagement with the ideas that such courses will themselves of course then go on to deal with in more customary academic fashion.

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**Interview With Ian Hacking**

While Plato thought that philosophers and poets quarreled, our UofT philosophers seem to be inspiring literary authors these days. Kelly Cherry, a poet and Professor Emeritus of the Humanities at University of Wisconsin, Madison, recently published a new book, The Retreats of Thought: poems, that includes a poem, “A Snowglobe for Ian Hacking.” Her previous book, Writing the World, included a reference to Ian’s proving Gödel’s Theorem in a logic class that she took from him at the University of Virginia in 1961.

Meanwhile, Anik See has a new book, Postcard and Other Stories, that includes “Kingwell,” a story in which “a displaced Toronto book designer deliberates dreams, daydreams and delusions that result from a lone encounter with philosopher Mark Kingwell.”
The department’s 23rd Annual Book Launch, held on March 11th, 2010, featured:


Alumni are invited to attend the 2011 Philosophy Book Launch which will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2011, 4–6 pm, at the Jackman Humanities Building, 170 St. George Street, Room 418.
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