



# Philosophy News

FALL 2006

## ALUMNI FUND GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

The Philosophy Department is very pleased to announce two new fellowships for graduate students, each the result of very generous gifts from alumni.



**Sidney Robinson** (BA, 1961; MA, 1962; LLB, 1966) has endowed the Sidney P. H. Robinson Graduate Scholarship in Ancient Philosophy, an award of approximately \$12,000/year for graduate students working in Greek and Roman philosophy. The Department has traditionally had a strong group of researchers in this field, from Father Owens, John Rist, and Tom Robinson (no relation to Sidney), to our current complement of Canada Research Chair in Ancient

Philosophy, Brad Inwood; Chancellor Jackman Professor, Jennifer Whiting; Canada Research Chair in Classical Philosophy, Rachel Barney; Lloyd Gerson, and Doug Hutchinson. This fellowship will ensure that we are able to attract the very best graduate students from around the world to study with this excellent group of faculty.

Sidney studied philosophy at Trinity College as an undergraduate and continued on to do a master's degree with the Department immediately thereafter. Though he enjoyed his philosophical study tremendously, especially when teaching the subject, he decided to pursue a career in law. A partner at the firm of Torys for many years, his recent retirement has allowed him to return to study at the Department. He has audited a series of seminars on ancient philosophy on such topics as Plato's moral psychology, Aristotle's conception of weakness of will and responses to it by the medieval commentators, and Seneca's presentation of Stoicism. He is a regular and welcome presence at many departmental talks and conferences.



**Michael J. Herman** (MBA, 1992; MA, 2006) has endowed the Michael J. Herman Graduate Fellowship in Philosophy, an award of approximately \$12,000/year for the benefit of graduate students in the department. The Herman Fellowship will help us attract the best students in any area of study at a time when the competition with our peer institutions in the US is fierce.

Michael studied at Michigan as an undergraduate and then received his law degree at Osgoode Hall Law School in 1974. After a successful career as a lawyer, including sessional teaching stints at three Ontario law schools, he took a position as President and CEO at Citicom Inc. and Citipark Inc., while completing his MBA at the University of Toronto. He started a part-time master's degree in the Department in 2001, finishing up this past summer. Throughout his studies, he has been a significant booster of the Department's mission, especially by raising our profile in the Toronto legal and business communities. Michael is also extremely active in community affairs and has been the Chair of the Holocaust Committee of Toronto, a Director of the United Jewish Appeal/Federation, and the President of the Oakdale Golf and Country Club.

Sidney and Michael both took advantage of the remarkable leveraging opportunity offered through the Graduate Student Endowment Fund established at the U of T by the Province of Ontario. Donations are effectively triple matched to provide substantial named fellowships in perpetuity for the benefit of our graduate students. If you are interested in taking advantage of this program, please contact Christie Darville of Arts and Science Advancement, 416-946-5192, [cdarville@artsci.utoronto.ca](mailto:cdarville@artsci.utoronto.ca).

## MINERVA'S AVIARY – PHILOSOPHY AT TORONTO

### John Slater's History of the Department is Launched

John Slater's long-awaited history of the Philosophy Department, *Minerva's Aviary* (University of Toronto Press, 2005), is now available. The book was launched at a reception at the Fisher Rare Book Library last October. Many friends and alumni attended, including Father **Edward Jackman** (BA, 1962, Victoria College), who has been a long-time supporter of both the book and the Department. In his remarks at the book launch, he said: "We may not all be professional philosophers but we never lose our love of thinking and above all our love for wisdom itself, i.e. philosophy."



Rev. Edward Jackman



Above: Chairs of the Philosophy Department (former and current) attending the launch: L.Wayne Sumner, Cheryl Misak, John Slater, David Gauthier, Tom Robinson, Donald Ainslie.

We wish to thank the generous donors to the Department of Philosophy, without whom Philosophy News would not be possible. Please see the back page to see how you can support the Department in endeavours like this one.

## From the Chair Donald Ainslie



At the University of Toronto, we pride ourselves on our international reputation for excellence in research, but we also recognize that our reputation for teaching

lags a bit behind. For this reason, the leaders of the University, from the President and Provost to the various Deans and Chairs, have made it our goal to improve the student experience at U of T.

What does this mean for Philosophy? In 2003-4, when we were developing our plan for the Department for the next few years, we started by thinking about class sizes. The best philosophical education does not involve a teacher simply conveying doctrine to a student. Instead we take Socrates for a model, and try to inspire our students to think for themselves about the issues at hand. This task is easiest when the class is relatively small, allowing professors to lead the students in a joint philosophical conversation.

***Our top priority for the next few years was for “every class to allow for dialogue among students”***

Not all classes can be small, of course. We teach approximately 14,000 students (half-course enrollments) on the three campuses, and sometimes a large lecture course is not only necessary, but effective, especially in the early years of our programs. For students’ thinking will be stronger and more creative when they take into account what has been said on a subject by the great philosophers, be they historical or contemporary. A large lecture allows a professor to make a philosophical position – its rationale, its strengths, its weaknesses – available to a large number of students simultaneously. Such lectures will be most effective when they are combined with small-group tutorials, where students have the chance to talk through their ideas in a conversation moderated by a graduate student.

Accordingly, the Department decided that our top priority for the next few years was for “every class to allow for dialogue among students, either by being relatively

small or, if large, by having tutorials in addition to lectures.”

We have been making great strides on this front. On the St. George campus, for example, we have restricted the size of almost all of our third-year courses to 38 or fewer students, and our fourth-year seminars are capped at 24. Simultaneously, we have increased the number of tutorials in our large first- and second-year courses. Thus in 2002-3, we had 62 large half-courses (more than 40 students), only eight of which had tutorials. But in 2006-7, we have halved the number of large courses to 30, of which 17 have tutorials. We hope to have tutorials in every large lecture course in the next few years.

One major step we’re taking in this direction this year is the *Socrates Project*. We’ve received special funding from the Provost and the Dean of Arts and Science that will allow us to hire our best fourth year students to work as TAs for PHL 100Y, Introduction to Philosophy. The students in the class will benefit from having peers as TAs, while the TAs will have the opportunity for that special kind of Socratic insight that comes with teaching the subject. Moreover, they will also participate in a special research seminar that will bring students up to date on the newest research on the topics covered in PHL 100.

Our students in philosophy continue to thrive academically. Among our graduating specialists this past year, for example, we had two Moss finalists, a Rhodes finalist, and a Commonwealth Scholar. Students are going on to graduate school at Princeton, Oxford, Harvard, and elsewhere; to law school at Yale, New York University, as well of course as U of T and Osgoode.

Many of us remember our university days, however, primarily for what went on outside of the classroom – for the clubs, teams, lectures, debates, parties, and for hanging out with friends. The philosophy students on campus today continue to be amazingly active in co-curricular activities. On the facing page, you’ll find out a bit more about what our students are up to: three philosophy clubs, two journals, a course union, and more. I’ve certainly enjoyed getting to know them. They are an impressive bunch!

### PHLUB – The UTSC Philosophy Club

It has been an active year for our undergraduates in Philosophy at UTSC. In particular, our Philosophy Club, better known as PHLUB, has hosted a number of events, including several discussion nights on topics ranging from the incorrigibility of mental states to God, free will and existentialism; general help and tutoring sessions for fall and winter exams; a movie night; and guest lectures, including one by Bill Seager on consciousness and time, and one by Martin Lin on abstract objects and causation. For next year, PHLUB is planning a philosophy radio show on the UTSC campus radio station, and a philosophy film project. It should be interesting and a lot of fun.

*Phil Kremer,  
Philosophy Discipline  
Representative, UTSC*

### UTM Philosophy Club



*The UTM Philosophy Club*

The University of Toronto at Mississauga Philosophy Club, seen here, meets several times a year to discuss matters of abiding concern to philosophically minded young thinkers. Our meetings are loosely organized around some theme that requires each participant to do a bit of thinking in advance. We’ve had nights on which each of us brought in a piece of music to play, a photograph to pass around, some art work, or a piece of text. The discussion is always lively, and usually turns out to connect with course material, but in some novel way. For instance, our last meeting revolved around the phenomenon of near-death experiences, and we considered whether there are experiences that have no adequate expression in language.

*Phil Clark,  
Faculty Co-ordinator*

# UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY ACTIVITIES

## Trinity College's Brett Philosophy Club

The Brett Philosophy Club is a long-standing tradition at Trinity College, and this year's group continued its legacy of organizing informal philosophical discussions and reading groups. Meeting once a month in one of Trinity's beautiful common rooms with requisite refreshments, the group of philosophy enthusiasts from a variety of colleges, faculties, and programs discussed articles which ranged from contemporary questions of philosophy of mind (Dennet's "Where am I?") to ancient puzzles of political philosophy (Plato's *Crito*). Brett also collaborated with the International Relations Society and the Ethics, Society and Law Student Association to organize a lecture by Dr. Stuart Murray on the topic of suicide bombing. Next year Brett will continue its tradition of promoting philosophy and fellowship.

Joanna Langille with Jelena Madunic

## Mindful

*Mindful* is the University of Toronto's new journal of ethics for undergraduate students. The revival of Trinity College's Brett Philosophy Club made me aware of the thriving philosophical community at this university. Students from across the campuses are actively engaged in philosophical dialogue, especially about ethics.

I decided to capture some of this intellectual energy in the form of a publication. The journal will focus on issues in practical philosophy, including applied and metaethics, political theory and philosophy, international justice, and bioethics. The Philosophy Department and the new Centre for Ethics at the University of Toronto helped *Mindful* become an actuality.

Launching a new journal has presented many challenges, but along with the frustration that comes with any serious venture is the excitement of bringing together a group of very talented minds and building the foundations for a new – and hopefully successful – publication. I was most privileged to have an incredibly gifted Board of Editors involved in the crew of *Mindful*.

Ethical debate is vital for our communities, both at home and abroad, and this debate deserves to have a recognized forum at this university. We will be launching our first issue in the fall of 2006.

Shareen Reza  
Editor-in-Chief, *Mindful*, U of T Journal of Ethics,  
Brett Philosophy Club, Trinity College

## PCU – Philosophy Course Union



### PCU Executive:

Gabriel Rauterberg, Linda Wu,  
Ellan Tsekhman, Simon Kassissia

The Philosophy Course Union (PCU), is an undergraduate student group at the University of Toronto St. George campus that works to organize social and academic events for philosophy undergraduates as well as the university community at large. To that end we have held lectures, symposia, pub and movie nights, graduate school semi-



### PCU Reading Group #2:

The PCU Reading Group 'Confessions' (Augustine and Rousseau) met weekly over the summer. Pictured: Darren Cross, Jordan Apostoli, Ashley Atkins (Confessions host and PCU Events Coordinator), Adam Golding, all striking Rodin's *The Thinker* pose. Missing from the photo: Jason Khule, Marco Paoli.

nars, as well as increasingly popular reading groups. This year we also helped organize a career night (see story on page 9). The PCU works to maintain positive relations among the students, faculty, and all the other philosophy groups on campus. This year the PCU has hosted some of its most successful events ever and we hope to continue that positive momentum into next year with the second annual World Philosophy Day celebration. The PCU is generously supported by the Department of Philosophy and the Arts and Science Student Union.

Ellan Tsekhman

## Noësis

*Noësis* is the Undergraduate Philosophy Journal of the University of Toronto. Its main function is to provide a forum for excellent work produced by U of T undergraduates at the University of Toronto, and to give students an opportunity to acquire the skills associated with running an academic publication. An undergraduate journal is doubly beneficial, as it provides opportunities for professional development to both those who are published, and those who edit and produce the journal. *Noësis* would not be possible without the generous financial support of the Philosophy Department. You can pick up a copy of our 2005 issue at the Department Office at 215 Huron, 9th floor, or look at this and other issues online at [www.chass.utoronto.ca/pcu/noesis](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/pcu/noesis).

This year we have been more active than ever. Along with the usual business of recruiting undergraduate editors, soliciting submissions, blind reviewing and selecting articles, preparing them for publication, and the final production of the journal, we are engaged in other activities. These include hosting socials, talks, and fundraising through the sale of philosophically-themed lapel pins featuring such slogans as "I think therefore I am," and "You are reading this." Our most significant activity this year has been to hold a series of colloquia, each featuring a current or former member of Toronto's community. We are proud to have presented talks by U of T professors Mark Kingwell and Paul Franks, as well as a postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Stuart Murray, and University of Guelph professor and U of T alumnus, John Russon. Each speaker is asked to choose a topic with the sole condition that it be of interest to a diverse undergraduate audience. We have been fortunate to hear talks on happiness and culture, Analytic philosophy and German idealism, bioethics and Plato, and a phenomenology of music. These talks have raised the presence of *Noësis* on campus and follow the optimistic spirit of inter- and intradisciplinary thinking and dialogue in Toronto's philosophical community.

Very best regards – and look out for our new issue in June!

Jamie M.A. Smith,  
Editor-In-Chief

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Jamie Smith

# Undergrad Awards



## Student Paper Awards Winner



Reyes Le Blanc

**Emilio Reyes Le Blanc**, a 2006 philosophy specialist alumnus, won awards for two papers – the President’s Award, at the 11th Annual SUNY Oneonta Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (April 2006), for “Dismantling Dretske: A Sellarsian Theory of Change Blindness” – and the Student Essay Prize, Bertrand Russell Society 33rd Annual Meeting, University of Iowa, May 2006, for “Russell on Acquaintance and De Re Belief.”

Emilio attended the Summer School in Logic and Formal Epistemology at Carnegie Mellon in June and July, and in August he was 1 of 15 undergrads picked to study at the Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy at Rutgers University. He presently plans to be a bike messenger in Vancouver for a year before pursuing a PhD in philosophy.



Chamberlain

## UofT Excellence Award in Social Sciences and Humanities

Two of our undergraduates won U of T Excellence Awards in the Humanities, highly competitive scholarships allowing them to undertake independent research projects during this past summer. **Colin Chamberlain**, who graduated with a specialist degree this spring, has now gone on to doctoral work in philosophy at Harvard.

He spent the summer working with Ronnie de Sousa on issues relating to philosophy of mind and language. **Ryan Sosna**, who is in the final year of a specialist degree, worked with Wayne Sumner, exploring the ethical, legal, and social issues surrounding euthanasia and assisted death.



Sosna

## Cressy Award

**Joanna Langille** won a Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award, which recognizes students for their outstanding extra-curricular contributions to their college, faculty, school or department, or to the university as a whole. She has served as both the vice-president and president of the Global Knowledge Foundation (see *GKF on page 9*).

She says “using your skills to help others is important; it’s a morally good thing. I’m really interested in education and the transformative power of ideas to assist others.”



Langille

## Moss Scholarship Finalists and UTAA Scholars

Two philosophy students were named finalists for the 2006 John H. Moss Scholarship and were designated UTAA (U of T Alumni Assoc.) Scholars. **Erin Court** (Trinity College, bioethics major) and **Joanna Langille** (University College, joint philosophy and political science specialist)

received this honour for their outstanding academic and extra-curricular leadership.



Court

## Notes from the St. George Undergraduate Department



### Deborah Black, St. George Undergraduate Coordinator

As I write this, my term as Undergraduate Coordinator is drawing to a close. When I began the double cohort had just arrived at the University of Toronto and the Philosophy Department was formulating its response to the University’s *Stepping Up* plan. During this time the Department has faced many exciting challenges, and while it has often been hectic, it has also been immensely rewarding.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the undergraduate students whom we have the privilege of teaching at U of T, and also to all the faculty, instructors, and Teaching Assistants who make it possible for us to offer a rich philosophy curriculum to our students.

Niko Scharer, who took over as TA Coordinator this year, has made a tremendous contribution to the success of our undergraduate program. Thanks are due to all the administrative staff at 215 Huron St. who help in the delivery of the program. Special mention must be made of the Undergraduate Counsellor, Alisa Rim, who brings a warm and caring spirit to all her dealings with students and staff in the Department. I have been most fortunate to have such a remarkable person to assist me in this office. Special thanks are due to our Chair, Donald Ainslie, who has been unsurpassed in his dedication to enriching the Undergraduate Philosophy experience on the St. George Campus.

On July 1, 2006, I will turn over the position of Undergraduate Coordinator to the capable hands of Professor Joseph Heath. I hope that his term in this office will be as fruitful and congenial as mine has been!

# THE SCHOOL OF TORONTO

In the fall of 2005, Aric Guité, a photography student at Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, approached the Department with an intriguing idea. He wanted to create a modern-dress photo-recreation of Raphael's famous fresco, *The School of Athens*. You can see the results here.



Top row, left to right: Jacob Weinrib, Tom Hurka, Jessica Wilson, Jim Brown, Niko Scharer, Jennifer Nagel, Amy Mullin, Martin Pickavé, Peter King, Diana Raffman, Phil Clark, Gurpreet Rattan. On the stairs: Benj Hellie, Donald Ainslie, two photographer's assistants (Robin Raworth and Meghan Janushewski). Front row: Deborah Black, Wayne Sumner, Jennifer Hawkins, Bob Gibbs, Anjan Chakravarty, Lana Kuhle, Ronnie de Sousa, Aric Guité (the photographer), Alasdair Urquhart, and Pablo Stafforini.

## UTM PHILOSOPHY NEWS



**Amy Mullin**  
*Chair, Department of Philosophy*  
*University of Toronto at Mississauga*

UTM Philosophy is delighted to welcome three new faculty: Mohan Matthen, Byeong Yi, and Jonathan Weisberg (see 'New Faculty' on page 9). We welcome Paul Franks back from sabbatical leave, and wish Diana Raffman a productive and enjoyable sabbatical leave. We appreciate the work of our philosophy student advisory committee in assisting us with our hiring of new faculty (which will continue in 2006-7). This committee met with each job candidate for an assistant professor position in order to give us feedback about each candidate's research and teaching. They also helped us impress those candidates with the calibre of our students! We always appreciate hearing from our alumni.

News about some of our recent alumni is posted at <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/2852.0.html> and we would be delighted to update this page with more information.

## UTSC PHILOSOPHY NEWS



**Phil Kremer**  
*Philosophy Discipline Representative,*  
*University of Toronto at Scarborough*

It's been a good year for Philosophy at UTSC. We welcomed two new members, Benj Hellie, in the Philosophy of Mind, and Jessica Wilson, in Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science. Benj and Jessica immediately became a substantial presence, pressing ahead with initiatives in both teaching and research. We also welcomed back Lynda Lange, in Political Philosophy, who was away for a year. Our junior faculty have been making a name for themselves in the wider UTSC Department of Humanities: among junior faculty in the Humanities at UTSC, all and only the philosophers won the Connaught New Staff Matching Grants. In addition, Martin Lin won a SSHRC Standard Research Grant, and Benj and Jessica have accepted invitations to the Centre for Consciousness at the Australian National University. Our plans for next year include increasing our offerings in value theory, and adding tutorials to our most popular B-level course, Biomedical Ethics. If these tutorials are a success, we hope to add tutorials to more B-level courses in coming years.

# Notes from the Graduate Department



**James Robert Brown,**  
Graduate Coordinator

This fall we took in a slightly larger number of PhD students than in the recent past, nineteen in all, and seven MA students. Next year we will be taking in fewer PhDs and a larger number of MAs, approximately a dozen of each. On the scholarship front, once again we have done very well in the various competitions; the large number of external awards reflects the brilliance of our students.

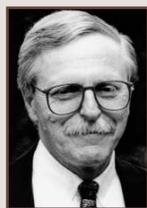
In the past year we have had fourteen completed PhDs, another very significant year. (In about six years we will run out of space for storing dissertations.)

Our graduating doctoral students have secured jobs this year at such universities as the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Sarah Lawrence College, Sungkyunkwan University (S. Korea), Marymount University, and Bradley University. In addition, several students received prestigious post-doctoral fellowships through such institutions as the European University Institute, SSHRC, and the National Institutes of Health.

The big change in the Graduate Office is a new Graduate Coordinator, who will count himself lucky to know all the rules by the time he departs. Margaret Opoku-Pare is now in her second year and catches most of the mistakes made by the new kid.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Lynd Wilks Ferguson** died of cancer on 13 December 2005 at his retirement home in North Vancouver. Lynd was born in Paducah, Kentucky in 1938 and received all of his education in the United States. After earning a doctorate at Northwestern University, he was hired by the University of Buffalo and served there for three years. In 1968 he joined this department and taught until his retirement in 2004. He undertook several administrative positions in University College, which he joined in 1971 as registrar. Later he served for three years as vice-principal and for seven years as principal of the college. His philosophical interests and work, which were honed by the two years he spent at Oxford before joining the University of Toronto, lay in analytical philosophy. The very title of his book, *Common Sense* (1989), brings to mind one of his heroes, G.E. Moore. Lynd also had strong interdisciplinary interests which led him to establish programs in cognitive science and artificial intelligence at University College. And it was mostly due to his efforts that an acclaimed art gallery was instituted in the college.



**James Allen Graff** died of cancer on 23 October 2005 in Toronto. Jim was born in 1937 in East Orange, New Jersey, and earned a doctorate at Brown University. John Irving, then head of the Department of Ethics at Victoria College, hired him as a lecturer in 1963. When Francis Sparshott stepped down as chairman of that department in 1970, Jim was appointed to succeed him. He held the post until the Department of Ethics was abolished and its members absorbed into the Department of Philosophy in

1975. His principal interest in later years was the plight of the Palestinian people and he did write and speak widely and passionately on that topic. He retired in 2002.

**Joseph Owens** died of old age on 30 October 2005 in Toronto. Joe was born in 1908 at Saint John, New Brunswick, and his first degree was earned at St. Mary's College, Brockville, Ontario. After graduating he studied at seminaries at Montreal and Woodstock, Ontario. He was ordained a priest in the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, commonly called the Redemptorists, in 1933. After serving as parish priest for a number of years, he enrolled as a graduate student in the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. He was awarded its licentiate in 1946 and its doctorate *summa cum laude* in 1951, one of only eleven successful candidates for that degree. His first book, *The Doctrine of Being in the Aristotelian Metaphysics: A Study in the Greek Background of Mediaeval Thought* (1951), a reworking of his doctoral thesis, brought him to the favourable notice of both classical and medieval scholars. Gilson contributed a preface in which he described Owens as an exemplar of the sort of student he and his colleagues had hoped to attract when they founded the Institute. He praised Owens both as a historian and a philosopher. The book, which was revised twice, has never been out of print. Joe joined the faculty of the Institute, and through it, the Graduate Department of Philosophy in 1954, and quickly became one of Toronto's star attractions. He retired in 1973 but continued to offer graduate courses for the next twenty years. Over the years he published another ten books on topics in Aristotle and medieval philosophy.



# Kudos, Awards & Honours



**Tom Hurka**, the Chancellor Henry N. R. Jackman Distinguished Chair in Philosophical Studies, has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, one of the most prestigious academic honours in the Americas. He will use his fellowship to work on a project examining British moral philosophy from Sidgwick to Ross.

**Marleen Rozemond** is the recipient of the Chancellor Jackman Research Fellowship in the Humanities for the 2006-2007 academic year.



University **Professor L. Wayne Sumner** has been awarded the 2006 C.B. Macpherson Prize by the Canadian Political Science Association, for his book *The Hateful and the Obscene: Studies in the Limits of Free Expression* (U of T Press, 2004).

**Lambert Zuidervaart**, an Associate Member in the Graduate Faculty of the Department of Philosophy at the U of T and Professor of Philosophy at the Institute for Christian Studies, won the inaugural Symposium book award for his *Artistic Truth: Aesthetics, Discourse, and Imaginative Disclosure* (Cambridge UP, 2004). The award is sponsored by the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy; Lambert was the keynote speaker for the Society at their May meeting at York University. This book has also been selected as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2005 by *Choice*, the journal of the American Library Association.



**Calvin Normore**, a U of T philosophy graduate (PhD, 1976) and former faculty member, has been elected Vice President of the American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division, and will automatically become President next year.

**Stuart Murray** received a SAC/APUS Undergraduate Teaching Award for teaching excellence in the category of Arts and Science from the University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council and the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students for his 3rd year course Ethics and Medical Research. Stuart was a SSHRC post-doctoral fellow in the department in 2004-2006. He will continue being a Senior McLuhan Fellow at the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology for one more year, and he has obtained a tenure-track position at Ryerson.



PhD student **Lauren Bialystok** received the 2005-2006 Teaching Assistants' Excellence Award, given out by the Teaching Assistants' Training Program.



This spring **Catherine Manoukian**, a PhD student in our philosophy program, had a CD released: *Khachaturian and Shostakovich: Violin Concertos*. The recording was made last summer with the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra. This is Catherine's fourth CD.



MA student **Jacob Weinrib** won the Martha Lile Love Essay contest for his essay "The Judicial Significance of Kant's 'Supposed Right to Lie'."



**Kirstin Borgerson**, a PhD student, received 3 awards: the Dr. Jay Alan Smith / Ontario Graduate Scholarship in the Dept. of Philosophy; a CIHR Strategic Training Doctoral Fellowship in Health Care, Technology and Place; and a Research Associateship with the Comparative Program on Health and Society.



**Sorin Bangu** received the Richard Hadden Award for best paper by a graduate student at the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science annual meeting in May 2006 for his "An Old Problem in a New Setting: Maddy's Mathematical Naturalism and Wigner's Puzzle about Applicability." In addition Sorin has won a University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies Post-doctoral fellowship for 2006-2007.



**Pablo Stafforini**, an MA student, won the Department of Philosophy Graduate Fellowship for 2005-2006.



PhD student **Patrick Turmel** was awarded the 2006 Nathalie Des Rosiers Audacity of Imagination Award by the Law Commission of Canada and the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences for his paper "Are Cities Illiberal? Pluralism and Constraints in Urban Centres." Patrick presented the paper at the Canadian Law and Society Association meeting during the CFHSS Congress held at York University in May 2006.



PhD student **Timothy Stock** is the winner of the Martha Lile Love Teaching Award for Graduate Instructors in Philosophy for his work in PHL388F, Literature and Philosophy (St. George Campus). The committee (Professors Mark Kingwell and Gopal Sreenivasan) was impressed by his original course design, his thoughtful engagement with and supportive response to students, both in lectures and in written comment on their work, as well as the enthusiastic student evaluations.



PhD student **Owen Ware** won the Thomas A Goudge Memorial Fellowship in Philosophy for 2005-2006.



Photo by Shaughn Howard Photography

# RESEARCH NOTES

*A selection of some of the research currently being undertaken by philosophy faculty.*

## Arthur Ripstein:



I am writing a book about Kant's legal and political philosophy. Instead of treating political philosophy as an application of a more general moral philosophy, Kant develops a set of distinctive moral principles governing the legitimate use of force. He frames these questions in terms of the means that may be used by citizens or the states that act on their behalf, rather than the ends that they pursue.

Kant's account is developed through his treatment of issues in the private law of property, contract, and what he calls status. His treatment of each of these forms of private interaction, and the coordinate but contrasting nature of public law, has profound implications for all of the central issues of political philosophy. He offers accounts of the rule of law and its relation to democracy, the ability of institutions to create distinctive obligations, the relation between freedom and equality, the nature and significance of consent, and the normative basis of punishment. He also offers a powerful account of the relation between private property and distributive justice, and the normative significance of national boundaries.

Kant wrote two centuries ago, but the issues that concerned him remain vitally important today. If anything, they have acquired a new urgency as Western Democracies have confronted terrorism, and Kantian vocabulary has occupied a central place on the attempts by courts in Canada, Germany, and other countries to delimit the ways that terrorism can be fought within the limits of law.

## Marleen Rozemond:



My research focuses on the mind-body problem in the 17th- and 18th-centuries, and I investigate how philosophers in this period argued for the idea that the soul or mind is immaterial and can exist even after the body dies. The issue bears on two fundamental questions: the possibility of an immortal soul, and the question whether science can explain everything about human mental activity. So far my work has mostly been about Descartes, culminating in my book *Descartes's Dualism* (Harvard University Press, 1998). Recently I have turned to a different approach to these issues that dates back to the third century philosopher Plotinus and that was adopted by various philosophers during the 17th- and 18th- centuries. This approach argues that something about human mental activity requires that the human mind is an absolutely simple entity. But, this argument goes, bodies are always composite, and so the mind cannot be material.

In addition, I teach courses on feminism and have developed a strong interest in questions about multiculturalism and women's rights. In recent years various feminist scholars have expressed the following concern: it is important to respect the values of different cultures, but sometimes this respect seems to be in tension with recent progress on women's rights, progress that goes against various cultural traditions as is illustrated by, for example, debates about headscarves, female genital cutting, and the recent debate in Ontario over the use of sharia law in arbitration. So how should we reconcile our respect for different cultures and religions with concern for the rights of women?

## Jessica Wilson:



My current research focuses on the ontology and metaphysics of broadly scientific entities. I am particularly interested in understanding the relationships between entities in the special sciences (such as chemistry, biology, and psychology) and those in the more fundamental sciences (notably, physics). Philosophers frequently argue over the truth of physicalism, the thesis that all scientific entities are "nothing over and above" physical entities. My aim is not to take sides in this debate (in my view, the status of physicalism is an open empirical question) but rather to clarify the debate by providing working accounts of the relations of reducibility and emergence that might be at issue; similarly for the notion of "physical" that plays a role in the physicalist thesis. A related area of interest concerns the status, as necessary or contingent, of the laws of nature: are the laws governing scientific entities necessary or essential to these entities, or could an electron (for example) behave just as a proton actually does?

These and related questions bear upon traditional debates in philosophy of science, metaphysics, and philosophy of mind---including the status of Democritan atomism and its materialist descendents, the correct solution to Descartes' mind-body problem, and whether Hume was right that causation is mere correlation. I hope to shed new light on these questions and debates by making use of scientific notions (e.g., that of a fundamental interaction, and that of a "degree of freedom") that are under-exploited in philosophical contexts.

## PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

**Amy Mullin**, chair of Philosophy at UTM, and **Paul Franks** have been promoted to Full Professor.



**Bob Gibbs** has been appointed Director of U of T's Humanities Centre. The Centre is in the midst of a major restructuring, and it will be Bob's job to bring together faculty and students from departments and interdisciplinary units from all three campuses to enhance the profile and standing of the humanities. To add to his workload, Bob will also be Acting Director of the Jewish Studies Program from September – December, 2006.



# UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY ACTIVITIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

## Career Night – Wanted: Philosopher?

In today's bottom-line oriented culture it takes a brave soul to pursue a classic liberal arts education. In a perfect world studying the works of Plato, Aristotle and Kant would be recognized as inherently valuable, but all too often philosophy students are beleaguered by one question posed by well-meaning family and friends: "What can you do with a degree in philosophy?" On February 9th, 2006 the Department and the PCU, with assistance from the Advancement Office at the Faculty of Arts and Science, sponsored a Career Night to help undergraduates answer this question; judging by the heavy turnout, our upper-year students were eager to learn how to defend their choice.

It was standing-room only in Hart House's beautiful Music Room as U of T Philosophy alumni recounted their undergraduate years pondering the meaning of life and also wondering where a degree in philosophy would take them. As it turns out, a philosophy degree can lead to varied and highly lucrative careers. Our panelists included columnists for *The Globe and Mail* and *The Toronto Star*, a VP of a large investment firm, a communications professional, a CEO, and an independent consultant.



*Ellan Tsekhman and Gabe Rauterberg helped organize Career Night.*

Though their backgrounds were diverse, alumni emphatically endorsed their education, proudly stating that studying philosophy helped develop first-rate thinking skills and a healthy skepticism which allows them to look at problems from various perspectives. In addition to extolling the virtues of a philosophical education, panelists gave practical advice on skills, such as interviewing and networking, as they described their own career paths.

Students then had a valuable opportunity to chat informally with alumni over

drinks and hors d'oeuvres, with some taking advantage of generous offers to keep in contact for follow-up questions and/or meetings. All in all the night was a great success – alumni were able to reconnect with the Department and the University, and undergrads were reassured that becoming a "lover of wisdom" can lead to interesting and rewarding careers

*Alisa Rim,  
Undergraduate Counsellor,  
St. George Campus*

*The Department extends its thanks to Beppi Crosariol (BA, 1983; MA 1985), Susan J. Han (BA, 1983; LLB, 1986), Catharine Heddle (BA, 1993), Michael Herman (MBA 1992; MA, 2006), Deepak Ramachandran (BA, 1991), and Ellen Roseman (MA 1969) for giving of their time and sharing their experiences with our undergrads.*

## Global Knowledge Foundation

The Global Knowledge Foundation (GKF) is a University of Toronto student group that was created in 1997 by a group of Trinity College students who wanted to hear Cambridge professor and physicist Stephen Hawking give a public address. Professor Hawking gave the group's inaugural address, establishing a GKF tradition of promoting interdisciplinary learning and fostering a love of knowledge. The University Professor Lecture Series, featuring top-ranked UofT profs lecturing on their current research interests, was established in 2002, and continues to further the goals of the GKF. This past year, the group established another series. With the generous support of the Faculty of Arts and Science, Hart House, the Department of Philosophy and the Elderwood Foundation, we created the Philosophy Café discussion series, in which philosophy professors lead students from all disciplines and backgrounds in discussions on topics of general philosophical interest. The series was a great success, featuring Professors Peter King, Wayne Sumner, Tom Hurka, and Gopal Sreenivasan leading discussions on topics ranging from artificial intelligence to global distributive justice. The GKF and the Philosophy Department also collaborated to host a celebration of UNESCO's

World Philosophy Day. Professor David Lyons of Boston University's law school gave a lecture on the ethical status of reparations for slavery, followed by a reception which celebrated the release of *Noësis*' 2005-2006 edition. The GKF will continue to promote philosophy and a love of learning on UofT's campus by working with the Philosophy Department next year in both the Philosophy Café series and a celebration of World Philosophy Day (November 17 – see 'Upcoming Events' on page 11 for details).

*Joanna Langille*

## NEW FACULTY

**Mohan Matthen** joins us as a Full Professor and a Canada Research Chair in



Philosophy, Perception and Communication at UTM. He is also an Affiliate with the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology on the St. George campus. His specialties are philosophy of psychology, philosophy of biology, and ancient philosophy. He has taught previously at UBC, where he was Chair of the Philosophy Department, and at the University of Alberta.



**Jonathan Weisberg** joins us as an assistant professor at UTM. His areas of specialization are formal epistemology and decision theory. He received his PhD from Rutgers.

**Byeong-Uk Yi** joins us as an associate professor, also at UTM. His specialties are logic and the philosophy of language. His previous position was at the University of Minnesota.



## *New Centre for Ethics Moves into Own Home*

The University's Centre for Ethics, which was launched last September with an impressive list of speakers for its 2005-06 series, moved into its new home this summer in the Larkin Building at Trinity College, where it is welcoming its first class of faculty and graduate fellows this fall. Its inaugural conference, on the topic "Is There Progress in Ethics?" will be held October 13-14. Information on this year's seminar series will be posted on the Centre's website, [www.ethics.utoronto.ca](http://www.ethics.utoronto.ca).

## *Update on the Aristotle High School Philosophy Essay Contest*

This past year was the first year of *The Aristotle*, a national high school philosophy essay contest, co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, Woodsworth College, the Faculty of Arts and Science, the University of Toronto at Mississauga, University of Toronto Schools, and the Ontario Philosophy Teachers Association. The students had the chance to write an essay on one of several set topics that were available online.

The winners (pictured at right) were given their prizes at the annual Ontario Philosophy Teachers Association conference in May.

We are hoping *The Aristotle* will help increase the amount and quality of philosophy teaching in our high schools, and we look forward to the contest again next year. If you know any high school students or teachers interested in philosophy, please direct them to the website ([www.aristotle.utoronto.ca](http://www.aristotle.utoronto.ca)). Submissions must be postmarked by January 25.



*Aristotle Contest Winners: Aaron Kates-Rose, Peter Wills, Rakael Deverell, Carolyn Poutiainen, and UTS philosophy teacher and Aristotle coordinator Andrew Wilson.*

## 2006 Philosophy Book Launch

*The department's 19th Annual Book Launch, held on March 9th, 2006 featured:*



**David Dyzenhaus and Mayo Moran, editors.**

*Calling Power to Account: Law Reparations and the Chinese Canadian Head Tax Case.* University of Toronto Press, 2005.

**Paul W. Franks.** *All or Nothing: Systematicity, Transcendental Arguments, and Skepticism in German Idealism.* Harvard University Press, 2005.

**Paul W. Franks (with Dieter Schönecker, associate editors) (Karl P. Ameriks, Jürge Stolzenberg, editors).** *German Idealism & Contemporary Analytic Philosophy: International Yearbook of German Idealism, Volume 3.* Walter de Gruyter, 2005.

**Lloyd Gerson.** *Aristotle and Other Platonists.* Cornell University Press, 2005.

**Lloyd Gerson (with John Dillon, translators & editors).** *Neoplatonic Philosophy. Introductory Readings.* Hackett, 2004.

**Brad Inwood (with Dorothea Frede, editors).** *Language and Learning.* Cambridge University Press, 2005.

**Brad Inwood.** *Reading Seneca.* Clarendon Press, 2005.

**Mark Kingwell.** *Nothing for Granted: War, Philosophy, and Why the Right Was Mostly Wrong.* Penguin, 2005.

**Amy Mullin.** *Reconceiving Pregnancy and Childcare: Ethics, Experience and Reproductive Labor.* Cambridge University Press, 2005.

**David Novak.** *The Jewish Social Contract: An Essay in Political Theology.* Princeton University Press, 2005.

**David Novak.** *Talking with Christians: Musings of a Jewish Theologian.* Eerdmans, 2005.

**Vincent Shen.** *The Idea of University and the Spirit of Strangification.* Wunan, 2004.

**Vincent Shen.** *Generosity to the Other: Chinese Culture, Christianity and Strangification.* Hong Kong Chinese University Press, 2004.

**Vincent Shen, editor.** *Introduction to Philosophy (new edition in simplified Chinese).* Guizhou, 2004.

**Vincent Shen and Willard Oxtoby, editors.** *Wisdom in China and the West [in Memory of Julia Ching (1934-2001)].* Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, 2004.

**Kwong-Loi Shun and David B. Wong, editors.** *Confucian Ethics. A Comparative Study of Self, Autonomy, and Community.* Cambridge University Press, 2004.

**John Slater.** *Minerva's Aviary: Philosophy at Toronto 1843-2003.* University of Toronto Press, 2005.

**Jennifer Whiting (with Joyce Jenkins, and Christopher Williams, editors).** *Persons and Passions. Essays in Honor of Annette Baier.* University of Notre Dame Press, 2005.

*Alumni are invited to attend the 2007 Philosophy Book Launch which will be held on Thursday, March 1, 4-6 pm, in the 10th floor lounge of 215 Huron Street.*

# Upcoming Events

## Colloquium Schedule

**Thursday, October 12, 2006**

Professor **Gary Watson** (UC-Riverside), *Standing in Judgment*.

**Thursday, November 16, 2006**

Professor **Hannah Ginsborg** (UC-Berkeley), *Primitive Normativity and Skepticism about Rules*.

**Thursday, March 29, 2007**

Professor **Dan Zahavi** (Copenhagen), *Understanding Self and Others: Similarities and Differences*.

**Friday, May 18, 2007**

Professor **Christine Korsgaard** (Harvard), *title TBA*.

Each colloquium will take place at 3:15 pm and will be followed by a reception. *Call the Department at 416-978-3311 or check our website, [www.philosophy.utoronto.ca](http://www.philosophy.utoronto.ca) for locations.*

## World Philosophy Day Events

**Friday, November 17, 2006**

Professor **Tommie Shelby** (Harvard). The University of Toronto will be celebrating UNESCO's World Philosophy Day with this talk at 3:15, to be followed by a reception celebrating our senior undergraduate students.

## Year of Language Lecture

**Friday, December 1, 2006**

Professor **Kit Fine** (NYU), *Reference, Relation and Meaning*.

The Faculty of Arts and Science has designated the 2006-7 school year to be the *Year of Language* – a celebration of the many ways language is taught and investigated at U of T. The Philosophy Department is marking this occasion with a special lecture on the philosophy of language. The 3:15 lecture will be followed by a reception. The location for this event will be posted on the departmental website when available.

## Simon Lectures

**Tuesday - Thursday, March 6-8, 2007**

Professor **Anil Gupta** of the University of Pittsburgh will deliver the Jerome S. Simon Memorial Lectures on the theme of "Empirical Knowledge."

## Workshop on Multiculturalism and Human Rights

**April 27, 2007**

The theme of this one-day workshop will be the tension between two liberal values: commitment to a strong set of universal human rights and respect for the practices of local cultural minorities. This tension manifests itself in situations in which these cultural practices appear to be inconsistent with basic human rights, frequently (though not necessarily) the rights of women. Specific instances include (but are not limited to) the following: female genital cutting, honour killings, abortion for the purpose of sex selection, religious arbitration invoking *sharia*, the wearing of conspicuous religious symbols in public institutions, the legal recognition of polygamous marriages, and the tolerance of same-sex relationships.

The scheduled speakers are Martha Bailey (Law, Queen's University), Will Kymlicka (Philosophy, Queen's University), Stephen Macedo (Politics, Princeton University), Avishai Margalit (Philosophy, Hebrew University), Baukje Prins (Philosophy, University of Groningen), and Marleen Rozemond (Philosophy, University of Toronto).

For more information on the workshop, and to be placed on the distribution list for the papers, please contact Prof. Wayne Sumner ([sumner@chass.utoronto.ca](mailto:sumner@chass.utoronto.ca)). The papers will not be presented at the workshop, but will be circulated ahead of time.

## Chancellor Jackman Program for the Arts

**Fri – Sat, May 4-5, 2007**

*The Future of Beauty*

This conference at the Victoria campus will feature Arthur Danto - Columbia, Dave Hickey - U Nevada, Alexander Nehamas - Princeton, Elaine Scarry - Harvard, and organizer, Sonia Sedivy - UofT.

## History of Philosophy Conference

**Wed – Fri, May 16-18, 2007**

*Unity of Consciousness and the Nature and Boundaries of Self from Plato to Kant.*

This conference will examine how various historical figures from Plato to Kant have viewed the relation between unity of consciousness and the nature and boundaries of the self or soul. More specifically we will focus on how various philosophers have treated two further questions: First, must the subject of consciousness be simple? And second, can the boundaries and the nature of the self be contingent on various forms of mental or psychological appropriation?

## Grad Conference

**Fri – Sun, May 18-20, 2007**

The keynote speaker at next year's Graduate Philosophy Conference will be Christine Korsgaard (Harvard).

*For up-to-minute details on events, please see our website, [www.philosophy.utoronto.ca](http://www.philosophy.utoronto.ca)*

## University of Toronto Colloquium in Mediæval Philosophy Friday-Saturday, September 22-23, 2006

**Hester Gelber (Stanford)**, *The Fate of Providence*. Commentator: Neil Lewis (Georgetown), Chair: Stephen Dumont (Notre Dame)

**Peter Adamson (King's College London)**, *The Baghdad Peripatetics on Knowledge of Universals*. Commentator: Richard C. Taylor (Marquette), Chair: Robert Wisnovsky (McGill)

**Gareth Matthews (U Mass, Amherst)**, *On the Very Idea of Infused Virtues*. Commentator: Eleonore Stump (St. Louis U), Chair: Jorge Gracia (SUNY Buffalo)

All sessions are free and open to the public, but if you plan to attend, please let us know. Email us at [medieval.philosophy@utoronto.ca](mailto:medieval.philosophy@utoronto.ca)

For further information please check:

<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~cpamp/pages/utcmp.html>

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University of Toronto  
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