The biggest change to the Department this past year has been physical. Most of us have already left our old rundown haunts at 215 Huron Street and moved into much better space on the newly renovated fourth and fifth floors of the Jackman Humanities Building at the northwest corner of St. George St. and Bloor St. W. (formerly known as the Medical Arts Building). The first group of faculty moved in the winter. The major move came at the end of the summer, when the administrative offices and all of the former residents of the tenth floor of 215 Huron St. were relocated to the Jackman Humanities Building. We continue to occupy the ninth floor of 215 Huron St. for the fall of 2007, but expect to vacate the building entirely by the summer of 2008.

The advantages of the new location are legion: two new, modern, wired seminar rooms (with proper ventilation!); an office for the Philosophy Course Union; significantly better offices for graduate students; the opportunity for our colleagues with offices in the colleges on the St. George campus to reside with the rest of the philosophy faculty; rooms for small-group tutorial sessions and reading groups for graduate and undergraduates; an improved departmental library; and better computer rooms. And all of this in a handsome new space!

Our new building has recently been renamed in honour of Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman, the University’s former Chancellor and one of its largest donors. In 2002, Jackman gave an initial $15 million gift for the humanities, which was double-matched by the University to create a $45-million endowment. In the spring of 2007, he doubled his initial gift which, after matching, yields an investment in the humanities of $90.5 million. A portion of his new gift has gone towards the renovations of the former Medical Arts Building. Another portion of the gift created the Jackman Humanities Institute with an endowment of $22 million that will allow it to spur creative cross-disciplinary research in the humanities across the University’s three campuses. The Philosophy Department’s own Bob Gibbs is the inaugural director of the Institute.

The Jackman Humanities Building has thus become the new hub for the humanities at U of T. In addition to the Philosophy Department and the Jackman Humanities Institute, the Departments of Religion and English have also recently moved in, as well as the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies.

We plan to show off our new space at a reception for alumni this spring. In the meantime, do drop by and say ‘hello’ if you’re in the neighbourhood.

Donald Ainslie, Chair
MORE SCHOLARSHIPS THANKS TO OUR ALUMNI

Last year we were able to announce two new fellowships for our graduate students due to the generosity of our alumni. This year we again can announce two new graduate fellowships in addition to a new undergraduate scholarship:

Richard Yee

Richard Yee (MA 1958, PhD 1966) has endowed the Dr. Richard W. Yee Fellowship in Medieval Philosophy. His most generous gift will provide significant support to graduate students in medieval philosophy.

Dr. Yee writes about his activities after leaving Toronto:

“A debilitating stroke that my Father suffered in 1961 necessitated my taking a teaching position at Holy Names College in Oakland. As the ninth (of 10) and youngest surviving child I felt a necessity to remain in San Francisco’s Chinatown to take care of him. The time and place spawned a myriad of activities. During my 40 years at Holy Names I taught a variety of classes: Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, Chinese philosophy (particularly as vitalized in landscape painting), mediaeval philosophy and culture, etc. During the “Haight Ashbury” days I had a radio program on contemporary issues; interestingly but not by design the radio station, sponsored by a Protestant theological college, was located in the Haight Ashbury.

“But probably the most exciting project I was involved in was the staging (including editing) of classical Chinese operas for non-Chinese speaking audiences. All this might seem a far cry from an MA on John Scotus Erigena and a doctorate on Pietro Pomponazzi (once I had a taxi driver in Rome who lived on Via Pomponazzi!) and a licenciate (1961) from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, but I am ever mindful of and thankful for the intellectual excitement I caught in Toronto in the late ’50s, so far from home. I was especially mindful of these gifts when I learned of the demise of Professor Thomas Lang and Father Joseph Owens, and of the presence in Toronto of Professor Kenneth Smritz, my first philosophy teacher. With such teachers (and helpful friends in Toronto), I hope you will understand my sentiment when I say that my gift to the department is but the residue of what I was generously given at Toronto.”

ethica & Barry Brown

The Department is thankful to ethica Clinical Research Inc. for funding a Bioethics Scholarship in honour of Barry F. Brown (MA 1963, PhD 1966), now retired from the University of Toronto and St. Michael’s College. Professor Brown has been the Chair of the Ethics Review Committee of ethica since 1996. We think this is a marvelous way for Janice Parente, President of ethica, and Barry’s colleagues there to honour his contributions to bioethics research and education. Since Barry helped establish the undergraduate programs in bioethics at the U of T, it is only fitting that this scholarship will be given to a third or fourth year student in the St. George bioethics specialist or major program. The first winner of the scholarship is University College student Bernice Duan, who has a double major in toxicology and bioethics and is entering her 3rd year.

Sidney Robinson

Sidney Robinson (BA, 1961; MA, 1962; LLB, 1966), who established the Sidney P. H. Robinson Graduate Fellowship in Ancient Philosophy in 2005, has recently doubled his original gift. The total endowment will yield approximately $24,000/year to be used to support graduate students working in ancient philosophy in the Departments of Philosophy and Classics.

As you’ll read elsewhere in the newsletter, U of T has the strongest faculty working in ancient philosophy in North America. Thanks to Sidney’s new donation, we’ll be in an even stronger position to attract the best students from around the world to Toronto to work with them.

Sidney himself continues to participate in many of the graduate activities in ancient philosophy – auditing classes, attending conferences, mentoring students, and more. He is a true friend to the Department.
There have been a few noteworthy developments in the undergraduate program at St. George this year. First of all, we have completed the reorganization of the program, in order to extend tutorials to almost all of our large 200-level courses. The plan, which we have been working on for several years, has been to consolidate our second year offerings into a smaller number of relatively large courses (typically 200 students or more), while at the same time breaking up our third year offerings into a larger number of small courses (typically no more than 40 students). In this way, undergraduates can choose from amongst a mix of large and small courses, rather than being faced with just a uniform range of medium-size courses.

At the same time, we have tried to mitigate any negative effects of the very large courses by offering as many small-group tutorials as our budget permits. Part of this has been achieved through economies of scale. However, the other important component has been the Socrates Project, which we ran this year with special funding from the Student Experience Fund, a competitive program sponsored by the Provost to support projects that improve the student experience. The idea was to get a group of highly qualified senior undergraduates to act as teaching assistants and tutorial leaders for the second half of PHL100Y. At the same time, the department offered these students a senior seminar, which investigated the latest research on the course material from PHL100Y, but in greater detail.

The result was a success on all fronts. The undergraduate tutorial leaders were extremely pleased with the experience, the PHL100Y students gave them rave reviews, and the extra funding was used to extend tutorials to three courses at the 200-level that had not previously had any. We will be running the project again next year, this time expanded to include both semesters of PHL100Y.

The second major development for undergraduates has been the introduction of “First Year Learning Communities” (or FLCs) for incoming students. This program allows students who are planning to take the same first-year courses to identify each other, over the summer, and join a “learning community” that will meet twice a month over the course of the year. Philosophy has put together two FLCs, one for students taking introductory philosophy, sociology and political science, and another for students taking philosophy, history and classics. Apart from regular meetings with a peer mentor, each FLC will also get its own small-group tutorial section in PHL100Y.

Overall, the program seems like a great way to make the first year at UofT less daunting to incoming students. It also provides a great opportunity for students who share a particular constellation of academic interests to meet with one another and talk about what they are studying.

Joseph Heath
St. George Undergraduate Coordinator

UTM PHILOSOPHY NEWS

UTM Philosophy was delighted to have three new faculty members join us this past year: Mohan Matthen, Byeong-Uk Yi, and Jonathan Weisberg. Their contributions have enriched our programs and course offerings, and our larger size has enabled us to plan new 400 level course offerings (look for them to be in the calendar in 2008). We welcome Diana Raffman back from sabbatical leave and wish Marleen Rozemond and Philip Clark productive and enjoyable sabbatical leaves (Philip Clark will be with us for the fall term).

We appreciate the work of our philosophy student advisory committee in assisting us with our hiring of new faculty. This committee met with job candidates in order to give us feedback about each candidate’s research and teaching, while impressing those candidates with the calibre and commitment of our students. With their help we have hired Peter Ludlow from the University of Michigan. He joins us this fall. His research interests are in Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Linguistics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Time, Epistemology, Computer Ethics, and Conceptual Issues in Cyberspace.

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. Please do send it along.

Amy Mullin
Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto Mississauga

UTSC PHILOSOPHY NEWS

At UTSC we would like to welcome Benj Hellie and Jessica Wilson back from a productive term at Australian National University and to congratulate them both on receiving SSHRC grants. I will be stepping down as Discipline Representative and will be replaced by Bill Seager, who has served in this capacity a number of times. I will also be away from UTSC for two years, serving the graduate department as Graduate Coordinator.

Phil Kremer
Philosophy Discipline Representative
University of Toronto at Scarborough
Most of us sign on to academic life for the things we enjoy: teaching and research. It comes as a shock that administration is also required, though often the need is only perceived when one’s arm is severely twisted. Still, duties can also be pleasures, and in my case, there were three.

One of these has been getting to know our many graduate students much better and taking an almost parental interest in their well-being. It’s a tough time for them, because of the hot house atmosphere of this (or any) graduate programme and the ever present anxiety over job prospects. Fortunately, they are extremely gifted, among the very best anywhere, and I think their futures look bright.

The second great pleasure has to do with my colleagues, including my fellow administrators. I have always enjoyed them as wonderful philosophers, but I would now add that they have also been remarkably generous with their time. Numerous requests to do time-consuming chores were almost invariably met with a “Ready, Aye, Ready.” People who are both productive and generous with their time have mastered the art of living.

The third great pleasure has been working with our graduate administrator, Margaret Opoku-Pare. She has been remarkable in every respect, from infallible knowledge of our graduate programme and the mysteries of the University’s School of Graduate Studies to a tender regard for our students and their particular problems. She is also very funny, which saved my sanity more than once after I made some blunder. Phil Kremer, who takes over as the new Graduate Coordinator, will have tons to do and will encounter many frustrations, but he will also have much to enjoy.

I recently received a pin for 25 years at UT. This means I am now officially an old fart. I have always loved being here. I love the city, the University, the Department, our colleagues, our staff, and our students. And I love them as much now as I have in the past. I hope old farts can say that sort of thing without seeming too sentimental.

Jim Brown
Graduate Coordinator

PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Anjan Chakravartty has been promoted to Associate Professor. A member of our graduate faculty, his primary appointment is at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. His research interests are the metaphysics of science.

Rebecca Comay has been promoted to Full Professor. She specializes in modern continental philosophy, contemporary French thought, critical theory, aesthetics, literary theory, and she is cross-appointed to the Centre for Comparative Literature.

Martin Lin has been promoted to Associate Professor. His research interests are metaphysics and early modern philosophy, especially 17th century and Spinoza. His undergraduate teaching is at the Scarborough campus, though he is on leave this year to spend time at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Cheryl Misak has been appointed Deputy Provost at the University of Toronto. Most recently Cheryl was Acting Vice-President and Principal at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM), and prior to that she was Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean at UTM. She was Chair of the Philosophy Department from 2000 to 2003.

Amy Mullin has accepted an appointment as Chair of Philosophy at the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) for another two years until June 30, 2009. UTM established a separate undergraduate philosophy department in 2003, and Amy has done a splendid job as its inaugural Chair.

Jennifer Nagel has been promoted to Associate Professor. Her research interests are epistemology, metacognition, and history of modern philosophy. Her undergraduate teaching is at the Mississauga campus.

Vincent Shen has accepted the appointment as Chair and Graduate Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies for a five-year term until July 1, 2012.

Peter Ludlow, most recently of the University of Michigan, joins us as a full professor. His specialties include philosophy of language, philosophy of linguistics, philosophy of mind, metaphysics and epistemology. He will do his undergraduate teaching at the University of Toronto at Mississauga.

NEW FACULTY

Peter Ludlow, most recently of the University of Michigan, joins us as a full professor. His specialties include philosophy of language, philosophy of linguistics, philosophy of mind, metaphysics and epistemology. He will do his undergraduate teaching at the University of Toronto at Mississauga.
ALASDAIR URQUHART RETIRES

As a Mathematics undergraduate in 1984, I became interested in philosophy. I naturally turned to, Alasdair Urquhart, who introduced me to relevance logic.

Relevance logic is motivated by various paradoxes in classical logic. For example, the following is a theorem of classical logic: \((p \rightarrow (q \rightarrow p))\). Thus the mere truth of \(p\) is enough to guarantee that \(q\) implies \(p\), whether or not \(q\) is relevant to \(p\).

Starting in the late 50’s, Alan Ross Anderson and Nuel Belnap, at Yale and then at the University of Pittsburgh, had worked on proof systems, called \(R\) (for relevance) and \(E\) (for entailment), designed so that such fallacies of relevance could not be proved. Alasdair’s 1972 dissertation, written under Anderson and Belnap’s supervision at the University of Pittsburgh, was a major breakthrough in the relevance logic project: he was the first to give a semantics for relevance logics, which had up to then only had a proof-theoretic analysis.

“The proof is a tour de force, connecting logic, algebra and projective geometry.”

When I took his course in 1984, Alasdair had recently closed the so-called decision problem for relevance logic, a problem characterized in the Handbook of Philosophical Logic as “without a doubt the outstanding open problem in relevance logic”. Most familiar systems of propositional logic are decidable: this means that there is some recipe for determining whether a given formula is a theorem. In classical logic, for example, if you want to know whether \((p \rightarrow q) \rightarrow (q \rightarrow p))\) is a theorem, you just draw up a truth-table and you check to see whether this formula is true in every row. This can get tedious, but it will only take you a finite amount of paper and a finite amount of time. The vast majority of philosophically interesting logics are decidable, including the pure implication fragment of \(R\), i.e. the fragment of \(R\) that involves only the implication connective, \(\rightarrow\). Alasdair surprised everyone in the know by showing that the relevance logics \(R\), \(E\) and many others are undecidable. The proof is a tour de force, connecting logic, algebra and projective geometry.

After Alasdair closed the decision problem for \(R\), the next outstanding problem in relevance logic concerned Craig’s interpolation theorem. In classical propositional logic, suppose that \((A \rightarrow B)\) is a theorem, that \(A\) is not a contradiction and that \(B\) is not a tautology. Here’s an example: \((p \& q) \rightarrow (q \land r))\) is a theorem, \((p \& q)\) is not a contradiction and \((q \land r))\) is not a tautology. Then you can always find an interpolant: a formula \(C\) such that \((A \rightarrow C)\) and \((C \rightarrow B)\) are both theorems, and such that the sentence letters occurring in \(C\) all occur in both \(A\) and \(B\). In our example, the simple formula \(q\) is an acceptable interpolant since both \((p \& q) \rightarrow q\) and \((q \rightarrow (q \land r))\) are theorems. As in the case of decidability, the vast majority of philosophically interesting logics satisfy Craig’s interpolation theorem. One would especially expect this in relevance logics, which are designed to force a tight connection between the antecedent \(A\) and the consequent \(B\) of a theorem \((A \rightarrow B)\). Again, Alasdair surprised us: in the late 1980s, he proved that interpolation fails for \(R\) and \(E\) and a number of related systems.

Not all of Alasdair’s work has been in relevance logic. He has written over sixty journal articles and book chapters, and one book, on a multitude of topics, including many-valued logic, algebraic logic, intuitionistic logic, proof theory, complexity theory, theoretical computer science, and Bertrand Russell. At one point, I got Alasdair interested in some problems in the logic of truth, which produced our co-written paper, “Supervaluation fixed-point logics of truth”, forthcoming in the Journal of Philosophical Logic.

Alasdair’s career has been long and distinguished. Over the course of his 37 years at the University of Toronto, he has published voluminously; has given many papers at meetings and symposia and other departments, most of them invited; has served as an editor for a number of prestigious journals; has received twelve SSHRC and NSERC grants, totalling some $800,000; has been the primary supervisor for twelve dissertations in philosophy and in computer science, in topics ranging from early analytic philosophy to the complexity of algorithms. We are lucky to have had him here in the Department of Philosophy, and we wish him the very best for his retirement, which, judging from his current projects, should be as productive and interesting as any period in his academic life.

Philip Kremer
August, 2007
Awards, Honours & Kudos

James Robert Brown has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in the Humanities Division of the Academy of the Arts and Humanities.

Brad Inwood has been awarded the U of T’s most prestigious rank of University Professor. President of the University of Toronto, David Naylor, said, “this appointment is a testament to [his] distinguished work with the Departments of Classics and Philosophy, and [his] exceptional scholarly achievements.”

Jennifer Whiting has won the Konrad Adenauer Research Award in recognition of lifetime academic achievement. The award was created to promote academic collaboration between Canada and Germany. She will be conducting her research at Humboldt University in Berlin this winter.

Student Awards

Danielle Bromwich and Patrick Turniel have been awarded Doctoral Fellowships in the Centre for Ethics at the U of T for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Jacob Weinrib has won the Martha Lile Love Essay Contest for “The Kantian Incongruity Theory of Jokes.” That essay plus his “Kant on Citizenship” also won honourable mention in the Dean’s Essay Prize for best graduate essay based on 2005-2006 coursework. He also won the Australian Society of Legal Philosophy essay contest for “Kant on Citizenship,” which will be published in the Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy in 2008. At the time Jacob was an MA student; currently he is in our combined JD/PhD program in law and philosophy.

Three of our undergraduate students won SSHRC Summer Research Awards. Esther Shubert and Ryan Sosna worked under Wayne Sumner, and Justin Jalea under David Dyzenhaus.

Cressy Awards

Four Philosophy students won Gordon Cressy Alumni Association Awards in Student Leadership for outstanding extra-curricular contributions to their department, college, faculty, or to the university as a whole.

Besides organizing extra-curricular activities for the Classics department, Philosophy specialist Ashley Atkins is President of the Philosophy Course Union, organized and led the PCU Reading Groups, and was selected as a Socrates Project TA for PHL 100Y; our amphibious Chair is possibly the best athlete in the Department. (At least he’s one of the most fanatical, as X-rays of his rotator cuff will attest.) In the Montreal Out Games in the summer of 2006, Donald Ainslie won four — yes, four — silver medals. The butterfly is his specialty, placing second in the 50 metre, 100 metre, and 200 metre events, and the butterfly leg of the 4 x 50 metre medley relay. The competition was extremely strong. In the relay, gold went to a team that included Mark Tewksbury, a former Olympic gold medal winner. The Out Games was a major international event, with more than 10,000 athletes competing in the usual Olympic-type events and several others. The next Out Games will be in Copenhagen in 2009.

Findor long ago wrote odes to Olympians, but it was the Earl of Rochester in the 17th century who got the true measure of Donald: “Books bear him up a while, and make him try/To swim with bladders of philosophy” — Jim Brown

University Affairs Board of Governing Council and was the VP of the Muslim Student Association in 2004-2005. He also chaired U of T’s Health and Human Rights Conference in January, which addressed health care in regions of war and political conflict.

Danielle Waters-Westbrook is an English and Philosophy joint specialist who has served on the Trinity College Board of Stewards and acted as the Student Rep for the college senate. She was also President and Treasurer of the St. Hilda’s Athletic Association and has coached the St. Hilda’s soccer and flag football teams. She has also written for the college newspaper, Salterae, where she was the Arts Editor.
Martha Lile Love Teaching Award

Congratulations to Lauren Bialystok and Farshid Baghai, the winners of the 2006-2007 Martha Lile Love Teaching Award.

Lauren Bialystok received the award for her work teaching PHL 243 H1S, The Philosophy of Sexuality, on the Mississauga campus. Lauren stood out for her ability to explore challenging issues in a large lecture class, connecting with her students with great care and skill. Her approach to teaching was careful and rigorous, as she helped students develop the skills needed to use philosophy to explore their own perspectives on the often personal and controversial issues.

Farshid Baghai received the award for his work teaching PHL 320 H1S, Phenomenology, on the St. George campus. Farshid impressed the selection committee with his thoughtful course design, his enthusiasm and the positive feedback of his students in this small, demanding course. His insightful teaching and caring attitude towards his students, along with his excellent advice for essay writing and helpful glossaries of technical terms, led to success in a course that students found challenging.

BENNETT JONES LLP – ‘EVENING OF CONVERSATION’

This past fall, Stephen Bowman (BA, Philosophy, 1976; LLB, 1979), managing partner of the Toronto offices of the law firm, Bennett Jones, hosted a special roundtable in his firm’s Bay Street board room. The topic was Wayne Sumner’s award-winning book, The Hateful and the Obscene, and the issues it raises about the right to free expression and its appropriate limits. The audience included alumni from the legal community, graduate and undergraduate students working in moral and political philosophy, and faculty with research interests related to the topic. Wayne started off the evening with a short summary of his approach to the topic, and a lively period of debate followed. Afterwards, the students especially enjoyed the chance to talk with alumni about the transition from studying philosophy to a job in the “real world.”

Many thanks to Stephen and his firm for hosting such a splendid event.

CAREER NIGHT

I think, therefore I am…employable

When the Norwegian government hired Henrik Syse, a moral philosopher, to help its central bank manage the $190 billion-dollar Petroleum Fund in a socially responsible way, it demonstrated that philosophical thinking about right and wrong need not be confined to the hallowed halls of academe.

This past February, the Alumni Office at Arts and Science and the Department sponsored a Career Alumni Night to provide upper-year students with greater insight into potential career paths for philosophy graduates. Alumni panelists described their past and present positions and commented on how their education prepared them for the workforce. Students then had a chance to ask alumni about their work experiences in an intimate and interactive setting.

A reception followed the question and answer period where students were able to network with the panelists.

The Department wishes to thank Ehan Bayefsky (BA, 1982; LLB, 1985), Oliver Borgers (BA, 1983; LLM, 1988), Susan Han (BA, 1983; LLB, 1986), Raja Khanna (BSc, 1993), and Deepak Ramachandran (BA, 1991) for giving of their time to share their experiences with our undergraduates.
Though the Department has always been well known for its strengths in the history of philosophy, ethics, and the philosophy of science, recent hires have allowed us to create an exciting new research cluster in philosophy of mind that builds on the work of such departmental veterans as Ronnie de Sousa and Bill Seager. You’ll see below the range and depth of the issues our colleagues are investigating.

How does the mind relate to the brain? What exactly is consciousness? What is the history of our concept of consciousness? Is it culturally specific? What is the phenomenology of perception?

Ronnie de Sousa
Ronnie de Sousa’s research in philosophy of mind centres on questions about emotions, their roots in biology and their significance for ethics, theory of mind, and the good life. These include: are emotions necessarily more repetitious than intellectual interests? What are the limits of emotional imagination? Should the emotional deficits that make psychopaths incapable of empathy mitigate the moral judgments we make about them? What are the many ways in which different forms of fear influence our inferences? What other feelings are implicated in our inferences and beliefs? Do these include, in particular, intrinsically epistemic feelings, such as doubt, certainty, excitement, or curiosity?

Imogen Dickie
Imogen Dickie’s research interests lie in the philosophy of mind, including the philosophy of language and mind, metaphysics, and early analytic philosophy. Her current project in the philosophy of mind involves using empirical results about perception to build an account of how our thought and speech about ordinary material objects work.

Benj Hellie
Benj Hellie is working on a book on the view, running back at least to Descartes and other early moderns, that there is a conflict between the face value of experiences of seeing and what philosophy tells us about seeing. Many commentators have thought that there is a straightforward solution to this conflict. But in Hellie’s view, the conflict runs deep, tracing to an incoherence in our understanding of consciousness.

Jim John
Jim John’s research interests lie in metaphysics, epistemology, and the philosophy of mind. He’s currently at work on papers on phenomenal consciousness, colour, and direct realism in the philosophy of perception. The papers on consciousness and colour ask whether experiences and the colours could have hidden essences, and they connect the question of hidden essences to debates over physicalism. The paper on direct realism draws a link between the much discussed problem of perception and the ancient problem of universals.

Mohan Matthen
Canada Research Chair in Philosophy, Perception and Communication, Mohan Matthen’s present research project is to give a systematic and theoretically well-grounded account of the phenomenology of vision and audition. He starts from the following questions. What exactly do we see? Do we, for example, see three-dimensional material objects extended in time? Or do we merely see facing surfaces in the fleeting present? Do we see movement? Or do we merely see a sequence of places in which an object resides momentarily? Are we visually aware of the illumination in a room? Or do we merely see how ambient illumination affects surfaces? And what exactly do we hear: momentary sounds? Or a richer world of multiple simultaneous melodies, the harmonies that they create, and speech?

Mohan’s answers to these questions draw on the rich empirical literature in human and animal perceptually guided performance, and have yielded many surprising metaphysical results. He reports that he hopes that this account will, like William James’s, be of interest not only to cognitive scientists and philosophers of mind, but also to artists and writers.

Diana Raffman
Diana Raffman is currently finishing a book on vagueness in natural language. She spent part of her sabbatical last year at the University of St Andrews, the leading centre for research on vague language. She spent the month of August 2007 at the Rockefeller research center in Bellagio, Italy, completing a draft of the book. She has also begun research for her next project, which will develop the implications of her theory of vagueness for the philosophy of law. She continues to write in the philosophy of mind and published a paper this year on recent theories of conscious experience.
Gurpreet Rattan

The first-person perspective has been theorized as a marker of subjectivity, privacy, and privileged access, with first-person thoughts held to be without reference, incommunicable, and ineffable. These features of the first-person perspective seem to make it opposed to the very idea of objective knowledge. Gurpreet Rattan’s research is directed at reversing this direction of thinking, by finding and elucidating the role of the first-person perspective, and indeed of many of these seemingly problematic features of the first-person perspective, in objective knowledge. A fundamental role of the first-person perspective is to distinguish second-order thinking about one’s own thoughts from second-order thinking about another’s thoughts. By finding and elucidating the role of second-order thinking in aspects of our knowledge, in particular in perceptual knowledge, in social cognition, and in intellection, we can understand how the first-person perspective is fundamental to, and not fundamentally opposed to, the idea of objective knowledge.

Bill Seager

Bill Seager’s work in the philosophy of mind focuses especially on issues about consciousness: both its nature and place in the natural world and its contents. About the former, Bill has investigated emergence and whether there is some way to see how consciousness could be an emergent phenomena of non-conscious precursors composed of entirely non-conscious parts. As to the latter, he inclines towards a representational theory of consciousness, in which the phenomenal features of mental states are exhausted by their representational properties. Bill’s favoured view is one in which representational contents are determined by internal features of individual minds (internalism) and are in a sense “projected” onto the world (though they may or may not be quite accurate).

Evan Thompson

Evan Thompson’s book Mind in Life: Biology, Phenomenology, and the Sciences of Mind was published by Harvard University Press in 2007. In this work he argues for what he calls the deep continuity of mind and life: Life and mind share a core set of formal or organizational properties, and the formal or organizational properties distinctive of mind are an enriched version of those fundamental to life. More precisely, the self-organizing features of mind are an enriched version of the self-organizing features of life. Evan’s current research builds on these ideas and centres on two issues in the cognitive neuroscience of consciousness—the intrinsic and self-organizing temporal dynamics of conscious processes, and the question of whether there is a minimal neural substrate for consciousness or whether the minimal biological substrate for consciousness includes extraneuronal (somatic and environmental) factors. He is also working on a new book, Buddha and the Brain: Investigating Consciousness in Contemplative Neuroscience. This book looks at the neuroscience of consciousness in light of neuroscientific studies of meditation and relates Buddhist philosophical psychology to issues in the philosophy of mind.

Sonia Sedivy

Sonia Sedivy’s research investigates perception. She is in the process of working out a new theory that would be described as “conceptualist direct realism.” Theories of this kind try to show that perception is just what it seems to be: engagement with individuals and their determinate properties out in the world. They also try to show there are also no dividing lines between perception and understanding; our engagement with the world involves all our understanding. Sonia is interested in developing this view on all fronts in a way that shows the interconnections between history of philosophy, contemporary theory of mind, and contemporary empirical research. She also takes her work on perception to theory of art and of beauty – where one’s understanding of perception plays pivotal roles.

More Research Notes: Thinking about Minds on next page.
**Denis Walsh**

Teleological explanations are prominent in evolutionary biology and folk psychology. Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Biology, Denis Walsh is developing an account of non-reductive natural teleology applicable to both fields. The usual approach to naturalising teleology is to cast teleological explanations as a disguised form of causal explanations—teleological explanations explain the presence or nature of a phenomenon by appealing to its causal history. Denis suggests that this reductive approach is unsatisfactory with regard to its applications in both evolutionary biology and folk psychology. On Denis’s account, teleological explanations appeal to the occurrent goal-directed capacities of any complex, self-organising system, organisms and agents being the paradigm cases. He has been applying his alternative approach to teleology to three issues in the philosophy of mind: the characterisation of rationalising explanations of an agent’s action, and their relation to causal explanations of action; the nature of rational norms; and intentionality (‘aboutness’) of thought.

**Jennifer Whiting**

Jennifer Whiting, the Chancellor Jackman Chair in Philosophy, will be spending 2007-08 on a Konrad Adenauer Fellowship at the Humboldt University in Berlin, working primarily on a monograph that is centered on Locke’s conception of consciousness but looks both forward, to neo-Lockean accounts of what constitutes a person’s identity over time, and backward, to ancient (especially Aristotelian and Stoic) conceptions of the self or person. Her aim is to show that by attending to the historical context in which Locke was working we can see both (1) what is wrong with contemporary representations of Locke (both among his interpreters and among contemporary neo-Lockeans) and (2) what is wrong with the common view that Aristotle and other ancient figures lacked anything like Locke’s so-called “modern” conception of the self or person. The key is to appreciate the extent to which Locke’s conception of consciousness and its continuity over time is fundamentally practical, but not therefore non-physical: like Aristotle, and like some contemporary theorists of agency and the first-person point of view, Locke is interested in the metaphysics of responsible agency. Jennifer concludes that there is still much that we can learn from him (and, of course, from Aristotle).

**SOCRATES PROJECT**

This past year twelve philosophy students participated in the first run of the Socrates Project, which was designed to give advanced undergraduates an opportunity to be teaching assistants for the second semester of a first year introductory philosophy course. Our tasks involved conducting two hours of tutorials a week, grading papers and exams, and providing students a support system for general inquiries about the course, essay preparation, and exam review.

The experience was a success for both the teaching assistants and students. Assuming the responsibilities of teaching assistants while still undergraduates was a rare but exciting opportunity for us to approach philosophy from the perspective of both a learner and instructor, effectively developing our understanding of the material in new ways. Similarly, undergraduates enrolled in first year philosophy were given an opportunity to discuss philosophy with peers, creating a comfortable atmosphere in which to discuss and analyze the philosophical issues presented by Professor King, who taught the final semester of the course.

Ryan Sosna (4th year honours BA, philosophy specialist)

**2007 PHILOSOPHY BOOK LAUNCH**

The department’s 20th Annual Book Launch, held on March 1st, 2007, featured:

- **Vincent Shen.** *Anthology of Vincent Shen (Shen Qing-song Zhiyuanji).* Shangdon Education Press, 2005.

Alumni are invited to attend the 2008 Philosophy Book Launch which will be held on Thursday, March 6, 4-6 pm, at the Jackman Humanities Building, 170 St. George Street, Room 418.
Rewriting the History of Philosophy in Late Antiquity
October 12-14, 2007
This workshop brings together most of the 44 authors involved in writing the new Cambridge History of Philosophy in Late Antiquity, edited by our own Lloyd Gerson. There will be a series of panels where authors will lead focused discussions on philosophical issues from 200-800 CE.

Before Socrates: A Celebration of the Phoenix Presocratics Series
October 19-20, 2007
To celebrate the appearance of the final volume (on Anaxagoras) in the Phoenix Presocratics Series, the University of Toronto Press and the editors of the series, David Gallop (a former member of the department) and Tom Robinson, will be celebrating with a reception on Friday, October 19, and a conference on Saturday, October 20.

World Philosophy Day
November 15, 2007
The University of Toronto will be celebrating UNESCO’s World Philosophy Day events on Thursday, November 15. One of the events will be a talk by Jonathan Lear, John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor, Committee on Social Thought and Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago.

Research Workshop, Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology
May 22-25, 2008
The CHPB is a collection of researchers in history and philosophy of science drawn from Philosophy and IHPST in Toronto, Département de Philosophie, Université de Montréal, Center for the Philosophy of Biology, Duke University and IHPST, Université de Paris. Each year the CHPB holds an intensive research workshop dedicated to a specific issue in the history and philosophy of evolutionary biology. The theme of this year’s workshop is the role of development in evolution.

Grad Conference
May 9 – 11, 2008
This annual event brings together graduate students from across North America to share their research. The keynote speaker will be Robert B. Pippin, Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service Professor of Social Thought and Philosophy at the University of Chicago.

For up-to-the-minute details on these and other events, please see our website, <www.philosophy.utoronto.ca>.

Colloquium Schedule
September 20, 2007 – Nomy Arpaly, (Brown), Open Mindedness.


March 27, 2008 – David Chalmers (Australian National University), Title TBA.

April 8, 2008 – Nancy Cartwright (London School of Economics / University of California San Diego), ‘Evidence-based policy: So..what’s evidence?’

May 9, 2008 – Robert Pippin (University of Chicago), Title TBA. This will also be the Graduate Philosophy Conference Keynote Lecture.

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>, for locations and titles.

University of Toronto Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy
Friday-Saturday, September 28-29, 2007

Session 1: Friday, September 28, 4:30 – 6:30
Is Aristotle’s Ethics Circular? A Fourteenth-Century Debate
Bonnie Kent (University of California at Irvine)
Commentator: Jeff Hause (Creighton University)
Chair: Peter Eardley (University of Guelph)

Session 2: Saturday, September 29, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
The Limits of Knowledge in Medieval Islamic and Jewish Philosophy: Claims and Counter Claims
Alfred Ivry (New York University)
Commentator: Carlos Fraenkel (McGill University)
Chair: Jon McGinnis (University of Missouri, St. Louis)

Session 3: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Aquinas, Divine Freedom and Divine Simplicity
Brian Leftow (Oriel College, University of Oxford)
Commentator: Antoine Coté (University of Ottawa)
Chair: Michael Gorman (Catholic University of America)

The Colloquium will take place at Alumni Hall, 121 St. Joseph Street, Room 400. All sessions are free and open to the public, but if you plan to attend, please let us know.

Registration and information: medieval.philosophy@utoronto.ca

For further information please check: http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~cpamp/pages/utcmp.html
Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto

Please support the Department of Philosophy with a gift to the Annual Fund.

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ Province: _____________________ Postal Code: _________________
Tel: _____________________ Fax: ______________________ E-mail: ________________________________

☐ Are you a grad? If so, what year: ____________
☐ I would prefer that my name not be included in listings of donors

YES, I would like to support:

☐ The Philosophy Department Trust Fund (Project 0560001565)
  The Chair’s discretionary fund is directed to student financial support, visiting lecturers, conferences and
  other programming

☐ The Graduate Philosophy of Law Fund (Project 0560009427)
  All donations to this fund will be matched under the GSEF* program once the department reaches our goal
  of raising $50,000.

☐ Other ______________________

*Graduate Student Endowment Fund
  There is currently a remarkable leveraging opportunity that will effectively triple the impact of onations made in support
  of graduate student awards. Donations of (or totaling) $50,000 will be matched 1:1 through a special Graduate Student Endowment Fund
  established at the U of T by the Province of Ontario. The annual payout on the resultant $100,000 endowment will then be augmented by
  the University to create a named scholarship of approximately $6,000 per annum to benefit graduate students, in perpetuity.

Payment Options: please select one

Option #1
☐ Cheque enclosed (payable to University of Toronto) in the amount of $ _____________

Option #2
☐ Credit Card payment in the amount of $ _____________
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Card #: _____________/___________/___________/___________ Exp: _____________/___________

Signature

Please charge Monthly/Quarterly/Semi-Annually/Annually (please circle one)

Installment(s) of $ _____________ for a total of $ _____________

Beginning in __________________ (month), 20__ Ending in __________________ (month), 20__

Solicitation code: 0570035396 • Charitable reg. BN 108162330-RR0001
** A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations.

Please return this form and your donation to:
Annual Fund Office, 21 King’s College Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3J3.
If you have any questions about making a donation, please contact Christie Darville,
Senior Development Officer, Faculty of Arts and Science at (416) 946-5192.
Questions? Please contact Suzanne Puckering, Department of Philosophy (416) 978-3315.
Visit our web site at: www.giving.utoronto.ca.

Thank-you for your support!