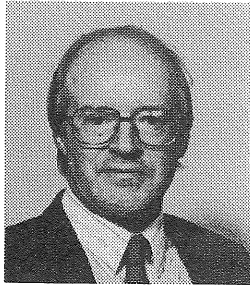




# TORONTO PHILOSOPHY NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Vol. 7 Spring 1996



Mark Thornton

## From The Chair

Welcome to the first Toronto Philosophy News to be published during my term of office. I came to the University of Toronto nearly thirty years ago (in 1967) as a Lecturer in the former Department of Ethics at Victoria College. The College Departments were of course "taken over" by the University Department at the time of the Memorandum of Understanding (1974). This past year the Colleges have managed a reverse take-over: all the Departmental officers are based in the Colleges. Barry Brown (Undergraduate Coordinator) and Bernard Katz (Graduate Coordinator) are at St. Mike's (Bernard is on loan from Erindale), and I am still at Vic. Next year, however, the new

Undergraduate Coordinator will be Ingrid Stefanovic who is based at 215 Huron St. Barry has done a wonderful job during his three years as Undergraduate Coordinator. He will be on well-deserved leave next year. However, Barry will be back at 215 Huron St. the year after when Ingrid, in turn, is on leave.

This has been a busy year in the Department. Despite the general doom and gloom in reaction to the Ontario Government's budget cut, we have searched three new appointments this past year: an open position at Erindale (part of an arrangement to stabilize the Erindale philosophy complement), the position in medieval philosophy held over from the previous year, and a position in Continental philosophy. The latter is the first position granted to the Department under the Faculty's five-year Plan (1995-2000). There was speculation that the Plan would be shelved because of the Government's cuts; but the Faculty has decided to "pay" for positions in the Plan by encouraging early retirements, and the Provost is providing 75% of the "retiring allowance" which is paid to

early retirees. Normally the full amount comes out of the Faculty and Departments' budget. Since our Department will have many retirements over the next ten years, it is my fervent hope that the process of renewal will continue.

We have had the usual number of social events in the Department, plus one notable extra, the official opening of the Jay Smith and Jon Kanitz Computer Centre in November (see page 2). Jay and Jon were in attendance and a good time was had by all. The other new facilities added during our renovations are also now fully operational. The David Savan Library has some splendid oak bookshelves and a smart new copier for reproducing journal articles, etc. It will be formally opened on September 19th. The Graduate Study Room is proving a tremendous success with students, and no longer looks anything like the sterile space which appeared in *TPN*, Fall 1993. Its proximity to the Computer Centre and the refurbished (and refurnished) Department Lounge is a great boon. And our Conference Room has been much in demand for talks, meetings, and classes.

# Philosophy in the High Schools

*TPN* was founded by my predecessor Wayne Sumner. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his accomplishments in making the Department a better place for faculty, staff and students. John Slater, who filled in for me while I was enjoying a much-needed sabbatical in Provence, produced one issue of *TPN* last year. And I shall follow his example by publishing one issue each year in the spring, providing a round-up and overview of the academic year's happenings. If you want to know more about Department activities you can find us on the World Wide Web (see page 5).

Mark Thornton

*Parasges*

## *The Jay Smith - Jon Kanitz Computer Centre*

The Grand Opening of the Computer Centre took place on November 16th. Jay and Jon were both on hand for the ribbon-cutting and reception. It was a pleasure to see them both again. I think they really appreciated the warmth and sincerity of the students' and the Department's gratitude. A plaque has been placed on the wall of the Centre which reads:

The Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto  
gratefully acknowledges the generous donations from

Jay Smith, Ph.D., 1978  
Jon Kanitz, Ph.D., 1983

which made this computer centre possible.

Jay and Jon were given a copy of this plaque (see picture).



*Jon Kanitz and Jay Smith*

Charles Hanly, John Slater, and Howard Sobel all retired last year and Jack Canfield, Peter Hess, and Jack Stevenson took early retirement.

Derek Allen was promoted to the rank of Professor last year, and this year he has been appointed Vice-Provost and Dean of Arts of Trinity College. Derek is a graduate of Trinity and faculty member there since 1973. This brings the number of Philosophy Principals on the St. George campus to three. (The others are Joe Boyle at St. Mike's and Lynd Forguson at U.C.)

Amy Mullin has been granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

On a more domestic note: Doug Hutchinson, Amy Mullin, and Wayne Sumner all became (first-time or repeat) parents during this past academic year.

# Virtue and the City

"Does the unique virtue of the contemporary city reside in the spaces it creates for individual freedom or in its provision of community?" "Should a city offer its citizens a dominant point of moral orientation or ought cities to celebrate and protect diversity?" "How are virtues of tolerance, sacrifice, and mutual sympathy and understanding to be justified and promoted in the city?"

These and related questions were addressed in the fourth annual joint symposium of the Department of Philosophy and the Holy Temple during three round table discussion and a public lecture on May 5 and 6 of this year. Made possible as in previous years by the support of Joseph and Sandra Rotman, the Symposium brought together some 25 people, including journalists, city planners, and municipal activists along with professors from the



*Joseph L. Rotman*

University of Toronto and York University and leading members from Toronto's Jewish communities. A keynote public lecture was given by liberation theologian, Gregory Baum (formerly of St. Michael's College and now professor emeritus at McGill University). Speaking to an overflow audience at University College, Professor Baum's talk, "Am I 'My Brother's Keeper': The Virtue of Social Solidarity," urged active involvement in the volunteer organizations that have been proliferating in response to cutbacks in social services and widening economic disparities.

Also attending the Symposium was Neil Gillman from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, who introduced one of the event's three Round Tables by speculating on the theological foundations of civic virtue. The other Round Tables were initiated by Robert Fulford and David Lewis Stein. Sparked by their comments Symposium participants debated positions on the alternatives cited above, including -- in good philosophical fashion -- challenges to the alternatives and to the questions themselves.

As in previous years, deliberations melded reflections on urbanity in general and Toronto-specific considerations. Among the topics thus debated was whether those from outlying regions (in the "905" telephone area) who voted for the current Provincial government were largely motivated by a mean

spirited attitude toward the disadvantaged in Toronto or by justified resentment of Torontonians' protection of their privileges. Similarly, the nature and extent of Toronto's racial and ethnic tolerance and concern for the economically disadvantaged was addressed as was the question of whether, with other large cities, Toronto has become an increasingly important centre of economic and cultural life or is seeing its vibrancy eroded by suburbanization and global homogenization.

The Symposium was planned by its organizing committee in which Joe Rotman was joined by Dow Marmur, Senior Rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple, and Frank Cunningham, Darlene Frampton, and Rose Wolfe from the University of Toronto. Dan Rakus of the Philosophy Department provided administrative support.

## In Brief

### THE ANNUAL FUND

In the next month or so you will be receiving an appeal from the U of T Annual Fund. If you are planning to donate, please consider earmarking part or all of your donation for the Department of Philosophy. We have two great needs at the moment. The first is for funds to improve departmental facilities: equipment for the computer centre, furnishings for the lounge, and journals and books for the library. The second is for funds to enable graduate students to travel to conferences to present papers and commentaries. Any help you can provide will be most welcome; and we will direct your donation wherever you wish.

Mark Thornton

**Ian Hacking** has been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. ("Corresponding" denotes an overseas resident. It has nothing to do with writing letters and even less to do with theories of truth.) Ian's latest book *Rewriting the Soul* was shortlisted for the Los Angeles Times Book Prizes.

**Derek Allen** has been honoured as a 3M Teaching Fellow for 1995 (see story page 8). To mark this occasion, 3M donated an overhead projector to the Department, plus a supply of transparency film and preview frames.

**Jim Brown** received a University of Toronto Connaught Fellowship.

**Margaret Morrison** was awarded a Fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and **Arthur Ripstein** was awarded a Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship at the Center for Human Values, Princeton University for 1995-1996.

**Tom Robinson** has begun his duties as President of the International Plato Society. He has also been awarded an Invitation Fellowship by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He is giving a series of lectures in various Japanese universities this spring.

## New Faculty

**Joseph Heath** took up a tenure-stream appointment at Erindale College this year. Joe received his Ph.D. last year from Northwestern University, with a dissertation on "Morality and Social Action".

Also at Erindale, **Fadi Abou-Rihan** and **Julie Allen** have commenced three-year CLTA appointments.

Also now appointed to the Department are **Deborah Black** and **Stephen Dumont**, formerly cross-appointed from the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies and **Julia Ching**, formerly cross-appointed from the Department for the study of Religion.

## THE JOINT CENTRE FOR BIOETHICS

The new Joint Centre was officially inaugurated in December. It is a cooperative venture between four hospitals, the Institute of Medical Sciences, and the Department of Philosophy. Dr. Peter Singer of IMS is the Director of the Centre and **Bill Harvey** of our Department is the Director of the Collaborative

Programme in Bioethics, a graduate programme to which Philosophy contributes two half-year courses. **Laura Shanner's** appointment is split between the Centre and the Department. **Kate Morgan**, and **Wayne Sumner** are cross-appointed to the Centre. **Eric Meslin**, who has been

Director at the Clinical Ethics centre at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre and a faculty member of our Department and the Bioethics Centre, has now departed to become Chief of the Ethical, Legal and Social Implications Branch of the National Centre for Human Genome Research in Bethesda, Md.

## Philosophy on the Web

Thanks to the Chair's Research Assistant, **Will Buschert** the Department of Philosophy is now on the World Wide Web. Our Web site is at <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/philosophy/> and can be accessed via the University of Toronto Home page. Will has spent many hours inputting departmental info, including our monthly Newsletter, which contains a calendar of happenings in philosophy and related issues of interest. Our Web site also provides the following: our Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins, our Colloquia schedule, and faculty profiles.

# CGSCP - TRUTH & COMMUNITY

On the weekend of April 12-14th, the graduate students in the Department of Philosophy hosted the 1996 Canadian Graduate Students Conference in Philosophy. The main objective of the conference was to bring together graduate

philosophy students from across Canada and provide them with an opportunity to present their research and to establish contacts with others in the Canadian philosophical community.

Nearly 100 people took part in the

weekend's activities, coming from as far away as Simon Fraser University in the west and the University of New Brunswick in the east.

By all accounts the conference was a great success, thanks both to the hard work and

creativity of the organizers and to the general financial support received from the Department of Philosophy, the Faculty of Arts & Science, the School of Graduate Studies, St. Michael's College and various private donors.



## Notes from the Graduate Department

This past year has been one of change and accomplishment in the Graduate Department. We have changed our graduate program in a way that will strike some as revolutionary: we now accept applicants to our doctoral program directly from a bachelor's program. This format is by no means uncommon in American universities, but we are the first Philosophy department in Canada to take this step. We continue to offer a master's program, parallel to the doctoral program, for those who are interested in this route. The Department receives lots of applications for both programs: during the past year, we received over 200, for under two dozen places. The students entering our MA and PhD programs next fall are a talented and accomplished lot, bringing with them five

Ontario Graduate Scholarships, three Social Sciences and Humanities Doctoral Fellowships, and two FCAR Quebec Scholarships.

About 120 students are enrolled in various stages of our doctoral program. Close to 20 of them completed the program last year, successfully defending doctoral dissertations covering the gamut of philosophy, from Aristotle on artifacts to Wittgenstein on language games. One of those dissertations was the 500th to be presented to the Department; the thesis, "Involuntariness, Agency, and the Criminal Law", was defended at an oral exam last August. (The Department's first doctoral dissertation, "The Ethical and Religious Theories of Bishop

Butler", was submitted in 1903.)

The graduate students in the Department have been active in other ways as well. They organized the Canadian Graduate Students Conference in Philosophy, held at St. Michael's College this past April. The topic of this highly successful conference was "Truth and Community", and some 36 graduate students from across the country delivered, and commented on, such papers as: "Appropriateness in the Earliest Platonic Dialogues", "Teleology and Mechanism in Descartes", "Wittgenstein and Chomsky on Language Acquisition", "On Preference Utilitarianism and Agent-Relative Value", "The Timeless Unity of Absolute Knowing", and "The Value of True Belief" Students in our Department study the

earliest Platonic dialogues with the most recent technology. Last fall, we inaugurated the Jay Smith and Jon Kanitz Computer Centre, a facility containing four PCs, a Mac, and a laserjet printer for the use of our graduate students. The computers have direct lines to the University's computer network, so that users have access to the University library system, to their e-mail accounts, and to the Internet. Anyone having access to the World Wide Web is invited to visit our Website (<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/philosophy/>), where he or she will find much of interest, including descriptions of our graduate courses and research profiles of our graduate faculty

Bernard Katz  
Graduate Coordinator

## *1996 Philosophy Book Launch*

The ninth annual Philosophy Book Launch, held March 14 in the Department's Common Room, celebrated the 3 books published by U of T philosophers in the past year, namely:

**Kathryn Morgan**  
co-author

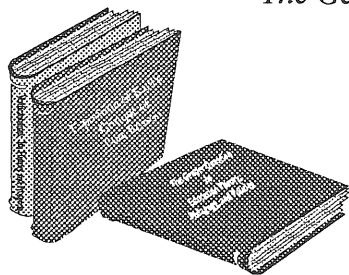
*The Gender Question in Education Theory, Pedagogy and Politics*

**James C. Morrison**  
translation & introduction

*Exposition of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*

**Cheryk Misak**

*Verificationism: It's History and Prospects*





# Freedom to Think

*(The following article is complements of 'The Bulletin' Sept. 18, 1995)*

In December Sharon Kaye will deliver a paper to a meeting of the American Philosophical Association in New York. Kaye is a graduate student of philosophy and thrilled with the opportunity to appear before such a gathering and present her thoughts on the concepts of formal and informal logic.

She credits her success to one of her former teachers, Professor Derek Allen of the Department of Philosophy. It was in one of his courses, she says, that she found the encouragement and scholarly freedom she needed to write and first present the paper which, as it turns out, contradicts Allen's own views and extensive research on informal logic.

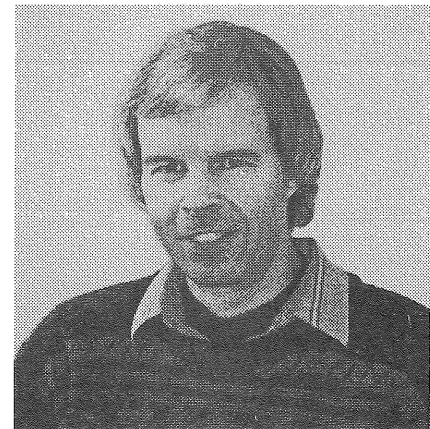
"Professor Allen teaches informal logic and has been doing so for years," Kaye explains. "I argue that informal logic is pedagogically flawed and should not be taught as an independent course." This, she notes, indicates something significant about the teacher, recently recognized as one of the country's best. "Rather than asking students to regurgitate what he believes in, he is not afraid of letting students speak with their own voices and in fact gives them a safe environment in which to do so."

Cheryl Cline, another former student also completing a PhD in philosophy, describes Allen as genuine and thoughtful. "He is fairly low-key -- there's not a lot of fireworks in his classes. But he is a brilliant teacher, very respectful of students and not at all cynical."

Allen is one of two professors at U of T to receive a 1995 3M teaching fellowship, awarded by 3M Canada Inc. and the Society for Teaching & Learning in Higher Education. The award -- which recognizes teaching excellence over many years and a commitment to improving university teaching -- is the latest in a string of honours conferred on Allen since the start of his career in 1973. Others include an Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations award for notable contributions to university teaching and an Outstanding Teaching Award from the Faculty of Arts & Science.

Allen earned MA and DPhil degrees in philosophy from the Universities of Toronto and Oxford respectively. Before completing his DPhil he began teaching at Trinity College, his alma mater. He chose to teach philosophy because, he says, he believes the subject is very relevant to society. Not only can philosophical training help people deal with some of the more difficult ethical, social

and political issues of our time -- such as euthanasia, genetic engineering and abortion -- but it can also teach individuals to think about abstract and complex



*Derek Allen*

problems in a systematic way and to make important decisions based on that careful consideration. "I believe philosophy is something that students can learn to do themselves and the methods I use to teach it are based on that



view," he says. His courses incorporate such features as "interactive lecturing," where students help set the agenda for lectures, and having students answer philosophical questions by working in groups.

Allen's efforts to improve teaching beyond his own classroom have been extensive. In the late 1970's he developed an informal logic course at Trinity College and in 1991 he started a graduate course in the same subject in the philosophy department. Out of a personal interest in helping graduate students become good teachers, he also initiated Teaching Philosophy, the first course of its kind offered by U of T, and a teaching mentorship program that pairs philosophy PhD students with instructors. More recently he helped create the Teaching in Higher Education course at Woodsworth College, offered last year to PhD students wishing to pursue an academic career.

Open to nearly 40,000 university instructors across the country, the 3M fellowships are given to only 10 individuals each year, so Allen is understandably pleased.

"It's terrifically gratifying to receive this award," he says, but adds that one of the reasons he is pleased is that the award gives recognition to teaching initiatives at the University. "It's an incentive to continue these worthwhile activities".

## News from the Undergraduate Office

The Department has assumed the sponsorship of the undergraduate Program in Bioethics. This program is the successor to the Philosophy Applied to Life Sciences program which was started by the Philosophy Group at St. Michael's in the 1970's. In recent years, others in the department have become involved in bioethics, and an increasing responsibility for the upper level courses was borne by the Department. At the same time, a Specialist version of the program was added to the existing Major and Minor. This specialist program will combine the existing courses in bioethics with courses in logic, epistemology, metaphysics, moral theory and other options. The result is a highly structured profile which should produce graduates with solid grounding in the core areas of philosophy.

In the past year the Department welcomed University Professor Julia Ching, who brings her expertise in Chinese philosophy and

religion. Two new courses have been created: PHL 237H, Chinese Philosophies, and PHL 337H, Topics in Chinese Philosophies. Professor Ching and the new courses represent a partial fulfilment of one of the Department's priorities in its new plan: to expand into non-Western philosophies.

In keeping with its traditional strength in value theory, the Department has extended its role in applied ethics. A new course, PHL 373H, Issues in Environmental Ethics, has been added to complement our introductory course in this field. It joins existing courses in bioethics, and business ethics. I have now completed my three-year term as Undergraduate Coordinator, and will be succeeded by Professor Ingrid Stefanovic, who works in environmental ethics and Continental philosophy.

Best wishes to Ingrid on her assumption of this role.

# Upcoming Events!

## 1996-1997 Colloquium Series

September 26-Professor Jon Barwise  
(Indiana University)

October 17-Professor Terry Irwin  
(Cornell University)

January 31-Professor Susan Wolf  
(Johns Hopkins University)

March 6-Professor John McDowell  
(University of Pittsburgh)

March 27-Professor Naomi Scheman  
(University of Minnesota)

April 4-Professor Tim Scanlon  
(Harvard University)