



Philosophy News

FALL 2005

Alumnus receives U of T Arbor Award



Charles Simon, centre, talks with Justice James Spence (BA, 1962; JD, 1966), left, and graduate student James Hunter (BA, 2002), far right, with Department of Philosophy Chair Prof. Donald Ainslie in the background, on April 14, 2005 at an alumni networking event held at the home of alumna Susan Han (BA, 1983). See page 10.

Charles Simon (BA, 1967), an alumnus and longstanding friend and supporter of the Department, received a 2005 Arbor Award this fall. The Arbor Award was established by U of T in 1989 to recognize alumni volunteers for outstanding personal service to the university over a number of years. In 1981, Charles and other members of the Simon family established the J.S. Simon Memorial Lectureship in Philosophy, in memory of Charles' late brother, Jerome Simon (BA, 1961; MA, 1965), a former Professor of Philosophy at Cal State, Los Angeles. The biennial Simon

Lectures have been outstanding, and the Lecturers have included David Kaplan, Charles Taylor, and most recently, David Wiggins. After finishing his philosophy degree, Charles Simon studied law (LLB, 1970) and is currently Counsel to the Corporate and Commercial Transaction Departments of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. He has recently been helping to build support for the Philosophy Department within Toronto's legal community. His goal is to help the Department attract the most talented graduate students, especially for our Joint Program in Law and Philosophy.

Special Book Launch A History of the Department

Professor John G. Slater's history of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto has been published. *Minerva's Aviary: Philosophy at Toronto, 1843-2003* will be launched this fall at a special event at the Fisher Rare Book Library on October 27.

For additional information on the book and the launch, please contact Christie Darville at 416-946-5192 or email cdarville@artsci.utoronto.ca.

Colloquium Schedule

Each colloquium will take place at the Bahen Centre, 40 St. George Street, 3:15 – 5:00 pm, and will be followed by a reception. The fall colloquia will be in room 1190; the spring colloquia will be in room 1180.

Thursday, September 15, 2005, **Professor Bill Brewer** (Warwick), *Perception and its Objects*.

Friday, October 14, 2005, **Professor Marcia Baron** (Indiana), *Excuses, Excuses*.

Thursday, March 23, 2006, **Professor Robert Pippin** (Chicago).

Thursday, April 6, 2006, **Professor Jason Stanley** (Rutgers).

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.

This fall's edition of Philosophy News was delayed by unexpected production problems. Thanks to alumnus Alvin Ng (BA, 1988) and his company, Newbury Ng, for stepping in at the last minute to take over the design and printing of the newsletter.

Call the Department at
416-978-3311 or check our website
www.philosophy.utoronto.ca
for spring titles.

From the Chair Donald Ainslie



What defines success for a philosophy department? The recent Rae Review of post-secondary education in Ontario and the McGuinty budget that followed it emphasize the need for universities to be accountable to the public for their funding. We need to demonstrate that we are improving. But accountability is nothing new to the University of Toronto. During the university-wide exercise that led to *Stepping UP!* – our official plan for the next few years – each unit had to define its measures of success.

In deciding what made for a successful philosophy department, some of our choices were obvious: faculty/student ratios, the proportion of smaller classes, faculty publications, the positions into which our finishing doctoral students are hired, and the like. There are two others that are less obvious.

The first is a discipline-wide survey of the reputation of our faculty. Every two years Blackwell Publishing issues the *Philosophical Gourmet Report*, which summarizes a survey of 450-odd philosophers on their opinions of the quality of the faculty at various English-language universities offering graduate degrees. Each of the surveyed philosophers is also asked to rank departments in her or his areas of specialty. There is a surprising amount of consensus and stability in the results, though recently New York University overtook Princeton at the

very top of the list. Others in the top five are Rutgers, Oxford, Michigan, and Pittsburgh.

The survey is not without its critics. Some argue that the *Report's* results simply mirror the backgrounds of those being surveyed, especially in the specialty rankings. Others think that the focus on faculty reputation overemphasizes the significance of 'star' professors and ignores the question of whether these stars are ever found on campus. And it is pretty clear that the survey has a US bias. That said, the *Report* does give us one way of measuring how the U of T Department is thought of by other philosophers, even if it is not an infallible tool.

The big improvement in our rankings over the past few years shows that our process of faculty renewal is working.

How does U of T do? We dominate the Canadian field, not only leading the country but doing so by a large margin. If you compare our scores with those in other English-language countries, we would place 17th in the United States (just behind Notre Dame, Cornell, and Berkeley, and ahead of Yale, Brown, and Chicago) and third in the UK (just trailing Cambridge). The *Report* ranks U of T 20th overall in the English-speaking world, and 12th among public institutions. In the specialty rankings, we do especially well in the categories relating to

history of philosophy and ethics, but we also are noted for logic and philosophy of science.

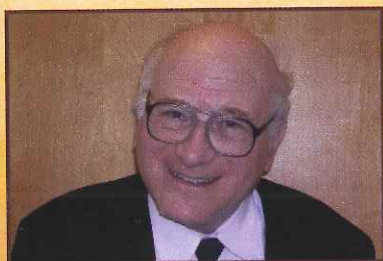
These scores are about the same as those we received in 2002, but they are a dramatic improvement from earlier surveys, where, though we were number one in Canada, we typically would receive scores that would leave us ranked in the mid-20s compared with US institutions and in the low twenties in the English-speaking world.

The big improvement in our rankings over the past few years shows that our process of faculty renewal is working. We have hired over twenty new philosophers on the three U of T campuses since 2000, and they are making a difference to how we are perceived internationally. With six additional excellent new hires this past year, we expect the next survey to put us even higher.

The other less-obvious measure of success is the flip-side of faculty recruitment: retention of our faculty when other universities attempt to hire them away from us. U of T is not the only university that is on a hiring binge. Throughout North America, a wave of retirements has meant that many departments are hunting out top prospects – especially senior professors – to replenish their ranks.

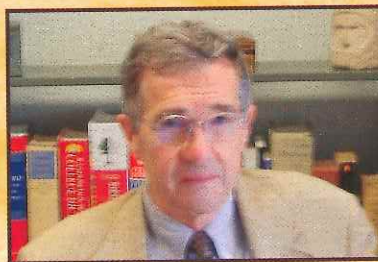
In the past year, eight of our professors have been recruited by such universities as Princeton, Yale, and Stanford. That our faculty is attracting this kind of interest is a good indication that we have been doing great things at U of T Philosophy. That all of our professors chose to stay at U of T is an even better indication of what is happening here. We are building a philosophical community that is competitive with the very best.

Retirements



Danny Goldstick has been with the department since 1968, and he too will be teaching part-time this year.

Ronnie de Sousa, a faculty member since 1966, will continue teaching for us this year on a part-time basis despite his retirement. See pages 4 and 10 for more about Ronnie.



Robert Tully, a faculty member at St. Michael's College since 1969, now teaches philosophy in the Department of English at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



Michael Vertin, a faculty member with the Department of Philosophy and the Department for the Study of Religion since 1972, will teach part-time this year in both departments during the first year of his retirement.

NEW FACULTY



Benjamin Hellie, a new Assistant Professor at UTSC, comes to us from Cornell where he was Assistant Professor at the Sage School of Philosophy. He received his PhD from Princeton in 2000. His research focuses on philosophy of mind, with a special interest in perception.



Denis Walsh joins us as an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Biology. He is cross-appointed with the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. He has a BSc in Zoology from Alberta, a PhD in Biology from McGill, a BA in Philosophy from King's College Cambridge and an MPhil and PhD in Philosophy from King's College London. He works in philosophy of biology and philosophy of mind.



Jessica Wilson, our other new Assistant Professor at UTSC, hails from the University of Michigan, where she was William Willhartz Assistant Professor from 2001 until this year. She received her BA in Mathematics from the University of California at San Diego and her PhD from Cornell. Her areas of specialization are metaphysics and philosophy of science.



Diana Raffman left Ohio State to join us as a Full Professor at UTM. She received her BA in Music at Yale in 1975 and her PhD in Philosophy in 1986, also at Yale. Her areas of specialization are philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of art.



Evan Thompson returns to us as a Full Professor, specializing in the Philosophy of Mind. He received his AB at Amherst in Asian Studies, and his MA (1985) and PhD (1990) in Philosophy at U of T. He has taught at Concordia, Boston, and York, where he held a Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Science and the Embodied Mind.

PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS



Jim Brown began his two-year term as Graduate Coordinator on July 1, 2005.



Peter King has been appointed Director of the Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy for the three year term July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008.

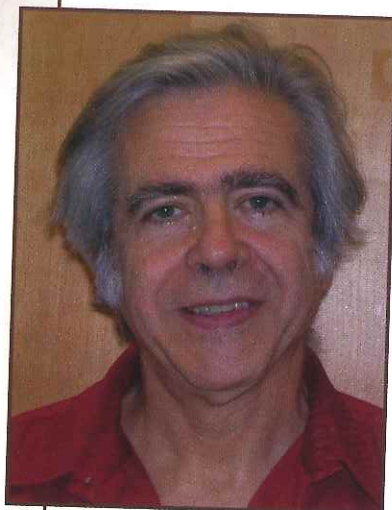
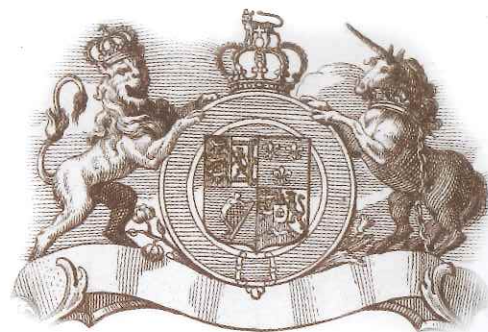


Niko Scharer has been appointed tri-campus Teaching Assistant Coordinator.



Ingrid Stefanovic has been promoted to Full Professor, and she has been named Director of U of T's new Centre for Environment.

Awards & Honours

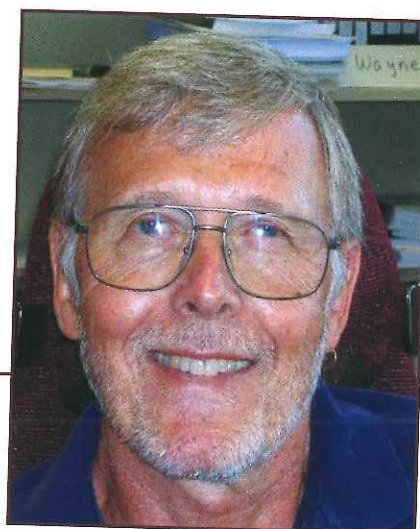
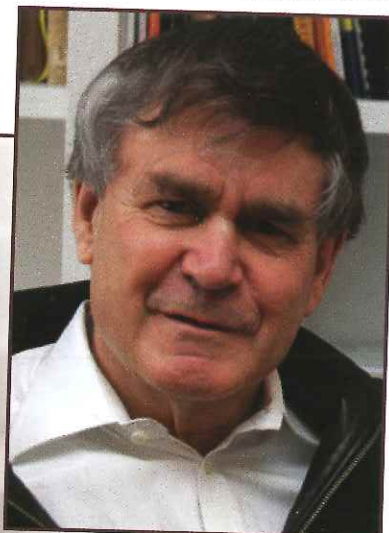


Ronnie de Sousa was awarded the Canadian Philosophical Association / Broadview Press Book Prize for his new book, *Évolution et Rationalité*, at the CPA meeting in London, Ontario in May 2005. This is the third time that the Prize has been awarded, and each time, at least one of the winners was a University of Toronto philosopher. (The three previous winners were Arthur Ripstein in 2001, and Joe Heath and Fred Wilson in 2003.)

Ronnie de Sousa has also been appointed as a Fellow to the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada. The Society explains that the Fellows, "while coming from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, all are dedicated to achieving excellence in their endeavours, and thus enhancing Canada's competitiveness on a global basis." The citation states: "Ronald de Sousa is one of Canada's leading philosophers, best known for his groundbreaking contributions to the study of emotion. He argues that the emotions are not antagonists of reason, but rather are indispensable for a rational and moral life. His landmark book, *The Rationality of Emotion* (1987) is required reading for philosophers, neuroscientists, psychologists, and cognitive scientists interested in emotion. De Sousa's recent book, *Évolution et Rationalité* (2004), builds on his study of emotion by exploring the biological roots of rationality. He has also published over 70 scholarly papers, and his work has been translated into seven languages."

Paul Franks has won an award for postdoctoral research in the humanities from the American Council of Learned Societies for his work on "Post-Kantian Approaches to the Problem of Other Minds: The Second Person and Human Science, beyond Simulation and Theory."

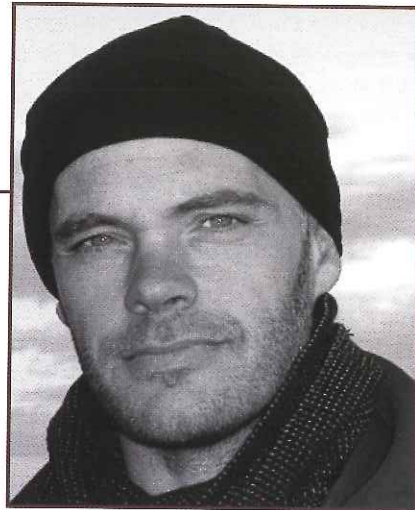
Ian Hacking was named one of "The World's 25 Great Thinkers" by *Le Nouvel Observateur* (Paris, France) in its 40th anniversary issue, December 2004-January 2005. The article calls him the thinker on what moves, a philosopher known for his balance of theoretical ideas and real-world scientific and ethical issues, and it praised his ability to help us understand how we have come to think as we do.



L. Wayne Sumner was short-listed for the 2004 Donner Prize, awarded yearly for the best book on Canadian public policy, for *The Hateful and Obscene: Studies in the Limits of Free Expression*.



Paul Thompson (BA, 1970; MA 1972; PhD 1979) received one of 25 University of Toronto at Scarborough 40th Anniversary Alumni Awards through the Great Minds program for considerable success in various fields. He taught the first philosophy class at UTSC that had more than 200 students and spent 14 years as UTSC principal and dean, during which time enrollment increased by 86% due in large part to the introduction and expansion of several programs. He is now Director of the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at Victoria College.



Former graduate student, **Sean McGrath** (MA, 1996; PhD 2002), who is currently an Assistant Professor at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, was granted the 2002 Dissertation Essay Competition award administered by the Philosophy Education Society in Washington, DC. The award is for the best chapter-extract from a doctoral dissertation anywhere in a given year. His essay was published in the *Review of Metaphysics*, volume 57, no. 2 (December, 2003), under the title "Heidegger and Duns Scotus on Truth and Language."



Graduate students **Helga Varden** and **Shelley Weinberg** were the two anglophone winners of the Dialogue Prize for the best paper submitted by a graduate student to the 2005 Canadian Philosophical Association meeting in London, Ontario, in May 2005. Helga won first place for "Kant and Dependency Relations:

An Interpretation and Defence of the Category of Status in the *Doctrine of Right*," and Shelley won second place for "Possible World Construction and the Paradox of Compossibility."



Tom Hurka has received a Chancellor Jackman Research Fellowship in the Humanities for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Notes from the St. George Undergraduate Department

Deborah Black, St. George Undergraduate Coordinator

During the past couple of years the St. George Philosophy Department has been making a number of changes to its Undergraduate Curriculum in response to the University's *Stepping UP!* plan. This year a number of new seminars were introduced at the 400-level to serve the needs of Philosophy specialists. We have also introduced numerous revisions to our courses at the 200- and 300-level; these came into effect in the current academic session (2005-06). The main purpose of these latest revisions was to streamline our 200-level introductions to the various periods and branches of philosophy and to move more specialized courses of study to the 300-level. We hope that these changes will allow us to maintain lower enrolments in the majority of our 300-level courses so that Philosophy students will have better opportunities to interact with each other and get to know their instructors better.

In addition to these changes in our basic curriculum, we are also introducing some exciting new Programs of Study. In 2005-06, a new Joint Specialist Program in Philosophy and Physics came into effect. Planning is also underway for a Specialist

Program in the Philosophy of Science, which will draw on the combined faculty resources of the Department of Philosophy and the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. We hope to have this program in place for 2006-07.

At this time I have the honour of announcing the winners of the Undergraduate Philosophy Awards for 2004-05:

John MacDonald Scholarship:
Kathryn Mann

Thomas J. Lang Scholarship:
Aman Singer

George Kennedy Scholarship:
Jacob Weinrib

Thomas A. Goudge Scholarship:
John MacKay

John F. M. Hunter Memorial Scholarship:
Benjamin Gallagher

Sunflower Scholarship:
Adam Bjorndahl

Scotia Capital Bursary: **Adam Bjorndahl**

Congratulations to all these students for their fine work in Philosophy!



In my former capacity as the Tri-campus Co-ordinator of Teaching Assistants, it is also my pleasure to announce that the winner of the 2004-05 Martha Lile Love Teaching Award for Graduate Student Instructors in Philosophy is Danielle Bromwich, for her work in PHL 333F, Issues in Epistemology (UTM Campus). The Department extends its appreciation to all Graduate Instructors for their excellent work during the past year. Thanks are also due to the judges of this year's competition, Professors Peter King and Mark Kingwell, for their efforts on behalf of the Department.

While I will be continuing as St. George Undergraduate Coordinator during the 2005-06 academic session, as of July 1, 2005, Dr. Niko Scharer will be our new TA coordinator, assuming the important task of assigning our graduate students to assist in the delivery of undergraduate courses on all three U of T campuses.

UTM PHILOSOPHY NEWS

Amy Mullin

Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto at Mississauga

This past year Philosophy at the Mississauga campus (UTM) completed its second year as an academic department, with Marleen Rozemond filling in as Acting Chair in the fall term while I was on leave. Our faculty continue to be fully integrated in the tri-campus graduate department, while also enjoying the greater opportunities to interact with students that our smaller campus has to offer. Our Philosophy Club continues to flourish under the leadership of Philip Clark.

This year we are very pleased to add several faculty members. In addition to Diana Raffman (see "New Faculty" section), Byeong Yi will be leaving the University of Minnesota to join us as an Associate Professor in July 2006. He works primarily in logic and metaphysics, with a special interest in the logic of plurals. Mohan Matthen, currently at UBC, will join us as a Professor and Canada Research Chair in Philosophy and Perception in July 2006. He works in the philosophy of science, philosophy of psychology, and ancient philosophy. All will help us expand and enrich our course offerings.

We will continue to grow in the next few years, as enrollments at UTM increase. This year we have searches in



Moral or Political Philosophy and Metaphysics and Epistemology. We welcome contact with our alumni, who might like to check out the website for alumni at www.utm.utoronto.ca/alumni.0.html and contribute their whereabouts to our site.

Notes from the Graduate Department

Bob Gibbs, Graduate Coordinator

This fall, we have a larger than normal set of incoming PhD students (21). We were more vigorous in our recruiting efforts, and the new additions to our faculty are now drawing many more students to our program. The MA program is holding at 6 full-time students. They are enrolling in 30 courses, with our characteristic balance between courses with a historical focus and those focused on topics in philosophy.

Once again we have done very well in the scholarship competitions, with 26 external awards reflecting the excellence of our students.

Eight students completed their PhD's and successfully defended during the year. The group included:

Lawrence Burns,

The Ethics of Corporeality: A Study of the Phenomenological and Pragmatic Significance of the Human Body.

(Advisor: Robert Gibbs)

Margaret Cameron,

What's in a Name? William of Champeaux and Early Twelfth Century Dialectic.

(Advisors: John Magee and Peter King)

Cheryl Ann Cline,

Beyond Ethics: Animals, Law and Politics.

(Advisor: Wayne Sumner)

Julie Custeau,

The Sense of Injustice and its Pervasiveness:

An Inquiry into Human Misery.

(Advisor: Robert Gibbs)

Julie Elizabeth Kirsch,

What's so Great about Reality?

(Advisors: André Gombay and

Daniel Goldstick)

Jack Kwong,

Conceptual Atomism: Towards a Plausible

Theory of Concepts.

(Advisor: William E. Seager)

Marc E. Ozon,

The Emergence of Theories of Mental Language

in Early Fourteenth Century Philosophy as

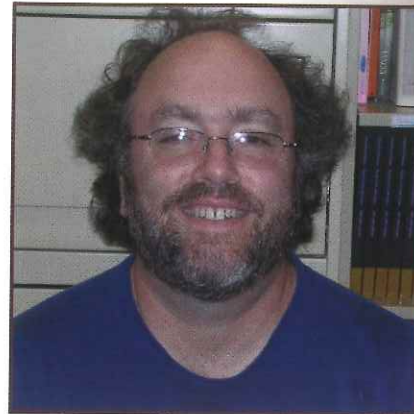
Explanations of Complex Cognition.

(Advisor: Calvin Normore)

Anthony Skelton,

Reasoning Towards Utilitarianism: Learning

from Sidgwick (Advisor: Wayne Sumner)



The big changes in our office include a changing of the guard, as I am replaced by James Brown. I have enjoyed solving problems big and small, impersonal and also urgent and personal. It is unusual for a philosopher to be able to solve a problem in a few hours, but I have been lucky and successful some of the time as an administrator. I was aided by faculty and students, and especially by staff. Joyce Wright retired at the end of 2004; and Margaret Opoku-Pare has stepped in to run the graduate office. Margaret has been learning fast and is a delight to work with. I am confident that Jim and Margaret will continue to solve problems and to coordinate our renewed and strong graduate program.

UTSC PHILOSOPHY NEWS

Phil Kremer, Philosophy Discipline Representative, UTSC

It's been an exciting year for Philosophy at the University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC). The big news is that we hired two excellent new faculty members, Benj Hellie and Jessica Wilson. (See the "New Faculty" section for more about them.)

In other news, we are delighted to welcome Jennie Hawkins back from a prestigious year-long fellowship at the Harvard Center for Ethics. We also congratulate Sonia Sedivy on being invited to teach courses at Victoria College, on the St. George campus, for two years. We look forward to her return to UTSC in 2007. Finally, we are still working on establishing our own Department of Philosophy at UTSC, a goal we anticipate meeting in one year.



THE ARISTOTLE: A HIGH SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY ESSAY CONTEST

Various faculty members – notably former Chair, Frank Cunningham – have been part of the campaign to increase the amount and quality of philosophy teaching in Ontario high schools. This fall, the

Philosophy Department is taking our high school initiative one step further by sponsoring the first national essay contest for high school philosophy students. Dubbed "The Aristotle," in the manner of high school math contests such as "The Fermat" or "The Pascal," students have the chance to write an essay on one of several set topics that are available online (www.aristotle.utoronto.ca). The winning essays will receive cash prizes and all

of the top entries will receive citations. Submissions must be postmarked by January 25, 2006, with the results being announced in mid-March. The contest is co-sponsored by the Ontario Philosophy Teachers Association (the organization for high school teachers of philosophy), the University of Toronto Schools, Woodsworth College, the University of Toronto at Mississauga, and the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Reports on Research

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

JOSEPH HEATH

I co-authored my most recent book, *The Rebel Sell: Why the Culture Can't Be Jammed*, with Andrew Potter, a graduate of our doctoral program (PhD, 2000). The book is a critical, sometimes polemical, reexamination of the idea of "counterculture" – from its roots in the critique of mass society in the '50s through to the anti-globalization movement of the present day. We argue that the type of rebellious nonconformity encouraged by countercultural thinking, far from posing a threat to "the system," has become one of the primary forces driving modern consumer capitalism.

The traditional critique of mass society errs in taking conformity to be the central vice of industrial civilization. Thus it explains consumerism as a system of manufactured desire, designed to create markets to absorb the "overproduction" of homogenous goods that the technology of mass production facilitates. This in turn is thought to explain the fact that increased affluence in our society has produced no measurable increase in personal satisfaction or happiness.

Andrew and I argue, on the contrary, that the dissatisfactions of the consumer society are a product of competitive consumption, motivated by a quest for distinction on the part of consumers. The traditional critique of mass society has inadvertently exacerbated this sort of competition, by serving as a further source of such distinction. Positioning oneself as a cultural rebel is an excellent way of showing that one is not a victim of brainwashing, and thus of demonstrating one's superiority to other consumers. Yet once too many other people adopt the same mode of rebellion, it no longer serves as a source of distinction. Thus countercultural rebellion itself generates the same cycles of obsolescence that are the hallmark of the consumer society.

The book was published in 2004 by HarperCollins in Canada and the United



Joseph Heath and Andrew Potter

States (where it appeared under the title *Nation of Rebels*), and by Wiley in the U.K. It was published in Spain in May 2005 by Taurus Santillana as *Rebelarse Vende*, and has since gone on to become a national best-seller there. The German edition, *Konsumrebelten*, is being published in August by Rogner & Bernhard. The French edition, *Révolte Consummée*, will appear in Quebec (Trécarré) and France (Naïve) in September.

PAUL FRANKS



Philosophers often define their relationship to the present through the interest they take in some figure or movement from the history of philosophy. For the past fifteen years or so, some analytic philosophers – notably, Robert Brandom and John McDowell – have taken a surprising interest in German idealism: the family of post-Kantian philosophies associated most famously with Fichte, Schelling and Hegel. What makes this revival particularly striking is the fact, while the German idealists have long been essential figures for

continental philosophy, analytic philosophy began with what Bertrand Russell described as a revolt against German idealism, descendants of which had dominated Anglophone philosophy. Themes previously neglected by much analytic philosophy – such as the spontaneity of the cognitive subject, and the social and historical character of reason – are attracting renewed attention. This is giving rise to new alignments between the analytic and continental traditions.

When philosophers appropriate historical figures for their own present purposes,

*Why did they
(German idealists)
think that philosophy
was all or nothing?*

anachronism is all but inevitable. Tacit presuppositions of the past are lost on readers of the present, while unspoken current assumptions are projected unthinkingly onto texts to which they are entirely foreign. Of course, it is no less inevitable that someone will bring these anachro-

nisms to light. This can seem pedantic. No doubt some once fashionable ideas are of little use to philosophers today. However, when forgotten presuppositions are reconstructed, they may be surprisingly compelling, and when unspoken assumptions are made explicit, they may be subject to critical discussion for the first time.

Some years ago I gave a paper in which I pointed out some anachronisms in the current idea that German idealists should be read as engaging in transcendental arguments of the kind made prominent by Sir Peter Strawson: roughly, arguments that aim to refute scepticism by showing that it presupposes exactly what it doubts. I argued that, unlike Strawson, German idealists were interested in exhibiting the *justification* for everyday commitments, and that all genuine justifications must, in their view, ultimately be grounded in a single immanent and absolute principle. When a member of the audience asked me *why* the German idealists were committed to this conception of systematicity, which surely distinguished them from their contemporary champions, I found myself with distressingly little to say. I also found myself wondering why the German idealists thought so much was at stake in the

PAUL FRANKS

question of systematicity, which sometimes seems to become, in their view, the one great problem of philosophy. Why did they think that philosophy was all or nothing?

It was in order to answer this question that I set out to write *All or Nothing: Systematicity, Transcendental Arguments, and Skepticism in German Idealism* (Harvard University Press, 2005). I undertook to read the all but forgotten authors who were the formative influences on the German idealist reception of Kant: Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi, the provocateur who claimed that Enlightenment rationalism – including the residual rationalism of Kant – led inexorably to the nihilistic absurdities of Spinozism, succeeding despite himself in convincing many readers to become

Spinozists; Salomon Maimon, the Lithuanian Talmudist and kabbalist who argued that Kant had refuted Humean skepticism only on the unjustified assumption that mathematical physics was as rigorous as pure mathematics; and Karl Leonhard Reinhold, the ex-priest who thought Kantianism was the only adequate defence of the Enlightenment against Jacobi, but who began German idealism when, in order to show that Kant had in fact refuted Humean scepticism, he attempted to organize Kant's philosophy in accordance with a conception of systematicity he had unwittingly adopted from Spinoza via Jacobi. This conception of systematicity, along with a perceived need to overcome the threat of nihilism, and a refusal simply to assume natural science as

a fact, made the German idealists quite different from Kant himself. Yet, as I came to realize, they also drew upon resources within Kant's philosophy – notably upon affinities between Kant and Spinoza to which Jacobi had drawn their attention.

Of the German idealists one may justly ask, as Alan Donagan once asked of Spinoza, whether they naturalize theology or theologize nature. The interpretation of the German idealist project developed in *All or Nothing* is in some ways quite different from the non-reductive naturalisms often ascribed to Fichte and Hegel today. For just this reason, I hope that it will remind us of the philosophical power of some no longer customary ways of thinking, and that it will raise some unaccustomed questions about contemporary naturalism.



MARGARET MORRISON

My research is in two areas of philosophy of science, philosophy of physics and, more recently, philosophy of biology. At first glance these appear to be unconnected but the thread that ties them together is the role that mathematical models play in providing us with concrete information about the world. One of the peculiar things about models is that they embody abstract descriptions and approximation techniques, yet they are used in diverse areas like physics, biology and economics to draw conclusions about real world situations. Questions about how this is possible are largely philosophical in nature and involve analyses of the representational and explanatory capacities of models as well as the relation between their function and construction. Very often one can use models to get *exact* predictions like the infinite conductivity associated with superconductors; but because exact predictions cannot be derived from approximations the question that naturally arises is: How do

these models work?

The answer is that they embody a symmetry-breaking principle that is associated with a class of phenomena that are sometimes described as 'emergent': they arise out of but are not *reducible* to their constituent parts.

Much of my current research in the philosophy of physics involves looking at these various kinds of emergent phenomena (superconductivity, superfluidity, ferromagnetism, liquid crystals, etc.) and the

The ideal embedded in much of modern physics and in philosophy...is that we ought to be able to understand the world by reducing its elements to a few fundamental laws or elementary particles.

implications they have for rethinking the structure of physical theory. The ideal embedded in much of modern physics, and indeed in philosophy since the time of the ancient Greeks, is that we ought to be able to understand the world by reducing its elements to a few fundamental laws or elementary particles. Because emergent phenomena are not derivable, explainable, or reducible to their constituents they provide a significant challenge to the reductionist thesis both from a physical and philosophical perspective. As a result they also have implications for the goal of constructing a grand unified theory in physics.

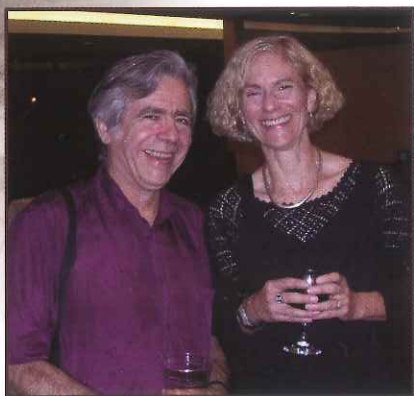
My other area of research concerns the

ways in which both statistics and models used in physics shaped the development of early population genetics. In the nineteenth century attempts to justify Darwin's principle of natural selection (among other things) gave rise to modern statistical theory. Indeed the development of multiple correlation and regression was invented by Karl Pearson as a way of putting selection on a firm scientific foundation. Subsequent attempts to unify Mendelian genetics with Darwinian selection required even more sophisticated mathematical techniques developed by R.A. Fisher who used models from the statistical theory of gases in order to construct models of Mendelian populations where selection could be shown to operate.

There are a number of important philosophical questions that arise in connection with the 'mathematisation' of selection. The first is how the mathematical/statistical interpretation put forward by Fisher suggests a reconceptualisation of its operation as a principle that causes evolutionary change. The second concerns the kinds of conclusions we can draw about natural populations on the basis of the highly abstract mathematical models used in modern populations genetics. These kinds of questions are philosophical because they are concerned with the foundations of modern evolutionary theory and because they draw attention to ways in which mathematics shapes our understanding of the natural world.

Looking at the presuppositions behind scientific practice and inquiry is one of the tasks of philosophy of science. The mathematical foundations of contemporary science raise philosophical questions about the ways in which mathematics has influenced scientific investigation and changed the limits of the knowable.

Events During 2004-2005



Ronnie de Sousa with opening plenary speaker Martha Nussbaum at the 32nd International Hume Conference.



Susan Han



Diego Silva (BA, 2005), Dr. Barb Secker (BA, 1991; PhD, 2001), Isaac Filaté (BA, 2005), Ruth Lavergne (Class of 2006).

The Department had its usual full slate of activities this past year - from our colloquium series to various conferences, workshops, and seminars.

Among the highlights were the Simon Lectures, delivered in October 2004 by Oxford's Wykeham Professor Emeritus, David Wiggins; a conference honouring University Professor Emeritus Ian Hacking, also held in October 2004; a workshop in April 2005 on the good and the right organized by alumnus, University Professor, and former Chair, Wayne Sumner (BA, 1962); an international conference on Plato, organized by Departmental alumna and the Canada Research Chair in Classical Philosophy, Rachel Barney (BA, 1987); the 33rd annual meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy in May 2005, organized by alumnus, Phil Kremer (BSc, *Mathematics*, 1985); and the 32nd International Hume Conference, held at Trinity College in July 2005, organized by our current Chair, Donald Ainslie. In addition, the three events described here were either put on by or for our students.

Philosophy Alumni Networking Event

This past April, Susan Han hosted a very successful alumni networking event at her home in Lawrence Park. Over drinks and hors d'oeuvres, graduates from the Department who have gone on to successful careers in law met with undergraduate and graduate students with interests in law and philosophy. We were also joined by professors from the Joint JD-PhD program in Law and Philosophy - a program that the Department sponsors along with the Law School that allows students to finish their law degree and their philosophy doctorate over a seven-year span.

Susan graduated from the Department in 1983 and is currently Senior Vice-President and General Counsel of AIM Trimark Investments. Many thanks to her for her gracious hospitality.

Donald Ainslie

National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference

The Joint Centre for Bioethics (JCB) Undergraduate Initiative is a student run organization seeking to integrate University of Toronto undergraduates interested in bioethics into existing interdisciplinary activities at the JCB. Among our activities, we organized the second Canadian National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference (2nd C-NUB) held at U of T in February 2005.

By hosting the conference we helped foster the tradition of National Undergraduate Bioethics Conferences in Canada that began at St. Francis Xavier University in 2003. We are happy to announce that the 2nd C-NUB conference was a great success! We had five pre-eminent keynote speakers, including Professor Michael McDonald, a U of T philosophy alumnus (BA, 1965) and current Chair of Applied Ethics at University of British Columbia. We brought together approximately 60 students from across Canada and the United States.

We would like to thank the Philosophy Department for its generous financial and intellectual support of our endeavours.

Diego Silva and Isaac Filaté

A NEW CENTRE FOR ETHICS

The University's new Centre for Ethics, of which Philosophy is a founding partner, was launched on September 29 with a public lecture by Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Ethics Commissioner of Canada. The Centre has an exciting list of speakers lined up for its 2005-06 series, including Jeremy Waldron, Elizabeth Spelman, Eamonn Callan, and our own Thomas Hurka. Information on the full series will soon be posted on the Centre's website, www.ethics.utoronto.ca.

The Centre will move into its new home at Trinity College in the summer of 2006, and will welcome its first class of faculty and graduate fellows in Fall 2006.



Simon Blackburn

5th Annual International Graduate Philosophy Conference — Value and Inquiry

In May the Graduate Philosophy Student Union (GPSU) hosted its 5th Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference. This year's theme was 'Value and Inquiry.' The papers presented addressed a wide range of philosophical topics related to the theme, including not only value theory but also epistemology, philosophy of science, philosophical logic, and applied ethics.

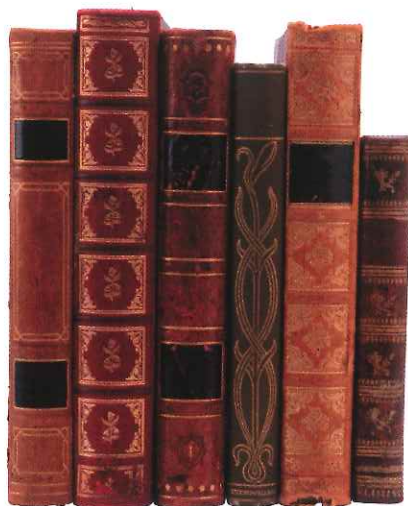
This year's keynote address, held in conjunction with the Philosophy Department's colloquium series, was delivered by Simon Blackburn of Cambridge University. Prof. Blackburn's address, entitled "Is Truth Worth the Fuss?" was attended by an audience of over 100, including numerous visitors from the community and area universities. Indeed, all the sessions were well attended by U of T faculty and students, and we were particularly pleased to have Prof. Blackburn's presence throughout — his thoughtful comments were greatly appreciated by the presenters, and added greatly to the interest of the sessions for audience members as well.

Overall, the presentations were outstanding. Participants indicated that they were very impressed with the quality of the papers presented, and with the organization of the conference in general. In particular, our visitors praised the professionalism of the students who chaired the sessions and commented on their papers, as well as the exceptionally helpful and thought-provoking responses provided by attendees. As one participant put it, "we had the best discussions I have ever had at a conference." In sum, this year's conference was a great success, and continues the Toronto conference's reputation for excellence.

Melana Heinss Martel, Conference Coordinator

2005 Philosophy Book Launch

The department's 18th Annual Book Launch, held on March 10th, 2005, featured:



Aertsen, Jan A. and Martin Pickavé (editors). *"Herbst des Mittelalters": Fragen zur Bewertung des 14. und 15. Jahrhunderts.* Walter De Gruyter, 2004.

~

Crichton, Will and Carl Semmelroth. *Foundations for a New Civilization: Structure, Change & Tendency in Nature & Ourselves.* Writers Club Press, 2002.

~

Crichton, Will and Mary C (translators). *Duino Elegies* by Rainer Maria Rilke.

~

de Sousa, Ronald. *Évolution et Rationalité.* Presses Universitaires de France, 2004.

~

Dyzenhaus, David (editor). *The Unity of Public Law.* Hart Publishing, 2004.

~

Goetschel, Willi. *Spinoza's Modernity: Mendelssohn, Lessing, and Heine.* University of Wisconsin Press, 2004.

~

Heath, Joseph and Andrew Potter. *The Rebel Sell: Why the Culture Can't Be Jammed.* HarperCollins, 2004.

~

Misak, Cheryl. *Truth and the End of Inquiry (2nd expanded edition).* Oxford University Press, 2004.

~

Misak, Cheryl. *The Cambridge Companion to Peirce.* Cambridge University Press, 2004.

~

Robinson, Tom. *Cosmos as Art Object. Studies in Plato's Timaeus and Other Dialogues.* Global Academic Publishing, 2004.

~

Rossetti, Livio (editor). *Greek Philosophy in the New Millennium. Essays in Honour of Thomas M. Robinson.* Academia Verlag, 2004.

~

Sumner, Wayne. *The Hateful and the Obscene: Studies in the Limits of Free Expression.* University of Toronto Press, 2004.

~

Vertin, Michael (editor) and Frederick E. Crowe (author). *Developing the Loneragan Legacy: Historical, Theoretical, and Existential Themes.* University of Toronto Press, 2004.

~

Zuidervaat, Lambert. *Artistic Truth: Aesthetics, Discourse and Imaginative Disclosure.* Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Alumni are invited to attend the 2006 Philosophy Book Launch which will be held on Thursday, March 9, 4-6 pm, in the 10th floor lounge of 215 Huron Street.

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto

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