

Philosophy News

FRANCES KAMM: MORAL PHILOSOPHER AND WOULD-BE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Harvard professor and accidental philosopher examines the ethics of Justice after War at 2012 Roseman Lecture

By Ellen Roseman

Frances Kamm is a moral philosopher who gets deeply involved in the ethical issues she investigates. She sinks into the details of each case and tries to visualize what is going on.

Asked to give the Roseman Lecture in Practical Ethics, she picked a hot topic – justice after war. Some of the questions she posed included:

- *What are the victors' duties? Is it enough to compensate victims of war? Will victors find it easier to go to war, knowing they have to compensate victims after war?*
- *Do the victims have a moral right to retribution? Does it help to set up a truth and reconciliation commission to address abuses?*
- *Can retributive justice lead to rights violations when criminals act in the absence of a stable government? Is social stability a right? Are we responsible for a political vacuum when we pursue retributive justice?*
- *If victors can't seek retributive justice for victims, is that a reason not to go to war?*



Frances Kamm (left) with Ellen Roseman

Kamm was testing ideas from a paper that she had not included among the three philosophical essays in her recent book, *Ethics for Enemies: Terror, Torture and War* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

"It takes me a long time to produce a book. I go back and forth over the arguments," she said in an interview before the lecture. "I only publish a paper when I'm sure it's right. When I'm not sure, I give a lecture."

Before giving a lecture, Kamm keeps revising her paper to make

it clear. She knows that philosophers don't often praise each other, but dive right in to find the weak points in an argument.

"This is nothing like it was two days ago," she said, referring to an earlier version of the paper she'd sent to Thomas Hurka, a well-known University of Toronto moral philosopher who couldn't attend.

Frances Kamm is Littauer Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy at Harvard

...continued on Page 2

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Frances Kamm

continued from Page 1

University. She spent 24 years at New York University before leaving in 2003.

"I didn't apply, but I was on the comparable list. They do comparisons of their people when granting tenure. I had to come and give a talk. They liked my talk and made me an offer. Happily, they gave tenure to the other person. I didn't ruin things for him."

Harvard is a good fit for an ethicist. Kamm also teaches at the Kennedy School of Government and is a faculty associate at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, whose director Lawrence Lessig is a respected expert in copyright law.

Kamm was a graduate student in philosophy at MIT and studied with Harvard political philosopher Robert Nozick (who died in 2002).

"He influenced me and set me on my track in doing ethics," she said about Nozick. She was also influenced by Judith Jarvis Thomson, a moral philosopher and metaphysician at MIT.

When it comes to ethics, Kamm is a non-consequentialist. This means she considers consequences relevant, but not the only thing, that determines the rightness of an action.

The trolley example is often used to show the difference between a consequentialist and non-consequentialist approach.

Imagine that you see a runaway trolley heading down a main track where it will hit and kill five people. You can divert the trolley onto a dead-end side track, where it will instead hit and kill one other person.

Most people think it's permissible to send the trolley onto a side track to kill one person instead of five. But their judgment may change...

Most people think it's permissible to send the trolley onto a side track to kill one person instead of five. But their judgment may change in the following case.

Imagine that you are standing beside a large stranger on a bridge over a trolley track. You see a runaway trolley heading down the track toward five people, whom it will kill upon impact.

Before the trolley reaches the five, it must pass under the bridge where you are standing. You realize that you will save the five if, and only if, you push the large stranger off the bridge and onto the tracks, where the trolley will kill him and grind to a halt before it reaches the five.

Consequentialists say you should push the man into the trolley's path to ensure the fewest number of deaths. As in the previous example, you would be saving five people by sacrificing one.

But intuitively, many people don't think it seems right to use the man as a mere means. He isn't standing on a side track in the trolley's path, but fell into the trolley's path only when you pushed him off a bridge.

Kamm has written a lot about the runaway trolley. In another scenario, there's a loop in the side track, so that if you diverted the trolley away from the five, it would have rushed around and run into the five from the other side, if it hadn't hit the one person and ground to a halt.

Despite her skill in getting her head around complex moral arguments, she didn't plan to make philosophy her career.

"My other great passion is art," she told me. "I used to paint and I sometimes still pick up a pencil and draw. I own lots of art books and postcards or ephemera. People say I'm a museum director *manqué*."

She gave up on being a painter or fashion designer as a career for a simple reason: "I started over-intellectualizing my art."

A self-confessed night owl, Kamm loves to stay up late and sleep late. She often wakes up at 2 p.m. to teach a seminar at 6 p.m.

A New Yorker by birth, she still spends time at her home in Queens, only 10 minutes from LaGuardia Airport. She still goes to museums and eats at all-night diners.

And as a philosopher, she keeps trying to explain why some behaviour is repugnant to many people, even if it makes sense in a utilitarian way.

"Kamm meticulously and imaginatively analyzes moral cases in order to gain insight into our fundamental moral concepts and principles," wrote Alex Voorhoeve, a London School of Economics philosopher, in *Conversations on Ethics* (2009).

"The tenacity with which she pursues this aim springs from her personal engagement with the issues she investigates — an engagement reflected in her dedication of the second volume of *Morality, Mortality* (published in 2001) to 'the love of morality.'"

From the Chair

Arthur Ripstein

I have now completed my first year as Chair of the Department. I worried a little bit about the job, both because of **Donald Ainslie's** remarkable achievements as chair, which made the prospect of following him daunting, but also because, as I understood it, the role of an academic administrator is to provide closure by making decisions large and small about the direction of the department. Philosophy is famously a discipline without closure – we still spend our time debating many of the same issues that occupied philosophers in Ancient Athens. I was not quite sure what to expect. In my first few weeks as chair, I was largely occupied with small administrative matters, and discovered that the job had many of the satisfactions of washing dishes or shoveling snow – manageable tasks for which clear measures of progress were possible.

A former chair of another philosophy department warned me that this was largely an illusion, and that I would soon find that being department chair was more like being a parent – being responsible for many matters over which I have very little control. He was right about that, but, looking back on the past year, I am delighted to report that the department has continued to move forward.

We made two outstanding junior appointments. **Julia Nefsky** has already taken up a position in moral and political philosophy at UTSC, and **Franz Huber** will be joining the St. George department to teach metaphysics and epistemology starting in January. Our hiring will continue, with the new junior search in moral and political philosophy on the St. George campus. We will also renew our senior search in moral or political philosophy at UTM.

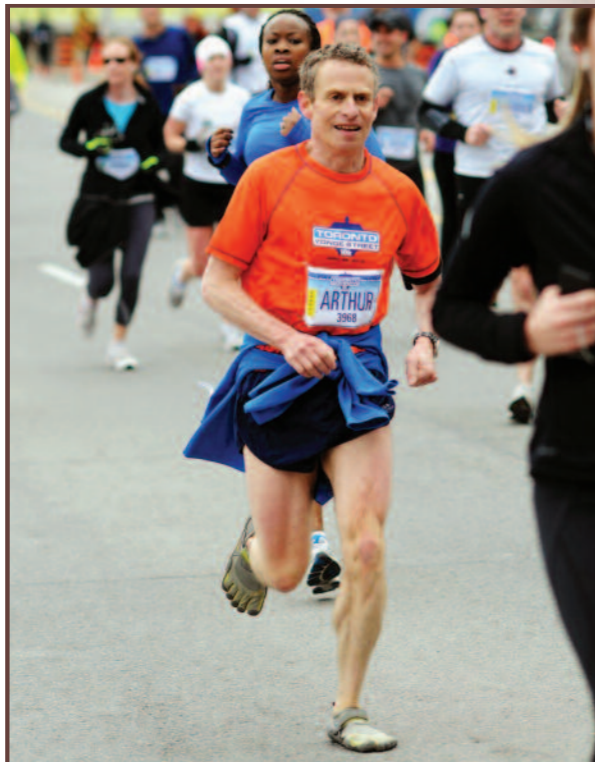
Our undergraduate enrollments continue to grow, and we have made some small changes to increase the intensity of the experience of our majors and specialists.

We will now have a philosophy undergraduate research day each term, in which students doing independent study will present their work in progress to each other. Students enrolled in independent study courses get feedback from the professor supervising their work, but this will provide a further opportunity for them to explain their ideas to their fellow students.

In the category of things for which I am responsible though have very little or no control, I have both good news and bad news. The good news is that the department's ranking in the Philosophical Gourmet Report continued to rise, moving from 17th in the world to 15th.

We have always come out as the strongest department in Canada by a wide margin; it is gratifying to see our worldwide ranking continue to improve, tying us with Berkeley and placing us ahead of such renowned institutions as Cambridge and Chicago. Among public universities we do even better, ranking seventh overall in the world.

There is also some disappointing news: I am sorry to report that **Paul Franks** has accepted a senior offer from Yale, and will not be



Ripstein completes first lap

returning to the department. We will begin a search for his successor as Grafstein Chair in Jewish Philosophy this coming year.

The department also has continued to gain support from our alumni and friends. As part of the University's "Boundless" new advancement campaign, matching money is available for scholarship funding for international graduate students. The department has so far established one new fellowship, and I expect to announce more good news soon.

Arthur Ripstein

Chair, Department of Philosophy,
Faculty of Arts & Science;

Chair, Graduate Department of
Philosophy

To honour Donald Ainslie's hard work as Chair of the Department of Philosophy from 2003 - 2011, members of the Department have established a fund for The Donald Ainslie Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Philosophy. If you would like to contribute to it, please see the last page.

Notes from the St. George Undergraduate Department



In 2011-12 the Undergraduate Philosophy programme at the St. George campus has continued to go from strength to strength. Our graduates contin-

ue to be accepted by top graduate philosophy programmes across the English-speaking world, as well as going on to rewarding careers in many other areas.

The Socrates Project continues to be a huge success, with ten of our most distinguished and enthusiastic undergraduates acting as TAs in Philosophy 100; this year several participants received teaching evaluations as strong as any of our graduate TAs. (Our TAs, graduate instructors and faculty also continue to receive markedly high evaluations by Faculty of Arts and Science standards.)

Students in the Socrates Project and the Honours Seminar also presented

their own research at the Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in April. This was a well-attended, genuinely absorbing all-day event, with high quality papers – and posters depicting well-nigh undepictable philosophical problems – on a dizzying range of subjects.

Next year participation in the Conference will be expanded to include all students taking Individual Studies courses, as the Honours Seminar will be rolled back into the general Individual Studies programme. Congratulations to both the organizers, **Lauren Bialystock** (Socrates Project Coordinator) and **Charles Repp** (moderator of the Honours Seminar), on a well-deserved success.

Next year Lauren will be moving on to take up a tenure-track position at OISE; Charles will be taking over as Socrates Project Coordinator, and teaching a wide range of courses on ethics and human nature as well. He will be joined on our teaching roster by three post-doctoral fellows:

Hege Finholt and **Dominic Martin**, who will both hold fellowships at the Centre for Ethics, and **Ariela di Castro**, back for a second

year as Canadian Friends of Hebrew University–Grafstein Post-Doctoral Fellow.

We have also been fortunate, this past year, to have **Gabrielle Jackson**, a postdoctoral fellow at the Jackman Humanities Institute, teaching for us as well. These postdoctoral instructors, with their enthusiasm and fresh ideas as well as their enormous diversity of interests and academic backgrounds, make a powerful contribution to the vitality of our undergraduate programme. We are lucky to have them – not to mention other distinguished visitors such as **Todd Dufresne** (Lakehead University) and **Chris MacDonald** (St. Mary's University), who joined us last year to teach philosophy and psychoanalysis and business ethics respectively, and **Michael Morgan** (University of Indiana), who will be joining us for the third time next Spring as Grafstein Visiting Professor in Jewish Philosophy.

The biggest challenge facing the Undergraduate Programme at this point is the kind it is nice to have: despite our impressive resources, we are forced to turn too many students

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UTSC Philosophy News

The biggest news story from UTSC is



that we hired a new tenure-track faculty member, **Julia Nefsky**. Julia is completing a PhD in Berkeley, writing a dissertation on the morality of collective harm.

Her work has one foot in Ethics and one in Political Philosophy: she is interested in the interplay between individuals' actions and reasons to act, and the collective effect of the actions of large numbers of individuals. Julia emerged as the best candidate from a competitive field of over 250 candidates. In hiring her, we at UTSC are rebuilding our complement in Ethics and Political Philosophy.

In other news, the UTSC Association of Philosophy Students organized a launch party for their new undergraduate Philosophy journal, *Noumena*. They invited three panelists, **Benj Hellie** (Philosophy, UTSC), **Andrew Sepielli** (Philosophy, UTM), and Herbert Kronzucker (Biology, UTSC), who generated a lively discussion on what "life" is and various senses in which it might be meaningful, or come to be meaningful. As noted on the APS web page, the discussion was so engaging that the event ran nearly an hour past its scheduled end-time!

Also, the APS once again organized an extremely successful undergraduate conference. This year, we had guest undergraduate speakers from Harvard, Reed, Oxford and Waterloo, with comments delivered by UTSC undergrads, followed by

extensive discussion. I want especially to recognize our UTM colleague **Andrew Sepielli**, who stepped in as keynote speaker just three days before the event, when the scheduled keynote speaker let us know that she couldn't make it. Thanks, Andrew!

Finally, I should note that we are all looking forward to moving into Philosophy Hall some time early this term. With this move, we will have our own building, with a departmental lounge, a departmental seminar room, and plenty of space: this will top off our separation from the Department of Humanities two years ago.

Phil Kremer
Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto Scarborough

UTM Philosophy News

2011-12 was a busy and important year for UTM Philosophy. Perhaps the most significant event was the external review of the department, its first ever. The UTM Philosophy faculty was praised for the quality of its teaching and research, with the reviewers noting, amongst publicly supported institutions of comparable size and student demographics in both Canada and abroad, that they “can think of none that offer students a better faculty and quality of instruction”. UTM Philosophy was also praised for the quality of its undergraduate programs, which were called “exemplary” and “first-rate”. The UTM students were praised for their enthusiasm and engagement.



Vana Persad and Gurpreet Rattan

The external review also offered some valuable suggestions for improvement for the department. Many of these suggestions made their way into the 2012-2017 Academic Plan for the department, and some are to be implemented this coming year. These include offering more courses at the fourth-year level (from two to three this year and eventually to four), and more courses with tutorials (from two courses to six courses). The department has also begun a comprehensive reform of its programs and curriculum.

UTM Philosophy hosted a number of academic events, including talks in the UTM Seminar Series by Doug Lavin (Harvard) and Stephen Houlgate (Warwick), and it is set to host a full slate of academic events in 2012-2013, including two exciting new series of talks: the Graduate Student Speaker Series, and the Philosophy Alumni Speaker Series. The Philosophy Academic Society was also active, hosting a talk by Russ-Shafer Landau (Wisconsin-Madison), a movie night, a Halloween party, and other fun events.

In late spring UTM Philosophy hosted its annual Graduation Party at which it presents its annual prizes. The Erindale Prize in Philosophy for academic achievement was presented to **Vana Persad**. The Gombay Prize in Philosophy for academic achievement and contribution to the intellectual life of the department was presented to co-recipients **Ammir Gill** and **Ben Whipps**.

Finally, UTM faculty received a number of honours and achieved some noteworthy successes. **Diana Raffman** had her book *Unruly Words: A Study of Vague Language* accepted for publication by Oxford University Press; **Jennifer Nagel** and **Sergio Tenenbaum** took up fellowships in Jerusalem and Oxford; **Mohan Matthen** was a Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Philosophy in London; **Jennifer, Sergio** and **Marleen Rozemond** received SSHRC Insight Grants; **Jonathan Weisberg** received tenure; **Ulrich Schloesser** successfully completed his Third Year Review; **Bernard Katz** was appointed Acting Vice-Dean, Graduate at UTM; and **Amy Mullin** continued to serve UTM as its Vice-Principal Academic and Dean. The department also thanks **Luke Gelin** for his contributions to UTM Philosophy this year, and



Ben Whipps and Ammir Gill

congratulates him on his Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health.

*Gurpreet Rattan
Interim Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto at Mississauga*

St. George *continued from Page 4*

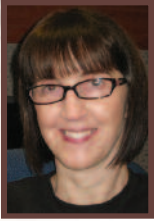
away. Last year enrolments in Philosophy courses increased by almost 6%; but they could have gone much higher, as long waiting lists remained for a number of courses. Our smaller courses aimed at majors and specialists are almost invariably packed.

The number of students enrolled in Philosophy programmes also increased last year, with a drop in the number of Specialists (a Faculty-wide phenomenon, apparently) offset by an increased number of Majors, with a boom in Philosophy Minors and increased enrolments in all Bioethics programmes.

At a time when traditional humanities education seems to be under siege in much of the world, it is nice to know that here at U of T St. George, the supply of Philosophy has to struggle to keep up with demand.

*Rachel Barney
Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies
(St. George)*

Notes from the Graduate Department



The 2011-12 academic year was a highly successful one for our graduate students. Six dissertations were completed and successfully defended, and our students presented their work at such prestigious venues as the Arizona Center for Consciousness Studies, the Princeton-Columbia Graduate Conference in History of Philosophy, the Yale Graduate Conference in Philosophy, the CPA, and the APA.

In April we held our 12th Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference on the theme *Varieties of Possibility*. The keynote speaker was Timothy Williamson, the Wykeham Professor of Logic at Oxford University. Our students did a superb job of responding both to Williamson's demanding paper and to fine papers by student speakers from Oxford, Rutgers, Berkeley, and Yale. Discussion was lively and, as usual, our graduate students provided the best possible advertisement for our graduate programs.

In September we will welcome an extremely strong group of 9 new MA students and 12 new PhD students who come to us from leading philosophy programs at Oxford, Chicago, UBC, Dalhousie, McGill, Western Ontario, and the U of T, among others. Their research interests include areas as diverse as (e.g.) cognitive science, philosophy of economics, Marxism, and medieval philosophy. Two of them have won 5-year Connaught Fellowships from the U of T, and two have been awarded 3-year doctoral Canada Graduate Scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC); two have won U of T Avie Bennett scholarships worth \$10,000 each, and one has received an Ontario Graduate Scholarship worth \$15,000. With the addition of these new awards, in 2012-13 our ranks will include three Connaught fellows, eight SSHRC fellows, and nine OGS winners. In addition, our 5th year PhD student **Ariel Zylberman**, who just completed a prestigious 3-year Vanier Scholarship from SSHRC, has won a Chancellor Jackman Graduate Fellowship at the Jackman Humanities Institute. This fellowship will provide Ariel with the coming year to complete and defend his dissertation free of TA and other instructional duties.

Although the job market saw no improvement over last year, our graduates achieved one of the top placement records in the profession. (A report from Duke University now ranks the U of T as #2 in the world for ultimate tenure-track placements in Philosophy.) **Sorin Bangu** accepted a tenured position as Associate Professor at the University of Bergen, and **Matt Fulkerson**, **Emily Fletcher**, and **Lauren Bialystock** accepted tenure-track assistant professorships at UC San Diego, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and OISE, respectively. **Katharine Browne**, **Luke Gelinas**, **Nicholas Riegel**, **Paula Schwebel**, **Eran Tal**, and **Doil Kim** will be postdoctoral fellows for 1, 2, or 3 years at the University of Oslo, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Universidad di Brasilia, the University of Antwerp, Bielefeld University, and Seoul National University respectively. **Janette Dinishak** will be a Visiting Professor at UC Santa Cruz, **Boyd Millar** at SUNY-Buffalo, and **Carolyn Richardson** at Holy Cross; **Charles Repp** will be a Lecturer at the U of T on the St. George campus. We are proud of them all!!

Diana Raffman
Associate Chair, Graduate Studies



Keynote speaker Prof. **Timothy Williamson** (2nd row, 3rd from the right) with some of the participants of the 2012 Grad Conference.

ALUMNI NEWS

William H.F. Altman (MA 1978), a high school Latin teacher in Lynchburg, Virginia, has informed us his book, *The German Stranger: Leo Strauss and National Socialism*, was published by Lexington Books in 2011. Two more books will be published, also by Lexington, in 2012: *Plato the Teacher: The Crisis of the Republic* and *Martin Heidegger and the First World War: Being and Time as Funeral Oration*.

Photo Credit: Jim Russell, SUNY Oswego



K. Brad Wray

K. Brad Wray (BA 1991), Associate Professor in the Philosophy Department at State University of New York, Oswego, informed us that Cambridge University Press published his book, *Kuhn's Evolutionary Social Epistemology*, in late 2011.

Nathan Morlando (BA 1992) wrote and directed the 2011 TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival) **Best Canadian First Feature Film**, "Edwin Boyd: Citizen Gangster."

J. Paul Reddam's (MA 1998) horse I'll Have Another won the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs, Louisville, Kentucky on May 5, and the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Track in Baltimore, Maryland on May 19. Tendonitis prevented I'll Have Another from competing in the Belmont Stakes which, if won, would have brought the Triple Crown.



Samantha Thompson (PhD, 2010) was the winner of the 2010 Dissertation Essay Contest sponsored by the Philosophy Education Society, the publisher of *The Review of Metaphysics*. Samantha's submission, "What Goodness Is: Order as Imitation of Unity in Augustine," a chapter in her dissertation *Augustine on Suffering and Order: Punishment in Context*, appeared in the March 2012 issue (65:3) of *The Review of Metaphysics*.

Career Night 2012



Philosophy Alumni offered their advice and insights to our 3rd and 4th year students again this year in February. This year's panelists were **Annette Colavita** (BA, 1995; B.Ed 1997), Vice Principal, Toronto District School Board; **Joanna Birenbaum** (BA, 1992; LLM, 1995), Director of Litigation, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund; and **David Danylewich** (BA, 1993; M.A., 2004), Senior Director, Right to Play International, pictured here with Arthur Ripstein.

ACLS Awards

Our alumni received three of the four research fellowships given to philosophers in 2012 by the **American Council of Learned Societies**:

Katherine Thomson-Jones (PhD, 2003), Assistant Professor at Oberlin, for her project, "The Philosophy of Digital Art";

Shelley Weinberg (PhD, 2008), Assistant Professor at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, for "Whereby I Am My Self to My Self: A New Reading of Consciousness in Locke"; and

Stephen Yablo (BSc, 1979), Professor at MIT, for "Aboutness: A Theory of Subject Matter, with Applications."

Another Fellowship Made Possible by Alumnus **Sidney Robinson**

Sidney Robinson (BA 1961, MA 1962, LL.B 1966) has generously endowed another graduate scholarship in Ancient Philosophy.

With a Match of \$50,000 from a new matching fund announced by the Provost, the gift will enable the Department to attract top international graduate students.

YOU CAN HELP!

You can help secure another fellowship.

The program provides matching funds in units of \$50,000, and a friend of the department has already pledged \$25,000. If we can raise another \$25,000, we can secure another match.

Pledges must be made by December 31, 2012, and paid in full by December 31, 2013. Every little bit helps.

For more information, contact Arthur Ripstein at chair.philosophy@utoronto.ca

New Faculty



Julia Nefsky was hired as an assistant professor at UTSC specializing in Moral and Political Philosophy.



Franz Huber begins his tenure-track appointment as assistant professor in Metaphysics and Epistemology at the downtown campus in January 2013. Besides M&E Franz also specializes in Philosophy of Science, Logic, and Philosophy of Language.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Langan

March 20, 1929 – May 25, 2012.

In 1973, a fellow undergraduate Philosophy Specialist invited me to join him in a seminar conducted by Thomas Langan – “an outstanding Professor like no other.” That class – moving between the thought of Marshall McLuhan, Bucky Fuller, Kant and Hegel—was the beginning of a relationship that defined Tom as my revered Professor, esteemed colleague, and lifelong friend.

His interests ranged from Continental Philosophy to Catholicism to Philosophy of History. Completing his Ph.D. at the Institut Catholique de Paris, he joined our Department in 1967. As a Fulbright Research Professor at the Albert Ludwigs-Universitaet, he had met and worked with Martin Heidegger himself. I still recommend Tom’s book *The Meaning of Heidegger* to my students as one of the best, most honest introductions to Heidegger’s work.

Tom had many publications to his name, including two modern philosophy books co-authored with the renowned Catholic philosopher, Etienne Gilson. His books on Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty cemented his reputation in Continental thought.

But I know that he will have said that his most important work occurred in his later years, with the publication of a set of volumes, detailing his own philosophy of history. The series begins with *Tradition and Authenticity in the Search for Ecumenic Wisdom* (1992). “We should not forget that traditions hand us concrete possibility,” he writes. “All genuine creativity, all worthwhile opening of the future...is rooted in the best the past has to offer, even when the new corrects the old.”

Being and Truth (1996) continues to lay the groundwork for a philosophy of history that respects phenomenology’s interpretive moment, while never sacrificing the quest for objectivity of formal truth. Concerned that “postmodernist intellectuals” have come to treat “large claims of the great traditions as subjectivist twaddle,” he urges instead “peaceful but honest discourse” about ontological questions and an epistemology “beyond subjectivism and objectivism.”

The Catholic Tradition (1998) is Tom’s actual appropriation of a tradition within which he has been immersed. Here, he explores “what is involved in trying to wrap one’s mind around thirty-five hundred years of history.” It is a book that philosopher and *Review of Metaphysics* editor Jude Dougherty calls a “veritable treasure.” That deep interest in the Catholic tradition inspired him and his wife Janine (an exceptional thinker in her own right) to establish the “Christianity and Culture Program” at St. Michael’s College.

Then, way ahead of his time, he published *Surviving the Age of Virtual Reality* (2000), describing a world system that is “so new and powerful” as to be “unprecedented, and hence unpredictable.” With the editorial assistance of Antonio Calcagno, his last volume, published in 2009, presents final thoughts on *Human Being: A Philosophical Anthropology*.

And I cannot help but add that he worked for some years with my father in his architectural/planning firm, on the UNCHS award-winning *Construyamos* project that provided self-help housing to the poor in Colombia. Tom was no ordinary philosopher.

With Tom’s passing, the Department of Philosophy has lost a unique phenomenologist, philosopher of history, impassioned teacher, renowned author and esteemed colleague. And most importantly, many of us have lost a dear friend.

— by Ingrid Stefanovic

James Patrick Reilly, Jr.

Professor James P. Reilly, Jr. (MA, 1949, PhD, 1951), passed away peacefully June 17, 2012. Jim was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1921; at the start of the war he joined the U.S. Marines and served in the Pacific. Afterwards he completed three degrees and a licentiate.

He was a member of the Philosophy Department and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies from 1976 until his retirement in 1989. In addition Jim was an Editor at the Leonine Commission which was charged with the publication of Thomas Aquinas’ *Commentary on the Metaphysics of Aristotle*.

RETIREMENT

Lynda Lange

The Philosophy Department at UTSC is not *altogether* happy to mark the retirement of Professor Lynda Lange. She will be missed as a colleague and her departure leaves a big gap in our program (to be partially filled by our new hire Julia Nefsky).

Lynda has taught at UTSC for more than 23 years since coming here in 1989, but her association with the University of Toronto goes back much further. Lynda was born in Winnipeg, late as could be in the lives of her parents, both of whom, incredible as it may seem, were actually part of the pioneer movement to the west before the first world war.

After taking a B.A. and M.A. at the University of Manitoba, Lynda moved to Toronto with her three year old daughter Karen to further study philosophy in 1973. She was the first single mother to enter the doctoral program. Since it was the 1970s and academic feminism was at a nascent stage, she accomplished several other firsts.

Her dissertation on the thought of Jean-Jacques Rousseau was the first feminist thesis in the Department of Philosophy. While a graduate student, she taught the first feminist philosophy course at U of T in 1976, the same year that her article 'Reproduction in Democratic Theory' was published. With Lorene Clark she co-edited *The Sexism of Social and Political Theory* (University of Toronto Press), the first volume of feminist critique of the traditions of political philosophy, which appeared in 1979.

Finishing her PhD in 1980, Lynda entered the desperately meager job market in philosophy in the 1980s, a market especially weak in the areas of her particular interests. Thus she spent the 1980s mostly on research grants, in Alberta and the Northwest Territories, until Philosophy at the University of Toronto Scarborough advertised a job in 'feminist philosophy', the first Canadian university to do so.

Apart from work on Rousseau and other works of feminist critique, her interests have had two basic strands. One is postcolonial studies in philosophy, for which a course was created at UTSC and taught by her from 1997 onward.

The other strand has been feminist theory, with interests most recently in global gender justice.

Lynda currently lives in Toronto with her husband Dan Proudfoot, an automotive journalist, near the bottom of Rouge Park overlooking Lake Ontario.

We all join in wishing Lynda the happiest of retirements and further success in all her endeavours, philosophical and otherwise.



Promotions & Appointments

Robert Gibbs has been reappointed Director of the Jackman Humanities Institute for 2012-2017. He has also been appointed a member of the Governing Council of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Bernard Katz has been appointed Acting Vice-Dean, Graduate at UTM.

Philip Kremer was promoted to Full Professor.

Jonathan Weisberg received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.



Katz

Faculty Awards

MORE HONOURS FOR HACKING

The Spring of 2012 was a season of honours for University Professor Emeritus **Ian Hacking**:

- On April 17, 2012, the President of Austria inducted Ian Hacking to the *Österreichisches Ehrenzeichen für Wissenschaft und Kunst* (Austrian Decoration of Honour for Science and Arts) of which there are 72 living members. There are at most 18 foreign members in the Science section, which Ian has now joined.
- In February and March Ian gave the **Gaos lectures** at the National Autonomous University of Mexico on the theme 'The Mathematical Animal: Philosophical Thoughts about Mathematics as a Human Activity.'
- On March 17, the *Wall Street Journal* published an article by Asti Hustvedt on the Five Best Books on Hysteria, of which Ian Hacking's *Mad Travelers* (1998) was one.
- He received an honorary **doctorate of letters** from Carleton University in June.
- And his paper "What Makes Mathematics Mathematics," was included in *Best Writing on Mathematics 2011*, Mircea Pitici (editor), Princeton University Press, 2012.



Arthur Ripstein with Ian Hacking, who is wearing his Austrian Decoration of Honour for Science and Art

Joseph Heath received the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation's **Trudeau Fellowship** in recognition of his contributions to critical social theory.

Mohan Matthen was elected a **Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada**. Mohan has also received funding through the **Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts** for a conference to be held in February 2013 on "Thinking about Dinner: The New Culture of Eating and Dining" (The 2012-2013 theme at the Jackman Humanities Institute is Food.)

Arthur Ripstein received the 2012 **University of Toronto Alumni Association Faculty Award** for consistently demonstrating excellence in both teaching and research. Besides having an international reputation as a leader in political and legal philosophy, Arthur has shown his devotion to his students and to the University.

Undergraduate Student Awards

Trevor Teitel, (4th year Philosophy specialist) received a **University of Toronto Excellence Award** in the Social Sciences and Humanities to enable him to conduct research on Semantic Aspects of Aristotle's Ethics under the supervision of Professor **Brad Inwood** this summer.

Richard Wu (4th year Philosophy specialist) has received a **Jackman Humanities Institute Undergraduate Fellowship**. He will participate in weekly lunch seminars with the JHI Fellows while he works under the guidance of Professor Frances Garrett (Religion) on his year-long project, "Consuming Food – Consuming Information."

ethica SCHOLARSHIP

Daniel Adler was the final recipient of the *ethica* scholarship. Daniel completed his Honours BA in Bioethics and Peace & Conflict Studies this June, and begins studying for an MSc in philosophy with a specialization in ethics at the University of Edinburgh in September – an endeavour both inspired and made possible by this scholarship.




The bioethics scholarship was set up by *ethica* Clinical Research Inc in 2007 to be awarded for five years to honour **Barry F. Brown** (MA 1963, PhD 1966), professor emeritus and founder of the undergraduate bioethics program at the U of T and St. Michael's College. Barry is also the Chair of *ethica*'s Ethics Review Committee. The department and the scholarship winners have been grateful to *ethica* and its President, **Janice Parente**, for setting up this scholarship.

RESEARCH NOTES

This past year, as every year, we've had a number of faculty on research leaves or fellowships. Some brief notes follow on the research some of them have accomplished.

JOSEPH HEATH'S SSHRC RESEARCH TIME STIPEND




One of the reasons that climate change is such a difficult problem to resolve is that the people who are being asked to shoulder the major costs of carbon abatement (all of us alive today) are not the ones who will receive the major benefits (those who will be alive a century from now). The standard response of government planners, when dealing with choices that have a significant temporal dimension, is to *discount* the stream of future benefits, so that their present value is steadily reduced the further removed they are from us in time. The problem is that the rates at which governments usually discount future benefits, for things like infrastructure projects, produce extremely controversial results when applied to a longer-term problem like climate change.

It is generally acknowledged that, in the past, these discount rates have been chosen in an ad hoc way – in part because a difference of one or two per cent wasn't that important when applied to a problem on a timescale of 10 or 20 years. When you start discounting on a timescale of 100 years, however, small differences suddenly start to make a very large difference. Thus the problem of climate change led to a renewed search for a more principled basis for the choice of social discount rate.

My current research project, funded by the SSHRC Strategic Grants Program on Environmental Sustainability, attempts to contribute to this search. There are two major arguments that I have been developing. The first involves tackling the “non-reciprocity problem” that is thought to afflict contractualist theories. Briefly, this is the view that social contract theory licenses no obligations toward future generations, because we are unable to enter into cooperative interactions with them. I have been trying to show that this is only true if one adopts an overly simplistic conception of reciprocity. My second ambition is to prise consequentialists off of the view that the only morally acceptable social discount rate is zero. The problem with adopting a rate of zero is that it expands the circle of moral concern to include an infinite number of potential people, which makes it impossible to do cost-benefit calculations in a wide range of different scenarios.

MARK KINGWELL'S JHI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



The research project I proposed for the year at the Jackman Humanities Institute was intended to probe the question of how real public spaces function within the shifting terrain of third-millennium politics. That is, how can cities, in particular ‘gateway’ or ‘arrival’ cities, such as Toronto, with a net majority of citizens born in other countries, negotiate the political demands of difference and competition? What sorts of theoretical mechanisms and policy levers will be adequate to the challenges of, for example, debates over the clothing associated with religious belief? Relating to the 2011-12 research theme – “Location/Dislocation” – I called this project “Dislocations of Democracy.”

The Jackman year allowed me to make substantial progress in background study for my anticipated monograph on postmodern arrival-city democracy, using the time of the fellowship for some much needed dedicated reading (Tocqueville, Fukuyama, Ranciere). More concretely, I published, or have forthcoming, a series of papers that address various aspects of the “dislocations” theme. The most significant of them will be included in my new essay collection *Unruly Voices: Essays on Democracy, Civility, and the Human Imagination*, which will appear in September 2012. I also gave presentations and keynotes to various groups, both scholarly and in the public realm, test-flying various ideas – especially about legitimacy, gift economies, and public space – that will appear eventually in printed form. The presentation I gave to the other JHI fellows in the research cluster (we met weekly for lunches and talks) will appear later this year in an edited volume.

The other fellows were stimulating company, both at these lunches and elsewhere. Drawn from a variety of disciplines (English, geography, philosophy) and using different notions of location (architectural, historical, phenomenological), they created the best kind of interdisciplinary environment for someone interested in bringing philosophy into contact with other discourses, and indeed with the lived experience of a city. Every week brought some new insight or question that has stayed with me.

The year also offered unexpected gifts. One of the undergraduate fellows organized several ‘urban geography’ walks, the first of which, with my friend Shawn Micallef, traced Dupont Street from St. George to Lansdowne.

see **KINGWELL** on Page 15

RESEARCH NOTES

MOHAN MATTHEN ON HIS SABBATICAL



I spent almost half of this sabbatical year away from Toronto, finding out about new (to me) academic environments. The Institute of Philosophy in London generously gave me a fellowship for three months; my only duty was to hang out and do my own work. They gave me a flat and a desk in a shared office. The two being only a couple of blocks apart, it was a very

pleasant sojourn, in addition to being intellectually rewarding. Then the University of Bielefeld in Germany gave me a similar fellowship for two months, and this gave me a chance not only to work in their excellent (and very accessible and convenient) library, but also to learn about philosophy, especially philosophy of science, in Germany. Here's what I can report: the analytic tradition in philosophy of mind and philosophy of science is thriving in Europe, and in certain large areas (such as philosophy of perception) there is more excitement in Europe than in North America. Europe's back, and it has been very good to make a lot of new contacts and learn a lot about the subject.

During this year, I have been working on three big projects. I am editing the *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Perception*, a collection of overview essays that will (I hope) have a transformative influence on this new sub-area. This has been arduous: there are 46 entries amounting to something like 400,000 words (or 1000 pages in print). I am certainly learning a lot by reading these entries closely.

Secondly, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada awarded me a Partnership Development Grant to establish (what we now call) the Network for Sensory Research, a collaborative venture involving the University of Toronto alongside London, Glasgow, Harvard, and MIT. We are establishing inter-disciplinary connections (mostly with psychologists) to discuss issues concerning perception. We are also networking our graduate students, so that they can have access to a much larger field of expertise than in any one of our institutions.

Finally, my own work! I am developing a notion of perceptually exploring the world—an active process by which we humans interrogate the world by using our senses to answer questions about the objects that we come in contact with. It turns out that this notion has a lot of theoretically interesting potential. It throws new light on empirical knowledge, the division of the senses, the nature of our models of the world. One of the great things about a sabbatical is that one can “blue sky” ideas like this. Once one is back to the routine of normal teaching, one can hunker down and work them out in a more disciplined and scholarly way. It does one good to feel free and unconstrained one year in every seven.

MARGIE MORRISON ON HER SABBATICAL



Some of my earlier work dealt with the question of how abstract mathematical models in fields like physics and biology can deliver concrete information about the systems they purport to describe. The question is philosophically perplexing because models typically involve idealized descriptions that bear little relation to the empirical world. Most recently the focus of that research has extended to an investigation of the representational aspects of computer simulation and an evaluation of the data provided by simulation.

The epistemic status of computer simulation as a tool for knowledge production is interesting not only in its resemblance to mathematical modeling, but also because of its role in experimentation. In some areas of physics where data are sparse or difficult to collect, simulation data are interpreted as “computer measurements” or they are combined with experimental data (via a method known as data analysis) to provide input parameters for theoretical models.

The question that arises is how we should interpret these data: are they simply another form of calculation of the type performed with mathematical models or are they comparable to experimental measurements? The question is important because simulation is playing an increasingly central and necessary role in scientific investigation, not only in the field of climate modeling but also in experiments performed at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland).

My research aims at providing some answers to these questions with an eye to determining when and under what conditions simulated data can be understood as a form of experimental measurement. The methodological practices associated with computer simulation, especially the features associated with verification and validation of computational models, raise a host of issues not only about the status of simulation but also more general epistemic and ontological questions about the nature of data and the changing face of experimental practices in many sciences. By engaging with these kinds of issues philosophy of science can engage with scientific practice in mutually beneficial and informative ways.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO - DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
PHILOSOPHY NEWS

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JENNIFER NAGEL ON HER SABBATICAL

I spent the year working on a monograph integrating recent empirical work on mental state ascription with recent philosophical work on the nature of knowledge and belief. At any given time my desk was swamped with articles on social interactions between nonhuman primates, implicit false belief recognition in nine-month-old babies, cross-linguistic work on the universality of verbs meaning 'know' and 'think', and philosophical papers on the abstract relationships between knowledge, modality, chance and degree of confidence. I encountered many interesting facts along the way, including, for example, the fact that Edmund Gettier was not the first person to concoct scenarios involving justified true belief falling short of knowledge: the classical Indian epistemologist Dharmottara beat him to this by 1200 years.

I spent the fall semester in Jerusalem, at the Institute for Advanced Studies, where I participated in a research group on "Practical and Theoretical Rationality" (is there any part of philosophy that *wouldn't* be handled by such a group?). Discussions in Jerusalem were vigorous, frank, and often interrupted by cell phone calls. I spent the next seven months in the ivory towers of All Souls College in Oxford, where I did not hear a cell phone ring, even once, and conversations were very hushed during afternoon tea. The much quieter environment of All Souls still provided very useful intellectual stimulation, much of it interdisciplinary in character: I had the pleasure of many conversations with historians, psychologists, linguists and physicists, alongside the philosophers for whom Oxford is now so well known. I also ended up taking on the outrageous task of condensing everything I know about knowledge into 35,000 words for Oxford University Press's *Very Short Introductions* series. Here's hoping I can squeeze something about Dharmottara into that volume. ...

SERGIO TENENBAUM ON HIS SABBATICAL

I have been working throughout the year on a book-length project on the nature of action and instrumental rationality. In the first half of my sabbatical, I was a member of a research group on the topic "Theoretical and Practical Rationality" in the Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem. We were twelve philosophers (five from Israel and seven from the UK and North America) in the lovely Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. We had very lively weekly presentations, various reading groups, informal meetings, a big conference, and a couple of tourist excursions. We would also meet every day for lunch, and although most of our lunchtime conversations revolved around, of course, gossip and Israeli politics, some of the debates of the other activities would inevitably resurface there. And if this weren't enough

to create a very intense work environment, all the "foreigners" but one lived in the same building.

After this very busy time in Jerusalem, I spent my next semester at an expansive office in the beautiful grounds of Magdalen College at Oxford,

many yards away from the nearest philosopher. A Visiting Fellow at Magdalen has no obligations, except perhaps to take his or her children punting (the college owns some nicely coloured punts) and to climb to the top of the magnificent Magdalen Tower with them. Although I missed the social charm and intellectual stimulation of being always surrounded by bright and nice philosophers, quiet time can be invaluable when one is trying to get writing done.

Perhaps it's also worth mentioning that Jerusalem and Oxford are two of the most beautiful cities I've ever been to. Not bad places to spend a year...

MARLEEN ROZEMOND ON HER SABBATICAL



My current research concerns the question how philosophers during the 17th and 18th century tried to show that the human soul is an immaterial, immortal being. During my research leave in the Fall of 2011 I continued work on this project by writing and publishing a paper on Descartes's dualism and its relationship to the nature of body, "Real Distinction,

Separability and Corporeal Substance in Descartes" in the *Midwest Studies in Philosophy*. I also presented this paper at Yale University. In addition, I presented a paper on a well-known argument in Leibniz against materialism, "Mills Can't Think: Leibniz' Approach to the Mind-Body Problem", at the Berlin-Toronto Workshop in early modern philosophy that took place in Berlin in November. Finally, I wrote several articles for a novel project on Descartes, a large lexicon on his philosophy with contributions from dozens of philosophers from a large number of countries, to be published by Cambridge University Press.



Sergio Tenenbaum punting in Oxford with Jennifer Nagel and their son Alex

...more research on Page 15

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES DURING 2011-2012

World Philosophy Day

Martin Lin, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University, returned to the U of T (he was one of our faculty members from 2001 to 2007), to speak as our 2011 World Philosophy Day Lecturer on "Philosophy and its History – Questions of Methodology in the History of Philosophy." It was reported that our upper year undergrads were quite excited by the lecture, and faculty members were happy to be interacting with him during his visit.



Tri-Campus Panel

On the evening of February 29 the three undergraduate philosophy groups, UTM's Philosophy Academic Society, UTSC's Association of Philosophy Students, and the Philosophy Course Union at the St. George campus, hosted a panel at which faculty from all three campuses discussed their views on "How to Best Approach on Ethical Question." Some of the questions posed to Professors **Hurka**, **Clark**, **Sepielli**, and **Seager** focused on how we can come to know that something is ethical and how we are able to know that an action is or is not ethical.

2012 PHILOSOPHY BOOK LAUNCH



The Department's 25th Annual Book Launch, held on March 2nd, 2012, featured:

James Robert Brown
Platonism, Naturalism and Mathematical Knowledge
Routledge, 2011

James Robert Brown
Philosophy of Science: Key Thinkers
Continuum, 2012

Colin Howson
Objecting to God
Cambridge University Press, 2011

Thomas Hurka
Drawing Morals
Oxford University Press, 2011

Miriam Griffin and **Brad Inwood**, translators
Lucius Annaeus Seneca: On Benefits
University of Chicago Press, 2011

Joshua Glenn and **Mark Kingwell**, Illustrations by Seth
The Wage Slave's Glossary
Biblioasis, 2011



Authors *Brad Inwood*, *Tom Hurka*, *Paul Thompson*, *Ingrid Stefanovic*, *Wayne Sumner*, *Bill Seager*, *Jim Brown*. Not pictured: *Colin Howson*, *Mark Kingwell*.

Jamie Tappenden, Achille Varzi and **William Seager**, editors
Truth and Values: Essays for Hans Herzberger
University of Calgary Press, 2011

Ingrid Leman Stefanovic and Stephen Bede Scharper, editors
The Natural City: Re-Envisioning the Built Environment

University of Toronto Press, 2011

L. Wayne Sumner
Assisted Death: A Study in Ethics and Law
Oxford University Press, 2011

Paul R. Thompson
Agro-Technology: A Philosophical Introduction
Cambridge University Press, 2011

Alumni are invited to attend the 2013 Philosophy Book Launch which will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2013, 4-6 pm, at the Jackman Humanities Building, 170 St. George Street, Room 418.

RESEARCH NOTES *CONTINUED*

JENNIFER WHITING ON HER SABBATICAL



My year was devoted to pleasure. Socrates was right: it is inseparable from pain. I toiled over two notoriously difficult texts and am pleased that the results will soon appear as “Fools’ Pleasures in Plato’s *Philebus*” (in an Oxford University Press volume) and “The Pleasures of Thinking Together: Prolegomenon to a complete reading of *Eudemian Ethics* 7.12” (in a Brill

volume). The latter, in which I found myself needing to reconstruct the (heavily corrupted) text before I could interpret it, is an object lesson in the pleasures not to mention the benefits of thinking together with friends, especially **Brad Inwood**.

Both pieces continue my exploration of ways in which ancient authors display something closer than usually allowed to the so-called “modern” conception of self-consciousness typically associated with Descartes. “Fools’ Pleasures” seeks – by reading the overworked example of false anticipatory pleasures as part of the sequence in which it is only the first step – to show Plato dealing with the flip-side of the sort of epistemic privilege typically

associated with the first-person present-tense point of view: namely, foolishness (which its subject cannot, when in its grip, recognize for what it is).

The general themes here – pleasure, knowledge of self and other, self-deception and various illusions due to the temporal distance from which we consider our own experiences – explain why I spent the spring term at Harvard attending Richard Moran’s course on Proust, reading Proust’s opus magnum cover-to-cover for the first time and laying the foundation for future work (and a seminar I hope to teach in 2012-13) on Time, Self and Imagination.

KINGWELL *continued from Page 11*

The walk was an inspiration for a public art intervention with the two-person collective Blue Republic, aMAZEd, that I created for the 2012 Luminato Festival of Art and Creativity in Toronto. The year’s theme was also reflected in original art work installed on the 10th floor of the Jackman Humanities Building, where the Institute is housed.

Next year I return to my regular teaching commitments in the Department of Philosophy, including the undergraduate seminar in which I will try to focus and extend the idea of “dislocations of democracy” with the help of some (I hope willing) philosophical interlocutors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The University of Toronto Colloquium in Mediaeval Philosophy

Friday, September 21, 2012

Charles Manekin (Maryland), “Belief, Knowledge, and Scientia (‘True Knowledge’) in the Hebrew Aristotelian Tradition.”

Saturday, September 22, 2012

Eileen Sweeney (Boston College), “Albert the Great, Aquinas, and Bonaventure on Science.”

Nate Bulthuis (Cornell), “Walter Burley on the Language of Thought.”

T J Paasch (Georgetown), “Medieval Theories of Causal Powers.”

Matthew Siebert (Toronto), “Second-Hand Knowledge.”

Stephen Dumont (Notre Dame), “Intension and Remission of Forms: The Debate between Wylton and Burley.”

The colloquium is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, the Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Studies, and the Centre for Medieval Studies.

All sessions are free and open to the public.

For more information please see <http://cpamp.utoronto.ca/utcmp.html> or contact medieval.philosophy@utoronto.ca

Colloquia and Special Lectures

October 11, 2012 – Dominik Perler (Humboldt University, Berlin), **Edith Bruce Memorial Lecture on Immortality**, “Who Will Survive? A Medieval Thought Experiment on Immortality”

November 15, 2012 – Gideon Rosen (Princeton), **World Philosophy Day Lecture**

November 22, 2012 – Ruth Chang (Rutgers), **Colloquium**

March 19 and 21, 2013 – Donald Rutherford (UC San Diego), **Simon Lectures**

May 3, 2013 – Julia Annas (Arizona), **Colloquium and keynote lecture of the annual Graduate Philosophy Conference**

Each talk will take place at the Jackman Humanities Building, Room 100, (170 St. George Street) at 3:15 pm and will be followed by a reception.

Please check our website, www.philosophy.utoronto.ca for details.



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