



Philosophy News

IAN HACKING WINS BALZAN PRIZE!

SEE PAGE 3

PRACTICAL ETHICS — SHELLY KAGAN ON SPECIESISM

By Ellen Roseman

Shelly Kagan, the Clark Professor of Philosophy at Yale University, drew a capacity crowd to the Roseman Lecture in Practical Ethics last fall.

He is an engaging, funny and whip-smart speaker. And he chose an intriguing topic, one that is not usually explored in mainstream philosophy courses. The title: What's wrong with speciesism? In a bestselling 1975 book, *Animal Liberation*, Australian philosopher Peter Singer claimed that most of us are "speciesists" in our attitude toward, and treatment of, animals.

Speciesism is supposed to be a kind of morally unjustified prejudice, akin to racism or sexism, Kagan said in his notes for the lecture. "Although I found that charge compelling for years, I now find that I have my doubts," he explained. "It now seems to me that most people are not actually speciesists at all, but something rather different."



Shelly Kagan with Ellen Roseman

Singer, now a bioethics professor at Princeton University, created a splash when he called for an animal rights movement. Kagan read the book while in graduate school. He became a vegetarian.

But in a second reading of the book in 2011, while preparing to give an animal ethics seminar to Yale students, Kagan found some of Singer's arguments less

than persuasive. "People have rights. Animals don't," he tells me after the lecture. "There's a huge crowd of people working on this issue. I thought a lot of the arguments were weak."

Kagan thinks the crucial concept is to define the meaning of a "person." Going back to British philosopher John Locke's work

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Shelly Kagan on Speciecism

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in the 17th century, he defines a person as a creature that is self-conscious, rational, intelligent and able to communicate. An animal is not a person, he argues. Only *homo sapiens* fits that category. His one-hour talk went by in a flash. He talked quickly and rarely checked his notes.

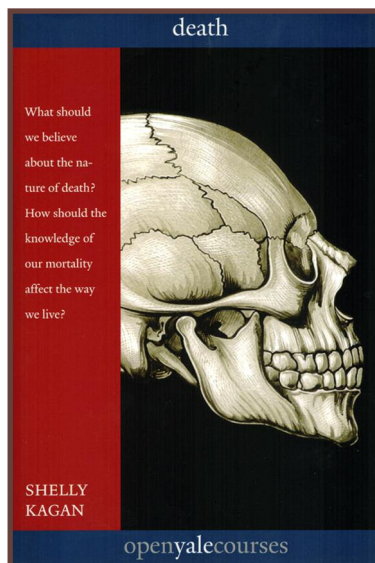
He answered questions with ease. He looked comfortable, showing a level of informality not always found in academia. He wore faded jeans, a flannel shirt and sneakers. His hair and beard could have used a trim. And he sat cross-legged at the front of the Jackman Humanities Building's lecture hall.

While other lecturers stand or walk from side to side, Kagan likes to sit on a table or shelf. He's very animated, crossing and recrossing his legs, gesticulating with his arms and turning his head from side to side.

Don't take my word for it. You can see him on YouTube, where he appears in many televised lectures, interviews and debates. Start by watching him introduce his Open Yale Courses Series on death, which has received about 325,000 views since 2008.

He adapted the lectures into a paperback book called *Death* (Yale University Press, 2012), also available as a Kindle and Kobo e-book.

In an online review, one person said: "I've never had so much fun thinking about my own death!"



Highly recommended for philosophers and non-philosophers alike." Kagan's teaching style is very visual, another reviewer said. He explains just about everything with examples – and thought-provoking examples at that.

While making a name for himself in North America talking about death, he also became famous in China. "The Chinese were not exposed to any philosophy outside of Marxism," he says. Students liked the way he sat on the podium with his legs crossed, said a Yale News article in 2010.

"His image, resembling that of an 'immortal' in Chinese mythology, has made him a star closely followed by the youth in China," the article said, quoting China National Radio.

"Ever since Kagan's philosophy class *Death* appeared on the Internet, many young people in China scramble for the lectures given by this unconventional professor who could have been considered 'out of line,' according to the traditional Chinese standard of teaching style and manner."

Kagan, 59, was born in Skokie, Illinois. He received his B.A. from Wesleyan University in Connecticut (where he met his wife) and his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1982. Before moving to Yale in 1995, he taught at the University of Pittsburgh with David Gauthier, former chairman of the University of Toronto's philosophy department from 1974 to 1979. Gauthier, now professor emeritus and living in Toronto, came to the lecture on speciecism and asked a question at the end.

Kagan has written four books. *The Geometry of Desert* (Oxford University Press, 2012) looks at the idea of giving people what they morally deserve. He took 20 years to complete the work, but it seems to have paid off. "An extraordinary accomplishment," said Larry Temkin of Rutgers University. "It is the most comprehensive and thoughtful discussion of the topic of desert in the literature."

It's easy to see that Kagan loves teaching. He can't imagine a better job. "I feel like I'm on a paid vacation," he says. "I have a reputation of being a hard grader, but I do it out of respect for students. I take a paper apart and put it together again, explaining what I liked and didn't like. It's not unusual for my comments to be longer than the paper itself."

He oozes self-confidence. "My ego is very secure," he tells me. "I'm not a humble person." This can be off-putting to some, but he's also known as a crowd-pleaser and an unforgettable character. His online lectures have touched thousands of people and introduced them to a more rigorous way of thinking about life, death and morality.

Ian Hacking wins 2014 Balzan Prize

Ian Hacking has been awarded the 2014 Balzan Prize. The Balzan Prizes are awarded in two scientific areas and two areas in the social sciences and humanities each year, rotating through different subjects. This year's theme was Epistemology and the Philosophy of Mind.

Hacking's contributions to these areas come from his groundbreaking work on questions about the nature of concepts and the ways in which we reason with them. In a recent article, Hacking characterizes his project in the following terms: "How did a species like ours, on an Earth like this, develop a few quite general strategies for finding out about, and altering, its world?"

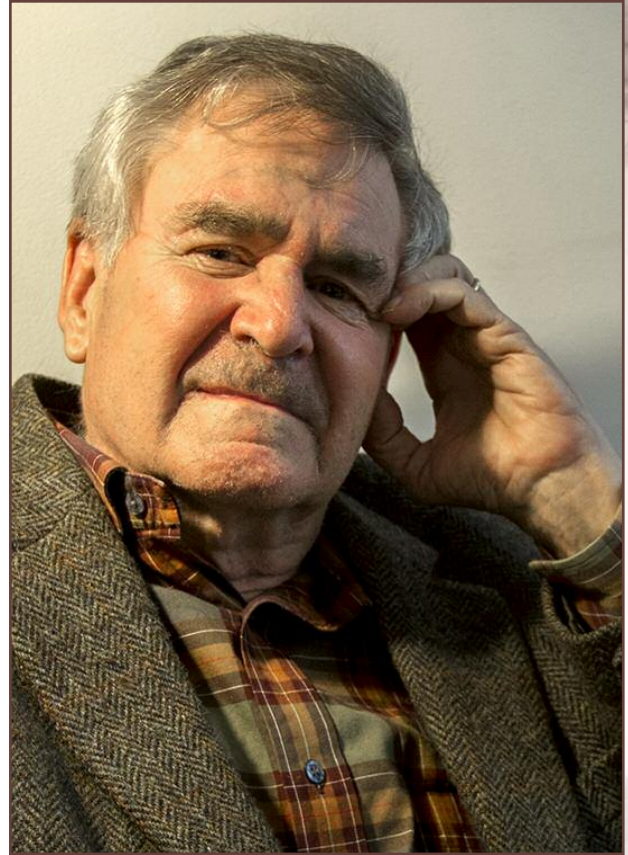
In the Prize Citation, the Committee drew attention to Hacking's "fundamental and pioneering contributions to philosophy and the history of social and natural sciences, for the thematic breadth of his research, for his original epistemological perspective centred on a version of scientific realism and defined in contrast with the dominant paradigm in the philosophy of science of the twentieth century."

Only three other philosophers have been awarded Balzan Prizes in the past 54 years: Emanuel Levinas, Thomas Nagel and Ronald Dworkin. The Prize is valued at 750,000 Swiss francs (nearly \$900,000).

In 2001, the Balzan Foundation introduced a requirement that "Prizewinners must destine half of the prize to finance research projects that are preferably carried out by young scholars or scientists."

Ian and several of his colleagues, including former provost Cheryl Misak, are developing a project spanning four or five years that will continue and celebrate his work on 'styles of reasoning'.

While celebrating Ian's past and ongoing achievements, the prize also provides us with an opportunity to look



to the Department's bright future in both Epistemology and in the Philosophy of Mind.

Franz Huber (St. George), **Jennifer Nagel** (UTM), and **Jonathan Weisberg** (UTM) are all rising stars in the field of Epistemology; **Imogen Dickie** (St. George), **Benj Hellie** (UTSC), **Mohan Matthen** (UTM), **Diana Raffman** (UTM), **Bill Seager** (UTSC), and **Sonia Sedivy** (UTSC) have made the department a major center for the Philosophy of Mind. In addition, the St. George department will be making a junior appointment in the Philosophy of Mind this year.



Notes from the St. George Undergraduate Department

Having at the end of June completed my three-year stint as Undergraduate

Coordinator for the St. George Philosophy Department, I can look back with ~~almost euphoric relief~~ ~~maniacal laughter~~ ~~an Edward Munch scream~~ — no no, it was fine really.

If anything, I can look back with a certain quiet satisfaction, bordering on pride. Not pride in what I did, since I did very little; pride in our students and in my colleagues, for whom

so little needed to be done.

At a time when the humanities seem to be under attack everywhere, and students are under more pressure than ever to choose drearily preprofessional training over an education, we somehow seem to be in very good health. U of T students still love to learn, and our students appreciate the value of

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From the Previous Chair

Arthur Ripstein

It has been a privilege serving you and working with all of you over the past three years. When I was appointed I worried that colleagues might think of bringing in someone whose primary appointment was at the faculty of law as some unwelcome form of academic receivership. I was delighted to be welcomed, and to get to know everyone in the department much better than I had.

When I took office, the department was extremely strong. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we have consolidated and built on those strengths. I am particularly pleased with the outstanding hires the tri-campus department has made over the past three years, each of whom has raised the quality of our already strong department.

I am delighted to welcome **James Allen**, **Andrew Franklin-Hall**, **Waheed Hussain**, **Jim John**, and **Nick Stang**, who officially joined the department July 1.

I leave the department in capable hands. **Brad Inwood** will be Acting FAS Chair and Interim Graduate Chair for one year, after which **Martin Pickavé** will take over as Chair.



Puckering

The end of my term coincided with **Suzanne Puckering's** last day as the department's Business Officer and Office Manager. Suzanne outlasted me by a remarkable two decades, providing 23 years of outstanding service to the Department. Many of you will have already had an opportunity to meet her successor, **Ben Eldridge**, over the past month. Please join me in thanking Suzanne and welcoming Ben.

Other changes are also taking place.

Rachel Barney completed her term as St. George Undergraduate coordinator. **Tom Berry** took over that position as of July 1, while continuing in his role as tri-campus TA coordinator.



Arthur surfs away

Peter King has completed his term as Placement officer, and **Mark Kingwell** has taken over.

I am grateful to all of them, and to everyone in the department, who helped in so many ways to make the department flourish during my years as Chair.

I also want to thank the department's many alumni and friends for their support, both moral and financial, enabling us to provide encouragement for our undergraduates in the difficult economic times for "millennials," their generous financial support that has strengthened our graduate program, and for many events that have helped to enrich our intellectual life.

But I am most grateful to the department's outstanding staff – in addition to Suzanne, Eric Correia, Anita Di Giacomo, Mary Frances Ellison,

and Margaret Opoku-Pare constantly amazed me with their astonishing combination of intelligence, professionalism, patience, and good humor.

I've remarked before that philosophy is unusual because it is a discipline in which there is basically no closure. We continue to debate topics that were discussed in the Agora in ancient Athens 2500 years ago. Our ability to put up with each other in this respect (and the ability of administrators to manage it) is one thing; the ability of our staff to keep smiling while dealing with such an unusual bunch is truly remarkable.

Arthur Ripstein
Former Chair, Department of Philosophy,
Faculty of Arts & Science;

Former Chair,
Graduate Department of Philosophy



The Ups and Downs of Being Chair—Martin Pickavé receives lessons from Arthur Ripstein

St. George *continued from Page 3*

the skills we have to teach. (And last year, for the first time, we participated in the 'Backpacks to Briefcases' program, which enabled some of our students to meet – and be encouraged and reassured by – former students of the Department who have gone on to success in a huge variety of fields, and have no regrets.)

Every year, the most difficult part of my job was rounding up enough instructors and finding enough places in our courses to come anywhere close to meeting student demand, without compromising on class size and quality in general.

For the 2014-15 year, along with our two new tenure-track hires, we have

been fortunate to be able to hire three visiting Lecturers – welcome to **Jonathan Rick**, **Amber Ross**, and **Ashley Taylor**! – not to mention **Mark Schranz**, who is lecturing in the Department as well as running the Socrates Project, and returning post-doc **Asaf Angermann**.

And every year, the most engaging part of the job was selecting students for the Socrates Project.

There can't be many universities in the world, if any, where in every year the Philosophy Department can count on finding ten or more majors not only willing to take on the demanding and stressful job of a TA, but qualified to do so: broadly learned in the field, skilled enough as writers to be able to teach others, outgoing and composed

enough to lead tutorials, and mature enough to grade student work. (I don't like to think about how many of those criteria I would have flunked in my own undergraduate years here.)

And as a final bit of luck, I have been able to hand over the office of UGC, now rebranded DUS (Director of Undergraduate Studies), to **Tom Berry**.

I can think of no one more qualified for the job, and only hope he gets as much out of the role as I did.

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



The new UTM Philosophy quarters with Marleen Rozemond, Jonathan Weisberg, Mohan Matthen, and Gurpreet Rattan

UTM Philosophy News



We have moved! We love our new location at the 2nd floor in the Academic Annex. It's great having such a cozy dining/lounge area and being able to enjoy beautiful views of the Credit River Valley from our large office windows. The new location is, however, temporary. We are there during the process of reconstruction of the old North Building, which will also change its name to "Deerfield Hall".

We also had many events this year. Our graduate-undergraduate conference in March featured six excellent talks (three by graduate students and three by undergraduate students) covering many areas of philosophy. In our UTM Alumni Series **Chris Shirreff**, now a graduate student at Western Ontario, presented a fascinating paper entitled "Laughing at Immoral Jokes" (with a response by **Belinda Percy**). Our speakers for the Seminars in Philosophy this year were Jennifer Lackey (Northwestern University), Declan Smithies (Ohio State University), and Karl Schafer (University of Pittsburgh).

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Prize winners: **Athena Calarasu** (First Year Essay Prize), **Theodore Lindgreen** (First Year Essay Prize), **Kevin Persaud** (Erindale Prize in Philosophy), **Arianna Falbo** (Gombay Prize in Philosophy), and **Mahan Esmailzadeh** (Gombay Prize in Philosophy).

We are looking forward to another exciting year!

*Sergio Tenenbaum
Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto at Mississauga*

UTSC Philosophy News



In the Winter of 2014, the Department of Philosophy at UTSC concluded a very successful search in Ethics and Political Philosophy, and hired **Waheed Hussain**, who joined us on July 1, 2014, as an Assistant Professor.

Hussain's main research interests lie mostly at the intersection of moral and political philosophy, economics and business. His work has appeared in a variety of academic journals, including *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Business Ethics Quarterly*, *Social Theory*

and *Practice* and the *Journal of Moral Philosophy*. Before coming to Toronto, he was an assistant professor at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Hussain and **Julia Nefsky** are together a formidable teaching team, covering most of central courses in Ethics and in Political Philosophy.

Also in the Winter of 2014, **Jessica Wilson** was one of this year's two recipients of Dr. Martin R. Lebowitz and Eve Lewellis Lebowitz Prize for Philosophical Achievement and Contribution, awarded by the Phi Beta Kappa Society in conjunction with the American Philosophical Association. The two award recipients, Wilson and Jonathan Schafer (Rutgers), will present a special symposium at the Eastern APA in December, entitled "The Role

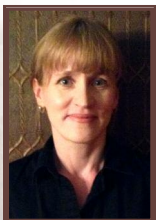
of Grounding in Metaphysics". This will be a wonderful showcase of Professor Wilson's philosophical achievements. Please join me in congratulating her.

Meanwhile, our Department Students' Association has an active and interesting year planned ahead, including a Mind Night; a Political Philosophy night; several discussion nights; and an Undergraduate Conference planned for March 2015.

On a more personal note, Julia Nefsky gave birth to her son Miles in May 2014. Please join me in congratulating her and her husband, Alex Rennet.

Philip Kremer
Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto Scarborough

Notes from the Graduate Department



The Department had a record-high 245 applications to our PhD program this year and 161 applications to our MA program.

This year Toronto joined the North American trend of hosting a recruitment weekend to court the graduate students chosen by our admissions committee. The weekend brought together past, present and future Toronto philosophy graduate students, featuring talks by Toronto alumni **Matthew Fulkerson** (PhD 2010), now on faculty at UC San Diego, and **Helga Varden** (PhD 2006), now on faculty at University of Illinois, with comments from Toronto graduate students **Lana Kühle** and **Dan Hooley**.

Despite heavy snow and hard winds, enough fun was had that we succeeded in recruiting a great first-year PhD class of 5 women and 7 men, coming in from New Zealand, Hungary, the United States and across Canada. We're doing it again this year, and

we'd like to welcome all members of the Toronto philosophy community, including present and former faculty and students, to come out to the alumni talks on Saturday, March 20, 2015, by **Michael Garnett** (PhD 2006) of Birkbeck College London and **Kara Richardson** (PhD 2008) of Syracuse University. Details will be posted on the events listing of our website.

Three of our incoming students won the prestigious four-year Trillium Scholarship. This is a remarkable achievement for these students, and for our department—only 20 of these are awarded across all divisions at the University of Toronto. Meanwhile, our second-year PhD student **Etye Steinberg** won the top federal government prize, the three-year Vanier Scholarship, in recognition of his academic excellence and leadership in humanitarian causes and the arts.

Three other students won the next-best thing, the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Scholarship: **Carolyn Richardson**, **Renaud-Philippe Garner**, and **Matthieu Remacle**. Robinson Fellowships in Ancient Philosophy were awarded to our students **Willie Costello** and **Robbie Howton**.

In May, the graduate students ran their annual conference, this year on the theme *Normativity: Action, Mind, and Language*, with keynote speakers Anandi Hattiangadi of Stockholm University and David Velleman of New York University. Graduate student participants came in from as far away as Southern California and the United Kingdom, and were paired up with graduate and undergraduate commentators in Toronto.

University of Toronto students had an active year of their own on the conference circuit, presenting their research at a great variety of locations, including Dublin, Mexico City, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Coventry, Amsterdam, Seoul, Chicago, Halifax, Tel Aviv, Sherbrooke, Philadelphia, Santiago and all three Cambridges (UK, USA and Ontario).

Toronto graduate student research was accepted for publication in a wide range of journals, including *The Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *The British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, and *Philosophy of Science*.

Jennifer Nagel
Associate Chair, Graduate Studies

The Value of Philosophy

I've been asked to write a short piece on how, or indeed whether, being a philosopher was relevant to the job of being a provost of a large university. For those in a state of blissful unawareness about what that job is, the provost of the University of Toronto is the chief academic officer and the chief budget officer for the whole of the university.

All the deans report to the provost, as do the vice-provosts (for faculty and academic life, students and student life, graduate education, and so on), the head of libraries, and many others.

Labor and legal matters fall into the provost's orbit – indeed, there is hardly a corner of the University that does not. To say the least, the job is extremely interesting.

Philosophy comes into the picture in that a provost is engaged in constant decision-making and policy-making, often delicate, and with almost always immediate or far-reaching consequences.

Being able to analyze a problem, revise one's view in light of arguments from others, sift through competing reasons, defend and communicate conclusions once they have been carefully made, are all vital skills.

All of this happens to be part and parcel of what we do as philosophers. Philosophers live in a culture of justification. We also live in a culture of reflection, and being reflective about the aims and values of an institution is critical for anyone who has any kind of leadership role.

One needs to think hard about, and always keep in mind, the true values of a university such as ours: a publicly-supported university with the vital task of educating the next generation and in conducting outstanding research and scholarship.

It also turns out to be quite handy that philosophical provosts are used to putting forward a view and then having it attacked. If one goes into an academic administration not knowing how to handle impassioned dissent, one goes into it with a very significant deficit. I was mindful of my debt to those sharp minds and personalities who gave my views a rough ride at countless conferences and philosophy-departmental colloquia. It was good training.

There are differences, to be sure. At times, decisions in the provost's office have to be made at lightning speed, especially when crises arise (and with 87,000 students and a corresponding number of faculty and staff, they arise weekly). At times, the give and take of reasons operates within the constraints of pressing economic and political facts, although it is a question that must always be asked whether those facts should be worked with or worked against.

At least in some parts of philosophy, we can reason less burdened by contingent and changing contexts, and we can almost always have the luxury of taking our time to come to our views. That said, if you are wondering what to do with that PhD in philosophy, it turns out that it's a great preparation for a role in academic administration, and indeed in all sorts of positions in government, private enterprise, and civic life.

Cheryl Misak

Professor, Department of Philosophy

Vice-President & Provost, University of Toronto, 2009-2013



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Faculty Appointments & Promotions

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Ainslie

Donald Ainslie, University College Principal and former Chair of Philosophy (2003-2011), has been promoted to Full Professor. Donald's area of expertise is the history of modern philosophy, especially Hume.

James Allen

has joined UTM Philosophy as a Full Professor. He comes to us from University of Pittsburgh, and his specialty is Ancient Philosophy.



Allen



Berry

Tom Berry has been appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies. He will continue to act as the TA Coordinator.

Andrew Franklin-Hall

started his appointment as an Assistant Professor in July at the St. George campus. His specialty is Moral and Political Philosophy.

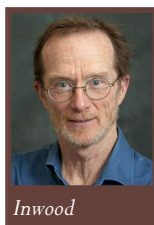


Franklin-Hall

Waheed Hussain joined UTSC Philosophy as an Assistant Professor this summer. He's a specialist in Political and Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics.



Hussain



Inwood

Brad Inwood (University Professor, Canada Research Chair in Ancient Philosophy, with a majority appointment at the

Department of Classics) has been named Acting Chair of the St. George Undergraduate Department and the Interim Chair of the Graduate Department of Philosophy while Martin Pickavé takes a rest from administration.

James (Jim) John

who has been with us since 2006 has been cross-appointed to the Cognitive Science Program at University College.



John

Martin Pickavé (Canada Research Chair in Medieval Philosophy, with a minority appointment at the Centre for

Medieval Studies) has been named Chair of the St. George Undergraduate Department for a five-year term over a seven-year period effective July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2021. Since Martin has been Associate Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies and the Director of the Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Studies for the past three years, he decided to take a year's break from bossing people around.



Pickavé

Nicholas Stang

has joined the St. George department as an Assistant Professor. His areas of specialty are Early Modern Philosophy, Kant, Metaphysics, and Aesthetics.



Stang

Byeong-Uk Yi

has been promoted to Full Professor. He joined UTM Philosophy as an associate professor in 2006. Byeong's main research interests are metaphysics and philosophy of language, logic and philosophy of mathematics.



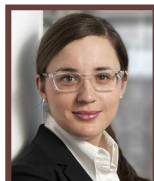
Yi

Awards and Honours



Embry

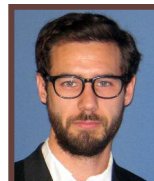
Graduate Student **Brian Embry** was the winner of the 2013 Martha Lile Love Award for Excellence in Teaching Philosophy for his course in 17th Century Philosophy.



Langille

Alumna **Joanna Langille** (Honours BA 2006), a Doctor of Juridical Science student at UofT's Faculty of Law, has been awarded the prestigious Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation scholarship. Joanna is a lawyer and scholar of international law and legal theory.

Graduate Student **Eric Mathison** received the 2013 Martha Lile Love Essay Award for his essay, "The Insufficiency of Neutrality for Environmental Policy".



Mathison

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RETIREMENT

Ingrid Leman Stefanovic

Someone once said that the problem with retirement is that one never gets a day off! This is particularly true in my case, having retired from the University of Toronto to serve as Dean of the newly-formed Faculty of Environment at Simon Fraser University.

As one of only five Faculties in the country dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of environment, the unit presented me with a challenge that builds on some of my happiest times at UofT when I helped to create the Centre for Environment (now renamed the School of the Environment). That opportunity could only have arisen because of the administrative experience that I had gathered in serving as Associate Chair, Undergraduate, in the Department of Philosophy from 1997-2000.

Having completed my undergraduate and graduate degrees in philosophy in the 1970s at the University of Toronto, it will always be home to me. The experience of being hired in the early 1990s to teach in the very department where I had defended my PhD only reinforced that sense of home. **Wayne Sumner** took a chance in hiring me, given my interdisciplinary background, and for this opportunity, I remain always grateful. To this day, when the QS University rankings report that UofT is #1 in the country, I feel honored to have spent the bulk of my career at a university of this immense stature.

Currently, I am the first philosopher and only humanities Professor to be hired in the Faculty of Environment at Simon Fraser University. Surrounded by a team of



extraordinarily productive environmental scientists, I am particularly pleased to be able to show this audience how perceptions, values, attitudes and hidden paradigms drive environmental decision making. While no longer at the Department of Philosophy at UofT, I find myself sharing my experiences from Toronto often.

Importantly, I am pleased to be in a position to take my philosophical message to students in a different domain, beyond a philosophy department setting.

I continue to supervise one student from UofT and to serve on the committees of two others. I also continue to employ one student from the Department of Philosophy as an RA on a SSHRC-funded grant. It is hard to leave those wonderful students behind and I am happy that I have not been forced to do so.

Many colleagues remain my friends for life, and in closing, I invite you to keep in touch and hope to continue to collaborate and socialize with my friends from this extraordinary Department for many years to come! (If you are heading out west, do feel free to contact me at fenvdean@sfu.ca!)

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Graduate Student
Johanna Thoma

won the 2014 Martha Lile Love Essay Award. Her paper "Temptation, Risk-Taking, and Regret" was judged to be the best in a strong field this year.



Thoma

The David Savan Prize for the best dissertation went to **Jacob Weinrib** (PhD 2013) for his thesis *Authority*,

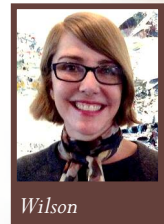
Justice and the Law: A Unified Theory, which has also been accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. This year, Jacob is the Dworkin-Balzan Postdoctoral Fellow at New York University School of Law.



Weinrib

Professor **Jessica Wilson** has been awarded the Martin R. Lebowitz and Eve Lewellis Lebowitz Prize

for Philosophical Achievement and Contribution by the **The Phi Beta Kappa Society** in conjunction with the **American Philosophical Association** for a symposium on "Grounding in Metaphysics." Jessica and co-prize winner Jonathan Schaffer will be presenting the symposium at the December meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association.



Wilson

Remembering André Gombay

MAY 4, 1933 – FEBRUARY 28, 2014



I had the privilege of being André's colleague for twenty-seven years. I participated in the conference in his honour when he retired at the age of sixty-five. I presided over his re-retirement in my capacity as department chair, when, after fifteen years of postretirement teaching, he became, as he wryly put it "Professor emeritus emeritus."

We have a very diverse philosophy department along a number of dimensions – intellectual style, topic, even geography. André bridged everything that anyone ever thought of as a divide. He taught the entire history of philosophy, ranging from the ancient Greeks through to Nietzsche and Freud, but he also taught contemporary philosophy. He wrote and taught thinkers and topics ordinarily classified as analytic and others classified as continental; he worked in both theoretical and practical philosophy. He even taught at all three University of Toronto campuses.

André loved to teach and was much loved as a teacher. He would walk into his classes and say "hey hey" to get the students' attention, and away he would go. His fascination with the material, and his joy at presenting it was infectious.

He was also the most wonderful colleague you could imagine. It wasn't just that he came to every talk, was interested in every topic, sat in on colleagues' classes, and so on. He did all of that, more than anyone else ever did. But he also – partly because his happiness was so infectious – made everyone feel connected to him and to each other. If you had asked everyone in the department to name the two or three colleagues with whom they felt closest, everyone would have included André on their list. If you had asked the staff, all of them would have listed André first.

In the published obituary, André's family described him as a "happy philosopher." That's certainly an apt description of him; I want to say a little bit about the way in which he was each of a philosopher and happy.

André was a philosopher in every positive sense of that term. Someone who didn't know much about philosophy, or didn't know André, might have taken his interests to be those of a philosopher in a pejorative sense, an eccentric professor with theories entirely removed from the concerns and realities of ordinary life. But André wasn't that kind of philosopher at all.

He was an excellent philosopher in the ways in which people were philosophers late in the last century and are early in this one. We live in an age in which philosophy has undergone a kind of professionalization. By the standards of professional philosophers, he was an excellent philosopher, an active participant in professional life, teaching, supervising graduate students, writing important articles on multiple topics, overseeing an enormous editorial project and writing a major book on Descartes.

What was most striking about André was that, at the same time, he was a philosopher in a very different sense of the term, a sense that was very much alive in the ancient world, where a philosopher was a person who lived a life in a certain kind of way, in light of a commitment to a distinctive way of understanding the world.

André managed to combine these two very different ways of being a philosopher in a single life, and the fact that he was a philosopher in the ancient Greek sense made him so much more interesting than most professional philosophers.

When he wrote about Descartes, André was particularly interested in the role of deceit in Descartes's first and third Meditations; where others saw the introduction and subsequent dismissal of the deceiving demon as a sort of rhetorical flourish to engage with a more radical version of traditional forms of scepticism, André understood deceit to be a more fundamental issue for Descartes. As a result of this refocus, he was able to find things in the text that others had overlooked.

André's interest in issues of deceit and what his former colleague, Calvin Normore, referred to as "counterprivacy" shaped the ways in which he looked at philosophical questions, and also the way in which he lived his life. André's interest in deceit wasn't restricted to his Descartes scholarship; he was also impatient with the constant moralizing about honesty that is a central feature of our culture, and no better disposed to those philosophers, such as Kant, who were quick to condemn deceit in all of its forms. His disdain for the moralizers was not the product of any desire to excuse any sort of conduct on his own part; indeed, André was among

the most forthright people that you could ever meet.

The philosophy department used to mount a Continuing Studies course on the great philosophers on a series of Tuesday evenings; André gave the lecture on Descartes, which was always a favourite of the students. André loved teaching those classes; invariably someone would come to tell him that Descartes had articulated thoughts that they had always had in an inchoate way. The course had a significant impact on André also; I remember one Wednesday morning, more than twenty years ago, when Jackie Brunning picked us up at the corner of Bloor and Spadina to drive out to Erindale, as it was then called. André had given his Descartes lecture the night before, and was struck by how eager the students were to engage with the material.

He wondered whether this was because they weren't being graded, and he became very interested in (and opposed to) grading as a practice. He began campaigning, quietly for its abolition; he wrote a Nietzschean "genealogy" of grading, discovering its origins in the Jesuits, and the ways in which it had been repurposed in subsequent centuries, a persistent practice constantly rediscovering its own rationale.

Like his interest in lying, André's interest in grading was not driven by the desire to get himself off the hook. André was no different from most professors; he loved his job, but grading was not his favourite part of it. But he never campaigned – and I'm quite sure he never even thought – that the problem with grading was that it was a colossal waste of his time and effort. Instead, the problem with grading was that it drew the attention of students away from a full engagement with the ideas before them.

André's interest in deceit and his interest in grading were, I think, instances of a much more general outlook, one that made him suspicious of ways in which human beings are forever trying to measure each other and hold each other to standards. Here is another example: in 1995, the popular neurologist Oliver Sacks published a hugely popular book called *An Anthropologist on Mars: Seven Paradoxical Tales*. André wrote a review of it for the *Globe and Mail*.

...continued on Page 13

A LOVE STORY

Remembering Martha Lile Love

Martha Lile Love came to Toronto in the 1970s as a graduate student with a passion for Classical Indian philosophy, a topic she had first encountered during her undergraduate studies in philosophy at Smith College. She enrolled in Toronto's MA program in South Asian Studies, working on Sanskrit texts with Professor Bimal Matilal, who went on to become Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics at Oxford.

Throughout her years in graduate school, Martha maintained strong interests in Western philosophy as well, taking courses in philosophy of language and logic with Professors **Hans Herzberger** and **John Slater**, among others. She travelled with her fellow student and partner **Brendan Gillon** (MA 1979, Sanskrit & Indian Studies) to the Centre for the Advanced Study of Sanskrit at Poona University; together, they worked on a study of the *Nyāyapraveśa*, a core text in Buddhist logic.

While in India, Martha discovered that she had breast cancer, and returned to Toronto for treatment. Doctors were ultimately unable to save her, and she died in April of 1979, at the age of 29. The article Gillon and Love wrote together, "Indian Logic Revisited: Nyāyapraveśa reviewed" was published in the *Journal of Indian Philosophy* the following year.

Those who knew Martha have indelible memories of her intelligence and vitality. Brendon Gillon describes her as "a truly remarkable woman, both as a person and as an intellectual. I feel very fortunate to have known her." Martha's friend **Lee Manchester** (MA 1973, PhD 1980) describes her as "a warm and engaging person, full of life, excited about her studies and her passions." Professor Emeritus and Departmental Historian John Slater remembers her well. "Martha Lile Love was among the most gifted students it was my good fortune to teach in a long career. She was gifted in several ways. She was very intelligent; she quickly became expert in formal logic, writing elegant proofs of the most difficult problems that either the textbook or I set for the class.

"In addition she became expert in the language used in discussing formal logic. She would have made an excellent teacher of the subject. Her personality was



another of her assets. She was easy to get to know and even easier to get along with; she was popular with her peers, the centre of attention in the group when the members of the class were socializing both before and after class.

"The great distress her fellow students and teachers felt when they learned she had cancer is eloquent testimony to her popularity. Her strength of character was exhibited in the way in which she faced the devastating news of her illness and its likely progress. I recall her discussing it with me without exhibiting an ounce of self-pity. Very few people are able to do that. She was truly an admirable young woman."

The month after Martha died, the department established a memorial fund in her name, to recognize excellence in philosophical writing. This fund issues an annual prize for the best essay submitted in a philosophy graduate course; essays are nominated by faculty members and judged anonymously.

Over the years, the prize has gone to many Toronto graduate students who have gone on to distinguished careers in philosophy. **Trish Glazebrook** (PhD 1994), now Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of North Texas,

André Gombay...continued from Page 11

André conceded that the examples were interesting, though the voyeurism of Sacks's presentation wasn't to his taste. But the central focus of his review was a caution: he wondered what Sacks would have made of Leonardo da Vinci, what disorder he would have found in him, and what aspects of Leonardo he would thereby overlook. Imposing grids on people prevents us from fully appreciating other human beings and life in its fullness. André's engagement with Descartes was in part an effort to separate out the great philosopher who appreciated life from the resolutely reductive stick-figure "Cartesian." André was able to appreciate the good in people and the fortune in his own life because of this more general outlook.

This brings me to the particular manner in which he was happy. He was definitely happier than most people, but there are other people who are happy. What was so remarkable about André can be brought out by a contrast: many people are happy because they're shallow. André's happiness was not

like that: he was that most unusual person, the one who is happy not because he's shallow but because he is deep. As I said in my message to the department when he died, he is a model to us all.

I miss him terribly.

by Arthur Ripstein

On October 23 the department held a memorial event for André Gombay. Former colleague **Calvin Normore** (now at UCLA) gave an acute and eloquent paper, "The more perfect the work, the more skilled the craftsman: Gombay and Descartes" to a packed room. This was followed by more personal reminiscences of André by former colleagues and students. Speakers included **Lana De Gasperis** (Honours BA 2011), **Jon Miller** (PhD 2002), Professor **Arthur Ripstein**, Professor **Marleen Rozemond**, and Professor Emeritus **Ronald de Sousa**. The department is very grateful to Marleen Rozemond for organizing so fitting an event in honour of our beloved colleague.

remembers having felt "lost in the crowd" at the start of her time at Toronto, coming in from a much smaller department. Winning the Love Award brought a sudden sense of recognition: "I felt that the award and the discussions that followed gave me a presence and identity in the Department that was extremely important to me as a member of the intellectual community, as if the award moved me from outsider to insider."

Deborah Knight (PhD 1993), now Associate Professor at Queen's University, has vivid memories of the Kant course for which she wrote her prize-winning essay—"It was a great course and **Margie [Morrison]** was a terrific teacher,"—and observes that, of all the papers she wrote during graduate school, "It was particularly nice that a paper I'd put a lot into received the recognition of the Love prize."

For many philosophy graduate students, the award brought a sense that they had chosen the right path. **Dennis Klimchuk** (PhD 1995), Associate Professor at Western University, recalls his winning essay as "the first thing I'd written on what turned out to be the area in which I wrote my thesis and a few things since."

In a similar spirit, **Evan Thompson** (MA 1985, PhD 1990), now a Fellow of the Royal Society and Professor at the University of British Columbia,

recalls that "Winning the prize and presenting the paper confirmed my feeling that I had made the right choice to do Philosophy in graduate school (my undergrad degree was in Asian Studies)." **Jane Friedman**, who started her PhD here and is now an Assistant Professor at New York University, also felt bolstered: "I was just starting out in philosophy and so it was great to feel as though I was on the right track."

Over the years, the Martha Lile Love fund has expanded to include recognition of teaching done by graduate students as well: the most recent winners of the teaching prize are **Lana Kühle** (PhD Toronto 2014), who has just started work at Illinois State University, and **Brian Embry**, who is planning to defend his thesis this coming year.

Looking back through the file of notes, prize announcements and donation letters associated with the award, we found a letter from Martha's mother Shirley Love, dated December 1986. Shirley writes, "I am pleased that some students are getting a little boost from Marty — who always wanted to help."

As a department, Toronto is truly lucky to have had Martha Love as part of our community, and to feel her love living on in the annual awards in her name.

NEW INITIATIVES

Ergo – a new online journal

In response to the need for general philosophy journals that are efficient, open access, inclusive, and transparent, Professors **Franz Huber** and **Jonathan Weisberg** started a new online philosophy journal in July 2013. The new journal, *Ergo*, accepts submissions on all philosophical topics and from all philosophical traditions.

Ergo uses a triple-anonymous peer review process and is published by Michigan Publishing at the University of Michigan. It is sponsored by the Departments of Philosophy at the University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Mississauga.

Ergo received over 250 submissions in its first year. The first issue was published after just 10 months of operations and featured four papers: in philosophy of science, early modern philosophy, experimental philosophy, and epistemology.

Nine more papers are forthcoming, spanning a wide range of topics including phenomenology, ontology, feminist metaphilosophy, language, and the metaphysics of love.

To take a look at *Ergo*, visit www.ergophiljournal.org

MAP – Minorities and Philosophy

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) is an inter-departmental organization the aims of which are to encourage minority participation in philosophy and provide a forum for discussion of philosophy from minority perspectives.

MAP is a relatively new initiative; many of its 31 chapters (including our own) just finished their inaugural years. And I'm pleased to report that our year was a successful one.

Our chapter held two events this past year. In the fall, Jenny Saul (Sheffield), **Gurpreet Rattan** (Toronto), and **Celia Byrne** (Toronto) participated in a panel discussion on issues of implicit bias in philosophy. In the spring,

Chike Jeffers (Dalhousie) gave a talk entitled "The Ethics and Politics of Cultural Preservation". Both events were very well attended and met with great enthusiasm.

It is our hope that this enthusiasm will continue to grow in the coming year. We are currently still planning the year's events, so any suggestions for speakers or topics are certainly welcome. If you are interested in supporting or becoming involved with MAP, please contact **Jeremy Davis** (jeremy.davis@mail.utoronto.ca).

We look forward to seeing you at the next MAP event!



Jeffers

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES DURING 2013-2014

World Philosophy Day

Scott Shapiro, Charles F. Southmayd Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at Yale University, was our speaker for the 2013 World Philosophy Day Lecture. His talk, "The Law of the World," was very well received.



Scott Shapiro (4th from the right) with undergrads Sosseh Assaturian, Christopher Sullivan, Deborah Mazer, Kyle da Silva, Peter Povilonis, Elizabeth Benn, and Mackayla Peters



Colloquium

Beatrice Longuenesse (Yale University) spoke at our March 6 colloquium on "Kant on Persons"

2014 PHILOSOPHY BOOK LAUNCH



The Department's 27th Annual Book Launch, held on March 13, 2014, featured:

Lloyd P Gerson

From Plato to Platonism
Cornell University Press, 2013

Lloyd P Gerson, (translation, introduction, commentary)
PLOTINUS Ennead V.5

That the Intelligibles are not External to the Intellect, and on the Good
Parmenides Publishing, Las Vegas, 2013

Willi Goetschel, editor

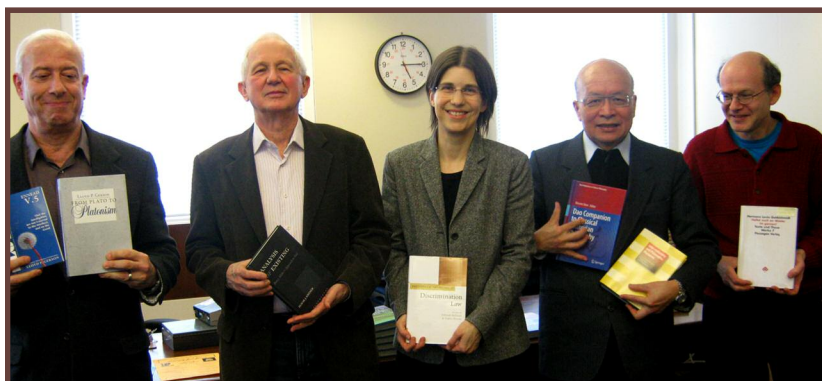
Hermann Levin Goldschmidt.
Haltet euch an Worte: im ganzen!
Texte und Thesen
Passagen Verlag, Vienna, 2013

Ian Hacking

Why is There Philosophy of Mathematics at All?
Cambridge University Press, 2014

D.S. Hutchinson, editor

Aristotle: His Life and School.
Carlo Natali
Princeton University Press, 2013



Authors Lloyd Gerson, Elmar Kremer, Sophia Moreau, Vincent Shen, Willi Goetschel.
Not pictured: Ian Hacking, DS Hutchinson, Diana Raffman, Lambert Zuidervaart.

Elmar Kremer

Analysis of Existing: Barry Miller's Approach to God
Bloomsbury, NY, 2014

Deborah Hellman and Sophia

Moreau, editors
Philosophical Foundations of Anti-Discrimination Law
Oxford University Press, 2013

Diana Raffman

Unruly Words: A Study of Vague Language
Oxford University Press, 2014

Vincent Shen, editor

Dao Companion to Classical Confucian Philosophy
Springer, Dordrecht, 2014

Yolaine Escande, Vincent Shen, and

Chenyang Li, editors
Inter-culturality and Philosophic Discourse
Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, 2013

Lambert Zuidervaart, Allyson Carr,

Matt Klaassen, and Ronnie Shuker (editors)
Truth Matters: Knowledge, Politics, Ethics, Religion
McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013

Alumni are invited to attend the 2015 Philosophy Book Launch which will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2015, 4-6 pm, at the Jackman Humanities Building, 170 St. George Street, Room 418.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Colloquia and Special Lectures

March 24-26, 2015 – Jennifer Hornsby (Birkbeck), **Simon Lectures**

April 30-May 1, 2015 – Graduate Conference on The First Person Perspective

May 7, 2015 – Huw Price (Cambridge), **Colloquium**

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.

Career Night 2014

This year's Career Night took place January 22.

We were honoured to have three of our alumni come and speak with our 3rd and 4th year students (left to right):

Angela Misasi

(Honours BA 2006), Manager, Business Strategies, BMO Financial Group; **Kim McLaren**

(BA 1991), Principal, Greenwood Secondary School & SOLE Alternative School, Toronto District School Board; and **Horatio Bot** (BA 1990), Director, Financial Services, Faculty of Arts & Science, University of Toronto.





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