

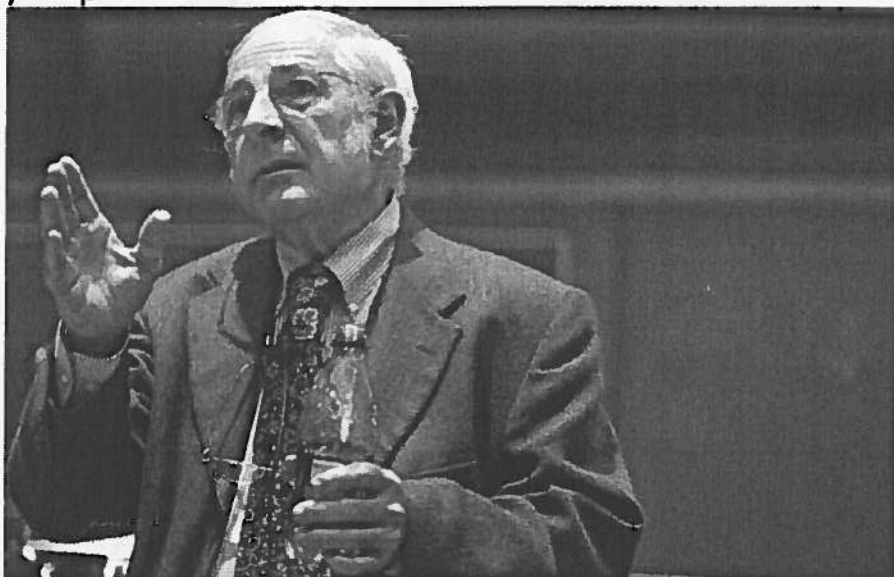
THE EVENING STAR

UBC Philosophy Department Newsletter · Summer 2005

Searle on Civilization

Thanks to a generous endowment by Professor emeritus Richard Sikora, a long-time member of the Department, and his wife, Dorothy, the Department has initiated an annual lecture entitled "The Dorothy and Richard Sikora Lecture."

On February 25th, more than 500 people attended the inaugural Sikora Lecture, given by the distinguished philosopher John Searle of the University of California at Berkeley. Professor Searle was introduced by Professor Margaret Schabas in Chinese (as an homage to his famous "Chinese Room" thought experiment). The lecture, entitled "The Ontology of Civilization" was a flawlessly delivered extemporaneous discussion of the nature of social reality. Searle argued that the key to understanding the distinction between social and natural kinds re-



Professor John Searle delivered the first annual Dorothy and Richard Sikora Philosophy Lecture on February 25. (Photo credit: Charles Siegal)

New Majors Programs

As part of our continuing effort to expand our program and draw in students who might benefit from a more interdisciplinary major, the philosophy department has added two new degrees: a joint political science and philosophy major, as
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Head Lines

A Message from the Department Head

Our department has changed considerably over the past six years, thanks mainly to a major recruitment effort by our out-going Head, Mohan Matthen. In 1999, Mohan Matthen and Catherine Wilson both came as senior appointments from the University of Alberta. Since then, over half of our department has been hired, two at the senior level, John Beatty and myself, one at the associate level, Dom Lopes, and five more at the assistant level, Patrick Rysiew, Chris Stephens, Ori Simchen, Scott Anderson, and Sylvia Berryman. In addition, Leslie

Burkholder and Christina Hendricks have been appointed as Instructors. Our department is not only full of fresh faces and minds, but gathers together degree-holders from more than thirty different universities from four different continents. The full effect of this potent chemistry has yet to be reaped.

There have been some who left as well. Professors Jim Dybikowski and Gary Wedeking, both devoted teachers and scholars, took

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Margaret Schabas, Dept. Head

early retirement in 2003. Carola Ellis, administrative assistant to the department for many years, has moved to Edmonton. Her successor, Bernadette Andrade, has the department running at full steam. Sadly, both Catherine Wilson and Mohan Matthen have decided to move on. Catherine will go to CUNY in New York City, and Mohan to the University of Toronto-Mississauga.

Our department also has a newly-decorated lounge, and new green chairs to brighten up the Reading Room. In addition to a number of significant book donations to our collections, from Professors Peter Remnant, Jonathan Bennett, John Woods, and Gary Wedeking, we have received funding for entrance scholarships for doctoral students from Sun Life Financial (as reported below), and a donation from Dorothy and Richard Sikora for an annual distinguished lecture in philosophy.

Margaret Schabas

Faculty News

Ashok Aklujkar, an adjunct professor whose main appointment is in the Asian Studies Department, is a visiting fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies for Hilary term (April-June), 2005. There he is giving two lectures and two seminars on diverse topics.

Scott Anderson appeared twice on CBC Radio this past year: he appeared on BC Almanac with Mark Forsythe to discuss "good samaritan-ship" and was interviewed jointly with Dr. Nouri Abdalla of the Darfur Association of Canada and the Vancouver Sun's editorial page editor, Fazil Mihar, on the differing public responses to the Asian tsunami and Darfur crises.

John Beatty was named the chair of the Individual Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Program.

Andrew Irvine has been elected to the UBC Board of Governors. He has been hard at work editing, with John Russell, a collection of public pieces by Canadian philosophers entitled *In the Agora: The Public Face of Canadian Philosophy*, due out from the University of Toronto Press in the spring of 2006.

Dom Lopes was promoted to Professor and named Distinguished University Scholar in July 2004; he is a Peter Wall Institute Distinguished Scholar in Residence for 2005. His book, *Sight and Sensibility: Evaluating Pictures*, has just been published by Oxford University Press.

Mohan Matthen has been on leave this year at Clare Hall, Cambridge University, and All Souls College, Oxford University, and has given a number of talks in the UK and Europe. His book, *Seeing, Doing, and Knowing: A Philosophical Theory of Sense Perception*, has just been published by Oxford University Press.

As of 1 July 2004, **Alan Richardson** was promoted to Professor and named Distinguished University Scholar. He was a keynote speaker at the HOPOS 2004 meetings in June 2004 in San Francisco where he spoke on the topic "Philosophy as Science; Philosophers as Scientists: Some Remarks on Taking Scientific Philosophy Seriously." On June 3, Alan will give the 2005 Reichenbach lecture at UCLA "One Hundred Years of Scientific Philosophy: Hans Reichenbach & the Significance of Logical Empiricism."

Paul Russell was Kenan Visiting Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the spring term of 2005.

Patrick Rysiew participated in a CNRS summer school in June 2004 on "Reference to Objects: Language, Perception, Concepts" at Vielle Perrotine, Ile d'Oleron, France (organizers – David Nicholas and Roberto Casati; Institut Jean Nicod, Paris).

Margaret Schabas has settled into her role as Head of Department, where she wields the invisible hand of reason. In the immediate aftermath of the US Presidential election in November 2004, she was interviewed on Chicago Public Radio by Gretchen Helfridge, for their show, *Odyssey*. The topic for discussion was "Before Economics."

Volume 2 of **John Woods'** omnibus work, *A Practical Logic of Cognitive Systems* has just appeared from Elsevier/North-Holland under the title,

(Continued on page 3)

Keep in Touch

Send us your news using the Keep In Touch form, on p.9, where you can also find information on how you can contribute to the ongoing success of the UBC Philosophy Department.

Next year's newsletter will contain an alumni spotlight—send us your news and the spotlight could be on you!

(Continued from page 2)

The Reach of Abduction: Insight and Trial. Co-authored with Dov Gabbay of King's College London, *The Reach of Abduction* is the sequel to volume 1, *Agenda Relevance: A Study in Formal Pragmatics*, which appeared in 2003. The third volume, *Seductions and Shortcuts: Fallacies in the Cognitive Economy*, will be published in late 2006.

Comings...

Two new scholars joined the Department faculty this past year:

Sylvia Berryman is a specialist on ancient Greek philosophy and is working on a book on mechanism in



Sylvia Berryman, Asst. Professor

ancient Greek thought. She comes

to us from the Philosophy Department at Ohio State University. A BA graduate (in sociology!) of UBC, Sylvia did her PhD in the ancient philosophy program at the University

of Texas and has had posts at King's College London and in the School for Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton. Her first year at UBC



Christina Hendricks, Instructor

found her teaching the course in ancient Greek thought that was her first course in Philosophy at UBC—and also bettering herself by learning Italian. She has recently participated in the long-awaited first-ever (or, at least, first-in-centuries) conference on Strato of Lampsacus.

Christina Hendricks, a PhD graduate of the University of Texas, came to us from a post in the wilds of Wisconsin. Christina is a specialist in contemporary French and feminist philosophy, and recently gave a pa-

per on Foucault as a successor of Kant at the Pacific APA meeting. Having been first hired on a temporary appointment, Christina is now a permanent lecturer in the Department. In addition to teaching for us, she also taught in Women's Studies in 2004-2005 and will be teaching in Arts One for the next two years.

Returning to the Department this year was **Bernadette Andrade**, our main office administrator, who had taken time off for maternity leave. Her daughter, Maya Alejandra Andrade, was born on 4 March 2004.

The Department was further blessed with the joys of reproduction this past year:

Emi Kiyomi Rebecca Stephens ('Emi' means smile in Japanese), born to Kelli Kadokawa and Chris Stephens on October 30, 2004.

Lila Ruth Simchen, born to Ori Simchen and Shelly Rosenblum on March 31, 2004.

... and Goings ...

It is with sadness that we report the departure of two of our colleagues:

Catherine Wilson is leaving the Department to become Professor of Philosophy at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She has been on leave this year at Trinity College, Cambridge University.

Mohan Matthen will leave the Department in June 2006 to become Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto at Mississauga. He has been on leave this year at Cambridge and Oxford and will return to the Department for the next academic year.

... and Comings

(Continued on page 8)

Speaker Series

We had a very active speaker series this year, which included talks by the following:

Jan Wolenski (Jagiellonian University) "Determinism and Logic"

Tad Schmaltz (Duke University) "The Metaphysics of Rest in Cartesian Physics"

Jennifer Whiting (University of Toronto) "Aristotle on Friendship"

Elijah Millgram (University of Utah) "Why Didn't Nietzsche Get His Act Together?"

Ish Haji (University of Calgary) "Intrinsically Motivated Actions and Appraisability"

David Widerker (Bar Ilan University) "Insufficiently Robust Alternatives, and the Principle of Alternative Expectations"

Michael McKenna (Ithaca College) "Where Frankfurt and Strawson Meet"

Angela Smith (University of Washington) "Guilty Thoughts"

Kendall Walton (University of Michigan) "Hobby Horses and Children's Games"

Fall speakers include:

Peter Kivy, Rutgers University
Sept. 16, 2005

Shaun Nichols, University of Utah
Sept. 30, 2005

Ernst Sosa, Brown University
Oct. 14, 2005

David Kaplan, UCLA
Oct. 28, 2005

Bonnie Kent, UC, Irvine
Nov. 4, 2005

Amie Thomasson, U. of Miami
Nov. 25, 2005

Please join us! Further details available at www.philosophy.ubc.ca.

The Philosophy Department hosted its fourth annual one-day colloquium in March, as around 50 students and faculty crowded in to hear talks by three noted philosophers.

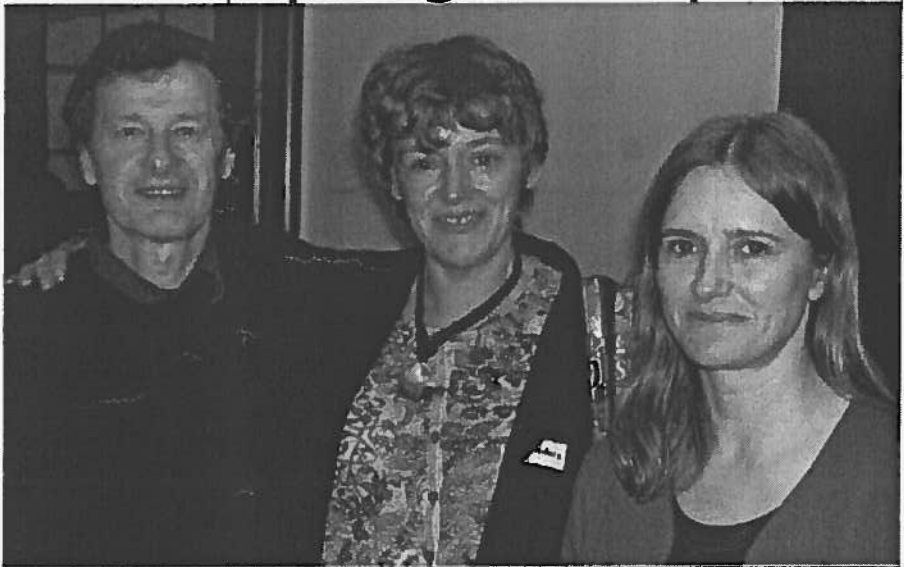
Adam Morton, Canada Research Chair in Philosophy at the University of Alberta, spoke on developing a taxonomy of different ways that rationality can be defective, and started to outline some of the principal differences

a number of mainstream ethical theories.

UBC's own Sylvia Berryman gave an inaugural lecture in which she argued the attention to ancients mechanics might provide an entry point into understanding notable difficulties in that Aristotle's natural philosophy.

This year's colloquium was organ-

Spring Colloquium



Adam Morton, Candace Vogler and Sylvia Berryman, presenters at the Department's Spring Colloquium.

between ignorance and bad inferential reasoning.

Candace Vogler, associate professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago, spoke on the problematic place of pleasure and happiness in

ized by Scott Anderson. The Spring Colloquium, initiated by Catherine Wilson and Dom Lopes, is now a fixture on the UBC Philosophy calendar.

Donations

Philosophy Department Annual Fund

Your contribution to this fund will be used to support future events like our **Speaker Series** and **Spring Colloquium**, as well as student travel awards, our departmental library, and other student initiatives.

These activities help to enhance the experience of both our students and faculty by expanding our department's knowledge of and exposure to modern philosophical discourse. Please see p.9 for information on how you can contribute.

Graduate Student News

Papers & Presentations

Martin Godwyn presented his paper "Who's Afraid of Cognitive Bloat?" at the West Coast Graduate Philosophy Conference (May 7), the NYU/Columbia Graduate Philosophy Conference (April 2), and the UBC Departmental colloquium (November 26th).

Dustin Stokes presented two papers this year. On Oct. 2004, at the American Society of Aesthetics Annual meeting, Dustin was a commentator in an invited symposium on imaginative resistance (w/ Brian Weatherson and Tamar Gendler). In March 2005, he presented a paper at the Pacific ASA entitled "Minimal Creativity: A Conceptual Analysis". Additionally, he published a book review of Currie and Ravenscroft's *Recreative Minds*, in the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*.

Rana Ahmad presented two papers this past year. The first was "Deep, Cheap and Improvable: Dynamic Democratic Norms and the Ethics of Biotechnology" given at The American Philosophical Association's Conference on Ethics and the Life Sciences at the University of Delaware, October 2004. The second was "Norm Evolution in Response to Dilemmas", presented at the Genome Canada GELS Symposium, Toronto, March 2005.

Kyla Dennedy will present a paper entitled "Trans-historical Rationality of Science - Relativism or Rhetoric?" at the LSE (Graduate Conference in the Philosophy of Natural Science) on May 28.

Selman Halabi has a paper "A Useful Anachronism: John Locke, the Corpuscular Philosophy, and Inference to the Best Explanation" forthcoming in *Studies in History and*

Philosophy of Science

Jenn Neilson presented a paper at the UBC Interdisciplinary Legal Studies Graduate Student Conference on April 29th. It is entitled "Voter Equality and the Transmission of Election Results: Can Freedom of Expression Undermine Voter Equality?"



Jenn Neilson, MA Student

Alex Korelev presented his paper "The Anatomy of Quantum Computation" at the West Coast Graduate Philosophy Conference May 7 and his paper "Epistemology of Thought Experiments: Bringing Demons to Light" has been accepted at the Summer School on Philosophy, Probability and Physics at the University of Konstanz, Germany.

Comings and Goings

Katharine Brown (MA, 2005) is deciding between doing a Ph.D. in philosophy at either the University of Toronto or King's College, London.

Stephen Friesen (MA, 2005) is heading to Indiana U for a PhD in History and Philosophy of Science.

Eric Hochstein (MA, 2005) will be starting the Ph.D. program in philosophy at the University of Ottawa.

Jenn Neilson is headed to the University of Auckland on exchange next spring (2006) to study aesthetics with Stephen Davies.

Amit Hagar (Ph.D., 2004) has been hired in a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Delaware. He has spent the past year as a post-doctoral fellow in the Philosophy, Probability and Modeling program at the University of Konstanz.

New Graduate Students

PhD students

Ian Brooks. History of phil./Ethics.
Roger Clarke. Phil. of science.
Ian Drummond. Ancient phil.
Jillian Isenberg. Phil. of science.
Josh Johnston. Ethics (particularism) or aesthetics.
Brian Laetz. Aesthetics.
Roger Stanev. Phil. of science.
Jie Tian. Political philosophy.
Joseph Topornycki. Epistemology.
Jim Westin. Logic.

MA students

Patrick Edwards. Epistemology.
Hugh Hunter. History of phil.
Eric Nadal. Phil. of science.
Shane Zappettini. Phil. of science.

Grants Received

SSHRC CGS-Masters Scholarship

Jennifer Neilson
Kyla Dennedy
Cory Fairley

SSHRC Doctoral Award (3 yrs.)

James Kelleher
Michaela Woolley
Ian Brooks
Brian Laetz

University Graduate Fellowship

Gemma Celestino
Nola Semczyszyn
Alex Korolev (Li Tze Fong fellowship – UGF affiliated award)

Sun Life Financial Fellowship

Josh Johnston

Undergraduate News

Cornel Peana (BA, 2005) is going to law school at UBC.

Shane Gallager (BA Hons, 2005) – is going to Queen's University to study moral psychology.

Jeffrey Johnson (BA, 2005) is considering graduate school, law school, and the JET program to Japan.

Charlotte Haan (BA Phil. & Religion, Literature & the Arts, 2005) looks forward to getting married in June and moving to Utah. Her long term goals include receiving a PhD and teaching at the University level in Christian Studies and/or Philosophy.

Kammy Lai (BA Hons, 2004) is heading to Oxford to enroll in the B. Phil. program in Philosophy.

Patrick Edwards (BA Hons, 2005) will be starting the MA program in philosophy at UBC.

Amanda Klein After just 3 years in our undergraduate Honours program Amanda has now survived her first year of law school at UBC. She still plans to finish up her philosophy degree.

Postdoc News

Piers Hale, a Postdoctoral Fellow in the department, has been awarded the 2005 Dunlap Fellowship by the William Morris Society for his work on William Morris in the history of science.

Next year will find Piers teaching at Colby College in Maine.

Next year the department will be welcoming **Nicolas Bullot** as a postdoc working with Mohan Matthen in philosophy of psychology



Killam Postdoc Monte Johnson has been hired on as an Assistant Professor at St. Louis University.

The Philosophy Students' Association

The Philosophy Students' Association (PSA) provides opportunities for students to discuss philosophy outside of class (when you can say some of the things you *really* want to say), and organises social events for all students interested in philosophy.

We also arrange for speakers on interesting philosophy topics, maintain an online undergraduate journal, hold two seats at the Philosophy Department Meetings, and distribute information on upcoming events, department news, and scholarships through an e-mail list. For more information or to sign up for the e-mail list please send a message to ubc_psa@hotmail.com

Prolegomena

The UBC Undergraduate Philosophy Journal
www.philosophy.ubc.ca/prolegom

Prolegomena is an online philosophy journal for undergraduate students published at the University of British Columbia. The first issue was published in June 2000. Papers selected cover a wide range of

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New Majors Programs cont'd

well as a history and philosophy of science major.

The former joins our previous joint major in Economics and Philosophy as well as the Cognitive Systems Major in continuing our outreach to the social sciences. The latter takes advantage of the Department's strength in philosophy of science and the burgeoning strength in history of science in the History Department, which hired two new historians of science last year.

We are grateful to the Heads of the three departments involved in these majors as well as to the Dean of Arts Office for making these pro-

philosophical topics; reflected in the name. The Oxford English Dictionary defines prolegomenon as "a preliminary discourse prefixed to a literary work; esp. a learned preface or preamble". The editors hope that papers submitted to Prolegomena will serve as prologues to a future career in philosophy.

We are currently accepting submissions for our Summer/Fall 2005 issue. We will publish several papers this year.

If you're a UBC student with a background in philosophy, consider joining the Prolegomena editorial board! Contact the editors for more information.

The Current Issue includes and essay by Timothy Kolke of Simon Fraser University entitled "Procedural vs. Substantive Theories of Autonomy"

Prolegomena is published by the UBC Philosophy Students' Association, with support from the UBC Department of Philosophy.

Recent Books by Faculty



Dominic McIver Lopes
Sight and Sensibility
EVALUATING PICTURES

Sight and Sensibility: Evaluating Pictures, Dominic McIver Lopes, Oxford University Press, May 2005.

Looking at pictures, we see in them

the scenes they depict, and any value they have springs from these experiences of seeing-in. *Sight and Sensibility* presents the first detailed and comprehensive theory of evaluating pictures. Dominic Lopes confronts the puzzle of how the value of seeing anything in a picture can exceed that of seeing it face to face—his solution pinpoints how seeing-in is like and unlike ordinary seeing. Moreover, since part of what we see in pictures is emotional expressions, his book also develops a theory of expression especially tailored to pictures.

Not all evaluations of pictures as opportunities for seeing-in are aesthetic—others are cognitive or moral. Lopes argues that these evaluations interact, for some imply others. His argument entails novel conceptions of aesthetic and cognitive evaluation, such that aesthetic evaluation is distinguished from art evaluation as essentially tied to experience, and that cognitive evaluations assess cognitive capacities, including perceptual ones. Ultimately, Lopes defends images against the widespread criticism that they thwart serious thought, especially moral thought, because they merely replicate ordinary experience. He concludes by presenting detailed case studies of the contribution pictures can make to moral reflection.

Sight and Sensibility will be essential reading for anyone working in aesthetics and art theory, and for all those intrigued by the power of images to affect our lives.

Seeing, Doing, and Knowing: A Philosophical Theory of Sense Perception, Mohan Matthen, Oxford University Press, March 2005.

Seeing, Doing, and Knowing is an original and comprehensive philosophical treatment of sense perception as it is currently investigated by cognitive neuroscientists. Its central theme is the task-oriented specialization of sensory systems across the biological domain.



Sensory systems are automatic sorting machines; they engage in a process of classification. Human vision sorts and orders external objects in terms of a specialized, proprietary scheme of categories - colours, shapes, speeds and directions of movement, etc. This 'Sensory Classification Thesis' implies that sensation is not a naturally caused image from which an organism must infer the state of the world beyond; it is more like an internal communication, a signal concerning the state of the world issued by a sensory system, in accordance with internal conventions, for the use of an organism's other systems. This is why sensory states are both easily understood and persuasive.

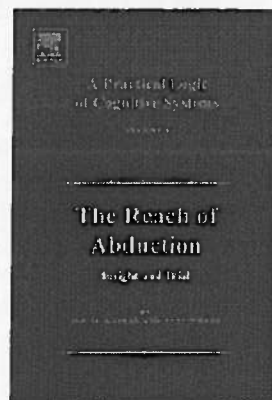
Sensory classification schemes are purpose-built to serve the knowledge-gathering and pragmatic needs of particular types of organ-

isms. They are specialized: a bee or a bird does not see exactly what a human does. The Sensory Classification Thesis helps clarify this specialization in perceptual content and supports a new form of realism about the deliverances of sensation. This 'Pluralistic Realism' is based on the idea that sensory systems co-evolve with an organism's other systems; they are not simply moulded to the external world.

The last part of the book deals with reference in vision. Cognitive scientists now believe that vision guides the limbs by means of a subsystem that links up with the objects of physical manipulation in ways that bypass sensory categories. In a novel extension of this theory, Matthen argues that 'motion-guiding vision' is integrated with sensory classification in conscious vision. This accounts for the quasi-demonstrative form of visual states: 'This particular object is red', and so on. He uses this idea to cast new light on the nature of perceptual objects, pictorial representation, and the visual representation of space.

The Reach of Abduction: Insight and Trial, John Woods, (with Dov M. Gabbay), volume 2 of *A Practical Logic of Cognitive Systems*, Elsevier/North-Holland, 2005

The present work is a continuation of the authors' acclaimed multi-volume *A Practical Logic of Cognitive Systems*. After having investigated the notion of relevance in their previous volume, Gabbay and Woods now turn to abduction. In this highly original approach, abduction is construed as ignorance-preserving inference, in



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which conjecture plays a pivotal role. Abduction is a response to a cognitive target that cannot be hit on the basis of what the agent currently knows. The abducer selects a hypothesis which were it true would enable the reasoner to attain his target. He concludes from this fact that the hypothesis may be conjectured. In allowing conjecture to stand in for the knowledge he fails to have, the abducer re-

AI, from diagnostics to the law, from historical explanation to linguistic interpretation. One of the volume's strongest contributions is its exploration of the abductive character of criminal trials, with special attention given to the standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Underlying their analysis of abductive reasoning is the authors' conception of practical agency. In this approach, practical agency is dominantly a matter of the comparative modesty of an agent's cognitive agendas, together with comparatively scant resources available for their advancement. Seen in these ways, abduction has a significantly practical character, precisely because it is a form of inference that satisfies rather than maximizes its response to the agent's cognitive target.

The Reach of Abduction will be necessary reading for researchers, graduate students and senior undergraduates in logic, computer science, AI, belief dynamics, argumentation theory, cognitive psychology and neuroscience, linguistics, forensic science, legal reasoning and related areas.



Papier maché bust of Carnap, proudly on display in our departmental library. Created by Robin Nelman and Nola Semczyszyn.

veals himself to be a satisficer, since an abductive solution is not a solution from knowledge. Key to the authors' analysis is the requirement that a conjectured proposition is not just what a reasoner might allow himself to assume, but a proposition he must defeasibly release as a premiss for further inferences in the domain of enquiry in which the original abduction problem has arisen.

The coverage of the book is extensive, from the philosophy of science to computer science and

(Continued from page 3)

and Goings...

The Department hosted several visitors this past year. They included **Piers Hale**, who was on a postdoctoral fellowship with John Beatty, **David Raynor**, who visited us from the University of Ottawa, and **David Widerker**, who visited from Bar-Ilan University in Israel.



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Rachel Schmidt, Graduate Administrator

Schmidt joined the department in September as the new part-time Graduate Administrator. She is a BA graduate of UBC (English) and also works as a freelance writer and actor. Rachel's stay in the department is sadly brief, and she is moving on to Carleton University this fall to pursue her MA in international affairs.

For regular updates on visiting speakers, events, publications, awards and achievements please visit the

Philosophy Department web site at

www.philosophy.ubc.ca

Newsletter Credits

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