

THE EVENING STAR

UBC Philosophy Department Newsletter · Issue 2: Summer 2006

Putnam on Philosophy Today

On December 6th, hundreds of people from across campus made their way to Hebb Theatre to hear distinguished Harvard professor Hilary Putnam offer the second annual Dorothy and Richard Sikora Lecture. In his engaging and stimulating talk, entitled "Philosophy in the 21st Century", Professor Putnam articulated the need for professional philosophers not to let inducements to increasing specialization lead them to discount or ignore philosophers working within other areas, eras, or traditions.

This message of intellectual breadth and inclusiveness – qualities most evident in Professor Putnam's own very important and influential work – found a receptive audience at UBC, and obviously struck a chord with those in attendance. The talk was followed by a lively Q & A session, which eventually came to an end

only because we had run out of time.

Professor Putnam's talk, and the annual Lecture series of which it is a part, was made possible by a generous endowment by Professor emeritus Richard Sikora, a long-time member of the Philosophy Department, and his wife, Dorothy. Please join us in thanking them both for making this event possible.



Professor Hilary Putnam delivered the second annual Dorothy and Richard Sikora Lecture, Dec. 6th. (Cover photo, Hilary Putnam, McGill-Queens University Press / Acumen, 2006.)

Head Lines

A Message from the Department Head

This has been a very good year for the department in several respects, but we are also saddened by the resignation of Patrick Rysiew (off to the University of Victoria) and of Mohan Matthen (off to the University of Toronto). In Patrick's place we have hired Roberta Ballarin, who completed her PhD at UCLA in 2001, with a thesis entitled *Metaphysical Foundations of Modal Logic*. Roberta has articles in the *Journal of Philosophy* and the *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, as well as other publications in press. She has been teaching at Southern Methodist University for the past three years. We are delighted to welcome her into our department.

We have also recruited several early career philosophers to our department in temporary positions as Assistant Professors (without

review or as visiting). Anita Ho (PhD from Alberta) comes to us with a specialization in applied ethics, Justin Fisher (PhD from Arizona) in philosophy of mind, and Bence Nanay (PhD from UC-Berkeley) in philosophy of perception. Efforts continue to replace Catherine Wilson and Mohan Matthen, and we remain optimistic that this will transpire in the coming year.

Our contributions to teaching at UBC continue to be exemplary, with our teaching evaluations overall average entrenched for the second year in a row at 4.1 out of a total of 5.0. We taught over 5000 undergraduates in the fall and spring terms, and saw our graduate program swell to over 30 students, most of whom have scholar

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Department of Philosophy
University of British Columbia
1866 Main Mall E370
Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1Z1

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Margaret Schabas, Dept. Head

ships. The coming year promises to be just as strong. Excluding the incoming class of 7 students (all 5 of the incoming PhD students have scholarships), we have 4 students with the Canada Graduate Scholarship from SSHRC (the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada), and 3 with a regular SSHRC. Another 5 (mostly international) received University Graduate Fellowships and one more has funding from the Iranian Government. Moreover, our recently-minted PhDs are all employed as philosophers. Amit Hagar starts a tenure-track position at Indiana University-Bloomington (HPS), Dustin Stokes continues with his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Sussex (Cognitive Science), and Martin Godwyn has sessional appointments with BCIT and SFU.

Our faculty continued to make significant contributions to scholarship. Three monographs were published (with Oxford or Chicago), and over thirty articles or book chapters, including two in the *Journal of Philosophy*. Two co-edited volumes and one edited journal issue were produced, as well as over five entries to prominent encyclopedias that specialize in philosophy. Counting the most recent set of awards, a total of eight professors currently hold SSHRC standard research grants, and two more are working on SSHRC cluster grants, one as Principal Investigator. At least five

more grants were held this year, and more prestigious fellowships are forthcoming.

The graduate students mounted their first conference in philosophy, on April 7-8th, with Alan Richardson giving the keynote address. It was by all accounts a great success. Our spring colloquium on March 18th was also very stimulating, with Paul Russell, Joseph Almog, Jeff Pelletier, and Anya Plutynski, as speakers. For our Dorothy and Richard Sikora Annual

Lecture we were treated to a wonderful talk on "Philosophy in the 21st Century," by Hilary Putnam of Harvard University. Again 100s of people attended and thus gave us a clear indication that philosophy is alive and well at UBC. Finally, our Philosophy Student Association for the undergraduate majors and honours hosted two "Meet the Profs" lunches, continued to produce *Prolegomena* (an on-line journal) and co-sponsored a dramatic production, *The Trial of Socrates*.

Margaret Schabas

Faculty News

Ashok Aklujkar, who teaches PHIL/ASIA 378 and 388, gave two lectures on 25 April 2006 at Jagiellonian University, Krakow: (a) for the Department of Philosophy on "Philosophy's Linguistic Turn: from Nagarjuna to Bhartr-hari in Ancient India" and (b) for the Institute of Oriental Philology on "Masters and Disciples: Traditions of Transmitting Knowledge in India" as a part of the continuing seminar on 'Intellectual Traditions of the East & a Comparative History of Intellectual Practices.' In May, he participated in the International Seminar on "Logic and Belief in Indian Philosophy", organized by Warsaw University at Bialowieza and read a paper on "When the Grammarians Leave Logic at the Door."

Paul Bartha has been awarded a SSHRC standard research grant for his project, "Infinite Decision Theory."

John Beatty was also awarded a SSHRC standard research grant, for "Darwinism, Science and History." He has had his paper "Replaying Life's Tape" accepted at *The Journal of Philosophy*, and will be Acting Head for 2005-06, while Margaret Schabas is away on study leave.

Christina Hendricks presented

her paper, "Core Texts as Critical History: How Studying Works by Old, Dead, White Guys can be Radical," to the Association for Core Texts and Courses Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL). "Trust and Suspicion in Critical Thinking as Transcendence" was presented at the Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting (Puerto Vallarta, Mexico).

Andrew Irvine served on UBC's Board of Governors, while also seeing to publication two edited collections, *Mistakes of Reason: Essays in Honour of John Woods*, co-edited by Kent A. Peacock and Andrew D. Irvine (University of Toronto Press, 2005), and *In the Agora: The Public Face of Canadian Philosophy*, co-edited by John S. Russell, and with a foreword by John Ralston Saul (University of Toronto Press, 2006)

Dom Lopes is currently visiting professor at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan.

Alan Richardson delivered the 2005 Reichenbach Lecture at UCLA., "One Hundred Years of Scientific Philosophy." In so doing, he joins some very prestigious company, including John Earman (1996), Patrick Suppes (1997),

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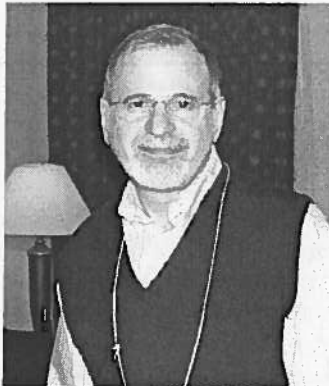
Hilary Putnam (1998), Hans Kamp (1999), Kit Fine (2000), Michael Friedman (2002), and Charles Parsons (2004).

Paul Russell gave a number of talks this past year, including: "History, Implantation and (Selective) Hard Compatibilism", McGill University; "Irreligion and Hume's Treatise", University of Lodz (Poland); "Compatibilism, History and Implantation Problems", Fifth European Congress for Analytic Philosophy, University of Lisbon; and "Moral Sense and Virtue in Hume's Ethics", Values and Virtues: Aristotelianism in Contemporary Ethics, University of Dundee. Paul was awarded a SSHRC standard research grant for his project, "The Limits of Free Will". Recent publications include "L'irreligione e lo spettatore imparziale nel sistema morale di Adam Smith" [Irreligion and the Impartial Spectator in Smith's Moral System] in *Rivista di Filosofia*; "Practical Reason and Motivational Scepticism", in *Moralische Motivation. Kant und die Alternativen* (Heiner F. Klemme, Manfred Kuehn, Dieter Schoenecker, eds.); and an entry, "Hume on Religion", for the on-line Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. He has also been appointed to the editorial board of *Hume Studies* (2006-2010).

Patrick Rysiew has had papers appear in the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, the *Journal of Scottish Philosophy*, and *Grazer Philosophische Studien*. He presented, "Attributing Knowledge, Attributing Error: Contextualism, the Disappearance Effect, and 'Semantic

Self-Knowledge" at last May's CPA meeting in London, Ontario, and commented on a paper about reliabilism at the APA Pacific (Portland).

Margaret Schabas has recently published a book, *The Natural Origins of Economics*, with The University of Chicago Press, and will hold two fellowships in the coming year while on study leave: The Ludwig Lachmann Fellowship in Philosophy at the London School of Economics (August 06 to April 07) followed by a fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin (May-Jun 2007).



Steve Savitt, at the Pacific APA

Steve Savitt presented a paper called "The Transient Nows" at the meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy in La Jolla, and will do so again by invitation at Abnerfest (a celebration of the life and work of Abner Shimony) at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo in July. He is also the Principal Investigator of the Time and Universe cluster, which has received interim funding from SSHRC. It will have its first work-

shop in Montreal in June, immediately following the second Ontology of Spacetime conference in Montreal, which Steve helped to organize.

Ori Simchen presented "Actualism and General Possibilities" to the Undergraduate noon-hour lecture series, aimed at showcasing research in Arts. His "Actualism and General Possibilities" appeared in *The Journal of Philosophy*. Also, he has received the "Just Desserts" award for teaching, which is given out by the Alma Mater Society at UBC. Ori's nomination came from the Arts Undergraduate Society. The nomination reads: "Professor Ori Simchen is the model of what a professor should be. AS a lecturer he is extremely knowledgeable without being the least bit condescending or patronizing. He passes on his excitement about the subject and has inspired a love of knowledge in many of his students. As the major advisor to Philosophy undergrads, he is genuinely concerned with our progress through the program. He has gone out of his way to advocate for us in the department and has made an honest effort to make our tenure at UBC the most educational it can be, while understanding that sometimes life gets in the way of school."

Chris Stephens gave a talk to the SFU Economics department on evolution, rationality and the emotions. In addition, he commented at the Pacific division meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Portland, Ore.) on a paper about species and natural kinds.

John Woods has just published *Logic and the Modalities in the Twentieth Century*, volume 5 of *Handbook of the History of Logic* (North-Holland, 2006), co-edited with Dov Gabbay. In addition, he received The Alberta Centennial Medal, 2005, for "distinguished contributions to the scientific and intellectual life of Alberta", and The 2005

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Keep in Touch

Send us your news using the Keep In Touch form, on p. 12, where you can also find information on how you can contribute to the ongoing success of the UBC Philosophy Department.

Each issue, we'll bring you up to date on alumni activities — see "Where are they now?", p. 11.

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University of Lethbridge Book Award, for *The Reach of Abduction*, and was elected to the Executive Committee of the Network for the Study of Reasoning, funded by the SSHRC Cluster Programme. Chinese editions of the eleven volume *Handbook of the History of Logic* and the sixteen volume *Handbook of the Philosophy of Science* will be published by the Nankai Press, beginning in 2006.

Comings.....

The Department has an exciting cohort of incoming members:

Roberta Ballarin (PhD, UCLA, 2001), who works on Metaphysics, Epistemology, Logic, and Philosophy of Language, will be arriving from Southern Methodist University, and taking up a tenure-track appointment at UBC. Her publications include: "The Interpretation of Necessity and the Necessity of Interpretation," which appeared in the *Journal of Philosophy* (2004); and "Validity and Necessity" (*Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 2005), in which she argues that Kripke's model theoretic semantics does not in fact induce a metaphysical reading of necessity.

Justin Fisher, who is currently finishing up his PhD at the University of Arizona, will be joining us as an Assistant Professor without review (renewable for up to three years). His areas of specialization include Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Science (esp. Biology), Metaphysics, and Epistemology and Decision Theory. He will be teaching both in philosophy, and in UBC's multi-disciplinary Cognitive Systems Program. His publications include "Why Nothing Mental is Just in the Head," *Noûs*, and "On Higher-Order and Free-Floating Chances," *The British Journal for*

the Philosophy of Science.

Anita Ho (PhD, Alberta, 2000) has also accepted a 3-year position as Assistant Professor without review. She comes to us from the College of St. Catherine, where she is Associate Professor in Philosophy and Co-Coordinator of the Center for Women, Economic Justice, and Public Policy. Her areas of expertise are ethics, bioethics, business ethics, social/political philosophy, and disability studies. Her publications have appeared in such places as the *Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society* and *Business and Professional Ethics Journal*. At UBC, she will be teaching applied ethics and working with the Ethics Review Board.

Bence Nanay (PhD, UC Berkeley, 2006) will be joining us as Visiting Professor in Term 2, having already taken up a tenure-track post at Syracuse. His areas of specialization are Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Biology, and Aesthetics. Recent publications include "Can Cumulative Selection Explain Adaptation?," *Philosophy of Science*, and "Is Twofoldness Necessary for Representational Seeing?," *British Journal of Aesthetics*.

...and Goings....

Mohan Matthen will leave the Department this summer to become Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto at Mississauga.

Patrick Rysiew will be moving across the Georgia Strait to the University of Victoria.

Also moving to Toronto is **Nicholas Bullot**, who has spent the past year at UBC as a postdoc working under Mohan.

And **Tom Bittner**, a valuable presence in the Department who has been teaching in both the Philosophy and Cognitive Systems Programs, is returning to Wellesley College start-

ing next year.

We are sad to see them go, but wish them all the best and know they won't be strangers.

Also to be missed are those visitors from this past year who will be returning to their home institutions -- **Joseph Almog** (UCLA), **Yuval Dolev** (Bar-Ilan University), and **Cindy Holder** (UVic).

...and Comings....

This past Fall, **Nissa Wainwright** joined the department as the new Graduate Administrator. She has been a terrific addition to the Department and a welcome presence in the main office. Nissa will be moving from part-time to full-time in the fall, as Bernadette Andrade goes on leave.



Nissa Wainwright, Graduate Administrator

Leo Mikhail Holder Rysiew was born to Cindy Holder and Patrick Rysiew on December 14, 2005.

Ori Simchen and his wife **Shelly Rosenblum**, and **Bernadette Andrade** and her husband **Jose**, are both expecting new arrivals to their families later this summer. Our best wishes go out to them!

Departmental Colloquia

We once again had a very active and exciting speaker series this year, which included the following talks:

Peter Kivy (Rutgers University) "A Tale of Two Authenticities"

Ernie Sosa (Brown University and Rutgers University) "Dreams and Philosophy"

Bonnie Kent (University of California, Irvine) "Aquinas and Weakness of Will"

Amie Thomasson (University of Miami) "Answerable and Unanswerable Questions"

David Kaplan (UCLA) "Some Help for Students with the Difficult Bits in 'On Denoting,' on the Centenary of That Great Work"

Ruth Anna Putnam "Democracy as a Way of Life"

Gillian Russell (Washington University in St Louis) "Truth in Virtue of Meaning"

Jeff McMahan (Rutgers University) "War, Terrorism, and the 'War on Terror'"

Jesse Prinz (UNC at Chapel Hill) "The emotional foundation of moral attitudes"

John Campbell (UC Berkeley) "What's the Role of Spatial Awareness in Perception of Objects?"

Happenings

In addition to regular talks by visiting speakers, there were plenty of other events, both social and academic, in and around the department this year. Here are some of the highlights.

One-day Philosophy of Science Conference

A joint UBC-SFU-UW-Seattle Philosophy of Science Workshop was held this May at Green College. Organized by Chris Stephens and Alan Richardson, the workshop featured talks on topics in and about science and our understanding of its practice:

Paul Bartha (UBC) "The Fabrication of Pythagorean Analogies"

Phil Hanson (SFU) "Emergent Self-Organisation as Order for Free"

Megan Delehanty (U Calgary) "Reliable Representation"

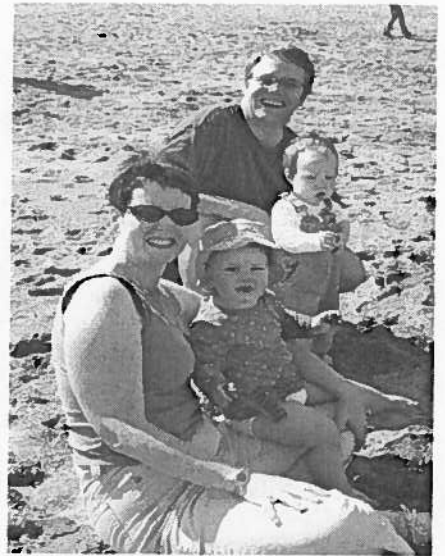
Alison Wylie (UW-Seattle)

"Standpoint Matters: Women, Work and the Academy"

The event was very well-attended, with attendees from across the Lower Mainland, Washington State, Montana, and even New York!

Fall Picnic

Thanks to the organizational efforts of Chris Stephens and Dom Lopes, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon this past September, people gathered at the west end of Spanish Banks for fun, games, jokes, kites, sandcastles, and a wonderful potluck.



Departmental Picnic: Pictured, left to right: Bernadette Andrade with daughter Maya, Chris Stephens with daughter Emi.

Spring Colloquium

The Philosophy Department hosted its fifth annual one-day Spring Colloquium in March, as dozens of students and faculty filled the Coach House at Green College to hear talks by noted philosophers (including some local talent!):

Jeff Pelletier (UBC) "Holism and Atomism; Atomism and Holism"

Joseph Almog (UCLA) "Whatness, Necessity, Cosmology"

Paul Russell (UBC) "History, Manipulation and Hard Compatibilism"

Anya Plutynski (Utah) "The Rise and Fall of the Adaptive Landscape"

Chris Stephens did an outstanding job of organizing the event. Like its predecessors, the Colloquium was superb – philosophically stimulating and challenging, but in a relaxed and friendly setting.

The Spring Colloquium, initiated by Catherine Wilson and Dom Lopes, has become a fixture on the UBC Philosophy calendar. It is sponsored by the Philosophy Department, which gratefully recognizes the support of Green College.

For regular updates on visiting speakers, events, publications, awards and achievements, visit www.philosophy.ubc.ca

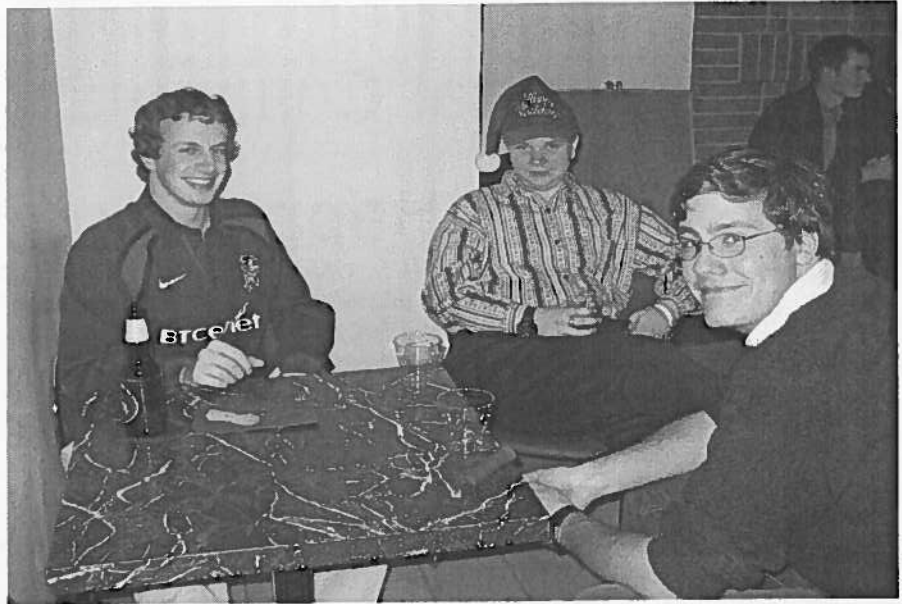
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Seasonal Party

In December the Department held a Seasonal Party at the Lutheran Centre, with a special appearance by St. Nick himself.

Workshop on Feminism & Philosophy

Last summer, the philosophy department hosted a 2-day workshop on feminism and philosophy, drawing speakers and participants from British Columbia, Alberta, and Oregon. Speakers included Elizabeth Brake (U. Calgary), Cindy Holder (U. Victoria), Scott Anderson (UBC), Darlene Rigo (independent scholar), Ann Levey (U. Calgary), and Sharyn Clough (Oregon State). Commenters included Christina Hendricks (UBC), James Kelleher (UBC), Jennifer Warriner (SFU), Steven Taubeneck (UBC), Scott Webber (SFU), and Lisa Shapiro (SFU). Overall, several dozen people attended and/or participated over the two days. The workshop was organized by Scott Anderson, with assistance from Zoe Geva. Funding support for the conference was provided by the Dean of Arts Office and the Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research.



Holiday cheer: MA students Patrick Edwards, Kyla Dennedy, and Hugh Hunter

Book Auction

In what has become a much anticipated annual event, the Philosophy Department held its annual Book Auction this past March. Thanks in no small part to generous donations by faculty and alumni, hundreds of quality used and nearly new philosophy books, some of them collectibles, went up for auction. In addition to heated bidding, there were refreshments

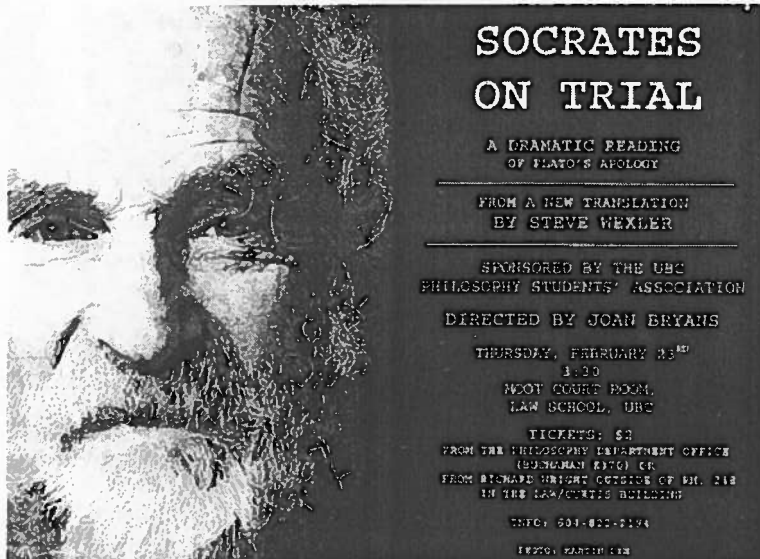
and door prizes, and all for a good cause: raising funds for new acquisitions for the department library and improvements to the reading room. Kudos to Scott Anderson, who organized the event.

Philosophy on Stage

Along with Steve Wexler (UBC Law), Andrew Irvine helped bring "Socrates on Trial" to the stage. Joan Bryans directed. The play, which was sponsored by the PSA (see Undergraduate News, p. 9), was a dramatic reading of Socrates' *Apology*, which is a reconstruction of the defense speeches in Socrates' trial in 399 B.C., on charges of 'corrupting the youth' and 'believing in gods which the State does not recognize'. The performance was sold out and, judging by the applause, it was an extremely successful event.



Participants at the UBC Feminism Workshop.



Poster for "Socrates on Trial"

Upcoming Events

The department is co-sponsoring this year's meeting of the **Western Canadian Philosophical Association**, to be held October 13-15, 2006 at Simon Fraser University. Visit the web site: <http://www.sfu.ca/~jillmc/WCPA.htm>

The **Philosophy of Science Association Meetings** are coming to Vancouver in the fall. They will take place November 2-5, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. You can find out more here: <http://philsci.org/news/PSA06>

Martin Godwyn completed his Ph.D. Next year, he will be teaching philosophy at both BCIT and SFU. His paper, "Extended cognition and the coupling-constitution fallacy," to be presented at the CPA in York, has won their "top student essay" prize; it will also be offered as a poster presentation at the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, at Washington Univ., St. Louis. In addition, his "Who's Afraid of Cognitive Bloat?" has just been accepted for publication at *Philosophical Psychology*.

Reza Memar-Sadeghi is an active participant in the Rorty Reading Group, composed of numerous students (graduate and undergraduate) and faculty from across campus, as well as members outside of Vancouver who follow and contribute to online discussions. Read more, and apply here to join, here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ReadingRorty/>

Jenn Neilson spent the year on exchange at the University of Auckland, studying aesthetics with Stephen Davies. She will be starting a PhD at Texas, Austin in the fall.

Roger Stanev will travel to Virginia Tech to present a poster, "Expert Knowledge vs. Quantitative Methods: P-value Fallacy in Epidemiology," at the First Symposium on Philosophy, History and Methodology of E.R.R.O.R. (Experimental Reasoning, Reliability, Objectivity &

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Graduate Student News

Papers, Presentations, and More

Yuichi Amitani presented his paper, "Does Ecological Rationality Solve the Rationality Debate (Evolutionarily)?" at last summer's meeting of The International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (Guelph, Ontario).

Vincent Bergeron participated in an exploratory workshop, "Executive and Prefrontal Functions: Exploring Supervision and Volition in the Brain," held at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies here on

campus. The workshop was organized by Kalina Christoff (Psychology) and Anthony Phillips (Psychiatry). Other participants included Donald Stuss from the Rothman institute in Toronto and Morris Moscovitch from the University of Toronto. The workshop was of direct relevance to Vincent's research on modularity and the working zone approach to the study of cognition.

Cory Fairley traveled to the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida in March to present a paper at The Tenth Annual Northeast Florida Student Philosophy Conference.

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.

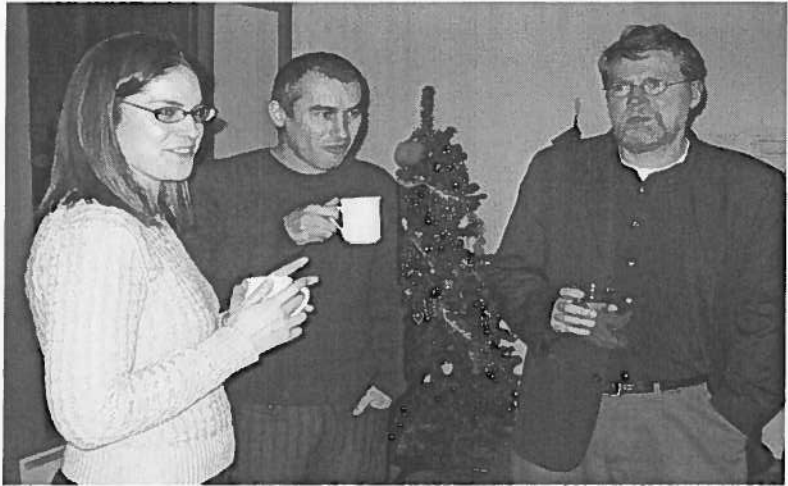
These activities help to enhance the experience of both our students and faculty by expanding our department's knowledge of and exposure to modern philosophical discourse.

Please see p.9 for information on how you can contribute.

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Rationality: Induction, Statistics, Modelling). He is also doing research work for UBC's Center for Applied Ethics, with Peter Danielson's group on Democracy, Ethics and Genomics.

Dustin Stokes finished his PhD and is currently a Postdoc at the University of Sussex, where he is a member of the Informatics Research Center.



Alan Richardson, with PhD students Jill Isenberg and Roger Stanev

Graduate Conference

This April, the first ever UBC Graduate Conference was held at Green College. The conference was organized by grad students **Tim Christie, Cory Fairley, Zoe Geva, Nola Senczysyn, and Josh Johnston.** Over sixty papers were submitted. Those presented were:

David Egan (Toronto) "Words are not Dead: Humor and Seriousness in the Work of JL Austin"

Russell Marcus (CUNY) "Why the Indispensability Argument does not Generate Mathematical Realism"

Bence Nanay (UC Berkeley) "Eyes, Ears, Noses: What are They? The Individuation of Trait Types and the Etiological Theory of Function."

David White (Calgary) "Five Lies about Moral Subjectivism"

Julie Ponesse (U of Western Ontario) "Aristotle on

Constitutive Moral Luck"

Alain El Hofi (Carleton) "Thought Experiments and Zombies"

Eric Hochstein (Ottawa) "Problems of Automatic Endorsement in the Extended Mind"

All papers had commentators and chairs. The keynote address, "The Invisible Philosopher in Contemporary Analytic Philosophy" was given by UBC's own **Alan Richardson.**

By all accounts the conference was a terrific success. Each session had at least 20 people in attendance, and all present had a great time.

Graduate Student Comings and Goings

Graduating MA Students to new PhD programs

Kyla Dennedy: Indiana HPS, history/phil of science

Cory Fairley: UBC (History), social & political

Hugh Hunter: Oklahoma, ancient

Michael Falgoust: Tulane, metaphysics

Jenn Neilsen: Texas (Austin), political, aesthetics

Zoe Geva: U Mass (Amherst), free will

Jamie Hellewell, social & political

Alirio Rosales, phil. of science, phil. of biology

Lawrence Santiago, social/political

Max Weiss, logic and language

MA

David Honeyman, political

Kim Taylor, applied ethics

New Fellowships

PhD

Yuichi Amutani: Wagner fellowship (UGF-affiliated, 1-year)

Jill Isenberg: UGF (1 year)

Daniel Marsh is going to take a year off and teach in Colorado.

Paul Schler plans to take another MA at Southwest Minnesota State

New graduate students

PhD

Jill Fellows, logic

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Undergraduate News

David Honeyman (BA, Hons, 2005; Philosophy) will join the M.A. program here at UBC in the fall.

Daisy Laforce (BA, 2005; Philosophy) will be starting the MA program in Philosophy at SFU.

Shane Luke (BA, 2005; minor in Philosophy) will also be moving to SFU's MA program.

Kijin Sung (BA, Hons, 2005; Philosophy) will be joining the PhD program in philosophy at Queens.

The Philosophy Students' Association (PSA)

The PSA is the voice of UBC philosophy students to both the Philosophy Department and the UBC administration in general. Organized by a team of motivated and able undergraduate students, the PSA aims to generate interest in philosophy through both social and academic events and programs.

The PSA's current executives are:

President: **Ted Shear**

Co-Vice President: **Chris Porte**

Co-Vice President: **Jordan Kroll**

Treasurer: **Anika Bhatia**

Fundraising Coordinator: **Zander Winter**

Outreach Coordinator: **Kian Mintz-Woo**

Academic Events Coordinator: **Adam Westra**

Athletic Events Coordinator: **Shea Clare**

Social Events Coordinator: **Justine Langston**

Website Coordinator: **Mike Jerokowski**

Member-At-Large: **Izzy Jack**

Those interested in joining the PSA or participating in any PSA events should find the PSA booth in the SUB during AMS Clubs Week or contact us for more information at Philosophy@club.ams.ubc.ca

Prolegomena

Prolegomena is an online philosophy journal for undergraduate students published at the University of British Columbia. It is published by the PSA, with support from the Department of Philosophy.



Philosophy Majors and PSA execs Izzy Jack and Shea Clare, at the UBC APA party in Portland

The first issue was published in June 2000. Papers selected cover a wide range of philosophical topics. 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. The Current Issue includes an essay by **Aidan McGlynn** entitled "Modality, Meaning and Mathematical Language".

We will publish several papers this year, and are currently accepting submissions for our Summer/Fall 2006 issue.

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Josh Johnston: UGF (1 year)
Brian Laetz: UGF + Langridge Fellowship (UGF-affiliated) (renewable)

Nola Semczyszyn: SSHRC doctoral fellowship (1-year)

Roger Stanev: UGF (partial)

MA

Patrick Edwards: SSHRC-CGS (Masters)

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

Prolegomena

The UBC Undergraduate Philosophy Journal

www.philosophy.ubc.ca/prolegom

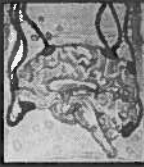
Meet the Professors

This year the PSA organized two 'Meet the Profs' events, designed to give philosophy students and faculty a chance to meet outside of the classroom (and over food and drinks!) and get to know each other on a less formal basis. Held in the Buchanan Penthouse, both sessions were extremely well-attended and a great success.

Undergraduate Colloquium

This past March, the PSA put on its first Undergraduate Colloquium. Featured were Joseph Almog and Yuval Dolev, both Visiting Professors to the Department this year, with their paper, "Could we really just be 'brains in a vat'?"

**Could we really just be
'brains in a vat'?**



Joseph Alroy and Naval Paley offer their expertise in the first ever Philosophy students' Association Undergraduate Colloquium.

Thursday March 9
12:00-2:00 pm
SUCC 3125

Everyone Welcome

For more information visit the UBC website at
http://www.ubc.ca/philosophy/undergrad/colloquium

Poster for the UBC Undergraduate Colloquium (p. 9)

On the Move

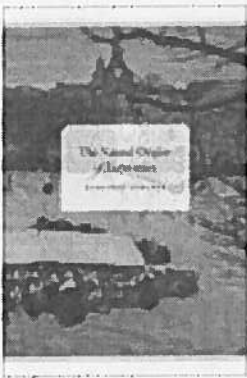
Sonja Amadae, previously an Assistant Professor without review, will start a tenure-track position in the Political Science Department at Ohio State University this fall.

Amit Hagar (PhD, 2004), previously an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in Philosophy at Delaware, will take up an Assistant Professorship at the History and Philosophy of Science Department at Indiana University starting this September.

Eric Hochstein (MA, 2005) has completed the first year of his PhD at the University of Ottawa, but will be moving to the University of Waterloo as of September.

Monte Johnson, former UBC Killam Postdoc, will be moving from St. Louis University, where he was an Assistant Professor, to UC San Diego (tenure-track).

Recent Books by Faculty



The Natural Origins of Economics, Margaret Schabas. The University of Chicago Press, 2006.

References to "the economy" are ubiquitous in modern life, and virtually every facet of human activity has capitulated to market mechanisms. In the early modern period, however, there was no common perception of the economy, and discourses on money, trade, and commerce treated economic phenomena as properties of physical nature. Wealth, for example, was, above all, considered a physical process; the natural principles that governed its growth and distribution could be augmented much as a forest might extend its reach into a meadow. Only in the early nineteenth century did natural philosophers begin to posit and identify the economy as a distinct object, divorcing it from natural processes and attaching it exclusively to human laws and agency.

In *The Natural Origins of Economics*, Margaret Schabas traces the emergence and transformation of economics in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries from a natural to a social science.

Focusing on the works of several prominent economists- David Hume, Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus, David Ricardo, and John Stuart Mill, -Schabas examines their conceptual debt to natural science and thus locates the evolution of economic ideas within the history of science.



Mistakes of Reason: Essays in Honour of John Woods, edited by Kent A. Peacock and Andrew D. Irvine. University of Toronto Press, 2005.

Over a distinguished academic career, the Canadian philosopher and scholar John Woods has written on a rich variety of topics central to contemporary philosophy. These include the history and philosophy of logic,

deviant logics, inductive and abductive reasoning, informal reasoning, fallacy theory, the logic of fiction, epistemology, and abortion and euthanasia. Not only has Woods' work been significant in itself, it has also stimulated others working in these fields.

Mistakes of Reason is a tribute to Woods and contains twenty-six new essays by leading Canadian and international philosophers. The essays are accompanied by commentaries by Woods himself, creating a unique dialogue between Woods and his colleagues. Editors Kent A. Peacock and Andrew D. Irvine have grouped the works under the themes of Reality, Knowledge, Logic and Language, Reasoning, and Values. The essays evaluate Woods' work and celebrate the generous contribution that he has made to Canada's intellectual development over the past forty years.

In the Agora: The Public Face of Canadian Philosophy, Edited by Andrew D. Irvine and John S. Russell,

(Continued on page 11)

with a foreword by John Ralston Saul. University of Toronto Press, 2006.

Mark Kingwell, John Ralston Saul, Jan Zwicky, Thomas Hurka, Will Kymlicka, Graeme Hunter, Paul and Patricia Churchland, Michel Seymour, Arthur Schafer, Charles Taylor -- the list of Canadian philosophers who have made important contributions to public debate is a long one. Here, in a single volume we find their views on topics ranging from free speech to free trade, from science to citizenship, from terrorism to tyranny, and from ethics to the environment.

In the Agora celebrates the unique perspectives, distinctive voices, and important contributions of Canadian philosophers by bringing together some of the nations' top minds to speak candidly on issues of popular public debate. Following a foreword by John Ralston Saul, editors Andrew D. Irvine and John S. Russell have carefully collected over a hundred essays into an accessible, controversial, and lively book that delves into any number of significant issues.

A spirited and engaging read, *In the Agora* effectively illustrates how Canadian philosophers have contributed to public discourse and enriched our world. It is a collection that is sure to prompt both interest and debate.

Logic and the Modalities in the Twentieth Century, Volume 7 of Handbook of the History of Logic, Edited by John Woods and Dov Gabbay. North-Holland, 2006.

The *Handbook of the History of Logic* is a multi-volume research instrument that brings to the development of logic the best in modern techniques of historical and interpretative scholarship. With the publication of the



present volume, the *Handbook* turns its attention to the remarkable renaissance of modal logic in the 20th century, one of the most important undertakings in logic's long history. Beginning with the early systems of C.I. Lewis in 1912, modal logic was a fixture in the century's research programme in logic, but for many years it ran on a

parallel track to the rich developments in the more dominant classical logic.

One of the great achievements of classical logic was the comparatively early production of a deep semantics for it. Modal logic would have to wait until the seminal work of Hintikka, Kanger and Kripke in the late 1950s and early 1960s. With modal semantics now in hand, it is not too much to say that modal logic has leapt its tracks and challenged classical logic head-on for dominance. Written by the leading researchers and scholars in the field, this volume explores the logics of necessity and possibility, knowledge and belief, obligation and permission, time, tense and change, relevance, and more.

Both this volume and the *Handbook* as a whole are definitive reference tools. *Logic and the Modalities in the Twentieth Century* is an indispensable guide for anyone interested in the development of logic, including researchers, graduate and senior undergraduate students in logic, history of logic, mathematics, history of mathematics, computer science and AI, linguistics, cognitive science, argumentation theory, philosophy, and the history of ideas.

Where are they now? Alumni Spotlight

Sumayya Hafeez (BA, Philosophy w. Minor in Religious Studies, 2004) is presently enrolled at the Vancouver Premier College in the Marketing & Sales Certificate program. After finishing her practicum, she hopes to get a job in Dubai or Vancouver. She would also like to pursue an MA in Religious Studies in the future at either UBC or McGill University.

Janet Nitins (BA, Philosophy) is a Resource Teacher with the Vancouver School Board.

Eric P. Thiessen (MA, 1987) is a self-employed lawyer working in Vancouver.

Michael Woodward (MA, 1981) is current president of the B.C. branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

Be featured here! Just complete and send in the 'Keep in Touch' form, p. 12.

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THE EVENING STAR

UBC Philosophy Department Newsletter · Summer 2006

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This fund will be used to support our Visiting Speakers' Series, student travel awards, and our departmental library. 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. For further information please contact Bernadette Andrade at bandrade@interchange.ubc.ca

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