Singer on Global Poverty

Thanks to a generous endowment by Professor emeritus Richard Sikora, a long-time member of the Department, and his wife, Dorothy, the Department was able to continue the tradition of holding an annual lecture entitled “The Dorothy and Richard Sikora Lecture.”

On September 7, 2007, hundreds of people attended the 2007 Sikora Lecture, given by the distinguished philosopher Peter Singer of Princeton University. The lecture, entitled “Global Poverty: what are our obligations?” was flawlessly delivered and motivated us to re-think our responsibility to those less fortunate than us in the far reaches of the globe.

Head Lines

A Message from the Department Head

This is my last year as Department Head, starting five years ago in 2004, so I will take the opportunity to reflect on the many changes that have transpired. Let me say at the outset that I owe an enormous debt to my colleague John Beatty, who served as Acting Head in 2006-7 so that I could take my postponed sabbatical. Let me also pay tribute to the many colleagues who served on numerous committees and offices, especially those who served as the Graduate Program Director: Paul Bartha, Paul Russell, and Alan Richardson. First, we have seen the promotion and tenure of three colleagues: Leslie Burkholder to Senior Instructor, and Sylvia Berryman and Ori Simchen to Associate Professor. Over these past five years we have stayed the same size, but replaced the three professors who left. First we appointed Roberta Ballarin as an Assistant Professor in Logic and Metaphysics, and then two full professors: Murat Aydède in Philosophy of Mind and Eric Margolis in Philosophy of Psychology.

For the first time this year, the department is able to grow. We have hired Dr. Christopher Mole in an open position with a half teaching load in the undergraduate program in Cognitive Studies. He specializes in Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology, and Aesthetics. He has a wide range of interests, including Philosophy of Science, Logic and Epistemology, British Empiricism, and Normative Ethics. Dr. Mole holds an Honours BA in Philosophy and Psychology from Oxford University (2000) and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Princeton University (2005). He then held a postdoctoral fellowship in the program

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in Philosophy, Neuroscience and Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis (2005-6) and is currently Lecturer in Philosophy at University College Dublin (2006-9). Dr. Mole has published several articles in distinguished journals such as *Mind and Language* and *Philosophical Psychology*, and a number of book chapters, including an article on attention in the recently published *Routledge Companion to The Philosophy of Psychology*. He is currently working on a monograph and an edited volume, both on the philosophy and psychology of attention, and both with Oxford University Press. His next project will focus on the philosophical dimensions of memory.

We have been fortunate to have eight temporary early career faculty this past year. One, Bence Nanay, will return for the fourth year as a one-term visiting assistant professor. Of our postdoctoral fellows, all but one are leaving us this year. Jonathan Tsou is off to a tenure-track post at Iowa State University, Jonathan Koolage to a tenure-track post at Eastern Michigan University, and Darren Bradley to a tenure-track post at City College of New York. Brian Hepburn is starting a second post-doctoral fellowship with us, funded by SSHRC. Of our three assistant professors without review, Bradley Murray and Scott Edgar are staying on for a second year, but Marcus Arvan is moving to a more long-term post at the University of Tampa. Congratulations to them all.

As for the graduate program, we have seen it grow in numbers and esteem. Our graduate students have had a banner year with fellowship funding. Best of all, they moved from the "dungeon" of Buchanan D to a third-floor communal study-room with a glorious view of the mountains. Several recent PhDs are well placed, including tenure-track posts at Indiana University and the University of Ottawa, as well as post-doctoral fellowships at Sussex, Toronto, and UWO.

Many of my senior colleagues hold important offices outside the department. Andrew Irvine is serving a second term on the Board of Governors. Dominic Lopes continues as Associate Dean in Arts, and John Beatty is finishing up a five-year term as Chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program. Until last year, Alan Richardson served for four years as the Chair of the Hampton Committee. Murat Aydede is currently serving on the Dean's Tenure and Promotion Committee.

Last spring we hosted the annual meetings of the Canadian Philosophical Association and the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science. Another international congress, HOPOS (History of the Philosophy of Science) held its meetings at UBC in late June. Thanks go to Alan Richardson for doing most of the arrangements for the latter two groups. This April, 2009, the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association will be held on Canadian soil for the first time, here in downtown Vancouver, April 8-12, 2009. Dominic Lopes chair of the program, and serves on the executive and as secretary/treasurer for the division. Over the past five years we have hosted many more conferences and organized workshops at the Peter Wall Institute. We have also had a number of distinguished speakers for the annual Dorothy and Richard Sikora lecture including John Searle, Peter Singer, Shelley Kagan, and Hilary Putnam.

Last, but by no means least, I hired Nissa Bell to the half-time staff position in 2005. A year later she became the full-time administrative assistant and just recently was promoted to Manager for the department. We also hired Julie Thomas this year to the graduate secretary position. She is mostly responsible for composing this newsletter. Together our office staff is in top form.

*Margaret Schabas*

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**Faculty News**

Paul Bartha co-authored a textbook entitled *Analytists in Vector Spaces* that was published by Wiley in January 2009. He also has another book coming out with Oxford University Press, *By Parallel Reasoning: The Construction and Evaluation of Analogical Arguments*.

Sylvia Berryman has a book coming out with Cambridge, *The Mechanical Hypothesis in Ancient Greek Natural Philosophy*. She is organizing a new interdisciplinary Term Abroad in Global Citizenship, and will take a group of 25 UBC-Vancouver and UBC-Okanagan students to Guatemala this fall. The programme will include a two week service learning placement, Spanish immersion, and other UBC coursework on global issues, poverty and civil society.

Dominic Lopes has finished up his book, *A Philosophy of Computer Art*, and it will be coming out late this summer. The book looks at the relationship between art and technology by arguing that the computer art is a distinctive, new art form; and it touches on a range of topics from ontology to computer games. Dominic also co-authored an article with Brian Laetz on "Genre" for the *Routledge Companion to Film and Philosophy*, and he published papers in *Perspectives on Science, Philosophy and*...
Phenomenological Research, the Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, and the Journal of Philosophy on scientific images, musical expression, good taste, and theories of art.

In the last year, Benee Nanay had papers accepted for publication in Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Analysis, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, The Monist, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism and Adam Smith Review, as well as in an edited volume on natural kinds published by MIT Press and in CogSci 2008 (the proceedings of the annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society). His edited volume Perceiving the World is under contract to be published in 2010 with Oxford University Press. He holds a tenure track job at Syracuse University but spends every other term at UBC.

Margaret Schabas published articles in several different journals including Daedalus, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, and Philosophy of the Social Sciences. She gave the Plenary Address at the HOPOS Biennial meeting. She is currently finishing up her last year as Department Head.

Christopher Stephens presented a paper entitled “Multilevel Selection and Strong Reciprocity” at the Evolution and the Levels of Selection conference here at UBC on November 3, 2008. He also presented the paper “Forces and Causes in Evolutionary Theory” at the Philosophy of Science Association meetings in Pittsburgh (Nov. 8, 2008). He was the keynote speaker at the Marquette University graduate student conference, where I presented the paper “Scientific Philosophy and Skepticism” (March 28, 2009). He will be presenting the paper “Good Objections to Dogmatism” at the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association Conference in Vancouver on April 11th (2009).

John Woods published three more volumes of the Handbook of the History of Logic (with Dov M. Gabbay), as well as a number of articles, including “The resource-origins of nonmonotonicity” in Studia Logica and “Beyond reasonable doubt: An abductive dilemma in criminal law” in Informal Logic. An interview that John has recently given “The Reasoner” is available online at www.thereasoner.org.

Comings...

The Department has an exciting cohort of incoming member including:

Eric Margolis (PhD, Rutgers, 1995) joined the department this year, coming to us from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is well-known for his work on concepts and has written extensively on topics in the philosophy of cognitive science and the philosophy of mind. He is currently writing a book on number concepts with Stephen Laurence.

Departmental Colloquia

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

Scott Edgar (UBC) “Hermann Cohen and a Kanatian Problem of Objectivity”

Marcus Arvan (UBC) “Groundwork for a Non-Ideal Theory of Justice”

Robert Kane (University of Texas, Austin) “Are all Values Relative? Ethical Ground in a Pluralist World”

Joan Weiner (Indiana University, Bloomington) “On knowing when to stop: Davidson on prediction”

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Dan Ryder (UBC, Okanagan) “Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad World? Naturalizing Empty Concepts”

Corolina Sartorio (University of Wisconsin, Madison) “Failing to Do the Impossible”

Steve Stich (Rutgers) “Empirical Challenges to the Use of Intuitions as Evidence in Philosophy”

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.

Fall Picnic

Thanks to the organizational efforts of Nissa Bell, 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 picnic.

Spring Colloquium

The Philosophy Department hosted its seventh annual one-day Spring Colloquium on March 7, 2009. The theme of the colloquium was Freedom, Responsibility, and Moral Community. Dozens of students and faculty filled the Coach House at Green College to hear talks by noted philosophers (including some local talent!):


Paul Russell and Nissa Bell did an outstanding job of organizing the event. Like its predecessor, 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.

Seasonal Party

On a snowy Friday in December, the Department held its annual Seasonal Party at Green College. Nissa Bell planned an evening of good food, fantastic prizes, and great company. In the door prize competition, Sylvia Berryman was the lucky winner of a stuffed version of Socrates.

Graduate Student News

New Graduate Students

PhD
Taylor Davis
Christopher French
JiHee Han
Andrew Inkpen

MA
Aidan Collier
Alexis Paton
Sahasa Pedersen
Brendan Smith
Avery Snelson

Recently Graduated Students

PhD
Vincent Bergeron
Tim Christie
Alexander Korolev

MA
David Honeyman
Reza Memar-Sadeghi
Shane Zappatenni

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Papers, Presentations, and More

Roger Clarke is presenting his paper “The Raven’s Paradox is a Mislabeled” at the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association in Vancouver on April 10th.

Joshua Johnston spent last fall on a Great British Adventure. While there he was a visiting research student at the University of Reading, working with Jonathan Dancy on issues related to his dissertation on aesthetic and ethical particularism. Josh gave a talk in Oxford at the British Society of Aesthetics, where his paper "Siblley and Reid on Using Aesthetic Adjectives" won best graduate paper. He was also invited to present a paper on moral testimony at the University of Kent, Canterbury. Josh currently holds the Gertrude Langridge Graduate Scholarship in Humanities.

in Film and Philosophy. He and fellow graduate student Joshua Johnston co-authored "What is Fantasy?", which subsequently appeared in Philosophy and Literature. He also co-authored an entry for the Routledge Companion to Film and Philosophy with Dominic McIver Lopes on film genres.

Roger Stanev co-authored a paper “NERD and Norms: Framework and Experiments” which appeared in Philosophy of Science in December 2008. He presented his paper, "HIV/AIDS Activism and the Challenges in Designing and Monitoring Clinically Relevant Trials" at the last Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Meeting in June 2008. It was first runner up for the 2008 Richard Hadden Award and is currently published in the 2008 Proceedings of CSHPS. He also presented a paper "Interim Data Analysis in RCTS" at VISU 2008. He will be presenting his paper "Epidemiologic Causation: Jerome Cornfield's Argument for a Causal Connection between Smoking and Lung Cancer" at the 2009 CSHPS Annual Meeting and his paper "Two Competing Approaches to Statistical Inference" at the University of Western Ontario.

Undergraduate News

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: Michelle Pham
Vice President: Thomas Vogl
Prolegomena Editor-in-Chief: Dani Hallet
Treasurer: Alexander Thistlewood
Fundraising Coordinator: Trevor Record
Social Events Coordinator: Evan Westra
Outreach Coordinator: Aubyn Radar
Academic Events Coordinator: Michael Flood
Athletic Events Coordinator: Dani Hallet
Member at Large: Dave Slater
Member at Large: Don McLenaghan
Webmaster: Rachel Barker / Mav Javid

Those interested in joining the PSA or participating in any PSA events should contact us for more information at Philosophy@club.ams.ubc.ca

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The PSA is pleased to reflect upon a very active and engaging year, both intellectually and socially. Their academic activities include a highly successful series of weekly reading groups that met to discuss philosophical papers of all varieties and in the second semester conducted a sustained reading of Spinoza’s Ethics. The PSA is proud to recognize three of their members, Evan Westra, Jonathan Lerner and Dani Hallet, who will each be presenting papers at the Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in April, 2009.

The PSA hosted several social events, including two excellent evenings of wine and cheese as well as a night of entertainment which raised $351 for Humanities 101. Hum 101 is a program that offers university courses to persons living in the downtown eastside who are interested in learning but may not have the financial means to pursue a post-secondary education. The Dean of Arts generously met the amount raised by the PSA, dollar for dollar, which enabled Hum 101 to purchase a set of Oxford English Dictionaries. In September, members of the PSA also raised $350 for the Terry Fox Foundation for Cancer Research by participating in the Terry Fox Run. Much of this amount was due to the generous sponsorship of members of the UBC Philosophy Department.

Prolegomena

Prolegomena is an online undergraduate philosophy journal published at the University of British Columbia. It is published by the PSA, with support from the Department of Philosophy. The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'prolegomenon' as a "preliminary work; esp. a learned preface or preamble." The editors hope that the papers submitted to Prolegomena will serve as prologues to future careers in philosophy.

After a year-long hiatus, Prolegomena will release its twelfth issue in April, 2009. Papers selected cover a broad range of philosophical topics and represent authors from both Canadian and American universities. The upcoming issue will feature papers on aesthetics, the free will debate and the history of philosophy. The upcoming as well as archived issues may be found at: www.philosophy.ubc.ca/prolegom

Prolegomena is currently accepting submissions for its 2010 edition. Please e-mail submissions and inquiries to: prolegomenaed@gmail.com

Meet the Professors

This year the PSA organized several ‘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 complex, the sessions were extremely well-attended and a great success.

Global Citizenship Term Abroad

UBC Philosophy is taking a leading role in instigating and organizing a new Global Citizenship Term Abroad, recruiting an interdisciplinary group of undergraduates from both UBC campuses, Vancouver and Kelowna to study and live in Guatemala this fall. Students will study UBC coursework taught by UBC faculty: first semester Spanish, Contemporary Moral Problems, Sociology’s Perspectives on Global Citizenship, and Politics and Government of Latin America. Their Term Abroad experience will include independent living, a two-week service learning placement building houses with Habitat for Humanity Guatemala, and visits to civil society organizations, women’s cooperatives, and indigenous rights groups.

To be accepted, students were required to demonstrate their commitment to the goals of the programme and a long term interest in global citizenship: some have done international volunteer work previously in Haiti, Poland, South Korea, Philippines; others hope to work in international development or social justice on graduating. Students will gain valuable

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experience in the realities of life in a poorer society, working alongside local masons, living in hostels and homestays with Guatemalan families, shopping for food at local markets, and speaking an unfamiliar language. Students pay programme costs on top of airfare, tuition and living costs, and scholarship funds are essential to keep the experience affordable for many. Funds raised through Philosophy's 2009 Alumni Appeal will be given to participating students to help offset costs of participating. Help us support this great group of global citizens!

Faculty Books


Although it is widely recognized that David Hume's A Treatise of Human Nature (1739-40) belongs among the greatest works of philosophy, there is little agreement about the correct way to interpret his fundamental intentions. It is an established orthodoxy among almost all commentators that skepticism and naturalism are the two dominant themes in this work. The difficulty has been, however, that Hume's skeptical arguments and commitments appear to undermine and discredit his naturalistic ambition to contribute to "the science of man". This schism appears to leave his entire project broken-backed.

The solution to this riddle depends on challenging another, closely related, point of orthodoxy: namely, that before Hume published the Treatise he removed almost all material concerned with problems of religion. Russell argues, contrary to this view, that irreligious aims and objectives are fundamental to the Treatise and account for its underlying unity and coherence. It is Hume's basic anti-Christian aims and objectives that serve to shape and direct both his skeptical and naturalistic commitments. When Hume's arguments are viewed from this perspective we can solve, not only puzzles arising from his discussion of various specific issues, we can also explain the intimate and intricate connections that hold his entire project together.

This "irreligious" interpretation provides a comprehensive fresh account of the nature of Hume's fundamental aims and ambitions in the Treatise. It also presents a radically different picture of the way in which Hume's project was rooted in the debates and controversies of his own time, placing the Treatise in an irreligious or anti-Christian philosophical tradition that includes Hobbes, Spinoza and freethinking followers. Considered in these terms, Hume's Treatise constitutes the crowning achievement of the Radical Enlightenment.


Since its inception some fifty years ago, cognitive science has seen a number of sea changes. Perhaps the best known is the development of connectionist models of cognition as an alternative to classical, symbol-based approaches. A more recent - and increasingly influential - trend is that of dynamical-systems-based, ecologically oriented models of the mind. Researchers suggest that a full understanding of the mind will require systematic study of the dynamics of interaction between mind, body, and world. Some argue that this new orientation calls for a revolutionary new metaphysics of mind, according to which mental states and processes, and even persons, literally extend into the environment. The Cambridge Handbook of Situated Cognition is a state-of-the-art guide to this new movement in cognitive science. Each chapter tackles a specific area of empirical research or specific sector of the conceptual foundation underlying this research. The chapter authors are leading figures in the emerging interdisciplinary field of situated cognition, including representatives from philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and anthropology.


More than 2,400 years after his death, Socrates remains an iconic but controversial figure. To his followers, he personified

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progressive Greek ideals of justice and wisdom. To his detractors, he was a corruptor of the young during wartime and one of the reasons Athens had suffered a humiliating defeat to Sparta in 404 BC. Socrates’ story is one of historic proportions and his unyielding pursuit of truth remains controversial and relevant to the present day.

_Socrates on Trial_ presents the story of Socrates as told to us by Aristophanes, Plato, Xenophon, and others. The play uses fresh language to emphasize what is important in the works of these ancient authors, while at the same time remaining faithful to the general tenor and tone of their writings. Andrew Irvine has created a script that not only fits comfortably into the space of a single theatrical performance, but is also informative and entertaining. Suited for informal dramatic readings as well as regular theatrical performances, _Socrates on Trial_ will undoubtedly appeal to instructors and students, and its informative introduction enhances its value as a resource.


Hume’s Political Discourses (1752) won immediate acclaim and positioned him as an authoritative figure on the subject of political economy. This volume of thirteen new essays definitively establishes the central place of political economy in Hume’s intellectual endeavor, as well as the profound and far-reaching influence of his theories on Enlightenment discourse and practice. A major strength of this collection is that the contributors come from a diverse set of fields - philosophy, economics, political science, history and literature. This promotes a comprehensive reading of Hume’s political economy, taking into account his entire set of writings and correspondence, in a way that captures his polymathic genius. Hume’s analyses of trade and commerce not only delve into the institutions of money and markets, but also human agency, the role of reason and the passions, manners and social mores. Hume sought general principles but also concrete applications, whether he grappled with the problem of economic development (Scotland and Ireland), with the debates on luxury consumption (France), or with the mounting public debt (England).
Support the Philosophy Department

Gifts from friends of the UBC Philosophy Department help make a lasting impact on our community and our world. By donating to the Department, you are enriching the experiences of our students and helping them achieve excellence, encouraging knowledge and discovery, and supporting teaching and learning.

The Department is pleased to announce that we are working to establish two graduate student prizes for the Best Essay and the Top Teaching Assistant. The awards will be named in honour of our alumni, Paul and Patricia Churchland, and Ian Hacking. Each has a Bachelor’s degree from UBC. The Churchlands have gone on to distinguished careers in philosophy at the University of California at San Diego. Patricia Churchland is UC President’s Professor of Philosophy and works on the interface of philosophy and neuroscience, particularly consciousness. Paul Chuchland is Voltz Chair of Philosophy and works on problems in the philosophy of science and mind. They spend their summers on Bowen Island, within sight of UBC.  Ian Hacking is a world-renowned historian and philosopher of science. He is University Professor at the University of Toronto, a Chair at the Collège de France, and has served on the advisory board of Green College (UBC).

We are also raising funds for student bursaries to assist undergraduates in participating on a special term abroad in Guatemala for Fall 2009, organized by our colleague Sylvia Berryman. For information on this program, please see inside on page six or contact Nissa Bell at nissaw@interchange.ubc.ca.

Donations may be submitted directly to UBC Annual Giving, 500-5950 University Blvd., Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3 Canada or made by credit card online at www.supporting.ubc.ca/givingoptions/donatenow.html. Please note on your cheque – or the ‘gift designation’ section of the online giving form - that the donation should be directed to the Philosophy Department Graduate Student Initiative or the Global Citizen Term Abroad. Tax receipts will be issued by the UBC Development Office. Thank you for supporting the UBC Philosophy Department.