There’s lots of news since our last departmental newsletter. We have three new faculty members and several significant goodbyes (Comings and Goings, p. 3), a new Head (Head Lines, p. 2), a new website and social media presence (p. 6), a seminar in Guatemala (p. 5) and lots more news.

To keep up with departmental events between newsletters, check our website or subscribe to our mailing list by sending ‘subscribe phil-gen’ to majordomo@interchange.ubc.ca. Or you can email Nissa Bell (nissa.bell@ubc.ca) to ask to be added to the list.
Head Lines
A Message from the Department Head

Alan Richardson has taken over as Philosophy Department Head as of July 2012. He replaces Paul Bartha, who served as Head from 2009–2012.

Nearly a year into my Headship, I am happy to report that the Department keeps moving from strength to strength.

Arrivals continue apace. We welcomed Jonathan Ichikawa onto the permanent faculty this year. Not unrelatedly, the Department took to plunge into social media: you can now visit us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. [see p. 6 for details]

Thanks to serendipity and co-ordination across the Faculty of Arts, we will welcome Evan Thompson, currently at the University of Toronto, onto the permanent faculty of the Department next year. There have been more minor victories also: starting next year, for example, the Department will have a dedicated seminar room.

We are saying good-bye to a few people this year, most especially to Andrew Irvine, who has served our Department with unparalleled dedication and diligence for over two decades. We are fortunate that Andrew will still be plying the philosophy trade in BC, but now as Head of the Department of Economics, Philosophy, and Political Science at UBC-Okanagan.

Among the things I’d like to do in my remaining two years as Head is to forge much closer ties with alumni. It is too easy to lose track of smart people after they leave UBC and too easy to forget that our former students in every walk of life continue to have interest in philosophy after they have finished their degrees. If you have ideas on socially and intellectually interesting alumni events, feel free to send them to me.
The philosophy department welcomes **Evan Thompson**, who will be joining UBC Philosophy from the University of Toronto as a full professor in July 2013. Professor Thompson has published widely in philosophy of mind and cognitive science; he will deepen what is already an area of strength at UBC. His interest in phenomenology and Indian Buddhist philosophy will also bring new breadth to our department. His most recent book, *Waking, Dreaming, Being: New Light on the Self and Consciousness from Neuroscience, Meditation, and Philosophy*, forthcoming with Columbia University Press, brings together elements from all of these research areas.

**Jonathan Jenkins Ichikawa** joined UBC Philosophy as an assistant professor in July 2012. (His was already a familiar face, as he was here from 2011–12 as a postdoctoral research and teaching fellow.) Professor Ichikawa received his Ph.D from Rutgers in 2008. Most of his research centres around epistemology, with connections to philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and philosophical methodology. His first book, co-authored with Benjamin Jarvis, is *The Rules of Thought*, which will be published by Oxford University Press this Spring.

We are also pleased to welcome **Samantha Matherne**, who joins the philosophy department in 2013 as a three-year fixed-term assistant professor. Professor Matherne received her Ph.D from the University of California, Riverside in 2013. Her research focuses on Kantian and post-Kantian approaches to the philosophy of perception and aesthetics. She is particularly interested in how Kant’s views on these matters were developed in the 20th century in Phenomenology and Neo-Kantianism.
In Memorium: Howard Jackson

Steven Savitt remembers longtime UBC Philosophy Professor Howard Jackson, who passed away in 2012.

Howard Oliver Jackson was born in Columbus, Georgia on 8 August 1928. He died on 26 August 2012 in Vancouver at the age of 84.

Howard joined the UBC Philosophy Department in 1964 and retired in 1993, though he taught several courses for the department while retired. He came to UBC from UC Berkeley, where his Ph. D. thesis, “Frege’s Philosophy of Language”, was supervised by Benson Mates. His first two published papers were indeed on Frege’s philosophy of language. Each was three pages long; each appeared in a prominent journal; each ended a debate about Frege’s views; each was reprinted in the first important English-language collection of papers about Frege, Klemke’s Essays on Frege. Howard did not waste words; but when he wrote a paper, it stayed written.

Howard was department Head for a few years (in the late 1980s, I believe). He had a deeply mischievous nature, which was perhaps not the ideal temperament for an administrator; but during his term as Head the department grew and the Centre for Applied Ethics was launched.

—Steve Savitt

Howard did not waste words; but when he wrote a paper, it stayed written.

We bid a fond farewell to Andrew Irvine, who has been with us at UBC since 1989. Professor Irvine will take up a post as Head of the Department of Philosophy, Economics, and Political Science at our sister campus, UBC-Okanagan. Andrew has been a major part of our department for many years. He will be missed!

We have enjoyed having Masashi Kasaki as a postdoctoral fellow for the past two years, as well, but we also say goodbye to him, as he takes up a post as a Specially Appointed Assistant Professor in philosophy in an Engineering program at Osaka University in Japan.

We said goodbye this year to Matthew Fulkerson, who has taken up an Assistant Professorship at the University of San Diego after two years as a postdoctoral fellow at UBC. Best wishes, Matthew, and thanks for your time here!

Uygar Abaci is also leaving us this year after two years as an Instructor in our department. Uygar will continue his research on Kant and modality as an assistant professor at the University of Richmond in Virginia.

The UBC British Columbia flag was lowered September 27, 2012 in honour of Howard Jackson. Photo credit Phillip Jeffrey: http://tinyurl.com/ubcflag
Seminar on Ethics and Global Poverty
Guatemala, May 2013

Professor Sylvia Berryman has been awarded a SSHRC Insight Development Grant to offer a graduate student seminar on the philosophical literature addressing questions about global poverty. The course, which will be held over the month of May in 2013, will be held on location in Guatemala, with the aim of fostering a more nuanced understanding of the challenges of poverty and anti-poverty programs.

Brian Laetz Graduate Essay Prize Winner: Oisín Deery

Congratulations to Oisín Deery, winner of UBC Philosophy’s first annual Brian Laetz Graduate Essay Prize. The prize, which includes a cash award, is given to one philosophy student annually for producing the essay of the best overall quality.

Oisín’s paper is called “Is Agentive Experience Compatible with Determinism?”

Brian Laetz (January 18, 1977–March 18, 2010) was a much beloved doctoral student in our graduate program. Brian specialized in aesthetics and was granted his PhD (posthumously) in November 2010 for his dissertation, Issues in the Appreciation of Art and Nature. This annual Graduate Essay Prize allows us to honour and remember Brian, who was a prolific and meticulous writer.

The Brian Laetz Essay Prize was made possible through the generous contributions of Cynthia Laetz, Susan Kay, Amanda Marshall, UBC Dean of Arts Office, UBC Faculty of Graduate Studies, faculty and students in the UBC Philosophy Department, and additional friends of Brian Laetz.
UBC Philosophy has a brand new website, and new social media sites.

We’ve justifiably believed for a while that our internet presence permitted some room for improvement. Now, thanks to the hard work of Tiffany Melius and UBC Arts ISIT, we have a brand new website, designed from the ground up. All the previous content (minus a handful of broken links) is still there, organized a little more systematically, along with useful new content like an alumni resources page and a virtual bookshelf of faculty publications. If you have any suggestions for additional information or resources to include, please feel free send them to phil.webmaster@ubc.ca.

We also now have an official Twitter feed and Facebook page for UBC Philosophy—see the details to the left. Make sure to ‘follow’ us on Twitter and ‘like’ us on Facebook to stay up-to-date with the latest departmental goings-on. Jonathan Ichikawa is handling the departmental social media, so if you have any questions or suggestions, get in touch with him.

Excerpts from a Faculty Profile: Margaret Schabas

A fuller version of this faculty profile appeared on our Facebook page in February 2013. You can read the whole thing here: http://tinyurl.com/schabasprofile. Stay tuned to our facebook page to get to know more of the faculty, and to keep up with departmental events!

What are some of the main issues in the philosophy of economics? **Margaret Schabas:** Some of the questions philosophers of economics consider include: What kind of a science is economics? How is it similar or different from physics? Many people think it’s not similar at all, but in my work, I argue that it is—particularly given the use of mathematics.

What drew you to the field? **MS:** I didn’t study any economics as an undergraduate; I studied history and philosophy of physics, and thought that that was what I was going to work on. But my advisor recommended a course by an economist called Scott Gordon on the philosophy of the social sciences, so I took that course and fell in love with it, and totally changed directions. I took a number of economics classes, and went on to get a Master’s degree in economics while a young professor at Michigan. I think it’s really important, when you’re doing philosophy of science, to know the science.

What are you working on right now? **MS:** I’m just finishing a paper on John Stuart Mill on bioeconomics—on the way he treats economics as part and parcel of a biological approach, embedding economics in a broader evolutionary schema. And I’m trying to finish a book on David Hume’s economics.

You have a Bachelor of Science in Music for the oboe. How did that fit in with your career? **MS:** Well you can’t take up music later in life, and I always wanted to see how far I could get on the oboe. I did get to go to one of the top music schools in the country, I still play—I’m in the Peter Wall woodwind quintet, and I play the odd wedding. I used to play with the Canadian Opera Company.
Faculty News

The department is delighted to announce that **Roberta Ballerin** has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, effective July 1, 2013.

**Matthew Bedke** was also promoted to associate Professor with tenure in 2013. He has recently accepted a position as editor for the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, handling many of their ethics and metaethics submissions. Matt’s work has lately been focused on ethical intuitions and methods in ethics more broadly, as well as semantic theories for normative language. Matt recently co-authored a paper with UBC grad student Oisin Deery, along with Shaun Nichols. It concerns our experiences of having free will, and it is forthcoming in the inaugural volume of *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility*.

**Sylvia Berryman** was awarded a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for a research project on ethics and global poverty, including funds to travel with ten graduate students to take a graduate seminar in Guatemala in May 2013. She has published recent papers on ancient science, and is working on a book project on Aristotle’s ethical naturalism. She has also been very active in her role as graduate advisor.

**Christina Hendricks** published a paper in 2012 in an edited volume, called “Prophecy and Parhesis: Foucauldian Critique and the Political Role of Intellectuals.” She also completed UBC’s Faculty Certificate on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education during the 2011-2012 academic year. Dr. Hendricks has been on leave July 2012–July 2013.


**Andrew Irvine** has recently accepted the position of Head of the Department of Economics, Philosophy and Political Science at UBC Okanagan. He begins the position on July 1, 2013.

**Carrie Jenkins** has been appointed to a Canada Research Chair here at UBC, a part-time Chair in Theoretical Philosophy at the Northern Institute of Philosophy in Aberdeen, and an executive editorship of *Thought*. She has recent publications in *The Monist, Analytic Philosophy, Erkenntnis*, and *Philosophical Studies*.

**Dominic Lopes** was awarded a Killiam Research Prize in 2012. From January to June of that year he was a Leverhulme Research Professor of Aesthetics at the University of Warwick. He gave the Mangolesi Lectures at the University of Leeds in May. His paper on photography and agency recently appeared in *Critical Inquiry*, his co-edited third edition of the *Routledge Companion to Aesthetics* was recently published, and his new book, *Beyond Art*, will appear in 2013.

**Eric Margolis** was appointed as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at UBC’s Peter Wall Institute in 2012. He has several recent publications, including an article in Philosophers’ Imprint and an entry on ‘Concepts’ in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, both co-authored with Stephen Laurence.

**Adam Morton** has recently published two books: *Bounded Thinking* with Oxford University Press, and *Emotion and Imagination* with Polity Press. He will be president of the Canadian Philosophical Association starting in summer 2013.

In addition to his appointment as department head, **Alan Richardson** was recently re-elected to the Governing Board of the Philosophy of Science Association. His term runs through 2016.

Last year **Margaret Schabas** became President-Elect of the History of Economics Society, and will be hosting their annual meeting in June 2013. She recently contributed to the *Continuum Companion to David Hume* and the *Routledge Handbook of 18th-Century Philosophy*.

**Ori Simchen** has recently started working as editor for the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*. He has several recent and forthcoming publications, including a 2012 book with OUP and forthcoming articles in the *Journal of Philosophy* and in a special issue of *Theoria* dedicated to the work of Ruth Barcan Marcus. Ori has recently given talks at Yale, CUNY Graduate Center, and Lewis and Clark, and is scheduled to give more talks at the University of Bologna, Bar Ilan, UC Santa Cruz, Lund, and Princeton.

**Christopher Stephens** was awarded the 2012-2013 Killiam Teaching Prize for Graduate Instruction. His recent research has been divided between work on philosophical issues about how we make inferences about the past (especially in evolutionary biology), and on issues in epistemology about why we should be rational. He is presenting papers on these topics at upcoming meetings of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS) and at a conference in honour of the philosopher Elliott Sober.

**John Woods** has completed work on the sixteen-volume *Handbook of the Philosophy of Science*, for which he was a co-editor and the managing editor. He also has several recent publications, including papers in the *Review of Symbolic Logic* and *Philosophia Scientiae*. He recently gave lectures in France, Latvia, and Italy, and he is working on a book called *Naturalizing Logic*. 
Philosophers make better test-takers
(Or maybe they really are smarter)

Standardized tests may or may not reveal much that is worth knowing about what a person can do, intellectually. Perhaps that is why many graduate philosophy programs do not require applicants to take it. (UBC does not require it, for instance.) Nonetheless, it is common for graduate programs in North America to require their applicants to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), one of the tests produced by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). So students and others may wonder what kind of background is useful for doing well on the GRE. It’s hard to say. But recent data from ETS suggest that those who plan to go to graduate school in philosophy perform on average better than almost everyone else.

A survey of those taking the test between August 2011 and April 2012 compared the scores of test-takers, categorized by their intended graduate field. Those planning on going to graduate school in philosophy did best in each of the three parts (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing) among intended arts and humanities students, and had the highest average verbal and analytical writing scores among students in all intended major fields. They were no slouches in quantititive skills either: though physical science students, engineers, economists, and finance students did better, those going into philosophy were better than most of those in the life sciences, social sciences, and other professional fields.

Those planning on studying philosophy had a mean scores of 160 verbal, 153 quantitative, and 4.4 on analytical writing. Arts and humanities students in general averaged 157 V, 149 Q, and 4.2 AW; physical science students averaged 153 V, 158 Q, and 3.8 AW. Social science students averaged 157 V, 149 Q, and 4.2 AW. And business students pulled down averages of 150 V, 152 Q, and 3.7 AW.

Since the data wasn’t tabulated by undergraduate major, it’s not clear how many of those intending to go into philosophy had studied philosophy as undergraduates, though surely most of them did. And those who are attracted to philosophy may be self-selecting—those talented in verbal and writing may seek out the most challenging things to read and write for the sake of the challenge. But it looks like studying philosophy probably doesn’t do you any harm on such standardized tests, and might even do you some good. And if studying philosophy and scoring high on the GRE doesn’t lead you to a life of shallow satisfactions, at least it may give you something to talk about at cocktail parties, and a quiet satisfaction when others complain about how much they hated taking the GRE.

Full data from this survey can be found at www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide_table4.pdf.

—Scott A. Anderson

Some Recent Publications and Presentations by UBC Philosophy Grad Students:

- Roger Clarke, “Belief is Credence One (in Context),” Philosophers’ Imprint
- Oisín Deery, The Philosophy of Free Will: Selected Contemporary Readings, co-edited with Paul Russell, Oxford University Press
- Gemma Celestino, “Reference Through Demonstration,” Actas del XV Congreso Nacional de Filosofía de AFRA
- Madeleine Ransom, “Extensional and Intensional Intuitions in Philosophical Theory Construction,” Buffalo Experimental Philosophy Conference
- Andrew Inkpen, “Darwin and the types of selection,” International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, University of Utah
- Oisín Deery, “Absenses and Late Preemption,” Theoria
- Gemma Celestino, “It Is Not the Case that the Alleged Golden Mountain Exists,” Actas del VII Congreso de la Sociedad de Lógica, Metodología y Filosofía de la Ciencia en España
- Roger Stanev, “Stopping Rules and Data Monitoring in Clinical Trials,” European Journal for Philosophy of Science
- Stefan Lukits, “Narrativity and the Symbolic Vacuum,” Philosophy and Theology
- Alirio Rosales “Random Sampling, Offspring Distribution, and Genetic Drift,” with Yoichi Ishida, Philosophy of Biology at Madison (POBAM)

(continued)
Grad Student Research, Continued

• Gemma Celestino, “Ellipsis, Wide Scope and Demonstrative Quotation”. Poster presentation, Quotation: Perspectives From Philosophy and Linguistics Conference, Bochum

• Stefan Lukits, “Carnap’s Conventionalism in Geometry.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy

• Roger Stanev, “Statistical Decisions and the Interim Analyses of Clinical Trials,” Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics

• Andrew Inkpen, “Sex-specific foraging behaviors and growth rates in juveniles mediate the development of extreme sexual size dimorphism,” The Open Ecology Journal

• Roger Clarke, “The Ravens Paradox Is a Misnomer,” Synthese

• Emma Esmaili, “Rationality’s Evolution: Against the Fine Descriptive Grain,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

• Christopher French, “Drifting Notions of Stochasticity in Evolutionary Biology,” International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

• Roger Clarke, “How to Manipulate an Incompatibilistically Free Agent,” American Philosophical Quarterly

• Gerardo Viera, “Interpersonal Frege Cases and the Publicity Constraint,” Society for Philosophy and Psychology

• Jelena Markovic, “Simulating to Predict: Mirror Neurons and the Simulation Theory of Mindreading,” Society for Philosophy and Psychology

• Evan Westra, “The role of simulation-based mindreading in altruism and empathy: the significance of psychopathy,” Society for Philosophy and Psychology

• Madeleine Ransom, “Searching for the Prototypical Square Circle: A new argument against identifying prototypes with concepts,” European Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Philosophy Students’ Association

The Philosophy Students’ Association (PSA) is the AUS Club devoted to undergraduate students in philosophy at UBC. The PSA keeps undergraduate philosophy students informed of upcoming talks, colloquia, department news, calls for papers, scholarships, and other things through an email list and facebook page.

As of March 2013, the PSA student executive officers are:

• Andrew Han (President)
• Adrian Yee (VP Internal)
• Jordan Howell (VP External)
• Shannon Hogan (Academic Events Coordinator)
• Josh Campagna (Treasurer)
• Davida MacBain (Global Lounge Liaison)
• Sophia Jit (Deputy VP External)
• Jeremy Arnott (Member at Large)

The PSA also runs an online undergraduate journal, the Prolegomena. The first issue appeared in 2010, and a new issue, edited by Travis LaCroix and Nir Av Gay, is planned for 2013.

For more information about the PSA, visit the PSA website or facebook page:
http://www.philosophy.ubc.ca/psa/
https://www.facebook.com/psa.ubc

Philosophy Around the Internet

Some blogs and websites to consider adding to your reading list

• PEASoup (peasoup.typepad.com)
• Public Reason (publicreason.net)
• New Apps (www.newappsblog.com)
• Feminist Philosophers (feministphilosophers.wordpress.com)
• Crooked Timber (crookedtimber.org)
• Certain Doubts (http://certaindoubts.com)
• Bleeding Heart Libertarians (bleedingheartlibertarians.com)
• Leiter Reports (leiterreports.typepad.com)
• Balkinization (balkin.blogspot.com)
• Three Quarks Daily (www.3quarksdaily.com)
• Experimental Philosophy Blog (http://experimentalphilosophy.typepad.com)
• What is it like to be a woman in philosophy? (beingawomaninphilosophy.wordpress.com)
• FauxPhilNews (fauxphilnews.wordpress.com)
• Open Culture (openculture.com)
• Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (plato.stanford.edu)
• Philosophy Departments on Twitter (twitter.com/UBCPhilosophy/philosophy-departments)
Donations

Philosophy Department Annual Fund

Gifts from friends of the UBC Philosophy Department can have a lasting impact. Your contribution to this fund will be used to support events like our Speaker Series and Spring Colloquium, as well as student travel awards, our department library, and other student initiatives. By donating to the Department, you enrich the experiences of our students and help them to achieve excellence.

To learn how you can contribute to the department, please visit http://philosophy.ubc.ca/alumni/get-involved/.

Tax receipts will be issued by the UBC Development Office.

Thank you for supporting the UBC Philosophy Department.

Recent Faculty Books

Jonathan Jenkins Ichikawa and Benjamin W. Jarvis
The Rules of Thought
Oxford University Press 2013

Paul Russell & Oisín Deery (eds.)
The Philosophy of Free Will: Essential Readings from the Contemporary Debates
Oxford University Press 2013

Adam Morton
Bounded Thinking: Intellectual Virtues for Limited Agents
Oxford University Press 2013

Ori Simchen
Necessary Intentionality: A Study in the Metaphysics of Aboutness
Oxford University Press 2012

Eric Margolis, Richard Samuels, and Stephen Stich (eds.)
The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Cognitive Science
Oxford University Press 2012

Chris Mole, Delcan Smithies, and Wayne Wu (eds.)
Attention: Philosophical and Psychological Essays
Oxford University Press 2011

Andrew Irvine (ed.)
David Stone
What’s Wrong with Benevolence: Happiness, Private Property, and the Limits of Enlightenment
Encounter Books 2011

Chris Mole
Attention is Cognitive Unison: An Essay in Philosophical Psychology
Oxford University Press 2011