

ΦΙΛΟΝΟΥΣ



October 2010

Report from the Department Chair

Welcome back to the 2010–11 academic year. The leaves are changing and, to a certain extent, changes are afoot in the department as well (though on the whole they are less dramatically beautiful than the fall foliage against the clear blue skies we've had recently!). One transformation that is in the offing is the global reorganization of the College of Arts that will, in all likelihood, be going to Senate in the winter. This reorganization envisages a new academic structure that will lie on top of, but not compete with or replace, the current division of the College into disciplinary units such as Philosophy and History. Thus, as well as departments and schools, this plan calls for us also to be divided into faculties: a faculty of humanities and a faculty of the fine and performing arts. These faculties will, it is hoped, be forums for discussion of issues and opportunities that cut across unit boundaries, and incubators for new trans-disciplinary research and teaching initiatives.

A good example of a new initiative of this sort, but in this case one rooted in the department of philosophy but spreading beyond the College of Arts, is the recently-founded philosophy of science research group:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/philosophy/philsoci>

This group brings together a cluster of faculty and graduate students at Guelph with research interests in the philosophy of science, and hopes to build upon this base to stimulate new faculty research and potentially attract major collaborative grants, to recruit more students into this area (and possibly to establish a new graduate program in philosophy of science), and to plan events of interest to philosophers of science and philosophically-inclined scientists, such as talks and conferences.

Visiting the link above will reveal one of the other recent changes for the department: a new website, hosted on a new and hopefully more flexible and user-friendly architecture. We have tried to port over most of the information from the old site, and it is already quite functional, but there are still glitches to be evened out, links to fix, and pages to beautify. Hopefully most of this catch-up work will be done—in the small intervals around all our other work!—in the next couple of months, and then we can start really trying to see what we can do with this new website.

Perhaps the most significant change of all, however, is the arrival of a new faculty member in the department. Professor Monique Deveaux joined us in the summer, taking up the position of senior Canada Research Chair in the area of social and political philosophy and the normative implications of global social change. A fuller

introduction to Prof. Deveaux and her work is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, one recent happening that is not a change but is still a pleasure to report is the award to John Russon of the University of Guelph Faculty Association Distinguished Professorial Award for the College of Arts for 2010. This is a prominent, and much-deserved, award for teaching excellence, at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels. Congratulations John! -*Andrew Bailey, Department Chair*

Report from the Associate Chair

We are off to a great start for the academic year 2010-2011. Our grad programs are flourishing, with a total of 13 MA students and 39 PhD students, and \$232,500 in external funding.

Joining us this year are 4 MA students and 4 PhD students. We all got a chance to meet and chat over free pizza and drinks at our annual "meet 'n greet," on September 8th, which continues to be a well-attended event to the kick off the new academic year.

Following the pizza party, the department hosted a 'New Grad' Orientation event, which is a new initiative this year, and I am happy to report that it was a great success. Mark McCullagh (speakers series coordinator), Trish Sheridan (SSHRC & OGS officer), Andrew Bailey (Commander and Chief), and I led the students through a discussion of the culture and policies of grad studies in philosophy at Guelph. Jordan Bartol (MA, 2nd year) and Kelly Jones (PhD, 3rd year) were also there to help answer questions (all and sundry).

In other news, it was a busy spring/summer for our 2nd year PhD students, 5 of whom successfully completed their Oral Qualifying Exam. Congrats to Amy, Kelly, Lindsay, Niels and Dan!

Also, during the summer a number of our MA students successfully passed their Final Oral Examinations:

Katherine Livins defended her MA thesis, "Analogy as the Core of Consciousness," on June 4th.

Tim Fitzjohn defended his MA thesis, "From Desire to Conscience: An Examination of the Essential Role that

Conscience Plays In the Fulfillment of Human Desire," on June 17th.

Lauren Elliot defended her MA thesis, "Cosmetic Surgery Through Feminist and Cultural Narratives: Shifting the Focus Toward Account-Giving Within Doctor-Patient Relationality," on August 16th.

Congratulations & best wishes to you all for future success. -*Karyn Freedman, Associate Chair & Grad Coordinator*

Report from the Speaker Series Coordinator

For 2010-2011 we have an exciting and diverse lineup of speakers in our Departmental Speaker Series.

The first talk was given on August 27 by Professor Siby George, of the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay. Titled "'War-peace' and development", it argued for a connection between certain basic metaphysical and epistemological commitments and a certain conception of what development involves. On September 15 Professor Uriah Kriegel, of the University of Arizona, gave a talk about consciousness and phenomenology, arguing that although perceptual states are most often given as examples of mental states having phenomenological properties, cognitive states have such qualities as well---a claim that seemed obvious to early phenomenologists, but which has been neglected in recent years' discussions of the topic.

Coming up we have the following speakers, including several of our own colleagues who are presenting work done during their recent research leaves:

October 1: Gary Francione, Rutgers School of Law. "Animal welfare and the moral value of nonhuman animals"

October 12: Wayne Myrvold, University of Western Ontario (presented jointly with the Department of Physics). "Probabilities in statistical mechanics: objective, subjective, or a bit of both?"

November 19: Omid Payrow Shabani, University of Guelph (post-research-leave talk). [Title TBA]

December 3: Lisa Downing, Ohio State University, title TBA.

January 14: John Russon, University of Guelph (post-research-leave talk). [Title TBA]

January 21: Adrian Johnston, University of New Mexico. [Title TBA]

February 18 Don Dedrick, University of Guelph (post-research-leave talk). [Title TBA]

March 4: Helen Fielding, University of Western Ontario. [Title TBA]

Everyone---faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, interested members of the public---is welcome at our talks. There is always a lively discussion period afterwards, and a chance to chat with the speaker over drinks. Please do come out to hear some high-quality philosophy! -Mark McCullagh, Speaker Series Coordinator

Welcome to Monique Deveaux, our new CRC

I am very happy to have this opportunity to write a few words introducing Professor Monique Deveaux. Prof. Deveaux has recently taken up a senior, Tier I, Canada Research Chair with the College of Arts in the area of social and political philosophy and the normative implications of global social change.

Monique is a Canadian citizen but comes to us from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, a renowned liberal arts college where she was a professor in the department of political science from 1998 onwards. She did her BA and MA at McGill, and her MPhil and doctorate at the University of Cambridge in the UK, where she studied with the prominent philosopher Onora O'Neill. She has been both a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University and, later, a residential fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study there, and she has also held visiting fellowships at the University of South Africa in Pretoria and the University of Edinburgh. Just prior to taking up her CRC, Monique held the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Global Governance at the University of Waterloo, just next door.

Prof. Deveaux's current research interests focus on issues of global, transnational justice. She is presently writing a book called *The Subjects of Global Justice* that sets out to shine a light on the under-investigated topic of the nature of the intended *recipients* of global justice,

in whose name transnational justice is defended. She asks which preferences, needs, and interests are variously attributed to the putative subjects of that justice? Are these ascribed needs, and the preference rankings these presume (economic security versus political freedom, for example), well founded and plausible? Does it make a difference *who* speaks for these subjects? And what would it mean to attribute more agency and complexity to the putative subjects of global justice — for example, complicating the account of the interests, needs, and wants of workers in the global south in discussions of global labour justice?

Monique's recent work builds on her long track-record of high-quality publications. She is the author of *Gender and Justice in Multicultural Liberal States*, published by Oxford University Press in 2006, which was the winner of the C.B. Macpherson prize for Best Book in Political Theory (awarded by the Canadian Political Science Association); and also of *Cultural Pluralism and Dilemmas of Justice*, Cornell University Press, 2000. She is also the co-editor of *Sexual Justice/Cultural Justice: Critical Perspectives in Political Theory and Practice*, Routledge 2007, and the author of at least 15 substantial articles and book chapters.

One of the aims of this Canada Research Chair position is to strengthen the University's position in relation to research on the area of globalization, its impact, and its significance for social organization, ethics and the notion of the subject. One of the major strategic goals of the College is to contribute directly and in a concerted fashion to the conceptualization of human, cultural and social relations in a globalized world, and to prepare students for this new reality as it unfolds in the twenty-first century. Prof. Deveaux will be a key contributor to this effort, and I am delighted that we have been able to persuade her to join us. -Andrew Bailey, Department Chair