

PHILONEWS

September 2005

From the Chair

Welcome to the new academic year! If it seems busier around the department this year, it could be because we have many more students this Fall. Our enrolments are up 7% over last year. This has driven our class sizes up, and we have a lot of interest in our Major programme. I think the only reason we survived the first week of classes was that Linda put signs around the department saying, "You are not in the classroom wing. If you are looking for a classroom, go downstairs...".

We are also welcoming a large and accomplished entering class of 4 MA and 7 PhD students. These students are bringing with them OGS Masters, OGS Doctoral and SSHRC Doctoral fellowships.

In addition to our speaker series (see over), we are hosting three conferences this fall. *Rereading Plato's Republic*, organized by John Russon, was held earlier this month. Look for a full report in the next *PhiloNews*. Patricia Sheridan has organized the *Central Canada Seminar for the Study of Early Modern Philosophy*, October 15-16, and on November 12 we host *From the Academy to the Lyceum: A conference in honour of Kenneth Dorter*, organized by Karyn Freedman.

The Philosophy Graduate Student Association, led by David Peck, have put an enormous amount of work into bringing Stephen Lewis to War Memorial Hall on October 6th. This event will sell out, so buy your tickets soon at the information desk in the UC. - *Andrew Wayne*

From the Graduate Co-ordinator

I'm sure all the faculty join me in welcoming our new graduate students. Arriving to do MAs are Evan Clarke, Rick Duchalski, Rebecca Olivier and Jennifer Rinaldi. For PhDs, John Lundy, Megan Penney, Brad Richards, Jason Robinson, Reiner Schaefer, Sasa Stankovic and Anthony Vander Schaaf are new this fall. All have interesting research ideas, which the department looks forward to helping them develop.

On the other end of things, this summer saw several successful final oral examinations:

- Anthony Vander Schaaf, "Plagiarism: a philosophical analysis of property, theft and deception" (advisor: Jay Newman).
- Daniel Mullin, "Difficulties surrounding the apologetic use of worldview in contemporary Calvinist scholarship" (advisor: Jay Newman).

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- Jeff Spring, "Towards a capabilities theory of rights" (advisor: Karen Wendling).
- David Peck, "Tacit Knowledge and Practical Action: Polanyi, Hacking, Heidegger and the Tacit Dimension" (advisor: Andrew Wayne).

We have a PhD final oral examination upcoming, that of Carolyn Swanson on October 13. Carolyn will defend her dissertation "Reburial of object theory: reconsidering the Meinong-Russell debate," written with Nick Griffin (of McMaster University) as advisor, Peter Loftson as co-advisor and Andrew Bailey as third reader. Bernard Linsky, of the University of Alberta, is coming to Guelph to serve as external examiner.

Incidentally, all final oral examinations are, by University policy, open to the public. It's a great idea especially for graduate students to come to them to see what they're like as well as to be exposed to some philosophical work that might be outside their area, and, not least, to support their peers at the culmination of such a substantial achievement. - *Mark McCullagh*

From the Undergraduate Co-ordinator

As continuing Undergraduate Coordinator, my goal is to continue building on last year's efforts to boost the profile of Philosophy amongst undergraduates with the goal of attracting more Majors. At last count, the number of students enrolled in a philosophy program (i.e., Majors, Minors, and Area of Concentration students) was 173. The number of students enrolled in our courses, by contrast, is well over 4000. My strategy is therefore to tap into our obvious popularity so as to convince students not merely to take our courses, which they are already doing, but to enroll in our programs.

To this end, I will be organizing a 'Meet the Faculty' event in October, and another in the Winter Term. John Russon has agreed to participate in the fall event, at which we will serve pizza and pop and give students an opportunity to interact with one of our professors in an informal way. I organized one of these sessions last year with Jeff Mitscherling, and it

Philosophy calendar

Contact the Philosophy office at 824-4120, ext. 53272 for more information.

Oct. 6, 7:00 p.m. Stephen Lewis, "Where in the World is the World Headed," War Memorial Hall.

Oct. 14, 3:30 p.m. Departmental meeting on integrated planning, room TBA.

Oct. 15-16. *Central Canada Seminar for the Study of Early Modern Philosophy.* Speakers include Andrew Youpa, John Nicholas, Patrick Reisterer, Shannon Dea, L.M. Jorgensen, John Rogers, Karen Wendling, Elizabeth Herschbach and Michael DeMoor. For further information, contact Patricia Sheridan (pmsherid@uoguelph.ca).

Oct. 21, 3:30 p.m. Paul Thompson (Toronto), title TBA.

Oct. 28, 3:30 p.m. Departmental meeting, room TBA.

Nov. 4, 3:30 p.m. Peter Loftson (Guelph), title TBA.

Nov. 12. *From the Academy to the Lyceum: A conference in honour of Kenneth Dorter.* Speakers include Cristina Ionescu, Jonathan Lavery, Steven Robinson, Jiyuan Yu and Doug Al-Maini. For further information, contact Karyn Freedman (karynf@uoguelph.ca)

Nov. 25, 3:30 p.m. Joseph Heath (Toronto), title TBA.

Dec. 2, 3:30 p.m. Departmental meeting, room TBA.

was highly successful. I will also organize a philosophy information session for students later in the term, at which we will discuss future options for graduates with a philosophy degree.

These are just two of several events I have organized or will attend in an effort to make our programs more appealing to the undergraduate population at this University. - *Peter Eardley*

Where in the World is the World Headed?



Photo: Joshua Berson, 2001

Stephen Lewis will make a panoramic sweep of international affairs, concentrating especially on globalization, conflict, poverty, disease and the place of intellectual responsibility in all of it.

"Passionate and determined, Stephen Lewis is a humanitarian who has worked to improve the human condition, both at home and abroad."

**WAR MEMORIAL HALL - UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
THURSDAY OCTOBER 6TH - 7:00 P.M.**

Tickets: \$10 for General Admission and \$5 for Guelph Students with I.D.
Available at the Information Desk - U.C. Level 1 or at the door.