

PHILONEWS

September 2006

From the Chair

Welcome to the new academic year and a new look for the philosophy department. Our floor has been renovated, and I hope you will agree that it looks great.

You may also have noticed how busy it is. Our first-year course enrolments are up 44% this Fall, so we have more students than ever wandering our hallways looking for the classroom wing.

There are some new faces around the department. Paul Raymont joins us as a Contractually Limited Appointment in Modern Philosophy. Pam Speers has joined the front office staff on a part-time basis. There is an outstanding group of new MA and PhD students (see below). Welcome to you all! David Castle has left the department for the University of Ottawa, and we wish him all the best in his new position. We are in the midst of two tenure-track faculty searches this year, one in Philosophy of Science and one in Ethics.

In June the department decided to end its participation in the Guelph-Laurier-McMaster Joint Doctoral Program. Our PhD program will continue as a stand-alone program in this department, and McMaster will do the same. Laurier has decided not to continue offering a PhD for now. The GLM program will continue, of course, until all students have graduated or left. We are now in the process of seeking

approval for a stand-alone PhD, and we expect this will take about a year.

Finally, a big thank-you to Patricia Sheridan for editing PhiloNews this year. Feel free to send her comments and ideas for future issues. Best wishes for a successful semester. -*Andrew Wayne*

Graduate Coordinator's Report

Much of my summer has been spent preparing a brief to the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies, whose approval we need to begin offering a stand-alone PhD program. A draft of this brief will come to the department at its first meeting in September, and after it is revised in light of comments received there (and from the Dean of the College of Arts and the Dean of Graduate Studies) it will go through the usual approval process here at the University of Guelph before being submitted to OCGS.

This fall we welcome six new PhD students and eight new MA students. There will be occasions (to be announced soon) at which these new students and faculty can meet to discuss their research interests. In the meantime, here are some brief descriptions of the research projects that our new students plan to pursue.

PhD: Michal ("Mike") Arciszewski's proposed research is to use the case of C. ele-

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gans to examine the possibility of reduction of functional biological terms to their physical nature.

Pablo Escobar's project is to investigate how emotions such as shame, guilt and anxiety disclose facts about the basic structure of subjectivity while functioning as mechanisms of social control and indoctrination.

Matthew Martinuk will be investigating philosophical anthropology as conceived by Charles Taylor and Iris Murdoch (also drawing upon Hans-Georg Gadamer), contrasted with that of Richard Rorty and John McDowell.

Aaron Masecar plans to work in the philosophy of action, investigating the nature of habituation and cognitive abstraction.

Suzanne McCullagh plans to investigate how to conceive of a technological imagination that is grounded in an embodied, or enactive, theory of perception.

Andrew Robinson will work on reconciling the necessity of ethical/ political action with the impossibility of objective moral guidelines.

CSWIP at Trent, "Security, Trust, Conflict"

October 27-29, 2006

Among the speakers scheduled are two members of our department:
Jean Harvey will be reading her paper "Trust, Relationships, and Companion Animals"

Jill Gilbert will be reading her paper "'Ontological Security' and Loss of Voice: Embodiment and Being-with-Others in Patriarchy"

For more info: <http://www.trentu.ca/academic/philosophy/cswip2006/welcome.htm>

MA: Jared Babin is interested in investigating the differences among the phe-

nomenological epistemologies of Hegel, Heidegger and Sartre, and their relation to contemporary analytic epistemology.

Tim Fitzjohn plans to study the phenomenology of experience in terms of time, intersubjectivity and death.

Nathan Harron will work on the epistemology of science, with reference to the empiricism of Ayer and the constructive empiricism of van Frassen.

Greg Kirk is interested in the tension between a desire to live a just life, and to have a just society, and the suspicion of the accessibility of fundamental truth.

Brynna Loppe will work in medical ethics; she is interested in how non-experts should decide on the allocation of scarce resources.

Ian Mathers will work on the aesthetics of criticism, in particular criticism of rock and pop music, in an attempt towards formulating a philosophy of criticism.

Chris Parsons plans to explain how citizen solidarity is, in part, established and maintained through a shared ethico-political culture and to investigate the effect that filtering public communication has on solidarity among citizens.

Adam Schneider proposes to build on the work of Hans Jonas to articulate a conception of life that underwrites a holistic ecology.

Stay tuned for an announcement of the above-mentioned opportunities to meet our incoming stu-

Philosophy calendar

Contact the Philosophy office at 519-824-4120, ext. 53272 for more information.

Sept. 15, 3:30 p.m. Departmental Meeting. Room TBA

Sept. 29, 4:30 p.m. Proemial Lecture. Neil Campbell (WLU), "Exploring Explanatory Pluralism." Rozanski Hall, 102. Reception to follow in the Bullring

Oct. 13, 3:30 p.m. Departmental Meeting. Room TBA

Nov. 24, 3:30 p.m. Departmental meeting. Room TBA

dents. Best wishes to all!-*Mark McCullagh*

Undergraduate Coordinator's Report

Our department will be participating in the "First Meetings with Majors" and other orientation events in September. One of our students will represent the department at the first Guelph Global Engagements Workshop. In order to further our goal of fostering greater communication between the department and our students (major or otherwise), we will hold a number of events for our majors this year, including more "Meet the Faculty" events. We will soon have a part-time office for our Undergraduate philosophy Association to use.-*Jay Lampert*

Speaker Series Report

Upcoming speakers will include Ron de Sousa (Toronto) and Carolyn Korsmeyer (SUNY Buffalo), dates TBA.-*Don Dedrick*