Philosophy News

FALL 2008

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR L. WAYNE SUMNER RETIRES

"I'm an accidental philosopher," proclaims Wayne Sumner with a wry smile when asked about his beginnings. The renowned scholar is retiring, after a distinguished forty-two year career which produced four books, four edited anthologies, and over 40 articles in refereed journals.

He was Chair of the Department from 1988-94 and Acting Chair in 2002. In 1990, he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. And in 2002, he was named a University Professor, the highest honour that U of T bestows upon its research faculty.

Yet it was an absurd turn of events that produced Sumner's illustrious career in philosophy. "I would have been a mediocre English professor in some obscure university," he continues with a chuckle, "as opposed to a 'world famous philosopher' at the University of Toronto!" The young Sumner was determined to become a literature professor but the high school he attended neglected to inform him that grade thirteen Latin was a prerequisite. Sumner had dropped the subject after grade twelve.

Resolute in his goal, Sumner discovered a bachelor's program at U of T that combined Philosophy and English. Forced to accept second best proved fortuitous. "Each successive year that I was in the program," he explains, "I discovered more vividly how bad I was at the English Lit side but how good I was at the Philosophy. I focused on cognitive content. I looked for truths, arguments, reasoning, and of course that's a disaster if you're reading Paradise Lost or Shakespeare. But it's a great way to read philosophical texts."

Sumner graduated from the U of T in 1962, and after having completed Princeton's doctoral program, he was hired by the University of Toronto as a philosophy professor in 1965. He soon developed an international reputation for his unique capacity to combine philosophical investigations of

Photo by Shelagh Howard Photography

the foundations of morality with empirically informed analyses of the most pressing issues of the day, such as abortion, pornography, hate speech, environmental protection, and euthanasia.
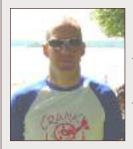
His *Moral Foundation of Rights* (1987) and *Welfare, Happiness, and Ethics* (1996) have made him one of the leading proponents of one of the two dominant ethical theories in philosophy – the brand of consequentialism called utilitarianism. Consequentialism is the view that, when assessing the rightness of an action or policy, what count ethically are ultimately the consequences, not such considerations as rights or autonomy. Utilitarianism specifies this view by holding that what is important about the consequences is their maximizing of utility or welfare.

One standard objection to utilitarianism is that it seems to suggest that it is legitimate to violate someone's rights whenever doing so creates the best overall welfare. Yet Sumner answered this objection by arguing that, despite initial appearances, consequentialism is not only compatible with a commitment to moral and legal rights but actually provides their most secure framework. A commitment

From the Chair
Donald Ainslie

This past year I finished my first term as chair, and agreed to serve for a second term after I finish a much-needed sabbatical. Looking back over the past five years, I seem to have been more than busy! But I think there are five accomplishments that I am most proud of. In alphabetical order, they are as follows.

Donald during a 6-day cycling trip from Toronto to Montreal in July 2008 as part of a fundraiser for the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation.

Alumni Community: I have been very pleased to meet so many of our alumni community in the past five years. Students might leave the Department, but they continue to think like philosophers wherever their endeavours take them. They challenge their colleagues to examine their assumptions, and when they return to visit the Department they bring back their same critical intelligence, as well as their experiences after they left U of T, to help us improve. I'm especially grateful to those who have been able to give us their support, either for student scholarships or by meeting and mentoring the current generation of philosophy students.

Curriculum Reform: As Associate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator, Joe Heath, explains elsewhere in the newsletter, we recently introduced new and more structured requirements for our philosophy programs on the St. George campus. This was the final step in a process that I started in the first year of my term, when we asked how to ensure that our undergrads had the best experience in philoso-

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L. WAYNE SUMNER *Continued*

to respecting rights turns out to yield the best overall welfare. "Maybe on the theoretical side, that's the most significant contribution I made."

"Consequentialism and I were just a good fit for one another," Sumner recalls. "Its pragmatic nature fit my mindset. I also wanted an ethical theory to make some practical difference, to try to show what it could do for important real-world issues. I always thought that ethics doesn't realize its full potential if it's just dealing in very abstract theories."

The late 1960s provided a pivotal juncture for Sumner's career. The ethics of serious social and political issues were finally being debated publicly. "The times mattered," Sumner acknowledges. "I was very lucky that it became respectable for philosophers to start contributing to these problems." Thus from the very start of his career, Sumner has used his theoretical arguments to tackle and often resolve difficult moral and public policy questions. His aim was to create a body of work that "was always very honest. Yet it tried to address important issues not trivial ones, both important practical ones and theoretical ones. It tried not to be shallow."

His work has had influence well beyond the walls of academia. Notably, his multifaceted argument regarding abortion rights in *Abortion and Moral Theory* (1981) was adopted by the Canadian Supreme Court in the landmark 1988 case, *R. v. Morgentaler.* In *The Hateful and the Obscene* (2004), in addition to offering the definitive account of the right to free expression, he was the first to fully formulate a philosophical justification for Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

He admits that he has "really valued" the public contributions he has made. "I think that if my work hadn't had that kind of impact, I would have regarded much of it as a waste of time." True to form, his next book will examine the subject of euthanasia.

Sumner has been renowned not only as a researcher, but also as a teacher. "I tried to take seriously the idea that the institution officially values teaching and research equally. So I tried to make a significant contribution to both." He recalls fondly watching the progress of students as they

From the Chair *Continued*

phy that we could provide. We decided that too many of our classes did not allow students to have the Socratic experience of learning through philosophical dialogue. Since that time, we have rectified the problem by making our upper-year classes relatively small, and by radically increasing the number of tutorials we offer as components of large lecture classes. We also received funding for the *Socrates Project* which offered our best undergrads the opportunity to lead tutorials themselves and thus to learn philosophy by teaching philosophy.

Faculty Renewal: We have hired 15 philosophy professors at the three U of T campuses during my first term. A strong faculty is the *sine qua non* of a strong department, and is the most significant long-term investment we make. Our new colleagues are very impressive indeed, and the Department continues to climb in the international rankings. Moreover the level of energy and excitement in the Department is higher than it's ever been, with more conferences, working groups, research workshops, talks, and other co-curricular activities taking place each year.

Graduate Student Engagement: Our graduate students have been crucial to all of our activities. They are key participants in our research groups and, as teachers-in-training, essential to our new curriculum, especially as tutorial leaders. In 2005, we introduced a new proseminar for first-year doctoral students and, in 2007, added special classes for those in the master's program. We have also invested heavily in professional development, assisting students to go to conferences and preparing them for academic careers. Our recent PhD graduates have gone on to jobs at Oxford, Birkbeck College at the University of

London, University of California at San Diego, Queen's, and elsewhere. With the recent endowments our alumni have created in support of graduate education, we are now starting to compete with the very best US programs.

Policy and Structure: The radical changes we have undergone in the past five years required us to adapt our policies accordingly. Most notably, the University of Toronto Mississauga (formerly Erindale College) and University of Toronto Scarborough (formerly Scarborough College) have both more than doubled in size, with significant growth in philosophy particularly at UTM. Amy Mullin has been the inaugural chair of the new Department of Philosophy at UTM and it has been a pleasure to work with her as we developed appropriate structures for the new tricampus framework. At the same time, most of the philosophers on the St. George campus who had been closely affiliated with our various colleges retired, meaning that we have a unified St. George Philosophy Department for the first time in our history. While I cannot say that working through the requisite policy changes has been the most exciting part of my first term as chair, I believe that the structures we have put in place will allow us to thrive in the upcoming years.

During this year's leave, I am a visiting researcher at Stanford University, where I am working on a book project on David Hume's scepticism. Amy Mullin is Acting Chair of the tricampus Graduate Department of Philosophy, while Joe Boyle is Acting Chair of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts and Science on the St. George campus.

Donald Ainslie
Chair

developed new philosophical skills and then incorporated them into their thinking and writing.

Through the years, he continued to challenge himself as a teacher: "I think I've always been a good teacher and I've aspired sometimes to be a very good teacher. I don't think I generally speaking lived up quite to my own aspirations." Sumner is clearly his own worst critic. In 1997, his success in the classroom was rewarded with the U of T's Northrop Frye Award for distinguished achievements in integrating teaching and research.

Reflecting on his career, Sumner is as careful with his words as he is in his

work. He naturally weighs both sides. While he does admit to a certain sense of satisfaction, acknowledging that "things have gone remarkably well," Sumner hesitates to take full credit, stating instead that he "was extremely lucky." But then he shrugs, smiles elusively and decides that "it's not a bad body of work." Modesty eventually gives way to philosophical reasoning: "It's just self-knowledge. It's what Socrates said, 'Know thyself,' and that means know thy accomplishments but know thy limitations too. It's just honesty with oneself."

A conference will be held in Sumner's honour in October of 2009.

Barbara Goslawski

Notes from the St. George Undergraduate Department

Heath

Again this past year, some major changes were made to the undergraduate program at St. George. For over 20 years, the Department has had an "unstructured" program, so that our specialists, majors and minors simply had to take a certain number of philosophy courses, in order to receive their degrees, rather than take any particular set of courses. The primary reason for this was that members of the Department could not come to any sort of agreement about which courses were important and which weren't. As a result, it was left up to the students to choose.

Unfortunately, students did not always choose wisely. (And why should they? Not having taken the courses yet, they were not in the best position to judge their relative significance.) For instance, the Department invests considerable resources mounting two full-year courses at the second-year level: a year long course in ancient philosophy, and another in early modern. Yet we found that only a quarter of our graduating specialists had taken both of them.

Thus we put our heads together, and came up with a list of courses that we felt were the "core" of our undergraduate program, and made these mandatory. As a result, our specialists are now required to take two of the three major "history of philosophy" series that we offer (ancient/mediaeval/early modern), two

of three "problems" courses (contemporary analytic or continental), one "moral and political" course, and one course in logic.

The other major innovation in the undergraduate program involves a change in the way that our 4th-year individual studies courses are organized. Students in the department doing individual studies will continue to work one-on-one with a

faculty supervisor, but they will also meet as a group, in order to present their work to each other. This "research seminar" will be under the supervision of our newly-hired 4th year research coordinator, Vida Panitch.

Joseph Heath
St. George Undergraduate Coordinator

UTM PHILOSOPHY NEWS

Last year was the first in many years when we were not searching for new faculty at UTM. (We will be busy searching again this year, and plan to hire two new philosophers – one working on moral or political philosophy, and one in history of 19th or early 20th century continental philosophy.) We focused our energy this past year on the following changes in our undergraduate programs and activities.

We introduced a new course to allow our more senior students to work on their philosophy research skills, with a particular focus on presenting their own original scholarship and critiquing and commenting on the work of other students and philosophy faculty.

Thanks to the generosity of our faculty this year, we were able to present all our graduating majors and specialists with philosophy books.

We very successfully experimented with using UTM undergraduates as teaching assistants for our logic courses and will expand this program in the coming year. We have also introduced under-

graduate student-led facilitated study groups to more of our courses in 2008-9 thanks to funding from the Student Experience Fund.

Mullin

Our student-run Philosophy Club held its first Philosophy Symposium in the spring of 2008. Thanks are due in particular to graduating student **Kelly Glover** and Professor **Jonathan Weisberg** for their organizational work. Prize-winning undergraduates (**Rima Basu, John Hurst** and **Paul Wlodarski**) gave presentations and had their work discussed by fellow students.

Many thanks to our faculty and students who made last year such a success. We have received more updates on our alumni (posted on our web page) and look forward to hearing from more of you in the near future.

Amy Mullin
Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto Mississauga

UTSC PHILOSOPHY NEWS

Seager

It is a challenging year at UTSC in philosophy, with no less than 3.5 faculty on leave, and one more on secondment to the graduate department. We expect plenty of new faces and new philosophers to enliven our undergraduate offerings in the coming year.

Undoubtably, the highlight of philosophy at UTSC this past year was the first annual undergraduate conference which was held all day on Saturday, March 15th. The conference was organized in an interesting way. Papers were solicited

from undergrads (a multitude of submissions from many provinces, states and even countries beyond North America poured in), which were refereed by UTSC philosophy students. Selected UTSC students then served as commentators for the papers chosen for presentation. In addition, Professor **Diana Raffman** trekked all the way from UTM to give the keynote address.

The conference was a great success and we all look forward to its successors. Many thanks must go to all the students in the philosophy club who helped organize and run the conference. Special thanks to Professor **Nick Treanor**, who served as faculty liaison

and put a tremendous effort into setting up the event.

One last notable event: **Mark Lee**, a third year student at UTSC, was accepted at the rather exclusive Summer Philosophy Seminar in Boulder, Colorado. Thanks to the help of Professors **Phil Kremer** and **Jessica Wilson**, along with that of the chair of Humanities, Professor **Bill Bowen**, UTSC managed to find a couple of thousand dollars to defray Mark's expenses. Mark enjoyed the opportunity to discuss philosophy in the gorgeous Rocky Mountains.

William Seager
Philosophy Discipline Representative
University of Toronto at Scarborough

Note from the Graduate Department

Kremer

We have a large and impressive new group of students admitted this year: 16 PhD students and 10 MA students. Among the PhD students, seven are coming to us with external funding from SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) or OGS (Ontario Graduate Scholarship program) and three have internal awards; among our MA students, two have won the impressive CGSM (SSHRC's Canada Graduate Scholarship Masters) award. Especially notable is our large group of six students coming into the Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. Across all years, we will have 11 students funded by the OGS and 17 students funded by SSHRC, among them 11 with SSHRC's $35,000 Canadian Graduate Scholarship, the so-called super-SSHRC.

We also had a large and impressive group of PhD students who graduated or submitted theses in the 2007-2008 academic year. Among these, most secured tenure-track jobs and other good positions: **Kirstin Borgerson** at Dalhousie; **Paul Miller** at Queen's Law School; **Patrick Turmel** at Laval (Turmel holds the distinction of submitting the Philosophy Department's first dissertation in a language other than English: *La ville comme objet de la justice*); **Kara Richardson** at Syracuse; and **Sari Kisilevsky** at CUNY (to be taken up after a UCLA post-doc). **Vida Panitch** and **Jonathan Peterson** have contracts at the University of Toronto; **David Bronstein** will hold a SSHRC post-doc at Oxford; **Danielle Bromwich** will hold a two-year post-doc at the National Institutes for Health in Washington, D.C.; and **Tom Rand** is managing the VCi Green Fund, a private equity fund he founded in 2005.

Our biggest innovation this year is the broadening of the former French requirement to a more general "research tools" requirement. This recognizes the breadth of Philosophy and its interdisciplinarity: while some students' thesis work requires knowledge of French or another language, other students' work requires competence in another discipline or in research methods not typical in philosophy.

Phil Kremer
Graduate Coordinator

TRANSITIONS

PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Gurpreet Rattan was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. His research interests are philosophy of language and philosophy of mind.

Rattan

Marleen Rozemond was promoted to Full Professor. Her research interests are early modern philosophy and feminist philosophy.

Rozemond

Gopal Sreenivasan was promoted to Full Professor. Gopal holds the Canada Research Chair in Justice and Health Care.

Joseph Boyle has been appointed Acting Chair of the St. George Philosophy Department for 2008-2009. His 11 years as Principal of St. Michael's College should stand him in good stead.

Sreenivasan

Boyle

Cheryl Misak was appointed Interim Vice President and Provost at the University of Toronto. She will return to her post as Deputy Provost once a new provost has been installed in office.

Amy Mullin has accepted an appointment as Acting Graduate Chair of Philosophy at the University of Toronto for 2008-2009. She continues to serve as Chair of Philosophy at UTM.

Misak

NEW FACULTY

Colin Howson, specialist in probability, logic and philosophy of science, has joined us as a full professor. Previously he was Chair of the Department of Philosophy at the London School of Economics.
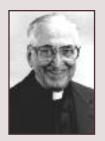

Howson

Vida Panitch, having finished her PhD here this year, has joined us as the Philosophy Undergraduate Research Coordinator, through a project made possible by the Arts and Science Curriculum Renewal Initiative Fund. She will be coordinating several 4th year research-based courses as well as coordinating and teaching Bioethics courses.

Vida Panitch

IN MEMORIAM

Reginald Edgar Allen, a professor in the Department from 1969 to 1978, was born in Philadelphia on 13 March 1931 and earned the AB degree from Haverford College in 1953. For the Master's degree, he attended Yale, and then went to the University of St. Andrews where he was awarded the BPhil in 1957. Just a year later he earned the doctorate at Yale with a thesis entitled *The Status of Soul in Plato's Philosophy*. At the time of his coming to Toronto in 1969 he was Director of the Program of Classics and Philosophy at Purdue University, a position he had accepted only a couple of years earlier. During his Toronto years he published his first monograph, *Plato's Euthyphro and the Earlier Theory of Forms* (1970), and with David Furley edited *Studies in Presocratic Philosophy*, which came out in two volumes in 1970 and 1975. It was during these years that he formulated his long-term project of translating all of the Platonic dialogues, each accompanied by an analytical commentary. At the time of his death he had published translations of thirteen dialogues; the most recent, *The Republic*, came out in 2006. At Toronto he held a cross-appointment in the Faculty of Law where he seemed to spend most of his time when on campus. In 1978 he resigned to take a position in Northwestern University. Allen died on 12 April 2007 in Hammond, Indiana, of heart failure after a long illness.

Armand Augustine Maurer was born in Rochester, New York, on 21 January 1915 and graduated from its Aquinas Institute High School. From 1933 to 1938 he was a student at St. Michael's College where he earned an Honours degree in philosophy. He began graduate studies, but broke them off two years later to enrol as a novitiate in the Congregation of St. Basil and began theological studies in St. Basil's Seminary. At the same time he was enrolled in the Pontifical Institute as a candidate for the Licentiate in Mediaeval Studies, which was awarded in 1945, the year of his ordination. Resuming his graduate studies in philosophy, he successfully defended his thesis, *Ockham's Interpretation and Criticism of the Formalism of Duns Scotus*, in 1947. A year of post-doctoral studies in Paris completed his formal education. In 1949 he was appointed an assistant professor in the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies and a lecturer in philosophy in St. Michael's College. Although his graduate courses, throughout his career, were in medieval philosophy, his undergraduate teaching came to include a course in American philosophy which focussed on the works of Peirce, James, and Dewey. Maurer's scholarly work has centred on the history of medieval philosophy. Perhaps his best known contribution is *Medieval Philosophy*, a volume of the history of philosophy conceived and edited by Étienne Gilson. In recent years he resumed his study of the thought of William of Ockham. His last book, *The Philosophy of William of Ockham in the Light of Its Principles* (1999), is a substantial contribution to Ockham scholarship. He died in Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto, on 22 March 2008, after a short illness.

Robert Forbes McRae was born on 27 June 1914 in Winnipeg and spent several years of his childhood in China where his parents were missionaries. Both his BA (1936) and MA (1938) were awarded by the University of Toronto. When war broke out in 1939 he was enrolled as a doctoral student at Johns Hopkins University. He joined the Canadian Navy and was captured by the Germans at Dieppe in August 1942; he was held as a prisoner of war for over three years. By requesting books through the Red Cross he was able to continue his philosophical studies. In 1945 he joined the Department as a part-time lecturer while continuing at Hopkins. In 1948, having earned his PhD, he was made a permanent member. His first book, *The Problem of the Unity of the Sciences: Bacon to Kant* came out in 1961, and his second, *Leibniz: Perception, Apperception, and Thought* in 1979. While serving a term as associate dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, he was appointed acting dean of the Faculty for 1964-65. He was associate chairman of the Department from 1966 to 1969. He retired in 1981. In 1985 his former students, Georges Moyal and Stanley Tweyman, published *Early Modern Philosophy: Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Politics: Essays in Honour of Robert F. McRae*. He died on 19 September 2007 in Toronto.

Henry S. Harris, was born in England in 1926. He received his BA and MA in classics and philosophy at Oxford, and in 1954 his PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After having taught in the United States for eight years, he was recruited to York University where he was the first Chair of the Philosophy Department and later academic dean at York's Bayview Avenue French language campus, Glendon College. Harris, an expert on Giovanni Gentile, later published important books on the philosophy of Hegel. He taught in our graduate Department for several years prior to his retirement. He died on 13 March 2007, in Victoria, BC, at the age of 80.

Awards & Honours

Faculty Awards

Derek Allen was awarded a Leadership in Faculty Teaching Award by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Ontario, for his exemplary efforts to influence and inspire students and for demonstrating leadership in teaching methods.

Ronnie de Sousa was named Humanist of the Year by the Humanist Association of Toronto.

Imogen Dickie received the prestigious Bersoff Assistant Professor / Faculty Fellowship in the Department of Philosophy at New York University where she is spending the 2008-2009 year.

Ian Hacking received a Doctorate honoris causa from McMaster this year, and one from the University of Cordoba, Argentina last year.

Peter King received a Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award for 2006-2007. The nomination stated Peter "has excelled at generating enthusiasm in his students at the same time as he challenges them to master complex new material." Also cited was his hard work in getting our *Socrates Project* up and running. [See page 8.]

de Sousa

Thomas Robinson received an honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters from the University of Trinity College.

Denis Walsh has received a Chancellor Jackman Research Fellowship in the Humanities for this academic year.

Byeong-uk Yi has won an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship for 2008-2009.

Lambert Zuidervaart's book *Social Philosophy after Adorno* was selected the winner of the 3rd annual Symposium Book Award, given by *Symposium: Canadian Journal of Continental Philosophy*, which is published by the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy. Lambert will be the keynote speaker at the Society's annual congress in Montreal in late October.

Zuidervaart

Student Awards

Dufner

Annette Dufner won the Martha Lile Love Teaching Award for PHL 370H – Issues in Philosophy of Law, taught at UTM. The award is given to a PhD student who has demonstrated a combination of skill, inventiveness, competence and enthusiasm while teaching an undergraduate course.

Matthew Fulkerson won the Dean's Essay Prize for best graduate essay in the Faculty of Arts and Science in 2006-2007 for his essay "Tactual Reference." Matthew's interests lie in Perception, Philosophy of Psychology and Neuroscience, and in Moral Psychology. He is currently working on his thesis, which is on the sense of touch.

Fulkerson

Doug MacKay has been awarded a Doctoral Fellowship in the Centre for Ethics for the 2008-2009 academic year. He has an office in the Centre and will be participating in seminars along with the faculty and post-doctoral fellows at the Centre. Doug is currently writing a dissertation on the significance of institutions for distributive justice.

MacKay

Charles Repp has won a Chancellor Jackman Graduate Student Fellowship in the Humanities. As a residential fellow, Charles will have an office at the Jackman Humanities Institute and will participate in its activities with faculty, postdoctoral and doctoral fellows. This year's theme at the Institute is Telling Stories, and Repp's thesis is about the cognitive value of literature (fictional narratives in particular). He says: "Almost everyone thinks we can gain knowledge of some kind through reading fictional narratives, but most everyone also accepts that in order to count as knowledge, a belief must not only be true but also justified (or, depending on one's theory, arise from a reliable process or disposition, or else it must fulfill some other condition). And no one has a very satisfying explanation of how the beliefs we acquire through reading literature meet this other condition. That's the main problem I want to solve."

Repp

CAREER NIGHT

This year's Career Night was held January 30. Our upper year undergraduates had an opportunity to meet alumni and hear about their career choices and experiences. This year's participants were lawyer **Stephen Bowman** (BA, 1976; LLB, 1979), teacher **Tamara Fernandes** (BA, 2001), entrepreneur **Cenk (Jake) Koseleci** (BA, 1990; MA, 1992), director of ethics and legal affairs at ethica Clinical Research **Martin Letendre**, and author and *Toronto Star* finance and consumer affairs columnist **Ellen Roseman** (MA, 1969).

Career Night speakers and student organizers: Martin Letendre, Ashley Atkins, Lauren Beharry, Stephen Bowman, Ellen Roseman, Jake Koseleci, Thomas Sanderson, Navona Calarco, and Tamara Fernandes.

Alumni Awards & Activities

Calvin Normore, (MA, 1969; PhD, 1976), former Professor at U of T, 1984-99, has been elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Peter Koellner, (BA, 1995), is one of five winners, and the only philosopher, of the Kurt Gödel Centenary Research Prize Fellowship. Sponsored by the Kurt Gödel Society and the John Templeton Foundation, each prize amounts to 100,000 euros. In a press release the government of Austria stated that this is the "world's highest prize money ever awarded to logicians." Koellner received his Ph.D. from M.I.T. in 2003 and was immediately appointed an assistant professor in the department of philosophy at Harvard University. He has just passed his six-year review and is on study leave at the University of California in Berkeley for 2008-9.
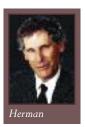
Koellner

Arbor Awards

The Arbor Awards are given annually by the University of Toronto to volunteer alumni and friends in recognition of outstanding service to the university. In September 2007 two philosophy alumni received Arbor Awards, Michael Herman and Stephen Bowman, and in September 2008 two more philosophy alumni, Sidney Robinson and Susan Han, have been honoured.

Michael Herman (MBA, 1992; MA 2006), President and CEO of Citipark Inc., has worked tirelessly for the Department. Besides recently earning an MA in philosophy he has established graduate fellowships and helped raise the profile of the Department in Toronto's legal and business communities. Last fall he hosted a lunch and networking event for 12 undergrads to share his knowledge and perception on career opportunities after graduation. Our undergrads appreciate events like these as they prepare to leave university and enter the working world.

Herman

Stephen Bowman (BA, 1976; LLB, 1979), managing partner of the Toronto offices of law firm Bennett Jones, has been very active with the Department. He, along with a number of other alumni, helped raise funds to establish the Philosophy and Law Alumni Scholarship. He has hosted a roundtable where issues from Wayne Sumner's award-winning *The Hateful and the Obscene* were discussed and debated among the author, alumni from the legal community and graduate and undergraduate students. And he was one of the panelists at last January's Career Night, an event for our undergrads to learn about potential career paths for those with a philosophy background.

Bowman

Sidney Robinson (BA, 1961; MA, 1962; LLB, 1966), after practising law for 35 years, renewed his connection with the U of T Philosophy Department in 2004. In addition to pursuing his philosophical studies Sidney has been a mentor to a number of his fellow students and a

Robinson

benefactor to the Departments of Philosophy and Classics creating Graduate Fellowships to assist them in attracting the most outstanding and sought after graduate students in the field of Ancient Philosophy.

Susan Han (BA, 1982; LLB, 1986), senior vice president and general counsel at AIM Trimark Investments, has, for the past few years, been working behind the scenes for the Department's joint JD-PhD program in Law and Philosophy.

Han

She too has been instrumental in helping establish the new Philosophy and Law Alumni Scholarship. She has also graciously hosted a networking event for graduate and undergraduate students interested in law and philosophy in her home and has participated in Career Night for our undergrads.

Our alumni bring us many gifts, not just financial. Mentoring and inspiring students and giving them hope and insight can have lasting effects. We are very grateful to our friends and alumni.

Some of our alumni who contributed to the Philosophy and Law Alumni Scholarship, along with donors who have established scholarships or lecture series, visted the department at its new location in the Jackman Humanities Building this past April.

Philosophy and Law

The Department has achieved its goal of raising $50,000 to establish the Philosophy and Law Alumni Scholarship! This scholarship will encourage talented graduate students taking courses related to the Philosophy of Law, or enrolled in the elite JD/PhD (Philosophy) Program, to pursue a profound investigation of the complex issues that lie at the intersection of law and philosophy.

From the left: *Michael Herman (MBA, 1992; MA 2006), Charles Simon (BA, 1967), Eban Bayefsky (BA, 1982; LLB, 1985), Prof. Donald Ainslie, Stephen Bowman (BA, 1976; LLB, 1979), Susan Han (BA, 1983; LLB, 1986), Ellen Roseman (MA, 1969), Gwendolyn Montgomery Thorburn (BA, 1949; MA, 1950), and Professors Wayne Sumner, Arthur Ripstein, Amy Mullin, Sergio Tenenbaum, and David Dyzenhaus.*

UPDATES

SOCRATES PROJECT

The Socrates Project was established through funding from the Provost's Student Experience Fund in 2006-07 to enable our best undergrads to have the Socratic experience of learning philosophy by teaching philosophy. Project participants serve as tutorial leaders in Introduction to Philosophy (PHL 100Y) and also take an enrichment seminar, where they work with professors in the Department to delve deeper into cutting-edge research on the topics covered in the Intro course. Some of the Project participants from 2007-08 are featured below.

Jessica Tizzard:
"Revisiting many texts I haven't read since first or second year in a setting where I had the opportunity to lead tutorials has definitely resulted in a better grasp of the main ideas, and retriggered a lot of knowledge that had been buried under second and third year courses. Lately I've been spending far too much time thinking about the writings of Immanuel Kant, and consequently have become almost as tedious as he reportedly was."

Tizzard

Jovana Milovic:
"This is the best job I have ever had. For the first time, I felt like I was doing

Milovic

something relevant and something that I had interest in – and most importantly, something that I could see myself doing in the future."

Esther Shubert:
"The Socrates Project was an extremely rewarding and enriching experience. It really enhanced my undergraduate career and I feel lucky to have been a part of it!"

Shubert

Cory Lewis:
"This project expanded my perspective on the university experience."

Lewis

Aaron Henry:
"The Socrates Project has been an extraordinary learning experience and easily

the highlight of my undergraduate career as a philosophy student. It has significantly deepened my appreciation and enthusiasm for the subject."

Henry

Sean M. Smith:
"Participating in the Socrates Project has certainly been one of the most meaningful and stimulating experiences of my life. Having the opportunity to work closely with students as a teaching assistant was an honour, a privilege and expanded my philosophical thinking in a deep and lasting way."

Smith

PHILOSOPHERS IN BERLIN

Professor Jennifer Whiting, winner of the Konrad Adenauer Research Award, spent the year in Berlin at Humboldt University. Besides conducting her research and giving numerous talks around Europe, she also taught (together with faculty from Oxford, Edinburgh, Paris and Berlin) a special summer seminar which several U of T graduate students attended.

Grad students Marta Jimenez, Andrea Piatesi (visiting doctoral student from Bologna), David Bronstein, Prof. Jennifer Whiting, and grad student Alessandro Bonello in Berlin.

WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY 2007

Don Ainslie, guest speaker Professor Jonathan Lear, and Matt Fruchtman, organizer of World Philosophy Day at the U of T.

Editors of Noēsis: Oday Khaghani, Katie Mann, Colin Lennard White.

John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor **Jonathan Lear** of the Committee on Social Thought and Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago was the speaker at our UNESCO World Philosophy Day on November 15, 2007. He spoke on "What is it to be deprived of a world?" Ashley Atkins, one of our undergrad student leaders who participated at the lunch and reception, said that "these kinds of events are what enrich the university experience." The reception ended with the launch of the 2007 edition of *Noesis*, the undergraduate journal of philosophy, where Don Ainslie also recognized the previous year's award winners.

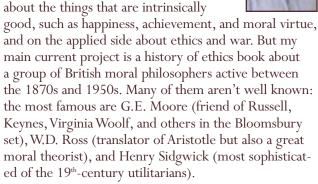## Undergraduate Student SSHRC Summer Research Award 2007

Esther Shubert writes:

Last summer I applied for and received a University of Toronto Excellence Award in the Social Sciences and Humanities, which allows students to work as research assistants for the summer. To apply, students must contact a professor holding a SSHRC grant whose work they are interested in and with whom they agree to work for the summer. I had just taken a bioethics course on end-of-life issues with Professor Wayne Sumner and had found it fascinating, so I applied for the award to do research for a new book he is writing that will further explore issues from that class. My topic of research was the system of assisted suicide in Switzerland, which will serve as a point of comparison for policy regarding end of life issues in Canada. I found the experience extremely rewarding. It was challenging and greatly improved my research skills; it also gave me greater insight into the process of writing professional academic work. It made for a very interesting summer and I am very grateful for the experience!
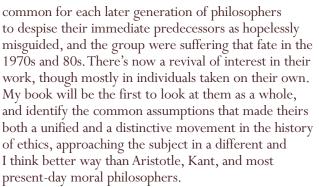
RESEARCH NOTES

Tom Hurka
Jackman Distinguished Chair in Philosophical Studies

My research in moral philosophy has spanned many topics. I've written a lot about the things that are intrinsically good, such as happiness, achievement, and moral virtue, and on the applied side about ethics and war. But my main current project is a history of ethics book about a group of British moral philosophers active between the 1870s and 1950s. Many of them aren't well known: the most famous are G.E. Moore (friend of Russell, Keynes, Virginia Woolf, and others in the Bloomsbury set), W.D. Ross (translator of Aristotle but also a great moral theorist), and Henry Sidgwick (most sophisticated of the 19th-century utilitarians).

I first encountered this group as a U of T undergrad in the 1970s, when a seminar I took included some Moore and Ross. I was immediately attracted to their work: it was so clear, analytically sharp, and – what isn't for all philosophers a positive – sensible. There were none of the grandiose ideas found, say, in Kant. But it's common for each later generation of philosophers to despise their immediate predecessors as hopelessly misguided, and the group were suffering that fate in the 1970s and 80s. There's now a revival of interest in their work, though mostly in individuals taken on their own. My book will be the first to look at them as a whole, and identify the common assumptions that made theirs both a unified and a distinctive movement in the history of ethics, approaching the subject in a different and I think better way than Aristotle, Kant, and most present-day moral philosophers.

I was fortunate enough to have a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2006-07, and spent the second half of it doing research for the book in Oxford, where many of the relevant philosophers' archives are. It was exciting to read letters carrying on a philosophical conversation started the day before on a drive to the golf course. I'll be back in Oxford this coming winter, on sabbatical, and starting to write the book. I can't pretend it'll be a bestseller, but I hope it attracts more attention from philosophers to this set of theorists. Look out, Aristotle, Hume, and Kant – some new rivals are coming.

Brad Inwood
University Professor and Canada Research Chair in Ancient Philosophy

I have been on leave this past year after finishing my term as Chair of the Classics Department, and I seemed to have kept myself very busy. I recently became the editor of *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, the premier journal in the field, though I also found time for some new projects of my own in ancient philosophy. Two papers in progress relate directly or indirectly to Cicero and the ancient Academy (one on the physics of Antiochus of Ascalon and one on ancient categorizations of the good). I am also finishing up a translation (with Miriam Griffin) of Seneca's *On Benefits*, a work on Stoic ethics and social theory. Plans for the near future include an article on Stoicism in the early Roman empire, one on Stoic social and political ideas in Cicero's *On Moral Ends*, and a discussion of the reception of Aristotle's ethics in the Hellenistic period. In the longer term, I intend to work more on Plato and Aristotle, with particular interest in the *Crito* and the *Eudemian Ethics*.

During my leave, I was Malcolm Bowie Distinguished Visitor at Christ's College, Cambridge, and travelled in Europe, giving papers in Budapest, Berlin, and Rome (where I got to spend some time communing with the philosopher-emperor, Marcus Aurelius – see photo).

Jennifer Nagel

My recent work has focused on some very strange intuitive patterns of knowledge ascription. When you encounter a description of a person forming a belief, in some cases you'll be naturally inclined to say that this person has knowledge, and in others you'll naturally tend to say that this subject believes but doesn't know. Some of the factors that make a difference have been recognized for a long time: for example, you'll say the subject doesn't know if the proposition the subject believes is false, or if he is just guessing or relying on wishful thinking in forming his belief. But other factors are more surprising: for example, practical interests seem to make a big difference to how tough we are about counting someone as a knower. Here's Stewart Cohen's illustration of that point: if nothing much hangs on it for you, a quick glance at the airline schedule is enough for you to know that the flight you are about to board has a stop in Chicago. If it's a life-or-death matter, however (here you can embellish the story by adding in something about picking up some transplant organs at O'Hare), then a quick glance is not enough for knowledge – you need to talk to the gate agent, maybe even the pilot. We also get much more stringent in our ascriptions of knowledge when we mention possibilities of error (you think that's a zebra, and it is, but if it were really a painted mule, could you tell the difference?) – even where the subject is making no actual mistake. In recent years, epistemologists have developed some really creative (OK, far-fetched) cases to test intuitive responses here. It is extremely hard to construct a satisfactory theory of knowledge that fits all the intuitive responses provoked by these various scenarios. Actually I think it's impossible. Thinking of intuitive case responses as data points for a theory of knowledge, there is no smooth curve through this data.

As a big fan of the smooth curve, I've been working on getting rid of some of the awkward data points (or, to be more precise, arguing that some of our case reactions aren't really data about *knowledge* itself, in the philosophically interesting sense of the term). My recent articles have argued that some of our intuitive responses to cases are tainted, for example by psychological biases like hindsight and the wonderfully named 'paradox of unfounded confidence', biases known to distort judgments in other domains. I recently organized an interdisciplinary workshop on cross-cultural uniformity and diversity in epistemic assessments, bringing together linguists who work on languages with sharply different methods for marking evidential relations, psychologists who examine what happens in the brain when we ascribe knowledge to others (yes, there's one tiny region devoted to just that job), anthropologists and philosophers.

Although my papers are full of references to the empirical literature on belief formation and attribution, I don't think of myself as a naturalist. I don't think that properly philosophical questions about how we ought to conceive of the end of inquiry are answered in any straightforward way by empirical methods. But I do think empirical methods can be useful in cleaning away the dirt that obscures our view of the core conceptual issues. At this point it looks like there's quite a bit of dirt there to be cleaned.

The University of Toronto Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy 2008
Friday - Saturday, September 19 - 20

Speakers: **Robert Pasnau**
(University of Colorado, Boulder)
Thérèse-Anne Druart
(Catholic University of America)
Cecilia Trifogli
(All Souls College, University of Oxford)

Location: **Centre for Medieval Studies,**
Lillian Massey Building, Room 301,
125 Queen's Park (at the corner of Bloor St. W.)
Registration and inquiries:
medieval.philosophy@utoronto.ca

For further information please check:
http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/%7Ecpamp/pages/utcmp.html

Responding to the Crisis of Responsiblity: A Philosophical Challenge

An academic conference in honour of Professor Thomas Langan

Saturday, September 27, 2008
St. Michael's College, Charbonelle Lounge, University of Toronto

For inquiries please contact:
Prof. Nikolaj Zunic
nzunic@uwaterloo.ca

Simon Lectures

November 6-7, 2008

Professor **Barbara Herman**, Griffin Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Law at UCLA, will deliver the Jerome S. Simon Memorial Lectures on **November 6** and **7**. The lectures will develop the idea of moral content in Kantian ethics, and consider its bearing on assessments of wrongness and impermissibility when duties conflict.

World Philosophy Day

November 13, 2008

The University of Toronto will be celebrating UNESCO's World Philosophy Day – one of the events will be a talk by Jeff McMahan (Rutgers University) on "Responsibilities of Soldiers and Civilians in an Unjust War," to be followed by a reception celebrating our senior undergraduate students.

Grad Conference

May 8 & 9, 2009

The theme of this year's conference will be *The Philosophy of Action*. This annual event brings together graduate students from across North America to share their research. The keynote speaker will be **John McDowell**, University Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh. His major interests are Greek philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, metaphysics and epistemology, and ethics.

For up-to-the-minute details on these and other events, please see our website, <www.philosophy.utoronto.ca>.

Colloquium Schedule

September 25, 2008 – John MacFarlane (UC Berkeley), *"If's and Ought's".*

March 19, 2009 – Richard Moran (Harvard), *title to be announced.*

May 8, 2009 – John McDowell (Univ of Pittsburgh), *title to be announced.* (This will also be the Graduate Philosophy Conference Keynote Lecture.)

Each colloquium will take place at 3:15 pm and will be followed by a reception.

Please check our website, <www.philosophy.utoronto.ca>, for locations and titles.

2008 PHILOSOPHY BOOK LAUNCH

Authors at the launch: *Michael Vertin, Lloyd Gerson, Ronnie de Sousa (front), Martin Pickavé (back), Brad Inwood (back), Evan Thompson, Sergio Tenenbaum, Lambert Zuidervaart, Fred Wilson.*

The department's 21st Annual Book Launch, held on March 6th, 2008, featured:

Anjan Chakravartty. *A Metaphysics for Scientific Realism: Knowing the Unobservable.* Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Ronald de Sousa. *Why Think? Evolution and the Rational Mind.* English translation & improved rewriting of *Evolution et Rationalité* (2004). Oxford University Press, 2007.

Brad Inwood. *Seneca: Selected Philosophical Letters.* Oxford University Press, 2007.

Mohan Matthen. *Seeing, Doing, and Knowing (paperback edition).* Oxford University Press, 2007.

Cheryl Misak, editor. *New Pragmatists.* Oxford University Press, 2007.

David Novak. *The Sanctity of Human Life.* Georgetown University Press, 2007.

Joseph Owens, edited and introduced by Lloyd Gerson. *Aristotle's Gradations of Being in Metaphysics E – Z.* St. Augustine's Press, 2007.

Martin Pickavé. *Heinrich von Gent über Metaphysik als erste Wissenschaft.* Brill, 2007.

Sergio Tenenbaum, editor. *Moral Psychology.* Rodopi, 2007.

Philip David Zelazo, Morris Moscovitch, and Evan Thompson. *The Cambridge Handbook of Consciousness.* Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Books at the launch

Evan Thompson. *Mind in Life: Biology, Phenomenology, and the Sciences of Mind.* Harvard University Press, 2007.

Michael Vertin, editor. *Appropriating the Lonergan Idea,* by Frederick E. Crowe. University of Toronto Press, 2007.

Fred Wilson. *Acquaintance, Ontology, and Knowledge. Collected Essays in Ontology.* Ontos Verlag, 2007.

Fred Wilson. *Body, Mind and Self in Hume's Critical Realism.* Ontos Verlag, 2008.

Lambert Zuidervaart. *Social Philosophy after Adorno.* Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Alumni are invited to attend the 2009 Philosophy Book Launch which will be held on Thursday, March 12, 4-6 pm, at the Jackman Humanities Building, 170 St. George Street, Room 418.

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto

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The Department has achieved its goal of raising $50,000 to establish the **Philosophy and Law Alumni Scholarship**! All donations to this fund were matched under the GSEF program. Building on this success, there is still a limited opportunity to take advantage of this program by helping us to reach a new goal of **$50,000** to establish the Philosophy Alumni and Friends Graduate Scholarship.

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❏ **The Philosophy Department Trust Fund (Project 0560001565)**
The Chair's discretionary fund is directed to student financial support, visiting lecturers, conferences and other programming

❏ **Philosophy Alumni and Friends Graduate Scholarship (Project 0560011740)**

❏ **Other** _____

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170 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2M8

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