Words from the Chair

The last issue of Logos was published in 2003. It’s not surprising that there have been changes in the department since then, but it may be surprising how much has changed. High on the list of changes are the departures of a number of valuable long-term colleagues, and Canada seems to be the primary destination of choice. In 2003, Sylvia Berryman took up a new position at the University of British Columbia. The next year Peter King left to take a position at the University of Toronto. In 2005, Canadian universities struck again: Diana Raffman went to Toronto, thus having Peter again as a colleague, and Bob Batterman went to the University of Western Ontario where he holds the Rotman Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Science. In 2006, U.S. and British institutions got in on the poaching. Louise Antony and Joe Levine departed to take positions at the University of Massachusetts, and Gabriel Uzquiano left us for Oxford. Also, George Schumm has retired after 35 years in the department. Everyone has been sorry to lose these wonderful colleagues, and we wish them all the very best in their new academic locations and George in his retirement. But the flow has been bidirectional. In 2005, we appointed David Sanson (Ph.D., UCLA) to the Columbus campus and Kevin Scharp (Ph.D., Pittsburgh) to the Marion campus. This past academic year, with extraordinary support from John Roberts, dean of the College of Humanities, the department has made seven new appointments. At the senior level, we have appointed Lisa Downing and Abe Roth, both from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Canadian institutions did not escape our attentions. We appointed Ben Caplan and Tim Schroeder, both from the University of Manitoba. Richard Samuels of King’s College, London, will join us this coming fall. We also made two appointments at the assistant professor level: Declan Smithies of NYU and Wayne Wu of the University of California, Berkeley. These are exciting times for the department. It is, I believe, unprecedented for a department the size of ours and as long-established as ours to hire one-third of its faculty in a single year. We are sorry to lose the colleagues who have left, either through retirement or relocation. At the same time, we’re delighted to welcome so many terrific new colleagues. The extraordinary hiring effort was the result of a lot of hard work by many, but the efforts of three of our colleagues deserve special mention. Dan Farrell chaired the Senior Search Committee, which reviewed the writings of many dozens of the most gifted senior philosophers in the world and culled from that select group a small subset for us to pursue as our top candidates. Dan also worked tirelessly in the recruitment efforts of these candidates. William Taschek, who chaired the Junior Search Committee, led the review of more than 300 candidates for our two available junior positions. And George Pappas, as chair, oversaw the entire recruitment effort. With the dramatic changes come both challenges and opportunities. We face what is proving to be a pleasant task of building a new community in the department. Together, we will work to cement the gains we have made and to take bold steps to move the department even further toward the sort of excellence to which we aspire.

Some things change and some things don’t. For as long as I’ve been here—since the late 70s—our department has been lively, intellectually engaged, and friendly. I’m confident that those characteristics will continue.
Words from the Chair  cont’d

70s—our department has been lively, intellectually engaged, and friendly. I’m confident that those characteristics will continue. Faculty continue to be exceptionally active in research areas. Lisa Shabel received a major grant from the National Science Foundation, and Justin D’Arms was a fellow at the Center for the Study of Human Values at Princeton. Justin also received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities immediately following his time at Princeton. Sukjae Lee has received a fellowship from the National Humanities Center in North Carolina where he is in residence this year. Abe Roth was honored with a major grant from the Spencer Foundation to support his work on the epistemology of testimony. Lisa Downing was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, which she will take in 2008–09. Allan Silberman was invited to teach at the University of California, Berkeley, for the fall semester of 2005, and Sigrún Svavarðsdóttir received a fellowship from the National Humanities Center in 2002–03 and is teaching at Harvard this academic year. Our new colleague Declan Smithies has been awarded a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Australian National University. Both Stewart Shapiro and Neil Tennant received Distinguished Scholar Awards from the university, and Dan Farrell received a Distinguished Service Award. These are all extremely prestigious achievements and awards, and all of these colleagues certainly merit our congratulations.

Through the efforts of George Pappas and Dan Farrell, the department has begun co-sponsoring a major conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, along with colleagues from the Universities of Maribor in Slovenia and Rijeka in Croatia. Conferences were held there focusing on metaphysics and epistemology in 2003 and 2005, and ethical theory and practical rationality in 2006. All have attracted a stellar list of participants from around the world. This conference will be held annually, with a variety of areas of philosophical specialization.

The department is currently undergoing its first program review in 20 years. This review involves a thorough evaluation of our strengths and weaknesses, what we’re doing right and not-so-right, and how we can improve. The review brought to campus three distinguished visitors: Don Garrett (New York University), Louis Loeb (Michigan), and Geoff Sayre McCord (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill). This external review team examined the department in great detail, armed with a mountain of data and interviews with faculty, staff, and students. We have already learned a great deal from this review process.

We are gratified that our external review team is so enthusiastic about the department, describing it as a “Phoenix rising—but on an even better trajectory.”

The department will be increasingly challenged to engage in “development”—the pleasant euphemism for ‘fund raising.’ In a time of shrinking state support for education and increasing demands for excellence in research and teaching, the department needs to find sources of support other than those on which it has traditionally relied.

Development (in this sense) does not come naturally to most of us academics. We would all rather just do what we love: teach our students, pursue our research, engage our colleagues in stimulating and profitable exchanges. But our department isn’t the only thing that’s changing. The academy—and the society that supports it—are changing, too. Ohio State is a “state university,” but the meaning of that phrase is changing. Many “state university” leaders around the country are reciting the same quip: “We used to be state-supported, then state-assisted, and now we are state-located.” The fact is that, in today’s world, in order to do the things we love in the very best way we can, we can’t simply rely on state funding. We need to ask for help from those who share our awareness of the value of philosophy, our love for Ohio State’s philosophy department, and our vision of what it can be. In this spirit, let me close with a sincere request that you go to page 11 and consider making a contribution to one of the department’s funds. And, please, take a few minutes to tell us, on the other side of this form or by e-mail (hubin.1@osu.edu), what’s new in your life.

Don Hubin
Chair

In memoriam Justin D’Arcy Isom
by Neil Tennant
On April 23, 2007, Justin Isom, a past member of our graduate program, lost his months-long battle against leiomyosarcoma, a particularly intractable form of cancer. Justin passed away peacefully, at home, nursed with love and devotion by his wife Megan. The cruel and unrelenting disease to which he succumbed had in another form—cancer of the retinal nerves—deprived him of sight at the age of one. Justin bore his illness with fortitude and good humor, always showing more concern for others than for himself. He was a wonderful person—kind, caring, puckish. He also bore his blindness lightly. Those who knew him well hardly noticed it. Justin had his own inner light. His high intelligence and sensitivity enabled him to see in ways that the sighted could well envy.

Justin held a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in philosophy. His intellectual interests included French history and drama, Chinese, Sanskrit, music, and the history of religious ideas. In due course he moved to Comparative Studies. He earned a qualification in therapeutic massage and was working on his master’s thesis when he fell ill.

Justin had lived in diverse exotic and anthropologically interesting places, of which Columbus was just the last one. He was a wonderful raconteur. His friends will miss the impish laugh and ready humor. He could do accents—Cockney and New South Wales Matey—and he always got them to a T. Justin told his stories with such rich imagery that at times one could not believe he had not seen what he was describing. Justin could talk about anything and everything under the sun: carved temples in Thailand, with richly costumed dancers; or the cider at a pub on an English village green. He was enchanted with the world, and the world let him go.

Justin and Megan Isom
What Philosophers Do—from Wide Receivers to Wikipedia

Anthony Gonzalez

Most people know Anthony Gonzalez for his ability to run a precise pattern and pull in a spiral pass. But his philosophy professors appreciate his ability to analyze and critically evaluate a complex philosophical argument. Tony lives in, and excels in, two very different worlds.

In choosing a major in philosophy, Tony is following some sage advice of his grandfather, José, who was an attorney and professor in Cuba prior to the revolution. Tony’s long-range plans include law school, and José Gonzalez thought that anyone who aspired to law school should major in English and philosophy. It wasn’t this advice that set Tony on the course to a philosophy major though. As a freshman, he took a Philosophy 101 class and felt, like many who end up majoring in philosophy, as if he had found his intellectual home. But regardless of the causal history, Tony is following half of his grandfather’s advice, which is probably more than most grandsons. While Tony was excited by his first philosophy course, it was his experiences in the more advanced philosophy courses at Ohio State that cemented the decision to major in philosophy. He and his teammate, Ryan Franzinger, took Dan Farrell’s Ethical Theory course last year. Tony describes it as his “favorite class of all time” and reports that he and Ryan still talk about the issues raised in that class. Tony also loved Symbolic Logic, which he took with Gabriel Uzquiano. He found the proofs to be enjoyable puzzles to solve.

Tony’s individual success arises in the context of a close, strong family background. His family story is told often in the press, and some renditions might leave the reader with a misleading impression. It is true that the family faced significant struggles, as when Tony’s grandfather, José, and grandmother, Lourdes, had to leave Cuba in 1961 to avoid possible imprisonment or even execution under the Castro regime. José, who, as a professor of law, had taught both Castro’s wife and his brother, was an open and vocal supporter of more moderate and liberal post-Batista reforms.

“But it wasn’t like they were running for their lives or anything,” Tony says. “They flew TWA to Miami. My father still has the ticket.” What José and Lourdes brought with them, along with Tony’s father, Eduardo, was strong family values that put a premium on education, hard work in the pursuit of excellence, and a commitment to justice.

Eduardo, who once played football for the University of Michigan and now owns a small steel company, married Tony’s mother, Jenna, who is a teacher. When his parents were busy, Tony would often go to his grandparents’ house. His grandfather taught him to play chess when he was a boy. And, when he was two or three, his grandfather put a world map up in his room and, every few days, would talk about four or five countries with him and his brothers and sisters and quiz them about these. He also gave them inventor cards with pictures and names on one side and the invention on the other.

Tony’s parents continued the family tradition of striving for excellence. “I’ve always dreamed big,” Tony says. “My parents are that way. They keep pushing me to do well, especially in school. Maybe they push me a little harder than would seem reasonable, but if you think something is important—then you really have to go after it.”

Tony has gone after it, both on the athletic field and in the classroom. He is as highly regarded by his philosophy professors and fellow students as he is by his football coaches and teammates.

Tony made the hard decision to forego another year of college eligibility to pursue an NFL career. He’ll leave Ohio State with only three years of play on the football team, but with four years of undergraduate education with a challenging curriculum and a diploma in hand.

Given his innate talent and intelligence, his remarkable focus and determination, Tony should have great success in the NFL. His prospects for such success were recognized when the Indianapolis Colts selected him in the first round of the NFL draft. But NFL careers end at a relatively early stage in life, and Tony has made his post-football plans. He intends to complete a law degree and pursue a career in which he can help foster good relations between the United States and post-Castro Cuba.

Whatever Tony pursues after his NFL career, he will bring to it his inherent intelligence and curiosity, together with his training in analytic thinking. He gives his best effort to whatever activities he undertakes no matter how disparate they may seem to others. But he does not sequester his life. After all, this is a guy who once asked a sportswriter if he had read Plato.
A third-year graduate student, Cathy Muller has developed a philosophical interest in the use of names in fiction, in part because fiction is her focus in her spare time. When not studying, she is an independent puppeteer, building and performing one-woman shows under the company name The Magical Two-Foot Theater. Her shows, of late, take traditional fairy tales and give them a feminist twist: for example, in “Rise Up, Cinderella!” Simone de Beauvoir guest stars as the fairy godmother, convincing Cinderella to exchange her goals of marriage and material goods for freedom and transcendence of her “mere being.”

Cathy got her philosophical grounding in the master’s program at Tufts University, where she studied with Mark Richard, Jody Azzouni, and Nancy Bauer, among others. Her focus there was philosophy of logic and philosophy of language. Since coming to Ohio State, she has pursued her interest in philosophy of language, taking classes in both linguistics and philosophy. She is currently studying with William Taschek, Craige Roberts, and Ben Caplan, exploring various problems related to the use of (apparently) empty names in fiction.

Cathy’s theatrical grounding lies in a unique mixture of the theater program at Swarthmore College and her work with the Bread and Puppet Theater, a large-scale political puppet theater based in Vermont. Since moving to Columbus, she has helped to organize Ladyfest Ohio, a celebration of women in the arts, and performed her puppet shows in venues such as Little Brothers, MadLab, and Monkey’s Retreat. Cathy has even brought her performance skills into the classroom, creating small a cappella “rock” shows, with puppetry, to teach books 7, 8, and 10 of Hume’s *Enquiry*, as well as the introductory concepts of *How to Lie with Statistics*.

As puppet shows and philosophy didn’t quite take up all of her time, Cathy started a polka band, the Jolly Pancakes, in the fall of 2005 with fellow graduate student Ryan Jordan. She plays accordion, while Jordan plays tuba. They have performed at Oldfield’s on High, Acme Art, and High Five. Recently, with the Jolly Pancakes on hiatus, Cathy performed as a solo accordionist for a show at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, Ohio. She is also a babysitter, long-distance runner, and poet.
Barnett McGowan

Even as a child, Barnett McGowan knew he was a bit different from other children. He was gifted (or cursed) with an unusual amount of rational skepticism. He began to question what he had been told about God, immortality, and heaven when he was still in elementary school. By middle school, he was an avowed atheist, willing to argue the point with any takers.

A pivotal moment in his intellectual development came in his senior year in high school when he participated in a special philosophy class for a select group of students. He loved it. When he came to Ohio State in 1989, though, he began a major in business. He hated that. John Champlin, now an emeritus professor of political science, advised Barnett to major in philosophy. Barnett followed the advice and never looked back. Every new course was, for Barnett, another stage in an intellectual adventure. In his senior year, Barnett was elected president of the Undergraduate Philosophy Club. He graduated in 1994, summa cum laude, with honors, Phi Beta Kappa, and a Mellon Fellow. He still describes his experiences of studying philosophy at Ohio State as “the most intellectually stimulating and satisfying period of my life”—one that made him a philosopher, an identity that he carries with him even now.

Barnett’s decision to forego graduate studies in philosophy for law school is one of the most difficult decisions he ever confronted. Though he values his law degree, the decision not to go on in philosophy is one of his few regrets in life. Studying philosophy was, for Barnett, a labor of love; to him, the Georgetown University Law Center felt more like an elite trade school.

Studying philosophy was invaluable preparation for law school. Barnett was already accustomed to heavy workloads of reading and writing. “Five years of analytical training,” he says, “made digesting case law a piece of cake! A daily dose of philosophical debates made the so-called ‘Socratic’ method child’s play.” But Barnett’s philosophical training could sometimes cause him problems. On one occasion, he believed that a law professor was misinterpreting the works of Kant and several other great thinkers and abusing his fellow students in the process. Barnett believes that had he stuck to his undergraduate business major, he might have remained silent. But Barnett was unable to repress his philosophical training. Here is how he describes the incident: “I called the learned gentleman ‘naïve.’ I then proceeded, in painstaking detail, to demonstrate his lack of understanding, much to the delight of my classmates. He almost threw me out of class. I’ve never seen a professor so angry.”

After working briefly in Washington, D.C., for a large firm, Barnett accepted a commission in the U.S. Army, where he served for three years as a captain in the Judge Advocate General’s Corp. At his unit’s first social function, he introduced himself as a philosopher, at which he was greeted with a shout of, “Burn the witch!” But being identified as a lawyer was little better. That was met with a round of, “It’s a lawyer, get a rock!” However, Barnett quickly established that the precise analytical thinking of the philosopher was well suited to his new role of military lawyer. By the time he had completed his term of service, he’d gained a reputation as an invaluable problem solver. The soldiers accepted him as a philosopher, but he still heard shouts of, “It’s a lawyer, get a rock!”

Barnett has come full circle in life. He is now a businessman, and he loves it. He is an assistant district manager for H&R Block in Columbus. Although he still describes himself as an atheist, he has been practicing Theravada Buddhism since 2002. The religion attracted Barnett because it is centered on the concept of highly analytical introspection of your own mental states, emotions, and motivations. The fact that Buddhism does not have a divine being rendering cosmic judgments is another important attraction.

Barnett, who at 37 recognizes that it is still early for a life summary, nevertheless now says, “When I look back on my life’s choices, studying philosophy at The Ohio State University was one of the best decisions I have made.”

“I called the learned gentleman ‘naïve.’ I then proceeded, in painstaking detail, to demonstrate his lack of understanding, much to the delight of my classmates. He almost threw me out of class. I’ve never seen a professor so angry.”
Larry Sanger

Though he was born in the Seattle area, Larry Sanger grew up in Anchorage, Alaska. Even at an early age, he had an interest in philosophical questions. He remembers asking his parents, on the way to church, “We talk about the mind, the soul, and the spirit. What’s the difference?” He was interested in cosmological questions, which he says, “blew my mind,” political questions, and questions about the meaning of “morality.” Because he was seldom satisfied with the answers he was given, he now thinks he must have been a pretty annoying kid.

As an undergraduate, Larry attended Reed College in 1986. When he first read Descartes for a class there, he realized that Descartes articulated the methodology Larry had come to accept: that because of the importance of believing only true things, one should believe something only when one knows precisely what one believes, on what grounds one believes it, and that those grounds are sound. Otherwise, Larry concluded, one should suspend judgment. This Cartesian methodology left him, he admits, a very bewildered college student. The one thing he was willing to accept on trust was that it was possible, in principle, to discover some truths. Larry set about exploring the consequences of this assumption.

These early interests drove much of the rest of Larry’s philosophical career. His senior thesis at Reed was about Descartes’ method. When he applied for admission to the Ohio State Graduate Program in Philosophy, he described his research interest as being in the philosophy of common sense, and he wound up taking his candidacy exam on Hume and Reid. Finally, Larry wrote a dissertation about epistemic circularity, advocating something he had assumed since he was 17—namely, the Reidian principle that we should assume whatever we need in order to have some minimal amount of knowledge. George Pappas, Marshall Swain, Neil Tennant, and Robert Kraut were extremely influential on Larry during his years at Ohio State.

Larry suspects that he might not have finished his dissertation but for the fact that he got a job as editor-in-chief of Nupedia, a free, online, peer-reviewed encyclopedia, and Jimmy Wales, his employer, made the position conditional on Larry’s finishing his dissertation. When working for Nupedia, after completing his Ph.D., Larry was trying to think of a way to supplement Nupedia’s rather slow content production system. He was introduced to the idea of wikis and decided that it would be a great idea to supplement Nupedia with a wiki encyclopedia. So Wikipedia was born. It was Larry’s job, for the project’s formative first 14 months, to organize and lead the project; after that, the dot-com boom turned to bust, Wikipedia was making no money, and Larry had to look for another job.

Neil Tennant once humorously took credit for Wikipedia, since Larry had taken a class on anti-realism with him, and the wiki process resembles the back-and-forth that thinkers engage in as they approach the “ideal limit of inquiry” of the anti-realists/pragmatists. But perhaps it was all that talk of reliabilism from Pappas and Swain that made Larry increasingly disillusioned with the project he had helped give birth to. It had become increasingly clear that, despite Larry’s best efforts to prevent this, the Wikipedia community had become contemptuous of expertise and was not committed to creating a reliable source of information. Instead, Wikipedia had become a symbol of amateur empowerment: the whole point of the exercise had become, quite contrary to Larry’s own wishes, the mere recording of popular opinion. Indeed, Larry thinks Wikipedia is poor even as a record of popular opinion. As it turns out, a completely egalitarian wiki process does not approach the ideal limit of inquiry, but instead does a random walk in the general direction of the view of the subject held by the most aggressive Wikipedians watching a page. This frequently is a quite amateurish view, which is true of most of Wikipedia’s philosophy articles.

At the end of 2004, Larry wrote an essay critical of Wikipedia’s rejection of any role for experts. As a result, he was asked to join researchers at the Digital Universe Foundation in California, where he worked as a project planner. Then—when it had become clear that Wikipedia was not, in Larry’s estimation, going to do enough to stem the tide of not just unreliable, but frequently libellous information—Larry decided to take matters into his own hands. Last September he first announced and started organizing a new wiki encyclopedia project, one that provides a special role for expert editors, but which uses largely the same dynamic as Wikipedia. It’s called Citizenzium, or “the Citizens’ Compendium.” Citizenzium is, like Wikipedia, a free wiki encyclopedia. However, unlike Wikipedia, Citizenzium requires the use of real names and biographies and gives a special role for experts. Citizenzium began its pilot project last November and already has over 170 editors, over 700 authors, and over 1,000 articles in development.

Larry has no doubt that his desire for knowledge led directly to the development of Wikipedia. “But,” he says, “I can also say that my desire to avoid error and injustice, drilled into me by years of studying philosophy, has motivated me to get Citizenzium started as a replacement for Wikipedia.”
East Meets West on the Sunny Shore of the Adriatic Sea

BY DANIEL FARRELL

Five of our colleagues spent an exciting week on the Dalmatian Coast during May of 2006 at a conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, that was organized by the department in cooperation with the University of Maribor, in Slovenia, and the University of Rijeka, in Croatia. The conference, which had been preceded by two others in previous years, is the fruit of an agreement with philosophers at these two universities to bring Anglo-American “analytic” philosophical methods to Eastern Europe, where there is broad interest in this kind of interchange.

Justin D’Arms, Dan Farrell, Don Hubin, and Sigrún Svavarsson, along with senior graduate student Zac Cogley, met with 20 other philosophers from around the world to talk for five days about mutual interests in the question of whether—and if so, how—intentional states like belief, desire, and emotion are amenable to rational appraisal.

Invited guests included, among others, Michael Bratman of Stanford University, John Broome of the University of Oxford, Allan Gibbard from the University of Michigan, Barbara Herman from UCLA, Karen Jones from the University of Melbourne, Friderik Klampfer from the University of Maribor, Victoria McGee and Philip Pettit from Princeton University, Nenad Miscevic from the Eastern European Central University, and Tim Scanlon from Harvard University. Former Ohio State colleague Tommie Shelby, now at Harvard, was also there.

Dubrovnik, one of the oldest cities on the Adriatic Sea, is a breathtakingly beautiful city and, with its world-renowned Inter-university Conference Center, a perfect place for a small philosophical conference. Presentations began every day at 9 a.m. and lasted, with morning and afternoon coffee breaks and a long break for lunch, until 6 p.m. each day. But conversation inevitably continued over dinner at local restaurants and cafes, late into the night.

Henceforth, for the foreseeable future, the department will host, with its sister-departments in Eastern Europe, similar conferences in Dubrovnik every year, in various areas of philosophy. Though lots of fun, these also have a serious two-fold aim: to bring the top philosophers in a given area together to discuss issues of common interest and to do this in a venue where young Eastern European philosophers and their students are able to join in the conversation.

For more on past and upcoming conferences, and on the aims of this venture, see the department web site at philosophy.osu.edu/news/conferences/default.cfm.
**Words About the Faculty**

**Steve Boer’s Thought-Contents: On the Ontology of Belief and the Semantics of Belief Attribution** was published in the Philosophical Studies Book Series (2006).


**Sukjae Lee** is currently a Fellow at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. Sukjae’s “Leibniz on Spontaneity: A Sketch of Formal and Final Causation” appeared in *Einheit in der Vielheit: VIII. Internationaler Leibniz-Kongress, Vorträge* (2006), and his paper “Necessary Connections and Continuous Creation: Malebranche’s Two Arguments for Occasionalism” is forthcoming in *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*. Sukjae was awarded an Honorable Mention for the American Philosophical Association Prize for his 2004 *Philosophical Review* article “Leibniz on Divine Concurrence.” We hope that Sukjae’s research time at the National Humanities Center is productive, and we look forward to his return.

**George Pappas** directed the Ohio State/Maribor/Rijeka Conference in Dubrovnik in 2005 and will again this year. His “Access Internalism” was published in the *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* (2006), and “Berkeley’s Assessment of Locke’s Epistemology” appeared in *Philosophica* (2006) and will be reprinted in *Re-Examining Berkeley’s Philosophy* (University of Toronto Press, 2007). “Locke’s Account of Sensitive Knowledge” will be published in *Knowledge and Scepticism: Topics in Contemporary Philosophy* (MIT Press, 2007). George has recently presented papers at the Spindel Conference at the University of Memphis and the Ohio State/Maribor/Rijeka Conference in Dubrovnik.

**Abe Roth** was honored with a Spencer Foundation Research Grant to work on the epistemology of testimony. Abe’s paper “Causation” was published in the *Blackwell Guide to Hume’s Treatise*, edited by Saul Traiger, (Blackwell, 2005). “The Mysteries of Desire: A Discussion” appeared in *Philosophical Studies* (2005), and “Shared Agency and Contralateral Commitments” came out in *Philosophical Review* just last year. Abe traveled to the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, to present “Testimonial Warrant: Heard and Overheard.”

David Sanson presented “A Defense of Meinongian Presentism” at the Central Division meetings of the American Philosophical Association.

Kevin Scharp, collaborating with Robert Brandom of the University of Pittsburgh, edited In the Space of Reasons: Selected Writings of Wilfrid Sellars, which will appear this spring from Harvard University Press. Kevin has three articles forthcoming: “Wilfrid Sellars’ Anti-Descriptivism” in Categories of Being; Essays on Metaphysics and American Philosophical Association.

Wilfrid Sellars of Being: Essays on Metaphysics and


Tim Schroeder’s coauthored article with Carl Matheson of the University of Manitoba, “Imagination and Emotion,” appeared in Shaun Nichols’ The Architecture of the Imagination: New essays on pretence, possibility, and fiction (Oxford University Press). In addition, Tim has two articles forthcoming: “A Recipe for Concept Similarity” will appear in Mind and Language, and “An Unexpected Pleasure” will appear in a supplementary issue of Canadian Journal of Philosophy. Blackwell Compass, a peer-reviewed, online journal, solicited entries on “Desire” and “Propositional Attitudes” from Tim. His book Three Faces of Desire (Oxford University Press, 2004) was honored with an Author Meets Critics Panel at the Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association last year and, in addition, Tim has presented papers recently at the University of California, Riverside; Caltech; and Salt Lake City.

Lisa Shabel published “Kant’s Philosophy of Mathematics” in The Cambridge Companion to Kant, 2nd edition, edited by Paul Guyer (Cambridge University Press, 2006), and her “Apriority and Application: Philosophy of Mathematics in the Modern Period” appeared in The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Math and Logic, edited by Stewart Shapiro (Oxford University Press, 2005). Lisa has recently presented her work at such venues as the University of California at Irvine; University of Pennsylvania; Kenyon College; University of Kentucky; University of Illinois at Chicago; and University of Cincinnati.

Stewart Shapiro was honored as a University Distinguished Scholar in 2003. His recent scholarly activities show why. In the last two years, Stewart has had two books appear from Oxford University Press: a monograph, Vagueness in Context (2006), and an anthology, Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics (2006). His article “All Things Indefinitely Extensible” (with Crispin Wright) was published in Absolute Generality, edited by Agustín Rayo (Oxford University Press, 2006). “Structure and Identity” and “The Governance of Identity” were both published in Modality and Identity, edited by Fraser MacBride (Oxford University Press, 2006). “Computability, Proof, and Open-Texture” appears in Church’s Thesis After 70 Years, edited by Adam Olszewski, Jan Wolenski, and Robert Janusz, Frankfurt (Ontos Verlag, 2006). And “Effectiveness” was published in The Age of Alternative Logics: Assessing Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics Today, edited by Johan van Benthem, Gerhard Heinzmann, Manuel Rebuschi, and Henk Visser (Springer, 2006). Stewart was active in presenting his scholarship as well, giving papers at: the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Southampton; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; University of Liverpool; Aberdeen University; and Cambridge Moral Sciences Club. Stewart continues his association with the Arche Research Center at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where he is in residence each autumn quarter, and participated in a Conference on Computability at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Declan Smithies will be away next year taking part of his three-year postdoctoral research fellowship in the philosophy program at the Research School of Social Sciences, the Australian National University. He will be affiliated with the Australian Research Council project, “Consciousness and the Hegemony of Representation.”

Sigrún Svavarðsdóttir is a visiting associate professor of philosophy at Harvard University this year. Her paper “How Do Moral Judgments Motivate?” was published in Contemporary Debates in Moral Theory (Blackwell, 2006), edited by Jamie Dreier, and another article, “The Virtue of Practical Rationality,” is forthcoming in Philosophy and Phenomenological Research. A slightly revised version of “Evaluations of Rationality” was recently reprinted in Metaethics after Moore (Oxford University Press, 2006), edited by Terry Horgan and Mark Timmons. Sigrún has recently presented her paper, “Practical Rationality” at Northwestern University and the University of Miami, Coral Gables, and “Practical Rationality and the Metaphysics of Value” at the Ohio State/Maribor/Rijeka Conference, Dubrovnik.


Remembering Bob Turnbull

BY WILLIAM Lycan
If there has ever been a philosophy department anywhere to equal Bob Turnbull’s in the nurturing of young faculty members, I’ve never heard of it. By the time I arrived at Ohio State in 1970, the department was hiring almost entirely at entry level, and it seemed to me Bob’s first priority was to keep the junior faculty happy. He paid us very well. He protected us from unreasonable teaching loads. He gave us a very strong voice in further hiring and in the department’s direction generally. He pushed for early promotions and tenure. He gave very useful career advice and helped us make contacts in the profession. He strongly encouraged bonding and a cooperative atmosphere. An extraordinary amount of jointly authored work came out of the department in the 1970s. He and Marge entertained us handsomely and often in their home. I believe we were treated better than the senior faculty, but our senior colleagues did not seem to mind, and I was too young to feel guilty. I owe Bob a great deal.

Bob Turnbull understood the importance of discussion and disagreement to the advance of philosophical knowledge. Back in the 1970s, when he oversaw the design of the philosophy department quarters in what was then the newly rebuilt University Hall, he envisioned the Philosophy Common Room as a space where faculty and graduate students would talk, argue, and learn together. But the space has never really fulfilled the vision Bob had for it.

The Nelson Common Room, as it was later named in honor of Everett J. Nelson, is the venue for most of our colloquia, as well as for our very active Leighton Undergraduate Philosophy Club. It is often loaned out to other units of the university for their activities. It is useful; it is important. But it is not the forum for philosophical exchange that Bob envisioned.

Ohio State’s Department of Philosophy has a tradition of lively and stimulating philosophical discussion—and this tradition has been reinvigorated by the addition of our new colleagues. We feel the need for a space to foster and facilitate spontaneous philosophical dialog. Therefore, we have proposed a plan to create, out of a portion of the current Gluck Library, the Robert G. Turnbull Reading Room.

This room would be a dedicated philosophy department space that would house recent journals, reference books, and current issues of The Chronical of Higher Education and New York Times—all the things that draw people to a room, and into conversation. Marge Turnbull has agreed that this would be an appropriate use of the funds in the Turnbull Collection in Greek Philosophy and the Philosophy of Science to help create this facility.

We are soliciting additional contributions to the fund, and we ask for support from everyone whose lives Bob enriched. Please see the contributor’s form on the next page for more information.
Words About the Students

Placement News: Our recent Ph.D. students have achieved remarkable success in a difficult job market. Cathal Woods recently began a tenure-track position at Virginia Wesleyan University, and Yimin Kui has started a tenure-track position at the Institute of Philosophy in the Chinese Academy of Social Science. Julian Cole is in a tenure-track position at the University of Texas, Pan American. This autumn, many of our students are beginning tenure-track positions: Bill Melanson at the University of Nebraska, Omaha; Henry Pratt at Marist College in New York; Bill Roche at Texas Christian University; Andy Arlig at Brooklyn College, City University of New York; Josh Smith at Central Michigan University; and, Nick Jones at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. Roy Cook, after completing a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of St. Andrews and teaching for three years at Villanova University, will begin a tenure-track position at the University of Minnesota. And finally, Carol Hay, will begin teaching at Bryn Mawr next year.

Awards: The Fink Award, named in honor of William H. Fink, is awarded annually for the best graduate philosophy paper. The winner of the 2006 Fink Award was Adam Podlaskowski for his paper “Rule-Following Without Idealization.” For more than 80 years, the department has also recognized an outstanding undergraduate philosophy paper with the William Bingham Award. The recipient of the 2006 Bingham prize was Michael Ondrick for his paper “The Moral Status of Lies with Regard to Consequentialism and Deontology—or—Chuck Meets an Untimely Demise Once Again.” Michael was recently honored by being named a 2007 Beinecke Scholar. The Beinecke scholarship awards $32,000 in graduate funding to students planning to pursue terminal degrees in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Ohio State may nominate one student each year and only 20 Beinecke Scholarships are awarded annually at the national level. This is a great honor for Michael. Four of our majors were inducted into Ohio State’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. Congratulations to Ashley Dyckson, Alex Mominee, Seth Rokosky, and Jennifer Webster on this laudable achievement.

Promotions: Adam Moore (Ph.D. 2001) was tenured and promoted at the University of Washington. Jon Cogburn (Ph.D. 1999) received tenure and was promoted at Louisiana State University. Sara Pessin (Ph.D. 2000) was tenured and promoted at the University of Denver.


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