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Volume 3, Number 2 Summer 1989

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Letter to Beijing

The following letter was signed by the members of the department and sent to the philosophy department at Beijing University. A letter expressing stronger sentiments was sent to the Chinese embassy.

Philosophy Department Beijing University Beijing, People's Republic of China

To the Faculty and Students of the Philosophy Department of Beijing University:

Te the undersigned, members of the philosophy department of The Ohio State University, support and applaud the faculty and students of the philosophy department of Beijing University who are struggling so valiantly to extend and preserve liberty, justice, and democracy for the Chinese people. We are inspired by your courage and conviction, and we are, by your example, renewed in our com-

mitment to these fundamental values.

We deeply deplore the inhumane and repressive measures that have been taken recently against those peacefully demonstrating for basic human rights in Tiananmen Square and elsewhere in Beijing and China. Such cruel responses outrage civilized people everywhere; they are antithetical to the values that we, as academics and philosophers, cherish and seek to instill in our students. We mourn the loss of life and sympathize with the families and friends of those killed or wounded.

Our hearts are with you in your struggle for the freedom and self-determination that are essential for human flourishing and the growth of knowledge and understanding.

With admiration for your courage and sympathy for your suffering, we are,

Most Sincerely Yours,



In Chinese the character for "democracy" is a combination of "min" (people) and "zhu" (master or owner)

Words from the Chair

nce again, but for the last time, these will be words from the acting chair. As I write this, we are coming to the close of an eventful and demanding year—one in which much has been accomplished.

Marshall Swain will resume all of the duties of the chair in the autumn, and it is some solace to me to note that next year is shaping up to be even more demanding than this. But more of that later.

This year marks the loss of several of our faculty. Sandy Mitchell is leaving to assume a position in the philosophy department at the University of California at San Diego. Because of the strong concentration that department has in the philosophy of science and the new program it is constructing in the history and philosophy of science, this represents a wonderful opportunity for Sandy. We are happy for her and wish her the best in her new department, but we deeply regret the loss.

Brad Armendt will join the faculty of the philosophy department at Arizona State University. This is a strong department, growing stronger

Continued on page 2

each year by hiring fine philosophers like Brad. We are sorry to see Brad and his family leave Columbus, but we know they will thrive in the intellectual and climatic environment of Tempe, Arizona.

Myles and Peggy Brand are leaving the department and Ohio State so that Myles can assume the presidency of the University of Oregon. Myles's appointment to the presidency of a major research-oriented university is testimony to the hard work and administrative skill of which The Ohio State University has been the beneficiary for the past three years. In addition to his administrative work as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Ohio State, Myles found time to teach one course each year and to continue his philosophical research in action theory. This, in itself, is a remarkable achievement. His departure is a loss to Ohio State and to the department.

Peggy Brand brought to our aesthetics program a practicing artist's experience and insight. Her interest and knowledge of both aesthetics and feminist philosophy and her concern with developing a rational foundation for feminism were valuable additions to our department, as was her sensitivity to and concern for both graduate and undergraduate students. We are sorry to lose Peggy as a colleague, and we wish both her and Myles the best in Eugene, Oregon.

We regret the loss of each of

these colleagues. But we also look forward to welcoming a new colleague. Jim Scanlan's assumption of the Directorship of the Center for Slavic and East European Studies opened up a position in the philosophy department to be funded by the Office of International Affairs. We are pleased to have been able to offer this position to Justin Schwartz. Justin completed his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Michigan in autumn of 1988 and has been teaching this past year at Kalamazoo College. His diverse interests range from philosophy of the social sciences, cognitive science, and epistemology to political science, Marxism, and Soviet studies. We look forward with excitement to his contributions to the depart-

We are also delighted to have Peter King with us as a visiting assistant professor for all of next year. Peter, who received his Ph.D. from Princeton and previously taught at the University of Pittsburgh, has established a strong reputation in medieval philosophy and is also pursuing a standing interest in Marxism and political philosophy.

Next year will be a busy one for recruitment. Sandy and Brad will have to be replaced and, at the senior level, we will renew our attempts to locate an outstanding philosopher to be the first holder of the O'Donnell Professorship. And, we have recently learned that we will be involved in another search for a senior colleague next year. Due

largely to the efforts of a nominally "on leave" Marshall Swain, the department received an Academic Challenge grant from the University that will make possible the hiring of a senior faculty member specializing in cognitive studies.

Several faculty will be taking temporary leave of us. Lee Brown has been awarded a sabbatical leave for next year to complete a book entitled The Liberation of Art from Language. In the following year, Dick Garner will be on sabbatical to complete his defense of amoralism, Beyond Morality. Allan Silverman, who has been a fellow at the Hellenic Center in Washington, D.C., this year, will postpone his return to Columbus by one quarter to spend the autumn teaching at Howard University.

This past winter, Bob Turnbull taught his last class at Ohio State. It was, appropriately, an advanced course in Plato. Both immediately before the quarter and at the very end of the quarter, Bob had some medical problems that forced, in the latter case, a rather protracted hospital stay. We are happy to see that he is now rapidly regaining his characteristic vim and vigor.

This past quarter, we were pleased and honored to host a week-long visit from Ruth Marcus, Halleck Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. Utterly indefatigable, Professor Marcus engaged graduate students and faculty in a series of formal and informal philosophical discussions that frequently ran into the wee hours of the mornings when she seemed to be the only one still thinking clearly.

Several members of the Department have received special recognitions. Glenn Hartz, who teaches at the Mansfield campus, received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support work on the topic, "Space, Time, and Matter in the Philosophy of Leibniz." This is a step in a larger project of a book on the subject to be coauthored with J.A. Cover of Purdue University. Glenn has also recently become coeditor of the Leibniz Society newsletter. Dick Garner has been selected to participate in an NEH Institute on Nagarjuna and Buddhist Thought at the University of Hawaii this summer.

Bingham Prize

he winner of this year's Bingham Medal, awarded for the best undergraduate philosophy paper of the year, was Todd Lekan. Don Hubin presided over the award ceremony at which Todd read his winning paper: "Dostoevsky and Sartre on Freedom." In addition to the medal, our winner received an award of \$250.



Dirk Baltzly, Mark Perlman, and Barbara Scholz are this year's Fink Prize winners

Fink Prize

ue to a heavy schedule at the end of fall quarter, this year's Fink Award ceremony was held at the beginning of winter quarter. This year first place was jointly taken by Dirk Baltzly for his paper "Content and Value" and Barbara Scholz for her paper "Semantic Anti-realism Without Revision." Both papers dealt with questions of projectivism and resulted from Simon Blackburn's fruitful class on that topic during his visit here last year. The runner-up was Mark Perlman, whose paper was entitled "Quine, Confirmation Holism, and Meaning Holism." The winners each won \$750 and the runner-up \$350.

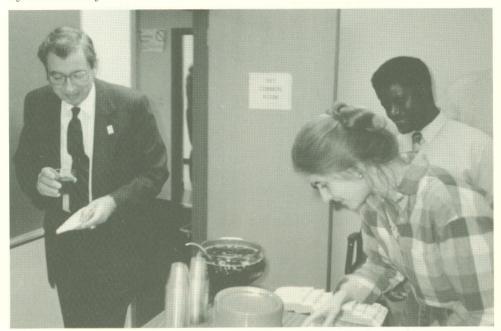
Dirk holds a B.A. degree (cum laude with distinction in philosophy and honors in liberal arts) and an M.A. degree from Ohio State. He won sec-

ond place in the 1987 Fink competition and is currently working on a doctorate in philosophy. He will be a visiting lecturer next year at the University of Texas at Austin, after which he plans to return to Ohio State to complete his degree.

Barbara holds a B.A. degree from Urbana College, a Master of Divinity degree from Andover Theological College, an M.Sc. degree in Scientia Cognitivia et Lingua Naturalis from the University of Edinburgh. She has also attended Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Harvard. She is currently completing her work on her doctorate in our department and serving as a research associate on the Psycholinguistic Brain-Imagery Project at Ohio State.

Bob Turnbull Teaches His Last Class

by Dirk Baltzly



Jody Graham and Joseph Osei celebrate with Robert Turnbull after his last class.

inter term was a mixed blessing for graduate students. We will never again have an opportunity to take a class with **Bob Turnbull** and this is unfortunate. The last class he taught, however, provided many of us with insights into Plato's later dialogues that will give us food for thought for some time to come.

Philosophy 712 is typically taught as a graduate-level survey of Plato's work. Since this was Bob's last class and since there were several advanced students taking the course or sitting in, he decided to do things a bit differently. Rather than trying to survey all of Plato's works, he concentrated on the later dialogues: *Parmenides, Theaetetus, Sophist, Timaeus*, and *Philebus*. Much of

his research centers on these dialogues, and students were given more than a peek at the singularly coherent and sensible view that he has of these texts. Bob distributed to the class sizable portions of the draft of his translation and commentary on the Parmenides. As a result, we got a chance to see some of the details of a work many people in the profession are anxiously waiting to see completed and published. When we moved on to the other dialogues, Bob's lectures offered a convincing picture of the connection between Parmenides and the later dialogues and substantiated his thesis that this ·work marks a real turning point in Plato's thought.

The course provided an opportunity for good friendship as well as fine scholarship. On the



Robert Turnbull during his last class.

last official day of class, **Don Hubin** and the office staff
succeeded in laying on a surprise buffet and reception, and
so Bob was feted by the department once again. We met
during the final exam period for
a last discussion of the conclusion of *Philebus* on the good
life. Bob illustrated his last
lecture by providing the wine,
the cheese, and the "episteme."
Finally, both current and former
graduate students treated Bob
and Marge to dinner at La Scala.

We would like to take this opportunity once again to thank Professor Turnbull and Mrs. Turnbull for all that they have done for graduate students here at Ohio State over the years. Their kindness, patience, and generosity, in personal matters as well as in scholarly activities, set a standard that we as aspiring academics hope to emulate. This, of course, is not by any means the end of our association with the Turnbulls. Though we cannot look forward to any more of Bob's classes, we welcome and anticipate the prospect of many more years of an open office door, a cup of coffee, and a lot of insight into philosophy from 399 B.C. to the present.

Words from the Graduate Students

his has been a very good year for our recent graduates. Barbara Scholz has accepted a tenure track position at the University of Toledo. Chamu Namasivayam has been hired by Seton Hill College in Pennsylvania. This too is a tenure track job, as is the position that Heidi Storl has at Augustana College in Illinois. Rick Dewitt also has a tenure track job at Fairfield University in Connecticut. Jim Kelly has accepted a tenure track job at Miami of Ohio. Bambi Robinson and David Drebeshenko have both been retained for a second year at Iowa State and Central Michigan respectively. It is anticipated that these positions will convert to tenure track jobs for which Bambi and David will be favored candidates. Marty Rice is staying another year at Rice University, and David Gilboa has taken a position at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. Mike Almeida, another recent graduate, has a paper forthcoming in Erkenntnis.

Our current Ph.D. students have been quite active. Luise Morton, a fourth-year student, presented her paper, "Goodman, the Aesthetic, and Forgery," at the meetings of the American Association of Aesthetics in Philadelphia in April. She also presented "Goodman on the Problem of Forgery: A Critique" at the April meeting

of the Ohio Philosophical Association at Ohio Wesleyan. Scott Davison, a second-year student, also presented two papers recently. The first, "The Perception of God and Epistemic Justification," was delivered to the Society of Christian Philosophers in October at Bethel College in St. Paul. The second, "Fischer on Freedom, Foreknowledge, and Immutability," was given before the same body in April at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. Scott also participated in the OPA meetings at Ohio Wesleyan, where he commented on James E. Taylor's paper, "Design Accounts of Epistemic Justification." Congratulations go to Scott for his recent induction into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, for his selection for the Wheaton Summer Seminar on Epistemic Warrant, and for taking the prize for best graduate student essay in a contest sponsored by the Center For Medieval and Renaissance Studies. His winning paper was entitled "Ockham on God's Foreknowledge and Human Freedom."

Several of our students will be on the move next year. Both Scott Davison and Mark Perlman completed undergraduate degrees in philosophy at Ohio State. Since it is often advisable for students to do their graduate and undergraduate work at different institutions, Scott and Mark are completing their MA degrees and

enrolling in different Ph.D. programs. Scott has a teaching assistantship and a tuition scholarship at the University of Notre Dame, where he anticipates working with Alvin Plantinga and other scholars who share his research interests. Mark has accepted a position at the University of Arizona. Dirk Baltzly will be a visiting lecturer next year at the University of Texas at Austin. This visit will provide him with an opportunity to work with a new set of scholars in ancient philosophy. He plans to return to Ohio State to complete his Ph.D. Finally, we are pleased to announce that both Norman Mooradian and Mark Perlman are making a big move of another sort. Norm plans to marry Martha Barcenas in Mexico this summer and Mark and Beth Zimmerman will marry in mid-July. Following the wedding Mr. Perlman anticipates spending time with his new bride in Hawaii, where he will undoubtedly research the phenomenology of tanning or engage in some other scholarly pursuit.

Goal Systems & Our Philosophy Department

by Clyde Kilgore

ow many institutions do you know with eight former graduate students from the Ohio State philosophy department? Not many I'm sure, but one which does is **Goal Systems International**, a computer software company located north of Ohio State on High Street in Columbus, Ohio.

Goal Systems was founded in 1976 to manufacture and distribute systems software for large IBM mainframe computers. Goal's founders committed themselves and the company to three principles of business in those early years. First, they committed to build the most hard-working, practical products possible coupled with the best service in the software industry. Second, they committed the company to fair and ethical practices in business dealings with their customers. And third, they committed themselves to hiring and keeping talented employees by ensuring their personal and professional development.

It wasn't long before the migration from the Ohio State philosophy department to Goal Systems started. In November of 1978, **Tom Lloyd**, one of the developers of the Logic program (with **Ron Laymon**) joined Goal to continue the development of Phoenix, the mainframe computer-based education program developed



Clyde Kilgore

at Ohio State. What was then a two-person project, has now, 10 years later, become one of the two divisions of Goal Systems, focusing on information technology and employing over 150 people. Tom is the director of development for this division and devotes his time to managing the development of mainframe and micro Phoenix and ITD's newest product, Preference, a computer-based reference system for IBM mainframes. When Tom started with Goal Systems, Phoenix had competition from such companies as IBM, Control Data, and Boeing, but today Phoenix stands alone servicing the needs of corporations presenting computer-based training on mainframe computers. Tom sure picked on some heavyweights and proved what an Ohio State philosopher can do with a good idea or two.

In March 1983 Bill Heck became the second Ohio State

philosopher to join Goal Systems. Bill was selected to start a new enterprise for Goal. The system created by Tom Lloyd proved to be so easy that many realized that there was a market for prewritten computer-based training (CBT). Bill started the "Phoenix Courseware Group" and today is the manager of 11 talented authors who write courses using the Phoenix Ease system.

system.

Clyde Kilgore joined Goal in 1984 to work with Tom to develop and maintain the Phoenix system. Clyde has programmed materials for both the mainframe and micro versions of Phoenix and most recently was one of the lead developers of Goal's new product, Preference. Clyde is now the manager of systems externals programming for the ITD division. While Clyde has been at Goal for almost six years, he has maintained contact with philosophy by teaching at least one course a year for the philosophy department.

It seems as if John Martin has held most of the jobs available at Goal. John started in 1985 as a writer of computer-based training for Bill Heck. After about a year of experience, John moved over to the technical support side of the company, providing support over the phone to Goal customers. John made so many friends on the phone that he decided to meet the customers firsthand. He next joined Goal's marketing

support group and traveled the country teaching people how to use the Phoenix system. John's career took another turn when Preference was introduced. He became a systems engineer, traveling (racking up frequent-flyer miles) with the sales representatives as they called on potential customers of Preference.

Mike Perkins started with Goal a few months after John as a developer of the Phoenix Micro system. Goal's success with Phoenix and the growth of the number of microcomputers in business settings resulted in the desire to develop a computer-based training tool on the micro which would be as powerful and easy to use as Phoenix was on the mainframe. This demanded a talented team, and Mike has been one of the key developers of this system. Mike has programmed the Phoenix full screen editor, videodisc support, extensions to the graphics editor, as well as the transportability feature of the system. In addition to his work at Goal, Mike has taught philosophy for the philosophy department in both Columbus and Mansfield.

Bob Paquette has been on the technical support side of the Phoenix product for almost three years. He is now a senior technical support representative. Bob answers technical questions from customers, as well as teaching and supervising newer tech support reps. Bob has just completed his MBA at Ohio State.

Hank Hoeffgen is another who has made the trek up High Street to Goal Systems. Hank started as an author of custom CBT courses for Goal's clients but after about a year moved over to join Tom and Clyde on the Phoenix development team. Hank's first major assignment has been to modify the current Phoenix system to create and present CBT courses in Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, German, French, and Dutch.

The most recent addition to the Goal family from the Ohio State philosophy department is Jim Rubino, who keeps everyone honest in the Goal Systems' documentation group. Jim's less than two years at Goal have been busy. He has worked on the documentation for Phoenix 7.0 as well as the first release of Preference. He next worked on the manuals for Classic/AL (a programmer's productivity tool) until Goal sold this product. In addition he has written manuals for the Explore/VSE and Explore/CICS products. He is now a supervising editor for the documentation department responsible for editing all manuals in the Explore and Alert product lines.

As Goal continues to grow, there will always be opportunities for the non-traditionally trained to join in the technical challenges of the computer software industry, so the next time you see one of these people at a philosophy department party, seminar, or function, you can be sure they are also there as recruiters.

The Millikan Group

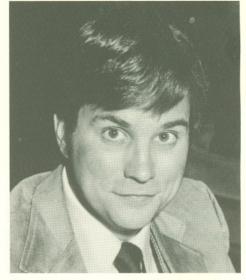
uring spring quarter, on Thursday afternoons, a group of faculty and graduate students met to read and discuss Ruth Garrett Millikan's book, Language, Thought, and Other Biological Categories: New Foundations for Realism, (1984, MIT). The Millikan group stabilized to include Sandy Mitchell, Calvin Normore, Steve Boer, and Jon Culbertson, with occasional visits from other faculty and students. Millikan's book constitutes an ambitious—if not perspicuous—program to naturalize intentionality based on an etiological account of normal functions. Though Millikan's idiosyncratic use of English and penchant for technical terms made their task more difficult [e.g. p. 99: "My claim is only that for every comprehending hearer who has come to comprehend in accordance with a Normal explanation for proper performance of his or her inborn language learning equipments, the Normal explanation for proper performance of his or her stabilizing response to an indicative or imperative sentence makes reference at some point to the same mapping rules as for every other comprehending hearer."], her proposal was judged to be worth the effort.

Career Day at the Honors Center

he Undergraduate Philosophy Club, with the aid of Sharry Jansen of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences Career Services, held "career day" on April 21. The event occurred at the University Honors Center and featured speakers from both the business and academic world. Emily Foster, a writer for Columbus Monthly Magazine, spoke about career possibilities in magazine journalism and the place of liberal arts training as a background for jobs in journalism. Clyde Kilgore, who obtained his Ph.D. in philosophy from Ohio State, discussed philosophy as a background to jobs in the computer industry. Clyde is employed by Goal Systems, a software company based in Columbus that has grown to national status in just a few years. Goal Systems has many Ohio State philosophy graduates on its staff in administrative positions and has spawned another separate company run by Ohio State

philosophy graduates. (See Clyde's story on Goal Systems in this issue of *Logos*).

Dan Farrell spoke to the undergraduates about becoming professional philosophers and discussed recent projections that the academic job market will return in a very few years to the favorable employment ratios of the 1960s. Professor Michael Kindred of the Ohio State College of Law discussed philosophy as a background to a law career. The audience included philosophy majors and minors, faculty, graduate students, majors in the liberal arts, and a Worthington High School senior who has already finished the honors calculus sequence at Ohio State and is interested in possible careers in philosophy; he explained that he is going to MIT, where he plans to work in cognitive studies, with an emphasis in mathematics and philosophy. With a group so diverse, there was a lively discussion after each presentation.



Ron Laymon

Ron Laymon Promoted to Full Professor

n April Don Hubin announced to the department that the provost approved our recommendation that Ron Laymon be promoted to the rank of full professor. Ron joined the department in 1970. He rejoins the department this autumn after having been on Sabbatical and NSF sponsored leave. During that time he was a resident scholar at the Rockefeller Villa at Bellagio. This summer he will be attending a conference on philosophy and technology in Bordeaux, France. His paper "Cartwright and the Lying Laws of Physics" will soon appear in the Journal of Philosophy, and his "Applying Idealized Scientific Theories to Engineering" is forthcoming in Synthese.



Clyde Kilgore and Alan Hausman at Career Day

Voyagers

im Scanlan was invited to give a paper at the All-China Conference on Soviet Philosophy, sponsored by the Institute of Philosophy of the Chinese Academy of the Social Sciences and held in Sou Xi Yu, Hunan Province, from April 29 to May 4. Unfortunately, a combination of a late start, plane trouble, and very bad weather in southern China made it impossible to reach the conference site, which is a 10hour drive from Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province. Nevertheless, the paper reached the conference organizers and was translated into Chinese and, Jim believes, was presented in his absence. The title of the paper was "Gorbachev's 'New Political Thinking' and its

Priority of Common Human Interests." From China, Jim traveled to Japan, where he gave a paper entitled "Civil Society and Legal Reform in the USSR: The Dialectic of Interests and Rights" at the Slavic Research Center of Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan.

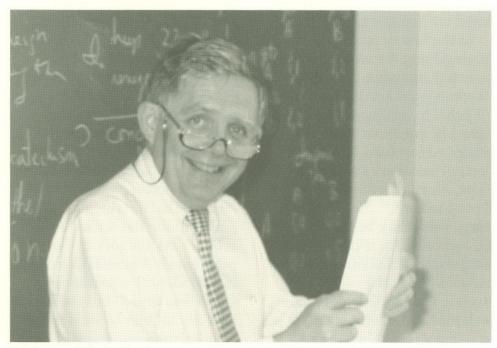
Ron Laymon spent the month of March in Bellagio, Italy at the Rockefeller Institute's Villa Serbelloni. Perched atop a hill overlooking Lake Como, this sixteenth century villa consists of 50 acres of woodland and sculptured gardens and serves as a refuge for scholars and artists in the throes of completing projects. Ron was impressed with the notables who had been there before him: John F. Kennedy, Saul Bellow, Karl Popper, Georg Henrik von Wright, and

Iames Scanlan; as well as the eclectic group with whom he shared this excursion into the pampered life. Guests included several epidemiologists; a law professor from Yale; a poet from NYU; two composers; an Egyptian economist; an Israeli psychiatrist; and a Czech physicist, now living in Sweden, who is a member of the Helsinki Watch Committee; and his wife, a microbiologist, who is the daughter of one of Lenin's principal advisers. The book for which Ron received the Rockefeller grant is entitled *Not* Quite Right: Approximations and Idealizations in Science and is due to be completed in 1990.

In mid-August Andy Oldenquist read a paper, "Three Theories of Alienation" at the International Association for Legal and Social Philosophy, in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Springtime Visitors

n addition to the visit of Professor Marcus in mid-May (see story on page 10), other spring visitors included Professor Charles David McCarty (Florida State University): "How to Read Tractatus Upside Down" (May 3); Professor Kwasi Wiredu (University of South Florida): "Some Conceptual Comparisons in African and Western Thought" (May 5); Professor Edwin Curley (University of Illinois at Chicago): "Can Hobbesean People Institute a Sovereign?" (June 2).



Professor Edwin Curley

Ruth Marcus Visits Department

by George Schumm

rofessor Ruth Barcan Marcus, Halleck Professor of Philosophy at Yale University, visited the department during the week of May 11-15. Having worked in a number of areas. including ethics, epistemology and philosophy of language, she is perhaps best known for her seminal work in philosophical logic. She was the first to publish a system of quantified modal logic as well as one of the first to devise a modalized set theory. Marcus sparked the wide-spread interest in the substitutional interpretation of the quantifiers through her early advocacy of it, and she promoted the thesis that all identities are necessary long before Kripke made it fashionable to do so. Her battles with Quine over the foundations of modal logic are legendary.

In the first of three colloquia highlighting the week, Marcus rejected language-centered theories, which take the objects of belief to be linguistic or quasi-linguistic entities. She suggested instead that the obiects of belief are states of affairs, much like Russell's "propositions." Her proposal, then, was that x believes that S if, and only if, x is disposed to respond as if S obtains—where what is to count as such a response is a function of certain external and internal factors, including x's desires and needs. This object-centered theory,

unlike its language-centered rivals, has no problem with unconscious beliefs or with beliefs of non-language users. It also accommodates a far richer notion of rationality and explains, as the rivals cannot, why a fully rational agent would not believe contradictions. In the wide sense of the term, a rational agent is one who, among other things, seeks to maintain the coherence of his behavioral indicators of belief. But on Marcus's account, belief in contradictions would render this difficult if not impossible.

The publication, in 1946, of Marcus's first paper in modal logic precipitated Quine's decades-long attack upon the subject. For her second colloquium, she took us on an historical tour of the shifting grounds of his "animadversions" and the debates they engendered.

In her final colloquium, Marcus argued against the use of possibilia—denizens of possible, but nonactual, worlds-in modal semantics. It is a mistake, she contended, to think of a possible object as on a par with actual objects, merely "waiting in the wings to take its place among the actuals when called." As she sees it, the problem with possibilia is not a lack of identity conditions (as Quine has urged) but rather our inability to refer to such things. Genuine reference requires that an object "be given in a public



Ruth Barcan Marcus

way prior to naming," and possibilia simply are not there to be so given. But if possibilia cannot be objects of reference, Marcus concluded, then neither can they play their designated semantical role. As an alternative, she proposed a return to the kind of semantics which informed her initial work in modal logic. Possible worlds are to be assigned as domains that are subsets of the actual domain, and objectual quantification is to be used over actual objects in all worlds. Our core modal discourse can then be construed as counterfactual discourse about actual objects, with fictional discourse perhaps requiring a substitutional semantics.

Marcus has always been quick to acknowledge her indebtedness to the writings of Bertrand Russell. One of the many interesting things to emerge during her visit was the depth of that influence, as time and again she brought Russellian themes to bear on contem-

porary debates. (How easily one forgets that as recently as the '40s, when Marcus was learning her logic, to study logic was to study *Principia Mathematica*!) Marcus's visit provided a rare opportunity to interact, not only with a significant player in the development of philosophical logic, but one whose intellectual roots lie squarely in the foundations of the analytic tradition.

Words from the Alumni

ike Wagner (Ph.D. 1979) is serving as coordinator of the interdisciplinary humanities major and acting associate dean of arts and sciences for 1988–89 at the University of San Diego. His textbook, Moral Philosophy: An Historical Introduction, has been

accepted by Prentice Hall to be published in the fall of 1989.

James Detrick (B.A. 1988) is living in Columbus and employing his "philosophical training as a project manager in the architectural section of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources."

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What's new with you? Whether or not you decide to become a member of the Friends of Philosophy, please inform us of your current whereabouts, your work, career changes, promotions, publications, etc. In future issues we will continue to devote a section to news about alumni (whether holding advanced degrees or not).

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Undergraduate Conference

he Ohio State
University Undergraduate Philosophy
Conference was held on
May 5 and 6 this year. Undergraduate students from our
department and other departments presented a variety of
papers. James Gaynor (Ohio
State) opened the conference
with his paper "Determinism
and the Notion of Blessedness,"
and then Kevin Bringewatt
(Wofford College) read "Knowledge: Undefeated Justified True

Belief: A Problem and a Solution for This Definition of Knowledge." On Saturday morning Mark Kunka (Ohio State) presented "The First Way of Saint Thomas Aquinas," Anthony Bertland (The University of Scranton) delivered "The Relation of Freedom to Spontaneity in Kant's Critique of Pure Reason," and Sean Siebigteroth (Michigan State University) read "Sexual Egalitarianism in Plato's Republic V." After lunch, Todd Lekan read his

paper "Dostoevsky and Sartre on Freedom," and our invited speaker, Professor Louis Loeb of The University of Michigan, spoke on "The Priority of Reason in Descartes." The event was capped by a dinner and party at Alan Hausman's house.

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