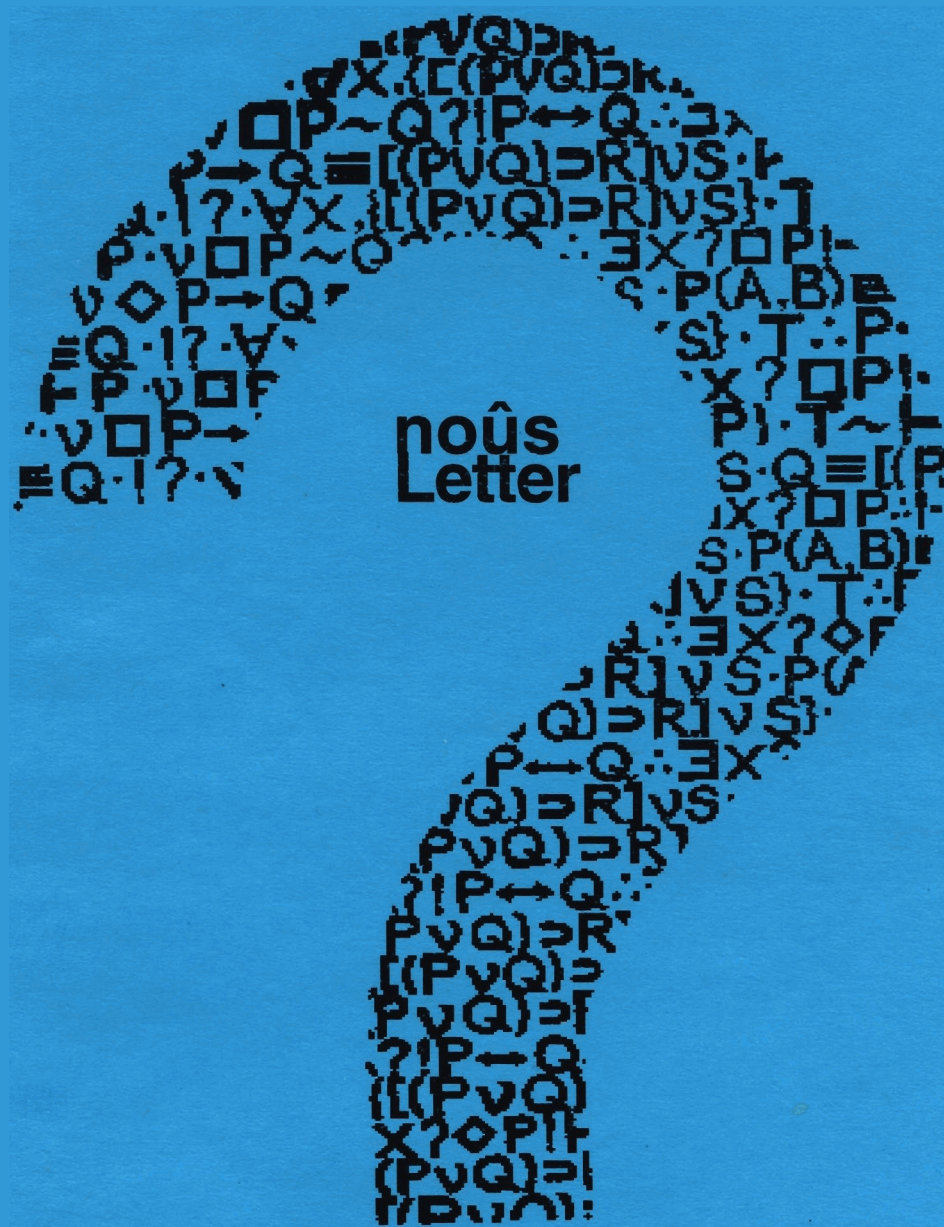


# PHILOSOPHY

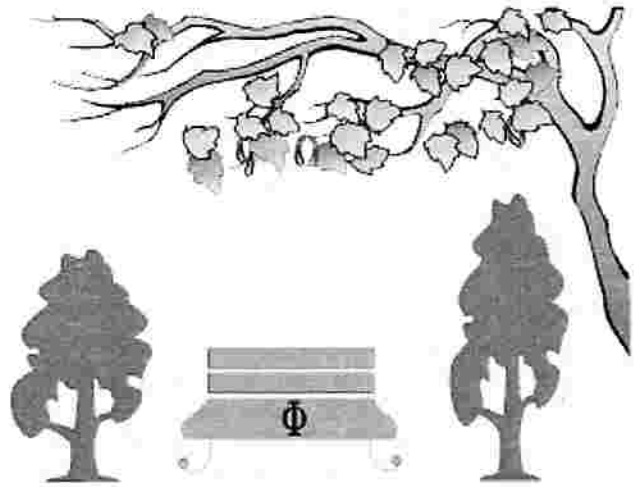
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO (SUNY)



NO. 12

JULY 2000

# PARK HALL IN FULL BLOOM



## A Walk in Park New Home of Philosophy Department

**Y**ou can't miss the Philosophy Department on a trip through Park Hall. The bright colors will surely catch your eye. Then there are the paintings, drawings, and photographs on the walls in the corridors, as well as in the seminar room. The rest of Park is drab by comparison – indeed, the rest of Park is absolutely, not just relatively, drab.

Display cases on the walls near the Department office feature accomplishments of faculty and of graduates of the Department. Photographs taken by **Peter Hare** have been enlarged, matted, and framed; these are found throughout the Department. There are water colors by **Daisie Radner**, and paintings and prints

from a variety of sources, including two large paintings contributed by **Kah Kyung Cho**. **Ken Barber** provided an etching/ portrait of Gustav Bergmann by Bergmann's wife.

The new quarters are not only colorful, they are comfortable as well. Administrative offices have been grouped together at one end of Park, near the spacious and well-equipped kitchen. (You can't do good philosophy or manage the Department without coffee or tea.) For the first time in many years, the Philosophy Department has a seminar room which isn't shared with another department. This is also the place for colloquia, various meetings, and receptions.

Being on the first floor is probably bad for the health of those faculty and staff who regularly walked up and down the stairs to the sixth floor offices in Baldy Hall, but the 98.5% who didn't walk are much happier being on the first floor of Park Hall than being on the sixth floor of Baldy.

In September, the Department held a barbecue-reception to introduce the rest of the University to the new location. This was well attended by faculty and staff from other departments. We received lots of compliments on the new color scheme, and on the fact that we even had a color scheme.

## Conferences

**L**ast Fall the Third Capen Symposium took place. The theme was: *Literary Philosophers? Borges, Calvino, Eco*. A volume with the papers, edited by **Jorge Gracia**, **Carolyn Korsmeyer** and **Rodolphe Gasché**, is scheduled for publication next year by Routledge. The contributing authors are: Ermanno Bencivenga (Cal at Irvine), Anthony Cascardi (Berkeley), Deborah Knight (Queen's), Lois Parkinson Zamora (Houston), Rocco Capozzi (Toronto), **Jorge**

**Gracia** (Buffalo), **William Irwin** (Ph.D. 1996) (King's College), **Elizabeth Millan-Zaibert** (Ph.D. 1998) (De Paul), and Henry Sussman (Buffalo).

For this Fall the Department is planning two conferences. One is in honor of **Peter Hare**, and is entitled *The Future of Realism in the American Tradition of Pragmatic Naturalism*. The speakers are: **Chi-Chun Chiu** (Ph.D. 1994) (National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan), Vincent Colapietro (Pennsylvania State University), **Randall Dipert** (University at



**Hare**

Buffalo), **Peter Manicas** (University of Hawaii), **Joseph Margolis** (Temple University), **Robert Meyers** (Ph.D. 1966) (University at Albany), **Murray Murphey** (University of Pennsylvania), **Sami Philstrom** (University of Helsinki, Finland), **Sandra Rosenthal** (Loyola University), **John Shook** (Ph.D. 1994) (Oklahoma State University), **Kenneth Westphal** (University of New Hampshire).

The second conference is the IV Capen Symposium, entitled: *Rationality and Happiness: From the Ancients to the Medievals*. The speakers are: **Jorge J.E.**

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# Taking Philosophy into the Kitchen



Korsmeyer

The following excerpt is taken from the *UB Reporter*, Vol. 31, No. 20, as Carolyn Korsmeyer discusses her new book *Making Sense of Taste: Food and Philosophy* (Cornell University Press, 1999).

"Philosophers historically have paid little attention to the sense of taste, dismissing it as an inferior sense and one that is too idiosyncratic to be worthy of consideration. [Korsmeyer] breaks new philosophical ground and offers interesting food for thought in a recent book that reveals the symbolic and aesthetic value of taste and uncovers why this bodily sense largely has been ignored for so long in the realm of philosophy.

As a philosopher of art, Carolyn Korsmeyer has extensive experience with the metaphorical "taste" that refers to aesthetic refinement, but *Making Sense of Taste* considers instead the philosophical merit of the literal "taste." The book investigates the objects of taste—food and drink—and the activity of their consumption, as well as their representation in art and literature.

Korsmeyer explains that a source of her interest in the sense of taste was the fact that recent feminist perspectives in philosophy have disclosed the limitations of the discipline's traditional focus.

"By questioning both the universality and gender neutrality of basic philosophical concepts, feminist perspectives opened up the question: 'What has philosophy unduly overlooked or dismissed from its purview?'" notes Korsmeyer, who has focused most of her scholarly work on aesthetics and the philosophy of art. "I decided that one answer is: the sense of taste, food and the intimate, everyday activity of eating."

She points out that she was dissatisfied

with the assumption that there is nothing of philosophical interest in studying the sense of taste and that she set out to make the case that taste—traditionally considered primitive and inferior compared to the "higher" sense of sight and hearing—is worthy of philosophical attention.

*"Food is most like art in that it bears meaning..."*

"The common assumption that taste presents no interesting philosophical problems is a deep-seated error that banished a potentially fascinating subject from the scope of philosophical inquiry," says Korsmeyer, noting that the classification of taste, smell and touch as the inferior, bodily senses began with the early Greek philosophers.

Korsmeyer adds that the significance of food and eating also has been overlooked because it is tied to the necessities of existence and has become such a normal, routine activity. But it is exactly the centrality of eating to everyday life that led her to question why something so common and full of meaning has been left out of philosophical study.

"Food is most like art in that it bears meaning," says Korsmeyer. "The taste experience is a cognitive experience packed with understanding. I deepen this claim by asserting that pleasure is not just feeling good, but that it requires cognition..."

## A Book About Everything and Nothing

Open Court recently published *Seinfeld and Philosophy: A Book About Everything and Nothing*, edited by William Irwin (Ph.D. 1996). Of the 13 contributors to the volume, five are recent UB Ph.D.s (Daniel Barwick, Ph.D. 1997; Sarah E. Worth, (Ph.D. 1997); Eric Bronson, Ph.D. 1999, M.A. 1996; Jennifer McMahon, Ph.D. 1997, M.A.

1995; and Bill Irwin) and one is a faculty member, Jorge J.E. Gracia.

Below are the first two paragraphs of Irwin's "Monologue":

Why a book on philosophy and *Seinfeld*? How can philosophy, the discipline which is "a more or less general theory of everything" deal with a show which claims to be "about nothing"? Well, allow me to suggest that everything and nothing are sometimes not so terribly far apart. To put it more correctly, the "nothing" that *Seinfeld* deals with is most definitely something, something at times philosophical. The most popular sitcom of the 1990s managed to draw life's everyday events to our attention in a way not often done before, highlighting the commonplace and mundane, drawing our attention to things that would otherwise go unnoticed. Socrates told us that "the unexamined life is not worth living." The characters on *Seinfeld* certainly examine their own lives, though I doubt Socrates would find much to approve of in their lives or their examinations!

*"...the 'nothing' that Seinfeld deals with is most definitely something, something at times philosophical".*

This "show about nothing" is indeed philosophical in its own way. The very name 'Seinfeld' rings with philosophical significance, calling to mind (for some of us, at least) Martin Heidegger's *Sein und Zeit* (*Being and Time*), and meaning (roughly), "field of being" in German. *Seinfeld* has indeed been fertile ground, a "field of being" from which spring fruitful discussions and observations of the philosophical importance of the mundane. As a teacher, I have found *Seinfeld* to be an invaluable pedagogical tool. Tough philosophical issues easily come to life on the *Seinfeld* stage. For example, many times I have said to my students that when Heidegger speaks of the "idle chatter" of the "inauthentic mode of being" just think



## A Book About Everything and Nothing

Continued from Page 2

of Jerry, George, Elaine, and Kramer sitting at their favorite booth in Monk's Coffee Shop discussing some trivial piece of nonsense. To take another example, I tell my students that philosophy asks us to look at life in ways different from those to which we are accustomed. Changing one's ways of viewing the world and acting upon those changes takes a certain amount of courage, but the payoff can be fantastic. Just think of what happens when George asks himself, "What is the opposite of what I would normally do?", and then acts on his answer. In turn my students have often drawn examples of the show's relevance to my attention. Indeed, class discussions and student term paper examples in my Existentialism course inspired me to write my essay for this volume, "Kramer and Kierkegaard: Stages on Life's Way." For those discussions and examples I am truly grateful. The philosophical relevance of *Seinfeld* goes beyond the classroom, however. Examples, such as those that the show provides, are often a key to understanding for both the novice and the expert in philosophy.

## Faculty News...

Together with William King, University Professor in the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh and Hisatake Kato, Professor of Ethics and noted environmentalist of Kyoto University, Japan, **Kah Kyung Cho** has been invited by The Korean National Academy of Science to an international conference in Seoul, November 2000. Cho will be a keynote speaker on the traditional view of nature in the Eastern tradition and its implications for environmental ethics. Under the title *100 Years of Logical Investigations—100 Years of Phenomenology*, a 25-nation phenomenology conference will be held in



Cho

Olomouc, Czech Republic, the birthplace of Husserl, whose central phenomenological work, *Logical Investigations*, was published one hundred years ago. Professor Cho, as general editor of the *Orbis Phaenomenologicus* series published in Germany, will address the plenary evening session to commemorate Husserl's work. In a separate note, Cho was asked to write a Foreword to the English edition of *Logical Investigations* which was translated by J.N. Findlay in 1970 and published without Foreword, although Findlay attached a lengthy Introduction. The Humanity Books reprint before the end of this year will come 100 years after the publication of the German original in 1900/01.

**Randall Dipert**, along with others, will serve as senior researcher of a Dutch grant awarded for 3/2000 – 8/2004. The title of the Dutch program is "The Dual Nature of Artifacts." It is part of a larger international effort which will include a US NSF grant "The Structure of Thinking in Engineering." The larger program (with the two NSF-US and NWO-Dutch components) is called "Philosophical Foundations of Modern Technology." Two major international conferences are planned as well as a number of publications, including two book-length works. Dipert is part of the Dutch grant because they are doing work that is more conceptual; the US side will be more empirical—gathering data on how engineers actually work. Dipert's part will entail travel to Holland for conferences and work, as well as travel to Europe and other parts of the US. Additional funding is provided for the Dutch researchers to visit **Barry Smith** and Randy at UB for up to one semester.

William Eddins, son of Emeritus Professor **Berkley Eddins** and his wife Dr. Essie Eddins, was honored in March at Lincoln Center as recipient of the Seaver/NEA Conductors Award, a \$50,000 award presented every three years to a promising young conductor as a career-development grant. William, who was recently married

and lives in Minneapolis, is resident conductor of the Chicago Symphony.

**Jorge J.E. Gracia** published two books this year: *Hispanic/Latino Identity: A Philosophical Perspective* (Blackwell, 2000) and *Metaphysics and Its Task: The Search for the Categorical Foundation of Knowledge* (SUNY Press, 1999) (see separate article in this issue). The first book was the subject of an author-meets-critics session at the Eastern Division of the APA. The critics were: Richard Bernstein (New School), Jorge Garcia (Rutgers), William Gooding-Williams (Northwestern) and Gregory Pappas (Texas A&M). The papers, together with Gracia's response will be printed in an issue of *Philosophy and Social Criticism* entirely devoted to this exchange. A Madrid-published journal is also planning to devote part of one of its issues to Gracia's book, and Editorials Paidós, in Mexico, has offered to publish a Spanish version. *Metaphysics and Its Task* will be the topic of a book session of the American Maritain Association meeting at Notre Dame later this Fall. Gracia's book, *Philosophy and Its History* is being translated into Serbo-Croatian and should be out next year, in Belgrade.

**Kenneth Inada**, who retired several years ago, writes the following of his laid-back emeritus schedule: "...I'm keeping myself busy...We start[ed] off Y2K, January, with a Renaissance Cruise to Portugal and Spain. In February ['00] I [went] to Florida International University to lecture to the Asian Studies Group and Philosophy Department. In April ['00] I [met] with **Xianglong Zhang** (Ph.D. 1992) at the APA (Pacific) meeting in Albuquerque, NM. I also [presented] a paper. In August, I plan to be at the symposium on Field-Being at Fairfield University in CT. And in October, I've been asked to be one of the keynote speakers in an International Conference on Aesthetics. After the conference, we plan to see more of northern Italy and also southern Italy around Naples and Pompei, etc.

## Hourani Lectures

During the first two weeks of April the second series of Hourani Lectures was delivered by Onora O'Neill under the title "ACTION, REASON, AND JUDGMENT." O'Neill, an internationally respected Kant scholar who is known for her attention to contemporary problems as well as to Kant's texts, is Principal of Newnham College (Cambridge), author of five books concerning moral philosophy, chair of the Nuffield Foundation, and a member of the House of Lords.

The opening lecture set the frame for the series by arguing that the proper focus for moral philosophy is **action** rather than either **results** (consequentialism) or **character** (virtue ethics). Action, she pointed out, is inherently normative. Claims about actions intend that the world should be made to fit the claim, rather than the other way round. There are of course many different sorts of normative claims, restricted to various domains of action (including speech). Ethical norms are those which apply to actions of every sort, without restriction. A significant reminder is that actions, unlike virtues, can be attributed to corporations and other collectivities, and political philosophy is therefore included within the frame.

The next two lectures discussed practical reason and the relation of reason and normativity. O'Neill's target in these lectures was to undercut the widespread tendency to disparage reason, whether because of cultural variation or because of a conception that the domain of reason is limited to the realm of

facts and theories. In rebutting this tendency O'Neill insisted that universal judgments, which are the working tools of reason, are indispensable for normative judgments in general and for ethical judgments in particular.

The final three lectures applied these general considerations to matters of current interest. The fourth lecture focused on judgment and institutions, the fifth on human diversity, and the final lecture on boundaries. These three lectures provided an extension of the usual Kantian moral philosophy through a consideration of the obligations of institutions, a nuanced discussion of human rights and their dependence on universal principles. In the final lecture she argued against dismantling boundaries, maintaining instead that boundaries can be useful and just provided we take seriously those on the other side of them. Copies of the lectures are available from the Department.

O'Neill also held two sessions with graduate students, during the second week of her stay. It was a stimulating two weeks for all of us, and we were gratified at the good impression the Department made on our visitor. O'Neill's stay was capped with a large party at the home of Professor Hare following her final lecture on Friday April 14.

The Third Series of the George Hourani Lectures will be given by Martha Nussbaum in Fall 2001.

## What Is Metaphysics?

SUNY Press has just published **Jorge J. E. Gracia's** *Metaphysics and Its Task: The Search for the Categorical Foundation of Knowledge*. Two paragraphs from the Preface follow:

This book is not intended as a chronological survey of the various views concerning metaphysics proposed throughout the history of Western philosophy. Its approach is systematic. The conceptual framework it presents, however, should help us understand and evaluate the history of the attempts to define metaphysics. For those interested in the history of these attempts, I have provided historical references in the footnotes, although this is limited to the most obvious signposts in the development of the

discipline, and reveals my partial knowledge and obvious preferences. Because of the non-specialized character of the discussion, references have been made to texts available in English whenever possible. Those readers who do not have a historical inclination may ignore them and

*"I am not interested in novelty, but in truth."*

pay attention only to the main text. The argument is intended to be self-sustaining and independent of the historical apparatus included in the notes.

Nor is it my intention to introduce a drastic change in the way metaphysics is

practiced. The book aims to present a theory which makes sense of the practice of metaphysics throughout its history. Its goal is not to change practice but to understand it, that is, to fit it within a conceptual framework which makes sense of our collective experience. The theses I have defended are rooted in the practice of the discipline, even if they contradict what many metaphysicians, in fact, say about metaphysics. I will be content, then, if these theses are regarded as sensible rather than revolutionary; I am not interested in novelty, but in truth. Indeed, I believe I say nothing here that is not already implicit in what other metaphysicians have said or done.



Gracia

## LYNN ROSE'S REVOLUTION in Ancient Historiography

**K**ronos Press recently published a book by **Lynn Rose** in which he argues for radical changes in ancient historiography, changes which involve the entire Middle East. The book is titled *Sun, Moon, and Sothis: A Study of Calendars and Calendar Reforms in Ancient Egypt*. The jacket blurb follows:

The history of calendars is *far* from cut-and-dried. Almost every topic that his book addresses has long been the subject of heated controversy. Rose sees Hellenistic and Roman Egypt as of unparalleled importance in the history of calendar development. Even the Julian calendar had its origins in Hellenistic Egypt. Very likely, the Julian calendar itself was *Sothic*—that is, designed to follow the movements of the star Sothis (Sirius), and not just the annual motion of the Sun. Since the traditional Egyptian calendar of 365 days fell about one-fourth of a day short of the natural year,

the ancients assumed that the heliacal rising of Sirius would move through the Egyptian calendar in  $365 \times 4 = 1460$  Julian years (that is, one Sothic period).

Egypt's Middle Kingdom has conventionally been dated to some 4000 years ago, largely on the basis of documents indicating a heliacal rising of Sirius on Pharmuthi 16 in Year 7 of Sesostri III (in -1871, according to Parker.)

*Almost every topic that [t]his book addresses has long been the subject of heated controversy.*

From the Canopus Decree, Rose shows that the first heliacal rising of Sirius on Payni 1 was in -238. This, together with Censorinus report that a heliacal rising of Sirius took place on Thoth 1 in the year +139, makes it possible to retrocalculate

earlier Sothic dates much more precisely than ever before, it then turns out that the Middle Kingdom lunar documents fail to fit in the early second millennium! Rose finds that where the lunar documents *do* fit extremely well is in the *fourth* century—which would put the heliacal rising of Sirius in -394. He then argues that the Middle Kingdom ended in -331, when Alexander the Great occupied Egypt!

The shifting of the Middle Kingdom by an entire Sothic period makes for radical changes in ancient historiography, not only with respect to Egypt but with respect to Egypt's neighbors. Gardiner was in that sense right: "To abandon 1786 B.C. as the year when Dyn. XII ended would be to cast adrift from our only firm anchor, a course that would have serious consequences for the history, not of Egypt alone, but of the entire Middle East."

## News of Our Graduates...

**Ralph J. Argen III** (JD 1993, Ph.D. 1994) In March of 1995 while looking for a teaching position and selling computers, he became Project Manager of a hazardous waste construction/remediation project in Rochester, NY. His success in construction project management positioned him to become General Counsel for the Florida parent company, Kimmins Contracting Corp. He and his family relocated to Lutz, Florida where their three children have kept them very busy. As General Counsel at KCC, his construction management experience grew until downsizing left him with few challenges. About that time, a Florida law firm caught his eye, but three months in a law firm was more than Argen could take. Currently he is a Senior Consultant at Qualex Consulting Group, Inc, investigating construction related claims against Surety's and preparing same for construction contractors against owners. He reports it's a thrilling complex niche within the construction industry. Though the

speed of life took Ralph away from teaching philosophy, he hopes soon to secure a part-time teaching position at Hillsborough Community College.

**Richard Beatch** (Ph.D. 1994) and his wife **Jennifer (Eaton) Beatch** (MA 1991) will be moving to California where Richard will start work at a Silicon Valley based firm called Kanisa. The company develops online customer support systems which utilize carefully defined category structures as a way of organizing information. Richard will join the firm as a member of the user experience group that is responsible for developing the category structure, designing the user interface, and ensuring that the system locates the proper information in an efficient manner. Richard has been teaching at Weber State University in Utah as an associate professor of philosophy. Jennifer had managed a local



bakery in Ogden for two years, and most recently had the position as Pastry Chef at a local convention center.

**Berit Brogaard-Pedersen** (Ph.D. 2000) recently received three job offers. Two are academic offers for one year jobs, and the other is a non-academic job at an internet company. She has accepted the offer at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Berit and **Barry Smith** are co-organizers of *Kirchberg 2000: Rationality and Irrationality*, a conference being held in Kirchberg, Austria, August 13-19.

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## News of Our Graduates ...

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**Michael Berman** (Ph.D. 1997) reports that currently he is holding several adjunct faculty positions at Rockland Community College, Norwalk Community College and Monroe College, and hopes to obtain some extra classes at Manhattan for the fall semester.

**Kimberly Blessing** (Ph.D. 1996) is presently at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan serving as assistant professor. She also started in fall 1999 as program coordinator in the Philosophy Department. At Siena last year Kim was nominated for the "Sister Eileen Rice Award for Outstanding Teaching."

**Eric Bronson** (MA 1996, Ph.D. 1998) writes that this past year marked the end of...film festivals for *My Lazy White Friends* (he served as co-producer and editor). The film's producers participated in the Bangkok Film Festival and the New York Independent Film Festival within the last year, and have played at 15 festivals over the last two years winning three Best Documentary awards and two audience awards. Eric has been invited to teach as a visiting professor at Altai State University in Siberia, Russia this upcoming fall. He will be teaching the role of the U.S. in world politics after WWII, and one class in American Studies. Afterwards, Eric will continue his duties teaching philosophy and world civilization at Berkeley College in Manhattan.

**Gwen Burda** (MA 1995) has been working as Production Editor and Editorial Consultant for Richard Hull on the APA Centennial Series (Kluwer Academic Publishers), a ten-volume collection of presidential addresses of the APA from 1900-2000. Prior to taking on this project full-time, she was Managing Editor of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine. Gwen moved from Buffalo to the Philadelphia area in 1999, taking the APA project with her. She was also recently appointed the North American Publisher's Representative for Editions Rodopi, for whom she provides freelance editing and book-production services as well.

**Alan Clune** (Ph.D. 2000) delivered his paper "Some Groundwork for a Method in Behavioral Science" at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology at Warwick

University in England. "Saving Behaviorism Through Evolutionary Theory" was published in the proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Interamerican Congress of Philosophy held at The Autonomous University of Puebla, in Mexico in August 1999.

**Lawry Finsen** (Ph.D. 1982) writes that most recently he has been appointed in 98-99 for a three-year term as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Redlands in CA where he has been teaching for 20 years. Afterwards, he plans to return to full-time teaching. He spent 93-94 in Tokyo as Resident Director of his school's exchange with Waseda University. In 94 he co-authored with this wife Susan *The Animal Rights Movement in America: From Compassion to Respect* (Twayne Publishers), and in 97 he co-authored a text *The Persuasive Pen: An Integrated Approach to Reasoning and Writing* (Jones & Bartlett). Lawry states that his daughter Thalia is now a junior at University of Redlands, majoring in Philosophy and spending last semester at Keble College in Oxford. Lawry and his wife continue to do quite a bit of homeless animal rescue, since no one else was helping with that problem in the immediate area.

**Idris Hamid** (MA 1996, Ph.D. 1998) was offered a tenure-track position at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

**Shannon Kincaid** (Ph.D. 1999) is currently employed as an adjunct assistant professor in the Philosophy Department at Brooklyn College, CUNY. Shannon also works as an independent philosophical consultant in Manhattan (currently doing research and advisement in environmental policy and energy conservation), and will be teaching full-time at Brooklyn College this upcoming fall.

**David R. Koepsell** (Ph.D. 1997) is currently the Business Web Exchange Ontologist at Bowstreet, a Portsmouth, NH software company. In August *The Ontology of Cyberspace: Law, Philosophy, and the Future of Intellectual Property* will be published by Open Court: Chicago. David has been invited to lecture this summer at Erasmus University in The Netherlands as part of their Erasmus Summer School on Social Ontology.

**Seung-Chong Lee** (Ph.D. 1993) writes that he presented "Is Chuang-tzu a Deconstructionist?" on **Kenneth Inada's** panel "International Institute for Field-Being, Session II" at the Pacific Division of the APA in Albuquerque, NM.

**Paul S. Penner** (B.S. Pharmacy, M.A. 1992, Ph.D. 1994) published *Altruistic Behavior: An Inquiry into Motivation in the Value Inquiry Book Series* (Amsterdam: Editions, Rodopi, 1995). His book, also prepared and indexed by **Gwen Burda**, has been nominated for an American Philosophical Association prize for the best first book. Paul's current project is an investigation into the phenomenon of The Muse as a source of creativity for writers. In that regard, he will be attending a Writer's Master Class taught by William Least Heat-Moon at the Gell Center in the Finger Lakes region of NYS. And finally, Paul reports that his co-owned internet business, Wyoming County On-Line, has surpassed all expectations and continues to grow unabated. The company now serves a 13-county areas from Geneva/Penn Yan west in NYS and down into Bradford, PA.

**Connie Perry** (Ph.D. 1993) writes "...my university has become one with Chuang Tzu's constant transformation of things: Having gone through five name changes, three major changes in administration, bankruptcy and the aftermath within the last five years, I was only mildly surprised when told that Drexel University had decided to eliminate my school and a large number of Faculty (Drexel manages MCP Hahnemann University post bankruptcy). My job was spared. I will be moving into the newly created College of Nursing and Allied Health as of July 1. While the administrative structure is not set yet, it appears that my teaching and work with the hospital will not change much. But who knows. Life is change. Before my school ceases to exist, I am going up for promotion from assistant to associate professor. Tenure is a separate promotion which requires at least three years at the associate level. I have high hopes for successful promotion. A course-release granted last fall resulted in my

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## News of Our Graduates ...

Continued from Page 6

submitting three papers for publication and three more papers for major conferences (two of which have been accepted, the other is pending)."

**Eric Reitan** (Ph.D. 1993), who has been teaching for the past two years at University of Northern Iowa (and previously at Pacific Lutheran College, Parkland, Washington), has accepted a tenure-track position at Oklahoma State University for fall 2000. OSU has a master's degree program in philosophy, and they are just starting to design an Ethics Center. Since Eric's position is in applied ethics, he looks forward to this wonderful opportunity.

**Michael R. Rhodes** (Ph.D. 1994) is studying law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Mike has just published *Coercion: A Nonevaluative Approach*, in the *Value Inquiry Book Series* (Amsterdam, N. L.: Editions Rodopi, 2000). The book was prepared in camera-ready copy, with an index, by **Gwen Burda** (M.A. 1995), who is a free lance editor in Philadelphia.

**Arleen Salles** (Ph.D. 1992) is at Montclair State University teaching ethics, business ethics, environmental ethics, bioethics and theories of human nature.

Arleen is still working on ethics, applied ethics and lately more on moral psychology. She regularly teaches graduate courses in the masters program in applied ethics at the University of Buenos Aires. Recent publications include *Bioetica*, co-editor (Ed. Sudamericana, 1998) and forthcoming in 2001 *Bioethics: Latin American Perspectives*, co-editor (RODOPI).

**Stewart Shapiro** (Ph.D. 1978) has recently accepted an appointment as Professorial Fellow at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. This allows him to spend seven weeks a year at St. Andrews, teaching, presenting papers, and interacting with faculty and graduate students. His third book, *Thinking About Mathematics*, will be published by Oxford University Press this summer. This is something of a textbook, offering a popular presentation of philosophy of mathematics.

**John R. Shook** (Ph.D. 1994) has had two books published: *Pragmatism: An Annotated Bibliography, 1898-1940* in the *Value Inquiry Book Series* (Amsterdam: Editions Rodopi, 1998), and *Dewey's Empirical Theory of Knowledge and Reality*, in the Vanderbilt Library of

American Philosophy (Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University Press, 2000). John has been teaching at Jamestown Community College and Corning Community College, both in New York. He has just accepted a tenure-track position at Oklahoma State University, commencing in the fall of 2000. He will be teaching American philosophy and philosophy of mind. John serves as webmaster of the Pragmatism Cybrary at [www.pragmatism.org](http://www.pragmatism.org) which offers a variety of resources for the study of pragmatism.

**Steven Storch** (Ph.D. 1997) is currently adjunct professor at North Carolina Wesleyan College, Water's Edge Campus, in Raleigh, NC, and is a first-year law student at North Carolina Central University.

**Sarah Worth** (Ph.D. 1997), since graduate school, has published in the *British Journal of Aesthetics*, the *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, and in the *Journal of Aesthetic and Art Criticism*. She is also the editor of the American Society for Aesthetics Newsletter and is the program chair for the 2001 Eastern Division of the American Society for Aesthetics.

## Jonathan Ketchum

Jon and I first knew each other at Groton School where he was a couple of classes ahead of me. Then in the late 1960s he wrote me to explain his difficult situation at Stanford and to explore the possibility of moving his 'academy' of Stanford students to UB's Philosophy Department where I was Director of Graduate Studies. Tracy Taft, Mitchell Miller and others of his students were among the most gifted students in the history of the Buffalo graduate program. Once Jon had established his academy in a farm house in Clarence, numerous local undergraduates joined the academy. Several years later Jon decided to finish here the doctoral work (Ph.D. 1981) he had begun at Stanford. By this time Chair of the Department, I was pleased when **Newton Garver** agreed to serve as director of Jon's dissertation on Plato. My late colleague **Bill Parry** was also extremely helpful as a member of Jon's committee. In recent years I have not seen a great deal of Jon, though

from time to time he has attended our conferences and colloquia.

As I'm sure everyone here knows, Jon was a person of the most profound intellectual commitments—commitments

*"His loyalties and those of his students were often fierce and uncompromising."*

both theoretical and pedagogical. His loyalties and those of his students were often fierce and uncompromising. These commitments and loyalties often provoked passionate responses. I was one of many who were sometimes outraged by his views. But I would be the first to insist that we should all be grateful for the many contributions Jon made to the life of the mind. Such intellectual passion is rare and will be missed by many. (A memorial service in Williamsville was held this past March for Jon.)

Submitted by Peter H. Hare

## Graduate Students...

**Christine Adsit** is a Training Specialist for Curriculum Development and Trainer Education at the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital (GSCNC).

**Jason Adsit** writes that his current position in Washington D.C. is twofold. First, he is the website manager/guru/master for the ERIC (Educational Resource Information Center) Clearinghouse on Teaching and Teacher Education. Second, he is the program assistant for AACTE's (The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) Technology Committee (i.e., a research committee made up of deans and department chairs from around the country who study the role of technology in the classroom). In addition, Jason says he is a content editor for a local internet firm whose primary aim is to teach young children how to manage their finances. In addition to all of this, Jason continues to work on his dissertation and plans to defend this fall.

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## Asia Conference

On April 9, 2000, three UB Ph.D.s from a decade ago reunited in the Center for Inquiry on the edge of campus for a mini-conference on "Philosophy in East Asia." (The title was no doubt somewhat pretentious, as Professor Cho later pointed out, since there was no one to speak about philosophy in Japan.) The three were **Seung-Chong Lee** (Ph.D. 1993, now Associate Professor at Yonsei University in Seoul), **Zosimo Lee** (Ph.D. 1990, now Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines in Manila), and **Xianglong Zhang** (Ph.D. 1992), now Director of the Institute for Foreign Philosophy at Peking University in Beijing).

Each of the three spoke about the role of philosophy in his country and his university, about the importance of his time at UB, and about his current research interests. Of course, there were not neat boundaries between different themes, and there was a mixture of humor with serious thought. One bright spot of humor was due to Seung-Chong Lee, who delighted the audience with the deadpan manner in which he poked fun at himself and some personalities in the Department. At the end of the afternoon, following the three presentations, Professors **Kah Kyung Cho** and **Jiyuan Yu**, joined the speakers for a panel discussion.

There was little advance communication among the three visitors, so it was a surprise to everyone when both Seung-Chong Lee and Xianglong Zhang independently chose to focus on their interest in Chuang Tzu, the Chinese philosopher who lived about the same time (a bit earlier) as Socrates. Both these papers had been presented at the meeting of the Pacific Division of the APA in Albuquerque, Seung-Chong discussing whether Chuang Tzu was a deconstructionist and Xianglong comparing Chuang Tzu and Heidegger.

Seung-Chong publishes in both English and Korean. Some years ago he translated into Korean the book he wrote with **Newton Garver**, and the translation is now in its second printing. One of his current projects is to publish a revision of

his dissertation, which was an interesting discussion of Wittgenstein's complex conception of contradiction, under the title *If Wittgenstein Were Alive*. The eight articles he has published in Korean since completing his doctorate discuss a wide variety of highly topical issues in analytic and continental philosophy.

Xianglong continues to work on Heidegger as well as on Chinese philosophy, and he publishes mainly in Chinese. On his way to Buffalo he stopped in Los Angeles and Albuquerque, where he read papers at Loyola Marymount University and the American Philosophical Association. His position as Director of the Institute for Foreign Philosophy, which has recently been integrated into the Philosophy Department, has traditionally been one of the most prestigious philosophical posts in China.

Zosimo is one of the six doctoral degrees holders in the sixteen-member Department in Manila. When he first arrived back in the Philippines from America, he was asked to serve as Dean for a campus several hundred miles south of Manila. His work is in moral and political philosophy, rather than the areas favored by Xianglong and Seung-Chong. In recent years he has used this background to investigate the "Peace Zones" established by some communities in the Philippines, to preserve themselves from the warfare between guerillas and government troops. A second major interest of his is philosophy for children, motivated by finding that university students are often ill-prepared to undertake serious philosophical work. Zosimo's work is sometimes in the school classroom, but it is mostly with teachers. Following his stay in Buffalo, part of which was generously hosted by Professor **Jiyuan Yu** and his family, he participated in a two-week workshop on philosophy for children at Montclair, NJ.

These three scholars give some indication of the role UB has played in training leaders in Asia. But they are not alone. In his remarks Seung-Chong noted that there are six UB doctoral graduates in Korea, and that SUNY (as a whole) "is perhaps ranked top in the number of alumni

active as leaders in Korea. SUNY alumni can easily be found in almost all areas in my country." The same could not be said for the other countries. But a graduate from the previous decade, Ping-cheung Lo, is very likely the most prominent UB graduate in the area. Associate Professor at the Hong Kong Baptist University, Lo is past head of his department, editor of a journal on medical ethics, research fellow in both Hong Kong and Beijing, and author of six books, five of which have seen multiple printings.

All in all, the conference, which was organized by **Newton Garver** and **Peter Hare** with help from the Asian Studies Program, was a celebration of achievement as well as a stimulating occasion.

## Graduate Students...

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**David Garren's** "In Defense of Duty: A Kantian Perspective," was accepted at the 22nd Annual Conference of the Society for Social and Political Philosophy, May 2000, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO. The following invitations were extended to David: "Wittgenstein's Tractatus: An Ethics of Resignation," Value, Art and Ethics Conference, University of Southampton, Southampton, England, 2/19/00; "Habermas' Theory of Legal Legitimacy Reviewed," Mid-South Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee, 2/25/00; commentaries: "Discourse Ethics and Habermas' 'Other' Legitimation Crisis," Mid-South Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee, 2/25/00; refereeing: Canadian Philosophical Association Conference, May 2000.

**Christopher Keegan** will be studying at the Harvard Divinity School next year, conducting research on the intersection of religion, democracy and social solidarity, which will be the main theme of his dissertation.

**Youngjin Kiem** presented "On the Non-representational Character of the Background of Intentionality" at the Third Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference at SUNY Stony Brook this past semester.

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## Graduate Students...

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This past semester **Eric Little** presented "Embodiment and the Phenomenology of Emergence" at the Emory University Graduate Conference; "Gehirnplastizität und leibliche Phänomenologie" at the University of Koblenz, Germany; and "Phänomenologie und Gehirnwissenschaft" at the Eighth International Symposium on New Phenomenology in Kiel, Germany. The latter will be published in 2001 in the Proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on New Phenomenology, Freiburg, Germany.



A W A R D S

## UB Golden Key National Honor Society

The UB Chapter inducted 569 seniors and juniors and honored six individuals during last year's 12<sup>th</sup> annual induction ceremony. The new student members are those whose grades place them in the top 15 percent of their class. Honorary members include our own **James Brady**, along with five others, who were nominated and inducted by members of the local chapter.



Brady

## DeGreiff, Thalos Receive NEH Awards



DeGreiff  
and  
Thalos



The research of **Pablo DeGreiff** and **Mariam Thalos** demonstrates how philosophical inquiry, applied to contemporary problems, can enhance our understanding of a wide range of individual and collective human behavior.

Their work has earned them research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will allow them to complete projects that reassess common assumptions about how and why human beings behave the way they do under certain conditions.

DeGreiff, who is an assistant professor, and Thalos, who is an associate professor, are two of only four philosophers in the nation to receive NEH research fellowships during this funding cycle.

Both will challenge standard assumptions in their fields of investigation and propose new and more useful ways to analyze moral and political issues.

Thalos' project, "Units of Decision-making: The Role of the Collective," will examine the standard individualistic model of decision-making and introduce a new style of decision analysis that offers a different understanding of cooperation in general.

Its application to the resolution of "Prisoner's Dilemmas" will be of interest

to legal theorists, she says, and be applicable to such issues as the provision of public goods in economics and to the social function of "free-riding."

DeGreiff is a social and moral philosopher who has lectured and published extensively on the subject of international justice and transition to democracy. He will use his grant to complete a book manuscript in which he examines the question of how successor regimes should deal with the human-rights abuses of the preceding regimes.

When published, it will be one of the few books on the subject of transitional justice written by a philosopher. While it is intended to be of interest to philosophers and political scientists, it also is addressed to human-rights activists, policymakers and those concerned with international affairs and transitions to democracy.

Excerpt written by Patricia Donovan, Reporter, 1/27/2000, Vol. 31, No. 17.

## Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award and Humane Studies Fellow

In April **David Garren** received an award in the Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching competition. This University-wide award is in recognition of exceptional competence and dedication as a teacher. This past spring, David also was honored as a Humane Studies Fellow at the Institute for Humane Studies, University of Virginia. David will be provided with an all-expense paid week-long seminar on scholarship and the free society in July.

## Hourani Fellowship

**Jeff Scott** received a Hourani Fellowship for the spring 2000 semester. This scholarship is provided by the George F. Hourani Memorial Fund, established in the memory of former Distinguished Professor and Department Chair **George Hourani**. Fellowships are granted to outstanding graduate students specializing in ethics or Islamic philosophy.

## Conferences

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William Mann (Vermont), John Marenbon (Cambridge), Gareth Matthews (Massachusetts/Amherst), Mark McPherran (Maine), Donald Morrison (Rice), Christopher Taylor (Oxford), and **Jiyuan Yu** (Buffalo).

In the Spring, the Department will be the host of the Metaphysical Society's annual meeting on March 9-11. The invited speakers are: Dagfinn Follesdal (Stanford), **Jorge Gracia** (Buffalo, President of the Society for the year), Carl Hausmann (Penn State), J. Mohanty (Temple), and Eleonor Stump (St. Louis).

A volume from the First Capen Symposium is due out in June, with Routledge. The volume, entitled *Hispanics/Latinos in the United States: Ethnicity, Race, and Rights*, is edited by **Jorge Gracia** and **Pablo De Greiff**. The contributing authors are: Linda Martin Alcoff (Syracuse), Eduardo Mendieta (San Francisco), Ofelia Schutte (South Florida), Paula Moya (Stanford), Walter Mignolo (Duke), Suzanne Oboler (Brown), Iris Marion Young (Pittsburgh/Chicago), **Leonardo Zaibert** (Ph.D. 1997) (University of Wisconsin/Parkside), **Elizabeth Millan-Zaibert** (De Paul), Thomas Pogge (Columbia), **Jorge Gracia** (Buffalo), Angelo Corlett (San Diego State), **Pablo De Greiff** (Buffalo).

## Paul Kurtz's Humanist Manifesto 2000

**C**arolyn Thompson in an Associated Press bulletin wrote: The new millennium presents an opportunity for the world to embrace a planetary outlook for the future, one that de-emphasizes national and ethnic boundaries, according to a manifesto endorsed by philosophers and scientists worldwide.

"Humanist Manifesto 2000" was conceived and drafted by University at Buffalo Professor Paul Kurtz, president of the International Academy of Humanism and editor-in-chief of "Free Inquiry" magazine.

"For the first time in human history we possess the means—provided by science and technology—to ameliorate the human condition, advance happiness and freedom, and enhance human life for all people on the planet," Kurtz writes.

Built around basic humanist principles of nontheistic, rationalist thought, the manifesto stresses the need for people to rise about "narrow tribalism" to find common ground.

"Ethnicities are the result of past social and geographical isolations that are no longer relevant in an open global society where interaction and intermarriage among different ethnicities are not only possible, but are to be encouraged," the manifesto says.

The manifesto urges people to embrace science and technology to solve social problems like pollution and overpopulation. It urges an end to spiritual and theological world views in favor of new moral principles based on reason and science, which it says are more appropriate for the post-industrial, information age.

The document is endorsed by more than 100 people from 26 countries, including seven Nobel laureates. It will be

published in the fall issue of "Free Inquiry."

Among those who signed the manifesto was Yervant Terzian, a Cornell University science professor.

"I have a firm belief that human beings all around the world are equal and have a right to a comfortable and happy existence," Terzian said. "We should all strive to have that as our primary goal."

To that end, the 15-page manifesto calls for a tax on the gross national product of every nation to help underdeveloped areas stabilize population growth and assist economic development.

Supporters also favor a transnational environmental monitoring agency to reduce planetary pollution. Also, a new planetary system of government that would include formation of a world parliament, a stronger version of the United Nations whose membership would be based on global population.

"There are obviously tremendous political, social and economic forces opposed," Kurtz said. Nevertheless, "we should at least set long-range goals, even though they may be presently difficult to achieve in certain parts of the world."

Among others who have signed the document are entertainer Steve Allen, former U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston and anthropologist Richard Leakey.

*"One cannot conceive anything so strange and so implausible that it has not already been said by one philosopher or another."*

— Rene Descartes

## THE GODS WOULD NOT BE PLEASED... Reschedule the Olympics!

**A**n excerpt from Lynn Rose's *Sun, Moon, and Sothis* (p. 305): When the modern Olympic Games were started in A.D. 1896 (that is, in +1896), the intention seems to have been to keep them in phase with ancient practice. Thus it was calculated that  $776 + 1896 = 2672$ , which is evenly divisible by 4. But this calculation ignores the fact that historical dating has no year 0. The interval from 776 B.C. to A.D. 1896 is really only 2671!

The proper calculation would have indicated A.D. 1897, since from 776 B.C. to A.D. 1897 is indeed 2672. The summer of 1897 would have marked the end of the 668<sup>th</sup> Olympiad.

Astronomical dating makes this even clearer. When the absolute values of -775 and +1897 are added, the sum is 2672. Thus the modern Olympic Games are always held one year too early. The ancient gods would not be pleased.



## James Gasser

**J**ames Gasser, a former Visiting Scholar and frequent visitor to UB, has edited *A Boole Anthology: Recent and Classical Studies in the Logic of George Boole* being published this year by Kluwer Publishing Company (formerly Reidel) of Dordrecht, Holland. The *Anthology* contains articles by several distinguished scholars including Michael Dummett of Oxford University, Ivor Grattan-Guinness, founding editor of *History and Philosophy of Logic*, and Volker Peckhaus of Erlangen, another UB visitor. This *Anthology* makes further connections with the Department by including articles by **Sriram Nambiar** (Ph.D. 2000), **John Corcoran** and **Susan Wood** (Ph.D. 1976). Gasser is currently on the faculty of the Institute of Applied Mathematics at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.



Corcoran

His doctoral dissertation on the nature of proof, University of Neuchâtel 1989, was co-directed by **John Corcoran**.

Submitted by **John Corcoran**

## Intentional Interpretation

**G**reenwood Press recently published **William Irwin's** (Ph.D. 1996) *Intentional Interpretation: A Philosophical Explanation and Defense*. "Contemporary hermeneutics is marked by scholarly conflict, disagreement, and differing points of emphasis," Bill notes near the beginning of the book. "To some," he continues, "the conflict has seemed unfortunate and unnecessary. If the disputants would really listen to one another they would realize that they are pursuing independent projects, that there is in fact no need for the quarreling. Such a simple and straightforward solution is desirable in all conflicts, but in this case such a resolution does not appear to be forthcoming. There are indeed genuine areas of disagreement to be settled. To begin, there are seemingly innumerable conflicts among hermeneutic theorists, and to document them all would be to verge on

the trivial. Instead we shall be concerned in this study with what is arguably the primary and most interesting conflict, that between those dedicated to normative pursuits and those dedicated to descriptive pursuits."

At the end of the book he concludes; "the normative and descriptive approaches can and should coexist, and both interpretation and criticism have a place in our hermeneutic examinations. Though interpretation should not be done in strict accord with genre considerations, it is still instructive to consider what is typical in the interpretation of various genres. We have briefly examined the cases of philosophical, literary, and legal texts to make our point. A more detailed examination of these and a further examination of other textual types would be a worthy endeavor but would take us beyond the scope of this volume.

## "The Metaphysics of Consciousness:

David Chalmers' *The Conscious Mind in Historical and Contemporary Perspective*"

**A** conference was sponsored by the UB Department of Philosophy and the C.S. Peirce Professorship in American Philosophy entitled "The Metaphysics of Consciousness: David Chalmers' *The Conscious Mind in Historical and Contemporary Perspective*" and held November 5-6 at the Center for Inquiry. The conference was preceded by a graduate student conference on consciousness organized by UB graduate student **Eric Little**.

The intent of the conference was to examine current theories of consciousness in the philosophy of mind and cognitive science, and to set these in their wider historical context. David Chalmers' *The Conscious Mind* (1996) has recently played an especially important role in posing the problem of consciousness, a direction he describes as "taking consciousness seriously." While monistic accounts of consciousness that are reductionist, and typically physicalistic, have been well explored, historical accounts that articulate a dualism, a more unusual monism (such as "neutral monism"), or views sometimes called "panpsychist," generally have not been. Notable in the history of the philosophy of mind are the theories of American philosophers such as Peirce, James, and Whitehead, who had formulated their own distinctive but unduly neglected responses to the problem of consciousness – along with theories of Spinoza, Leibniz, Nietzsche, Russell, and others.

Speakers were: Wallace Matson (University of California, Berkeley), John Hawthorne (Syracuse University), **Randall R. Dipert** (University at Buffalo; U.S. Military Academy), Eric Dietrich (Binghamton University), **Barry Smith** (University at Buffalo), David Chalmers (University of Arizona), Richard Gale (University of Pittsburgh), Stephen Yablo (MIT), **Len Talmy** (Director, Center for Cognitive Science, University at Buffalo), Galen Strawson (Oxford University), and Judith A. Jones (Fordham University).

Attendance was strong: an average of 50 for each session and over 150 for Chalmers' talk on Friday night. There was extensive and extremely lively discussion of each talk, averaging 45 minutes. The original idea for the conference was **Peter Hare's**, and session organizers were **Randall Dipert** and **William Rapaport**. Local arrangements were successful and praised by the conference participants, and these were due to the hard work of **Eva Koepsell**, **Eileen McNamara**, and **Judy Wagner**, aided by a number of UB graduate students and the staff of the Center for Inquiry.