

University of Rochester

Department of Philosophy Newsletter

Departmental News: Notes from the Chair's Office

The past year has been an eventful one for the Department and the University. The Humanities Project was launched in June of 2006 with a \$100,000 gift from President Joel Seligman. That yielded three interdisciplinary speaker series involving philosophers: "The Nature and Pursuit of Happiness," "Law and the 'War on Terror'," and "The History and Philosophy of Physics." The last of these built on and advanced the ongoing activities of an interdisciplinary group bridging philosophy, history, physics, and optics. Our graduate students contributed to an intellectually vibrant year by again hosting a graduate epistemology conference in October, and with all of this in addition to our normal colloquium series it was an extraordinarily stimulating year.

Bob Holmes, Rich Feldman, and I played key roles in bringing the Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence to the University, in the expectation of substantial benefits for undergraduate learning and university-community relations. We're pleased to welcome Arun Gandhi and his Institute to the University.

It has also been a year of changes, with Henry Kyburg on medical leave and Rich Feldman serving as Interim – and soon to be sans-Interim – Dean of the College. We were fortunate to have a visiting assistant professor, Gabriele Contessa, with us this year, and look forward to welcoming a new tenure-track assistant professor, Brad Weslake, in July. Brad comes to us from the University of Sydney, and specializes in philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, and metaphysics. We are grateful that Rich will continue to teach a doctoral seminar each year, and congratulate him on his success and accomplishments on behalf of the College. The full ramifications of the College's strategic planning will not be known for some time, but we are enjoying encouraging support from the Dean's office and anticipate further hiring in the months ahead.

Job placement and graduate recruitment have gone exceedingly well this year, and as I look back over the year it is our success in these arenas that best explains and justifies my feeling that it has been a good year for the Department.

Finally, a word of congratulations to Henry, who will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for Doctoral Teaching at this year's doctoral commencement ceremony on May 19th. Well done, Henry! Your mark on the profession and the University of Rochester will long endure.

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**“Dedicated to the Truth,
the Half-Truth
and the Occasional
Bald-Faced Lie”**

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2008 Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Essay Competition

The late Professor and Mrs. Colin Turbayne established an International Berkeley Essay Prize competition in conjunction with the Philosophy Department at the University of Rochester.

The 2006 winning essay in the Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Essay Prize Competition was "Berkeley, Human Agency and Divine Concurrentism" by Jeffrey McDonough (Harvard University).

The next deadline for submitting papers is November 1, 2008. The winner will be announced March 1, 2009 and will receive a prize of \$2,000. Copies of the winning essays will be sent to the George Berkeley Library Study Center located in Berkeley's home in Whitehall, Newport, RI. Submissions should be sent to: Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester, PO Box 270078, Lattimore Hall 532, Rochester, NY 14627-0078. Please see our website for details regarding essay specifications.



COLLOQUIA AND TALKS

Speakers 2006-07

- James Pryor
(New York University), 4th
Biennial Rochester Graduate
Epistemology Conference
- Elizabeth Camp
(University of Pennsylvania)
- Harry Brighthouse
(University of Wisconsin,
Madison)
- Rebecca Kukla
(Carleton University)

Humanities Project 2006-07

“Law and the ‘War on Terror’”

- Jeffrey McMahan
(Rutgers University)
- David Cole
(Georgetown University)

“The History and Philosophy of Physics”

- Tim Maudlin
(Rutgers University)
- Richard Staley
(University of Wisconsin-
Madison)
- Joan Bromberg
(John Hopkins University)
- Jill North
(Yale University)
- Andrew Jordan
(University of Rochester)

“The Nature and the Pursuit of Happiness”

- Richard Kraut
Northwestern University)
- Joel J. Kupperman
(University of Connecticut)
- Tim Kasser
(Knox College)

FACULTY NEWS

David Braun

I gave talks at University at Buffalo, University of Sheffield (where our alum Jennifer Saul is now a member of the philosophy faculty), and Cornell University. I will continue as president of the Creighton Club through fall 2007.

Earl Conee

This has been a year of the usual academic sort: teaching, research, and service of various kinds, culminating in a newsletter entry that reports these things and includes a bit of extra fussing of one sort or another. This year the extra was that last comment...and this one.

Randall Curren

The highlight of my year was giving a keynote lecture in the Holywell Music Hall in Oxford on a gloriously beautiful spring morning, being invited to expand the lecture into a policy booklet to be published and launched with a public debate and press coverage in London next year, and a few days later receiving a grant from the Humanities Corridor of Central New York to do the research I'll need to do to write the booklet.

Richard Dees

This year, I have concentrated on issues in medical ethics, particularly in my special area of neuroethics—the ethical issues that arise when medicine meets the mind. I have a long-term project—new technologies that can alter our cognition, our memory, and our personality. But along the way, I have also

worked this year on a task force to set the policy concerning the internet solicitation of organ donations for Strong Memorial Hospital that I have presented in several different venues, and I have also confronted the cosmetic surgeons with questions about the ethics of what they do.

Deborah Modrak

Having traveled an inordinate amount last year, this year I have mostly stayed close to home, focusing on teaching and working on some long term projects and finishing up some short term ones. I gave a Halloween talk at Hobart and William Smith College about ancient ghosts, a keynote address at the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy meetings in New York and in the Peloponnese a talk about Plato and Aristotle on desire.

Ed Wierenga

I participated in an Author Meets Critics session at the Eastern Division of the APA. The topic was William Rowe's new book, *Can God Be Free?* My paper will appear in *Philosophical Books*.

NEWS SUBMITTED BY OUR CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS

Trent Dougherty

This has been the best year of my life! A big part of that is the birth of my first son John Paul. Academically it has been a good year as well. I have an article “Fallibilism, Epistemic Possibility, and Concessive Knowledge Attributions” forthcoming in *Philosophy and*

Phenomenological Research, and an article "Divine Hiddenness and the Nature of Belief" accepted in the journal *Religious Studies* published by Cambridge University Press. I recently found out that they will also be publishing my "A User's Guide to Design Arguments" (co-authored with Ted Poston). *Faith and Philosophy* will be publishing two of my articles: "Epistemological Considerations Concerning Skeptical Theism" and "Hell and Vagueness: A Reply to Sider".

I also have a forthcoming critical notice of John Leslie's *Infinite Minds* in *Religious Studies* Review. My review of BonJour and Sosa's *Epistemic Justification* is slated to appear soon.

In the Fall semester I presented "Realizing Virtue: A Unified Virtue Epistemology" at the national meeting of the ACPA, at the Society for Catholicism and Analytic Philosophy as well as "A User's Guide to Teleological Arguments" at the Saint Louis University Graduate Student Conference The Epistemology of Religious Belief.

Then in the Spring semester I presented my "Reply to Sider on Hell and Vagueness" at the Rutgers University Graduate Philosophy of Religion Conference. In May I am very happy to be presenting "A Pragmatic and Semantic Defense of Fallibilism" at the International Linguistics and Epistemology Conference, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. In addition, I'll be presenting at the Fourth Annual (FEW) Formal Epistemology Workshop at Carnegie Mellon University in May. Also, I recently have been

chosen to receive one of the Spring 2007 UR's Graduate Organizing Group (GOG) Conference Fund Awards.

Sarah, Fiona, John Paul, and I have thoroughly enjoyed skiing the woods around our house on a daily basis this winter and with the coming of Spring have been mountain biking two or three days a week. As soon as it warms up a bit more we look forward to canoeing the Genesee and the canal. We'll be grilling all summer, so stop on by!

John Kwak

John has been thoroughly enjoying his first year of graduate work at UR. In addition to confirming his interest in epistemology, the first year has made clear to him that philosophy of language will be the other major competing interest. John and his wife Kelly have been enjoying their new home in Greece and feel somewhat proud of themselves for having endured their first Rochester winter, given the sunny climate of Los Angeles they originally hail from.

GRADUATE NEWS

Placement 2006-2007

Eva Cadavid
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, one year

Andrew Cullison
SUNY Fredonia, Assistant Professor (tenure track)

Andrei Buckareff
Marist College, Assistant Professor (tenure track)

Stefan Forrester
University of Montevallo, Assistant Professor (tenure track)

Daniel Mittag
Albion College, Assistant Professor (tenure track)

Philip Mouch
Minnesota State at Moorhead, Assistant Professor (tenure track)

Andrea Patterson
College of Wooster, one year

Ph.D. Graduate Admissions for 2007-2008

Brian Barnett
Sommer Hodson
Kevin McCain
William Rowley

M.A.'s Awarded in 2006-2007

Jacqueline Augustine
Paul Collins
John Deregowski
Mark Flannery
Shawn Graves
Michael Lacanilao
Rodmon King
Hye Jung Oh

Doctoral Dissertations Successfully Defended in 2006-2007

Richard Gallimore
"Traditionalizing Epistemology: Traditional Theory of Knowledge in a Scientific World" (Richard Feldman, advisor)

Christopher Tillman
"Insensitive Millianism" (David Braun, advisor)



IN MEMORIAM

Colin Murray Turbayne, professor emeritus of philosophy, died May 16, 2006, in Queensland, Australia, at age 90. One of the most prolific and influential scholars of 18th-century Irish philosopher George Berkeley, Turbayne published numerous articles and produced six major editions of Berkeley's works. He is perhaps best known as the author of the treatise, *The Myth of Metaphor*, an imaginative criticism of the Newtonian view of the universe as a machine.

Following appointments at the University of Washington at Seattle and University of California at Berkeley, Turbayne joined the Rochester faculty in 1957, where he taught until his retirement in 1981. He was a Fulbright Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and a N.E.H. Senior Fellow, and a recipient of numerous grants. In 1988, Turbayne and his wife established the Colin and Ailsa Turbayne International Berkeley Essay Prize, which is administered by the Department of Philosophy. He published his final work, *Metaphors for the Mind: The Creative Mind and Its Origins*, in 1990 in which he shows how "modern theories about human thought and language arose from historical traditions of philosophy."

He is survived by his two sons, John Turbayne and Ronald Turbayne; two grandchildren; and a brother, Keith Turbayne. The family requests that remembrances in his name be made to the University.

Written by Ronald M. Turbayne, July 10, 2006. Published in August 14, 2006 edition of Currents.

**NEWS SUBMITTED BY
FORMER FACULTY,
FRIENDS, AND
UNDERGRADUATE
ALUMNI**

Steven Davis (B.A. 1960)

The position I hold at Carleton University as professor of philosophy and director of the Centre on Values and Ethics ends July 1, 2007. I have moved onto another project, Academics for Higher Education and Development (AHED), for which I am chair of the working Board. AHED's mission is to send academic personnel, faculty, staff, and administrators, both retired and active, from colleges and universities in the developed world to the developing world to help tertiary institutions there build capacity in higher education. If you are interested in being a volunteer, let me know.

I am a research associate at the Institute Jean Nicod, Paris, where I spend the springs/winters and an adjunct professor in the McGill and University of Montreal Philosophy Departments.

Recent Talks:

1. "Cutting Grass" Institute Jean Nicod, Paris, 2007.
2. "Metaphysical, Social, and Epistemological Identity" On the Identity Trail workshop, Bologna, 2007.

**Gary H. Goldman, MD
(B.A. 1981)**

After graduating with my BA in Philosophy and BS in Neuroscience, I went off to medical school, then became an Obstetrician/Gynecologist. I've been at Cornell University Medical College for the last 21 years, and believe it or not, I use

my philosophy background daily. My training in ethics was essential in dealing with many life and death decisions that occur with great regularity. I continue to use metaphor to explain difficult or novel concepts to patients regularly, just as Colin Murray Turbayne taught me so well. I had the pleasure of meeting with Richard Feldman during my visit to Rochester this past October on the occasion of my 25th Reunion. He had taught me in Philosophy of Mind as well as an independent study seminar, back when he was fresh out of grad school; I am so proud of him, and reflect on our many conversations often.

**NEWS SUBMITTED
BY OUR GRADUATE
ALUMNI**

S. V. Bokil (Ph.D. 1967)

Almost till October end, I suffered from some viral infection which kept me away from any serious sort of academic activity. After reasonably good recovery, I had to give priority to my editorial duties of our departmental Journal Indian Philosophical Quarterly for which I worked for 12 years as post-retirement mission. From 1st January 2007, I have retired from that work. I am however associated with Journal in advisory capacity. We plan to publish 2010 volume of IPQ dedicating it to Principia Mathematica: Problems and Perspectives.

In November 2006, I chaired symposium on "Rationalism Without Metaphysics" held under the auspices of the Regional Phil. Conference. I did summing up with focus on Kant, criticizing his agnosticism.

Thereafter I spent some time in reading Arithmetic and Ontology (2006) by Hugly and Sayward. Its review is new ready for publication in IPQ.

I am scheduled to present a paper on “Ethical Models: Tradition vs. Modernity,” at the Centre of advanced Studies in Sakskrit, Pune University, on 22nd March 2007.

Myles Brand (Ph.D. 1967)

Bad habits die hard. So, as I begin my fifth year as president of the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), I turn back to writing philosophy. For now, the subject is the philosophy of sport, not M & E.

Andrei Buckareff (Ph.D. 2005)

I am finishing up my second of two years as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Franklin & Marshall College. Fortunately, I landed a tenure-track job this year. This fall I will commence my duties as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. My wife, Lara Kasper, while not thrilled about having to take the New York State bar exam, is happy to finally settle down. We will be celebrating by taking a trip to France after she takes the bar exam in late July.

As for academic activities this academic year, I commented in sessions at meeting of the Pacific and Central APA. One was a session on practical reason and the other a session on experimental philosophy.

Charles E. Cardwell (Ph.D. 1972)

I paid my taxes.

I met my classes.

I graded papers by the hundreds.

I delivered a paper on abortion at the Tennessee Philosophical Association.

As TPA Secretary, I am my own successor...

and I earned a promotion to Associate Professor.

Colleen D. Clements (Ph.D. 1981)

In the past year there's been good news and bad news (typical chaos theory). First the good news.

I gave some interviews on bioethics issues to the Boston Herald, a Toronto TV network, and a Canadian station. My bimonthly column on bioethics continued for The Medical Post, and some of the columns were reprinted in other venues. My academic book, *The Order of the Dragon: The Battle Between The 'Other History' And The Accepted History*, was published, and I used it for my philosophy classes. A second book (fiction), *Prince and Dragon: A Biography of Lucifer II*, was also off the POD printers. After decades of traditional publishing, I've decided I've earned electronic publishing. Elsevier Press had made my last book on bioethics, *Postmodern Malpractice*, also available as part of their e-publishing and I thought if a small academic press could do this, so could I.

My current research has focused on ancient texts and oral

traditions, a new field for me that is related to the ground of bioethics, but more expansive. I've attempted to trace and reconstruct the proto-culture of northern Eurasia as it applies to cosmology, spirituality, metaphysics and world religions. My historian-lawyer son was in Kazakhstan as an official election observer, and the Kazakhs were surprised he knew about their old oral traditions (he formatted the word.doc for *The Order of the Dragon*). They showed him a monument they built to commemorate this Eurasian root of world religions. He just returned from Armenia, where he was given a special tour of the underground remains of a Zarathustrian fire-altar and fire-pit. The official guide was surprised he knew the ancient traditions and the source of the double dragon-headed scepter of the Armenian Church, an expert to give him a private tour of the lower levels of the museum. All this is research material for my next book. This book will trace the Eurasian proto-culture further and reinterpret religious texts in that light, as well as show the ancient texts are more aligned with cutting-edge astrophysics and cosmology in modern science. I intend to title it “The White Island” after references in the Rig Vedas.

But this alternative history is risky to pursue, as so many others have discovered. Last May, after fall classes were already assigned to me at a local institution of “higher education,” I was informed by e-mail that my adjunct appointment as professor of philosophy would be withdrawn. An ad hoc committee, spurred by a director of religious studies, was not happy with my sharing my research and writing in my classes, specifically the

Philosophy of Religion class and the Nietzsche class. He circulated an e-mail implying that anyone who taught the dualisms and took the polytheisms seriously, or who called this proto-culture “the dragon culture” after the link with the then polar constellation Draco (see Indus rock art), was sharing something of no provenance and doing pop culture. On the other hand, he argued that the “Christ narrative” had good provenance, while this Gnostic, Sumerian, Egyptian, Indus, Eurasian history had no provenance. (I’m glad to see that the research on the “Jesus Tomb” indicates better provenance for the latter than the former, and that my using the film, “The Body,” in my class was cutting edge analysis.) Thankfully, the Chair of the Philosophy Department told me he did not vote with the majority, and I’ve retained some of my positive view of academic philosophy.

Naturally, after researching the history of religious suppression, I suspected religious suppression and intolerance of my religious/spiritual rights. As a philosopher, I usually associate the term “religious” with organized monotheism and belief rather than reason, so it is difficult for me to express my nontheism but also my reverence for cosmic energies in those terms. Like E.O. Wilson, my friend, I find the words inadequate to express my position, as Wilson did at his recent talk in Rochester. But I’m getting used to using the words because they express my position closely enough. The New York State Division of Human Rights decided that my case came within their jurisdiction as a claimed violation of my religious rights.

An official claim was made with their assistance, written argument briefs, and the lawyer for the Division has been working on the case since October 2006. Soon, he will gather more information from me. A ruling should be forthcoming that may set some precedent in clarifying the term “religious.” Meanwhile, other cases involving an Iraqi War vet and Air Force Academy graduates have worked their way into the federal system, and into the EU over a proposed law that would bad the Hindu sun sign.

I’m embarrassed for philosophy. But it is not surprising that research into this ‘Other History’ generates quick and strong suppression. Assertions are repeated over and over until the public accepts them, while careful scientific or rational analysis is ignored (for example: “These are common Hebrew names and likely to appear on ossuaries – and we needn’t consult a statistician.”). Free exploration of certain subject matter is discouraged. But at my age and with retirement, I’m in a good position to take this on. The only severe consequences are the questioning of my career, the silencing of my teaching and sharing of ideas, and the economic difficulties. I will try to turn this into something positive, so that I can eventually thank the local institution of higher education for awakening me, as Kant said, “from my [not so dogmatic] slumber.” For those who know I have never been mainstream, this will come as no surprise and might even seem earned. But I believe that Lewis White Beck would be on my side, especially when reading his inaugural address as president of the American Philosophic Association. I also think Voltaire had it right in

philosophy of religion: “Ecrasez l’infame.” And Nietzsche I know would agree with my research on the “Two Principles” and concepts in Zarathustrianism.

I’ll let you know when the Division of Human Rights makes their ruling. In the phone interview, the Division lawyer said this complaint could be significant in clarifying what constitutes alternative religious rights, so win or lose, it will have some positive effect. The ruling may also influence academic philosophy, at least I hope so.

Will Heusser (M.A. 1999)

Department Chair, Philosophy and Religious Studies
Academic Senator, Social Sciences
Cypress College

Greeting from California,

Like many now, I suppose, I’ve been teaching a couple of courses each semester online. Some of my students have been from Belgium, Colorado and Nevada but most are within a few miles of the campus and probably in their pajamas. One of my colleagues thinks that internet-based education is the scourge of the devil. But Ockham’s razor suggests a more economical (pun intended) causal factor: Educational Commoditization. Well, not really. I miss the personal interaction in these particular classes as anyone might, but I’ve found that the depth of the discussions is surprisingly deep since remarks are given more time and consideration. At least in theory... In any case, I’m convinced that the material brick and mortar (and Ivy) buildings will continue to coexist with our

phenomenal/virtual brethren in the near future.

Since I'm teaching at a public community college (Cypress) in Orange County and the lion's share of taxes here are paid by Disney, I sometimes wonder if this makes me an employee of Disney. Hopefully, they'll be around for a while. Please ignore the Reverend Billy's documentary this summer ("What Would Jesus Buy?") and purchase some Mickey Mouse souvenirs when you visit.

For quite some time now, I've been asking textbook publishers for introductory lower division level texts that have both primary and secondary material (I'm of the opinion that purists who require the classic works and facilitators who require introductory assessments are both right). Fortunately, I noticed that Rochester's very own Michael Mathias has edited/published a few of these sorts of books on some early modern philosophers (What other philosophers are there?). Thanks Mike!

I haven't published much (except for this entry which is still pending approval and a few bribes) but I am reading quite a bit. Conee and Sider's Riddles of Existence as well as Open Court's latest addition to their "Popular Culture and Philosophy series: South Park and Philosophy, and Monty Python and Philosophy are my latest excursions. The attention span isn't what it used to be.

I haven't done much in the way of writing except for some comments on a book I was using ("Ultimate Questions") for my freshmen introduction to philosophy class. The author was kind enough to thank me in

his second edition acknowledgements for my suggestions concerning eliminative materialism so I guess that sort of counts. (Hey, I'm published!) Unfortunately, I later realized that my high school classmate, Heather Graham, (along with a few other celebrities) is quoted in this edition for her views on "being". So I have now come to the realization that not only will Heather have more movies, money, and fame in one year than I will in my entire lifetime, but she will also be quoted in more philosophy books as well.

Since apparently I'm concerned with such superficial pursuits as fame, money, and philosophical citations, perhaps I really ought to be reading Open Court's brand new: Poker and Philosophy, The Atkins Diet and Philosophy, and regrettably, Harley-Davidson and Philosophy. ...Although I can think of a Rochesterian or two who might like Bob Dylan and Philosophy.

Loretta M. Kopelman
(Ph.D. 1966)

Dear Friends:

The biggest surprise of the year for me was that The American Academy of Pediatrics awarded me its 2007 Bartholome Award in Pediatric Ethics. Part of the reason it was a shock is that I have been highly critical of their leadership's support for the "Baby Doe" Rules.

This past year the book I edited with my colleague, Anton Van Niekerk from University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch South Africa, *Ethics and AIDS in Africa*, was reprinted in the United States by Left Coast Press, Inc. We are pleased with

the attention it is getting.

Please let me know if any of you have good ideas for the APA's Committee on Philosophy and Medicine as I am a member until 2010.

This past year I had a variety of speaking engagements including "Ethical Questions Relation to Genetic Testing of Children for Adult-Onset Genetic Disorders," Western Division of the American Philosophical Association meeting in San Francisco April 6, 2007; "Wards of the State in Pediatric Research," at the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities, National Meeting. October 27, 2006; and "Children in Research – Emerging Issues" Bioethics Conference Sponsored by the University of Utah, Lake Tahoe, California, June 22, 2006.

With warm regards and best wishes,
Sincerely,
Loretta

Alice Kyburg (Ph.D. 1994)

I've recently become interested in the philosophical analysis of pain and have begun a project to evaluate a debate between Tye and Aydede on the subject. It has me pinching and poking myself quite a bit lately. (Vagueness was a more comfortable subject.) When not thinking philosophy I'm caring for 4 year old twins and offering my husband philosophical advice on how to run his very successful custom boat-building business Ames' Point Boatworks, www.amespointboatworks.com

Jim Leshner (Ph.D. 1967)

Jim Leshner reports that he will be retiring from the University of Maryland in May of this year--40 years after he arrived in College Park--and heading south. He has accepted a position in the Philosophy Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He and his wife Eleanor recently purchased a house in Carrboro, known locally as 'the Left Bank of Chapel Hill' and 'the Paris of the Piedmont'.

He is scheduled to give talks in the near future at George Mason University ('Aristotle on the Path to Knowledge: Theory and Practice'), The Catholic University of America ('A Systematic Xenophanes?'), and at the Arizona Colloquium on Ancient Philosophy ('*Saphêneia* in Plato's Divided Line: Clarity, Truth, Precision, or Knowledge?').

In October he will take part in a conference in Toronto celebrating the publication of Patricia Curd's book on Anaxagoras, the last in the six-volume Phoenix Series on the Presocratics (Leshner's book on Xenophanes was volume 4 in the series).

Todd R. Long (Ph.D. 2003)

During the last year, in addition to the usual teaching and service at Cal Poly, I've done a lot of writing (thanks mostly to a grant that gave me a teaching reduction). In February, I presented my paper, "On Plantinga's *De Jure* Objection to Religious Belief: An Evidentialist Reply", at the 2007 Baylor Philosophy of Religion Conference. My paper, "Is it True that 'Evolution is a Theory,

Not a Fact?'"—my first venture in applying philosophical methods to current affairs in society (in particular, evolution disclaimers in public schools)—has been accepted for publication in *International Journal of Applied Philosophy* (forthcoming, Spring 2007). And, I'm in the final stage in revising three epistemology papers, all of which are drawn from the dissertation I wrote at Rochester. Also, during the past year I refereed papers for *Synthese*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophical Research*, and the *Topics in Contemporary Philosophy* series (MIT Press).

On the home front, my wife, Sigrid, and I had a son (Dylan) born last July. Sophie (who is now 3 years old) and Dylan get along famously. It's becoming clear that one of my greatest parenting challenges will be to prevent my kids from becoming beach bums. We continue to enjoy living on California's central coast, where the weather is almost perfect and the scenery is gorgeous. Finally, I'm happy to report that, in August, we performed the almost impossible (i.e., we succeeded in purchasing a home in a coastal town in California). This happiness is sometimes mitigated by the realization that we're going to be house-poor for some time (UR charity is welcomed with opened arms!)

Ray Martin (Ph.D. 1968)

I'm still alive and well, still chairing the philosophy department at Union College. In 2006-07 I gave talks at Cambridge University and at Colgate University. In May a book by John Barresi and myself on the history of western theories of the self and personal

identity was published by Columbia University Press (currently it is being translated into Korean). This led to an hour long live interview on KQED, in San Francisco. I was awarded a named chair at Union College. Since June of last year I've written three articles and a review, all of which have to do with the notion of the self and all of which are forthcoming (details in bibliography). Currently I'm working on another paper on self as well as one on *Memento* (for a philosophy in film anthology). The bittersweet prospect of retirement is still a few years away. Between now and then I will chair for another year, take a sabbatical, and then return for my final year of teaching.

Gary Merrill (Ph.D. 1974)

This has been another interesting year, in part because GlaxoSmithKline changed both its head of R&D (who went off to work for the Gates Foundation) and its head of IT (who retired). Broad organizational changes ensued, and when the dust settled (to the degree that it has), I found myself head of a small, but apparently growing, department that I'm calling the "Semantic Technologies Group". Among philosophers I can meaningfully refer to this as the "Department of Applied Logic, Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Science", but I didn't quite have the courage to call it that.

I can also say that for the first time I feel that I've genuinely applied formal semantics (and formal ontology) to some significant problems in the domains of epidemiology and drug safety, and this has been very rewarding. In fact, one of the projects I've been leading is

getting attention not only within the company, but at the industry level and even at the level of regulatory agencies. Fundamentally, a small group of us at GSK have developed an innovative and successful approach to enhanced adverse event detection that is unique in the industry. The next year should see the expansion and completion of this research project into a fully usable system for drug safety scientists.

This has come at the price of my having to devote significant time to management rather than the research and technical work I prefer, but at least at the moment I'm still able to balance these. In addition, I continue my involvement with the NC State Logic and Cognitive Science Initiative. Two of my interns and I presented a paper on some of our ontological technology at the AAAI Fall Symposium last November, and since that time an application (CodeSlinger) hinted at in that paper has been developed and is now being tested and used by epidemiologists and drug safety scientists. We are planning on publishing more on this and hoping to do a demonstration at a national conference in the fall.

In terms of publications, this is a difficult subject for us since -- given the choice between writing a paper for publication and doing more work that results in applications -- we always choose to do the work. But it has gotten to the point that we really need to allocate the time to getting a stack of publications out. One suggestion (repeated from several quarters) is that we could hire people to write the publications for us. Apparently this is commonplace in various areas of science, but since I (and those I work with) come from an

intellectual tradition in which one writes one's own papers, this has not seemed like a viable alternative. In addition, we can't even figure out how it would work. At the moment, however, I do have two of my interns working on drafts of papers, and I hope we can put some of this stuff out there soon.

Philip Mouch (Ph.D. 1999)

This past year has been a good year for me. My paper "Last Resort and Just War" was published in the July 2006 issue of *Public Affairs Quarterly*. I presented another paper entitled "International Organizations: Power and Resistance" at the 23rd International Social Philosophy Conference in August of 2006. The biggest news, though, is that I have been offered (and accepted) a tenure-track position at Minnesota State University Moorhead, where I have been teaching on an on-going fixed-term basis since the fall of 2000. I have been responsible for creating a Business Ethics course required of all Business majors. The tenure-track hire was to permanently staff that course.

Now that I know where I'm likely to be for awhile, I'm hoping to continue my research on nonviolence.

Peter van Inwagen (Ph.D. 1969)

Departmental Collquia

- * The University of Kentucky, Spring 2006
- * The University of Rome III, Spring 2006
- * The University of Frankfurt, Spring 2006
- * The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Fall 2006
- *Purdue University, Fall 2006

Other presentations

- * Debate with Michael Tooley on the existence of God, Amherst College, March 2006
- * "How to Think about the Problem of Free Will," Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, March 2006
- * "How to Think about the Problem of Free Will," On the occasion of the retirement of Stewart Thau, Syracuse University, April 2006
- * "Our Deepest Beliefs about Ourselves," symposium on our knowledge of human beings, the Pontifical Academy of Science, Rome (sponsored by the Templeton Foundation), May 2006
- * "Was George Orwell a Metaphysical Realist?," conference on realism and anti-realism, the University of Nancy II, June 2006.



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