A warm welcome to all readers of the Department of Philosophy Newsletter that keeps you in touch with developments in your department. I thank our editor, Robert Burch, for the work that he put into the Newsletter.

One annual event that we hope keeps you in touch is our Annual Public Lecture in Philosophy. This year’s lecture will be given by Rob Wilson on Friday, April 27, at 3:30 p.m. and is entitled “Of Philosophers, Folk, and Enthusiasm.” Everyone is welcome to both the lecture and the reception that will follow. Details can be found below.

Philosophers often grapple with questions, problems, and issues that arise in the course of everyday experience, what we might call folk experience. Although philosophical reflection can depart from such experience, or even question it, in sometimes radical ways, folk experience remains a touchstone for much that is valuable in philosophical work. In this talk I want to provide a few examples in which folk experience can play a more central role in philosophical work, drawing on my own experience working on two clusters of initiatives that have a strong commitment to community engagement: child-focused initiatives associated with Philosophy for Children Alberta (ualberta.ca/~phil4c), and survivor-focused initiatives associated with the Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada (eugenicsarchive.ca) project. Each of these clusters draws strongly on the folk experience of people — children and those thought, often wrongfully, to be “mentally defective” — who do not naturally come to mind when we think about the academic discipline of philosophy. I would like to plant the thought that their folk experiences are substantially more important for philosophical work than has been recognized. In doing so, I shall make use of the concept of enthusiasm, especially as drawn on in John Locke’s An Essay Concerning Human Understanding.

Everyone is welcome to our Annual Public Lecture in Philosophy
Professor Geoffrey Rockwell is a philosopher in the digital humanities, cross-appointed in the Department of Philosophy and the Humanities Computing Program. His research interests include: Philosophical Dialogue, Electronic Texts and Text Analysis Tools, Instructional Technology, Multimedia, Hypertext, Textual Visualization, Technology and Culture. Geoffrey brings a philosophical perspective to projects that are developing new tools for studying our history and culture using analytical techniques and using the internet to connect community researchers. He is the lead of the Text Analysis Portal for Research (tapor.ca) project that developed a portal for scholars and students to access tools that can help reading and studying text. Tools like the TAPoRware tools (taporware.ualberta.ca) run on the web and allow researchers to identify high frequency words, visualize the distribution of themes, and extract concordances of related passages. He is also working with colleagues at McGill on next generation text analysis and reading tool called Voyant (voyant-tools.org) that can handle large text databases and work with library systems. Geoffrey is also experimenting on how to use Crowdsourcing, which promises to lower the walls between the university and the community interested in history, literature and philosophy. For example, he has been involved with the web site, research.artsrn.ualberta.ca/ukrfolklore, where people help in transcribing and translating Ukrainian folklore. He has also developed a web site for people interested in how text appears in public spaces. The Dictionary of Words in the Wild (lexigraphi.ca) allows people to get an account, upload photographs of public language, and then tag the photographs with the words appearing. We have over 6700 images uploaded and over 7500 words. You can search for words or look them up alphabetically. Recently Geoffrey has begun to experiment with serious games for teaching and learning as part of a national research project called GRAND (grand-nce.ca). With colleagues in computer science, health education and history he is developing interactive games for learning about health communication, the history of the University of Alberta and about Whyte avenue. See the interactives.tapor.ualberta.ca web site for more on these experiments and www.geoffreyrockwell.com.

Cressida Heyes is Professor of Philosophy, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, and Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality. Her work has always focused on the politics of gender and sexuality and their relation to social justice. More specifically, she brings a philosopher’s perspective to questions about how social categories are formed, challenged, and changed, and a political theorist’s eye to how relations of power infuse such metaphysical issues. Her 2007 book *Self-Transformations: Foucault, Ethics, and Normalized Bodies* (OUP) argues against a popular understanding of identity in which our outer self (especially our bodily appearance) is taken to express the authentic “inner” self. She made this case by reading—rather unexpectedly—Ludwig Wittgenstein with Michel Foucault; the examples in the book bring philosophy into closer conversation with everyday life by reading the rhetoric of commercial weight loss programs, feminist critiques of the politics of changing sex, and popular justifications for cosmetic surgery as areas of culture where the mismatch between the inner and the outer (and the issue of authenticity) are brought into particularly sharp relief. Her current book project tries to bridge the gap between phenomenological accounts of lived experience as embodied, and political theories of freedom. Why might our experience and perception of gait and comportment as conveying subtle information about gender and sexual orientation, for example, be not only a set of curious social psychological facts, but also a relevant knowledge base for building a feminist account of freedom? When we describe sports as empowering for women, what exactly do we mean? Find out more at cressidaheyes.com.
If you wish to be informed of other conferences and colloquium talks sponsored by the Department and open to the public, please contact Wendy Minns (wendy.minns@ualberta.ca), our department secretary, to be put on our mailing list. Readers interested in events and talks open to the general public that are connected with the Living Archives Project on Eugenics in Western Canada housed in the Department are welcome to keep in touch through the Living Archives web page at eugenicsarchive.ca or by contacting Moyra Lang at (Moyra@ualberta.ca).

Adam Morton, Canada Research Chair in Epistemology and Decision Theory, retired June 30, 2011. A retirement party, full of speeches and reminiscences, congratulations and gifts, was held in June at the home of Bernie Linsky and Betty Millar. A good time was had by all. Thanks very much to all those who participated, whether in person, or by email or note, and especially to Bernie and Betty for hosting the affair. Adam will be much missed in the life of the department.

The Department is currently searching for a candidate for a new Canada Research Chair in Epistemology and Metaphysics. Meanwhile, Cressida Heyes was renewed last fall for a second five year term as Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality. This is great news for Cressida and for the department.

Ingo Brigandt received two major university research awards last year. In May, he received the Faculty of Arts Research Award in the Assistant Professor Category, and in October the university wide Martha Cook Piper Prize from the Vice-President (Research) for faculty members in the early stages of their career who enjoy a reputation for original and highly promising research.

The Department continues its strong record for faculty receiving nationally awarded research grants. Of particular note this past year were major SSHRC Standard Research Grants received by Cressida Heyes, Amy Schmitter, and Chloe Taylor. In addition, department members continue to receive awards for their teaching, with Mike Lockhart receiving a Graduate Student Teaching Award this year.

Finally, Rob Wilson received a $112,000 grant from the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund for an innovative two year pilot project in collaborative learning that involves our first year philosophy students with Edmonton area school children and the Philosophy for Children programme. John Simpson has been hired to co-ordinate the project, and John and Jason Taylor, both former recipients of Graduate Student Teaching Awards, are teaching the first year philosophy classes associated with Philosophy for Children. Philosophy for Children Alberta was also the recipient of an Award in Leadership in Lifelong Learning from the Faculty of Extension.

We hope that you enjoy reading more about our students and colleagues and their activities and achievements. We intend this newsletter for you; please stay in touch and share your news with us. And please visit our web page: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/philosophy

The Publication Support Group for Graduate Students

The Publication Support Group (“PSG”) is a weekly forum run by graduate students for graduate students that provides them an opportunity to present and discuss their work in progress among their peers. All are welcome to attend. Normally, meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. on Fridays in room 2-02A, Assiniboia Hall. If you are interested in attending, or in having your email included in the group e-mail list that announces PSG events, contact Yasemin Sari at yasemin@ualberta.ca, or Hande Tuna at etuna@ualberta.ca.

Upcoming talks are advertised at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/philosophy/nav02.cfm?nav02=48255&nav01=12331&.
Major Research Awards

CURRENT HOLDERS

Katalin Bimbo, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “Investigations into problems in relevance logics: some extensions and decidability.”

Ingo Brigandt, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “Integrating different biological approaches: a philosophical contribution.”

Phil Corkum, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “Aristotle on Ontological Dependence.”


F. Jeffry Pelletier, NSERC, Standard Research Grant, “Theories and Computation.”

Geoffrey Rockwell, Philosophy & HUCO (selection)
— SSHRC, Major Collaborative Research Initiative, Co-applicant (with Ray Siemens, principal investigator, University of Victoria), “Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE)”
— SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “Just What Do They Do? Studying the Usage of Online Text Analysis Tools.”
— SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant, Co-applicant (with Sean Gouglas, principal investigator, University of Alberta), “Computer Games and Canada’s Digital Economy.”

Alexander Rueger, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “Kant’s Aesthetic Theory in Context.”

Chloë Taylor, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, Co-applicant (with Alain Beaulieu, principal investigator, Laurentian University of Sudbury), “Le tournant éthique du dernier Foucault et les usages de sa pensée.”

Jennifer Welchman, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “Environmental Stewardship.”

Robert A. Wilson, SSHRC, Community Research Alliance Grant, “Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada.”

NEW AWARDS

Cressida Heyes, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “Practicing Bodies: Feminism and the Subject of Freedom.”

Amy Schmitter, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “Passion and Representation in Early Modern Philosophy.”

Chloë Taylor, SSHRC, Standard Research Grant, “L’expérience du corps chez Foucault: santé, sexualité, alimentation et animalité”
Martha Cook Piper Research Prize

Dr. Ingo Brigandt has been awarded a Martha Cook Piper Research Prize by the University of Alberta. The Piper Prize, one of which is awarded each year in the sciences and engineering and one of which is awarded in the humanities, social sciences, law, education, and fine arts, is intended to “recognize faculty members who are at the early stage of their careers, enjoy a reputation for original research, and show outstanding promise as researchers.” The recipient receives a commemorative plaque and a $3000 cash award. Congratulations to Ingo on this well deserved honour.

Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund

Professor Rob Wilson has been awarded a substantial 2-year grant from the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund at the University of Alberta for the project “Building Collaborative Communities for Critical Inquiry.” This project will explore the potential that integrating collaborative philosophical inquiry into post-secondary and elementary classrooms has for university student engagement. Coordinated by Dr. John Simpson, the project will innovatively adapt work of Philosophy for Children Alberta to advance reflective life-long and community-based learning in our students. If successful, this pilot project will provide a model for school-based community engagement in courses across the Faculty of Arts.

GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD

Mile Lockhart has been awarded the 2012 Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award.

UPCOMING PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCES

The first Canadian Colloquium for Ancient Philosophy is being hosted by the Dept. of Philosophy, and will take place May 3–5, 2012 at the University of Alberta. The invited speakers are Rachel Barnay, University of Toronto; François Renaud, Université de Moncton; Martin M. Tweedale, University of Alberta; John Thorp, University of Western Ontario; Lloyd P. Gerson, University of Toronto; Brad Inwood, University of Toronto; and Victor Caston, University of Michigan.

For the conference program and more information, see ccap2012.tumblr.com.

The University of Alberta and the University of Calgary will co-host the 39th Annual Hume Society Conference, to be held July 18-22, 2012 in Calgary. The special topics for this year are “Themes from the work of Terry Penelhum: self, will, religion,” “Hume and Rousseau: on the occasion of Rousseau’s 300th birthday,” and “Nominalism and relations.”

For the conference program and more information, see www.rtl.edu/cla/ethics/Hume12. The organizers from the University of Alberta are Amy Schmitter and Jennifer Welchman.
The Department of Philosophy houses two vital on-going programs:

Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada

The ideas and practices aimed at improving “human breeding” known as eugenics were influential across North America in the first half of the 20th-century. The Western Canadian chapter in the history of eugenics, however, remains under-studied. Undertaken by an alliance of 24 research scholars and sterilization survivors, and 12 community partners, Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada will create a range of academic and public resources—what we call living archives—for investigating this history. These resources will increase knowledge of past social practices and policies, and will deepen discussions of current issues that were also central to the eugenics movement, such as those concerning reproductive freedom, institutionalization, and the sorts of people there should be in future generations. For complete information on this project see: eugenicsarchive.ca

Philosophy for Children Alberta

Philosophy for Children Alberta (P4CA) gives students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 the opportunity to explore the philosophical questions that they are already discussing amongst themselves. This exploration is structured so that it promotes a skill set that is important for both critical thinking and living in communities. The program has a threefold mission:

The profile of P4CA was expanded significantly over the past 12 months through the pursuit and formation of strategic partnerships. Through these partnerships hundreds of teachers were exposed to the program through hands-on workshops at various venues. The most significant of these were the following:

- Philosopher in Residence: Indus School & Leo Nickerson School
- ongoing presence at both major Teacher Conventions (GETCA & NCTCA)
- two separate training events for Edmonton Catholic School Division (ECSD)
- ATA Bookstudy
- Festival of Ideas for Kids.

For complete information on the camps: www.ualberta.ca/~phil4c/eurekamp.htm

Living Archives on Eugenics in Western Canada

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- Will create a range of academic and public resources—what we call living archives—for investigating this history.
- Will increase knowledge of past social practices and policies.
- Will deepen discussions of current issues central to the eugenics movement.

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For information on the camps: www.ualberta.ca/~phil4c/eurekamp.htm
Student Awards and Recent Graduates

Graduate Student Awards

Andrew Ball, Awarded 2011 University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship
Emma (Peng) Chien, Awarded 2011 University of Alberta F.S. Chia Doctoral Scholarship & Provost Entrance Award and Honorary President’s International Doctoral Award
Catherine Clune-Taylor, Awarded 2011 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship—Doctoral
Megan Dean, Awarded 2011 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship—Master’s
Elliot Goodine, Awarded 2011 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship—Master’s (SSHRC); Walter H. Johns Graduate Fellowship; and a Canada Graduate Scholarship, Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement.
Chris Johnson, Awarded 2011 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship—Doctoral
Emma Kennedy, Awarded 2011 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship—Master’s
Sara Kundrik, Awarded 2011 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship—Master’s (SSHRC) and Walter H. Johns Graduate Fellowship
Taylor Murphy, Awarded 2011 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship—Master’s (SSHRC); Walter H. Johns Graduate Fellowship; and a Canada Graduate Scholarship, Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement.
Joshua St. Pierre, Awarded 2011 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship—Master’s
Juan Santos Castro, Awarded 2011 Provost Doctoral Entrance Award
Evan Stait, Awarded 2011 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship—Master’s
Graham Sullivan, Awarded 2011 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship & President’s Doctoral Prize of Distinction
Marc Workman, Awarded 2011 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship & President’s Doctoral Prize of Distinction
Yuan-chieh Yang, Awarded 2011 University of Alberta Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship

Undergraduate Student Awards

Nathan Pinkoski, The Honors Medal in Philosophy (2011)

Recent Graduates

Joel Buenting (PhD), “The Erotetic Epistemology: A Primer,” sup. Adam Morton
Andrei Buleandra “Prescriptivity of Conscious Belief,” sup. Adam Morton
Octavian Ion (PhD), “Semantics: On the Clash between Naïve Semantics and Intuitions,” sup. Adam Morton
Mike Lockhart (PhD), “Epistemic Value Pluralism,” sup. Adam Morton
Jason Taylor (PhD), “Relations All the Way Down? Studies in the Metaphysics of Ontic Structural Realism,” sup. Alex Rueger
Michael Flood (MA), “The Problem of Temporary Intrinsics,” sup. Phil Corkum
Ben McMahan (MA) “Saving Face: Shame and Bodily Abnormality,” sup. Rob Wilson
Sara Weaver (MA), “A Corrossdisciplinary Exploration of Essentialism about Kinds: Philosophical Perspectives on Feminism and Philosophy of Biology,” supers. Ingo Brigandt/Chlöe Taylor
If you are interested in donating to the Department of Philosophy, or would simply like more information about donating, please contact:
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Donations to the Department of Philosophy are tax deductible.
Please make cheques payable to the University of Alberta. Alternately, you may donate via Electronic Fund Transfer (bank withdrawal, void cheque) or credit card (Mastercard/VISA/Amex).

We are sincerely grateful for continued donations to the Department of Philosophy. Such donations help in vital ways to sustain and improve the life of the Department and to support philosophical activities and events that, for want of such support, would have to be foregone.

We would like to thank our 2011-12 donors: Anonymous, Amanda Baril, John Jervis and Lorraine Stewart, and the late Elizabeth King-Farlow.

The Herman Tennessen Undergraduate Philosophy Essay Contest
The Herman Tennessen Undergraduate Philosophy Essay Contest was established in honour of the late Herman Tennessen, Professor in the Department of Philosophy (1956-1983) by a start-up donation from the late Professor John King-Farlow, and, until her recent and untimely death, was continued by the generosity of his widow, Liz King-Farlow. The contest is open to any undergraduate registered at a degree granting institution wishing to submit an essay of less than 4000 words on any philosophical topic.

The contest winner for 2011 was Jonathan Faerber, University of Alberta, “On the Epistemology of Expert Chess.”

The Department of Philosophy would be very grateful for donations to help support important awards such as this.

IN MEMORIAM
ELIZABETH ADEJUMOBI: Elizabeth Adejumobi, wife of PhD student Ayodele Adejumobi, passed away in Edmonton on February 25, 2012. Before her death, Elizabeth was active with her husband as a ministerial team for the Rhema Chapel, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Edmonton. They have three children.

ELIZABETH KING-FARLOW: Liz, the widow of John King-Farlow, former professor in this department, died at the Sturgeon Hospital in St. Albert on the 27th of June, 2011 after coping for several years with serious illnesses. She will be remembered by John’s colleagues as a host of frequent dinners and parties in their apartment in College Plaza, as well as for her presence with John at post-colloquium dinners for visitors, and for her continuation of support for the Tennessen Essay Prize, which John had established.

DAVE MINNS: Dave Minns, husband of long-time Philosophy support staff employee Wendy Minns, passed away suddenly on October 20, 2011. Many of us met Dave over the years at department functions and enjoyed talking with him about a variety of topics, and also recall Wendy talking about Dave. We saw what a wonderful couple they were together. Dave was born and raised in Edmonton. He and Wendy met in high school and were married for 43 years. Dave was a mechanic by trade, but tackled many different jobs in all different trades. Wendy and Dave enjoyed spending time at their lake lot located outside of Edmonton.