

Indiana University PHILOSOPHY

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Alumni Newsletter

Winter 1985-86

College of Arts & Sciences-Graduate School Alumni Association

Message from the chair

I would like to use the opportunity of our third annual newsletter to emphasize the Philosophy Department's long-standing commitment to excellence in teaching. In recent years the department has been thought of principally as a research department, and it is easy to see why this is natural. The department probably receives more per capita grants, awards, and distinctions for research than any other humanities department in the University. This significant and important achievement, however, is liable to overshadow the very real success of the department in fulfilling its teaching mission. This success was emphasized at Founders Day last spring when **Karen Hanson** received an Amoco Award for outstanding teaching. Hanson is the second faculty member in Philosophy in



Karen Hanson, recipient of an Amoco Distinguished Teaching Award in 1985. Photo courtesy of E.A. Martin, Jr.

the past three years to receive such recognition: **Mike Morgan** was a recipient in 1982. Of course these awards recognize not just excellence in the classroom but concern for teaching that goes beyond that. Morgan, for example, is once again holding his summer philosophy institute for high school students from around the state and is a charter member of the newly reorganized Honors Program. And both Morgan and Hanson have had Lilly Endowment grants designed to allow them to devote time to working on teaching. Also, Hanson is active in the Philosophy of Education Association.

A number of other people in the department have made important contributions beyond normal teaching activity. **Hector Castañeda** will, this summer, host his sixth National Endowment for the Humanities seminar for college teachers. No one has held more of these for NEH, indicating both the excellence of Castañeda's seminars as well as his deep commitment to teaching. In addition, Castañeda continues to serve educational goals through editing and managing *Noûs*. Also, last year **Reinhardt Grossmann** published an introductory book, *Phenomenology and Existentialism*, which he intends to be primarily useful as a course text.

A number of new, or experimental, courses are in the works. **Bill O'Donohue**, an advanced graduate student who is also finishing



Michael Morgan, recipient of an Amoco Distinguished Teaching Award in 1982. Photo courtesy of IU News Bureau

a PhD in clinical psychology, is currently teaching a course on medical ethics that meets at the Bloomington Hospital and is aimed at medical professions in the community. **Mike Dunn** has been participating in the College's cluster course program, under which three courses from different departments, but with common concerns, are organized cooperatively. **Milton Fisk** will be offering a course this spring on policies and issues surrounding nuclear technology; last year Fisk coordinated an interdisciplinary course on this topic involving a flock of faculty from around the campus. And **Paul Eisenberg** is working on a new offering involving autobiography: how do the autobiographical works of important philosophers reconcile the reasoned impersonality of philos-

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Alumni news

Timothy Day (PhD'86) successfully defended his thesis, *Infinite Regress Arguments* (directed by Romane Clark), and thus will become one of our newest alumni. Day is currently teaching at Franklin College, Franklin, IN.

Randall Dipert (PhD'78) and **William Rapaport** (PhD'76) have co-authored a textbook (with Morton Schagrin), *Logic: A Computer Approach*, published by McGraw-Hill. Dipert has been promoted to

associate professor (with tenure) at the State University of New York at Fredonia. During 1983-84 he was the recipient of a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship to the University of Muenster (West Germany), did research on the history of (German) logic, taught a course on American Pragmatism, and gave lectures at various universities.

James B. Freeman (PhD'73) is an associate professor at Hun-

ter College, where he was given tenure this past year. He is in the final stages of finishing a book on informal logic for Prentice-Hall and is publishing a book (jointly authored with Charles Daniels and Gerald Charlwood) with Scots Monographs, *Toward an Ontology of Number, Mind, and Sign*.

Gregory Landini (MA'81) is an assistant professor at Ball State University and has published a paper in *Philosophical Studies*, vol. 48 (1985): "Salvaging 'The F-er is F': The Lesson of Clark's Paradox."

David H. Meiserean (BA'76), having obtained a Juris Doctor, journeyed to the "last frontier" (Alaska) where he "flies his bush plane, practices law, and mushes sled dogs."

David P. Polk (BA'63) became Harold Glen Brown associate professor of Pastoral Ministry at Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University in 1983 and is currently translating the theology of Wolfhart Pannenberg into English for Westminster Press.

Ann Roth (BA'84) wrote us last year as a first-year law student at Washington University in St. Louis: "just finished 1st semester. WOW! A lot of work & learning! I miss IU but is a change being in St. Louis."

International connections enrich IU

Many of the older alumni may not know of our department's "International Connection" through its graduate students. For roughly the past dozen years or so, a highly significant proportion of our graduate students have come from abroad. This fall, for example, we had 37 graduate students, 16 of whom come from other countries (Canada, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Taiwan, Thailand, Uganda). Looking at the PhDs and MAs over the last five years or so, we find that we have graduated students from Chile, Germany, Great Britain, Korea, Jordan, Nigeria, South Africa (one black, one white, for whatever interest that has on today's political scene). Most of these have returned to their home countries, taking up teaching posts, where, hopefully, they have the occasion to say some nice things about Indiana University and Bloomington (maybe even of the views of some IU philosophers).

There has been much speculation as to why we have this relatively high percentage of foreign students (we know that no other department in The Big Ten shares our experience). One reason given is Indiana University's general international reputation (we have been told that this started under Chancellor Wells, and that to this day it is impossible to go to a US

Information Agency Library without finding an IU catalog). Another possible reason is our success in identifying really good foreign students from first-rate foreign universities. We have many cases of several generations of students from the same universities, so word of mouth (or, more likely, overseas letter) undoubtedly plays a role, much as it did in the early immigration to this country.

The foreign students cannot be categorized in general terms, any more than the American students. Thus, while it is true that some have, especially initially, some language problems, these are surprisingly few, and some (we are not necessarily talking about the Canadians or English here) have an excellent grasp of colloquial English. They come with a variety of views regarding philosophy, but many come with very full knowledge of just what our department is like and what kind of specialties they can best pursue here. One thing that tends to characterize them as a whole is their maturity and dedication.

At any rate, it makes the department more interesting to have such cultural diversity (and not just for academic reasons — thus we like the fact that the fall picnic takes on the flavor of an international bazaar).

From the chair

ophy with the personal nature of biography?

The examples are illustrative of the department-wide interest in teaching. Since Socrates at least, philosophers have had a tradition of concern with quality instruction, a concern we share. We remain, for example, one of the few departments on campus which makes extensive use of written assignments; we hope our students will learn to write and think, not just fill in the blanks. As a result we remain among the faculty on campus with piles of papers to grade.

Sycamore Hall notebook



Hector-Neri Castañeda, as he will appear in *Profiles* (of contemporary philosophers), vol. 6, D. Reidel, to be published this spring.

Hector Castañeda made lecture tours of the Netherlands and Italy last May and gave papers at two conferences connecting the law with artificial intelligence (one in Houston in June, and one in Florence in September). The University of Freiberg is running a symposium on "Semantics and Ontology in the Philosophy of Hector-Neri Castaneda" to be held late in January, in a format that allows Castaneda both to lecture and to respond to comments.

Romane Clark returned in triumph to his *alma mater*, the University of Iowa, to give a lecture in its Distinguished Lecture Series.

Nino Cocchiarella received a prestigious offer this past spring of the Bertrand Russell Chair at McMaster University, but fortunately for IU he turned it down.

Graciela DePierris attended the inaugural meeting of the North American Kant Society and this spring is visiting at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Michael Dunn has been appointed to serve on the Subcommittee on Research and Publication of the American Philosophical Association and also to the Committee on Publication of the Association for Symbolic Logic.

He has been renewed for a third year as a member of the Mellon Fellowship Selection Committee for Region V (Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario).

Paul Eisenberg has been awarded a Course Development Grant by the University for work on a new course on philosophy and autobiography. Also, rumor has it that he and his wife, Lana, have been huge successes on the local acting scene. Is anyone from Broadway reading?

Milton Fisk is again president of the American Federation of Teachers here on campus, and he finished a book, *The State and Justice: An Essay on Political Morality*. He also made a lecture tour of Scottish universities.

Reinhardt Grossmann gave a paper at the University of Rome (Italy) on "The Relation Between Concrete and Abstract Objects" and also returned in triumph to give a lecture at his *alma mater*, The University of Iowa.

Karen Hanson was promoted to associate professor, won an Amoco Distinguished Teaching Award, and was named Liemann Lecturer for Phi Beta Kappa (in connection with which she will give a lecture, "Ordinary Imagination," at Lincoln, Nebraska in April).

Geoffrey Hellman has been on leave this year by virtue of a National Science Foundation Scholar's Award to work on "a modal interpretation of mathematics." Hellman also continues to give piano concerts and this past fall was invited by the well-known classical music station WFMT (in Chicago) to present a live performance of Beethoven sonatas.

Monica Holland, an associate instructor in her second year of graduate studies here, was one of four persons (all the others are faculty members from various Indiana colleges and universities) whose paper was selected for presentation at the fall meeting of the Indiana Philosophical Associ-

ation. Her paper examined Aristotle's famous argument for a definition of well-being based on rational activity.

Ed Martin chaired a panel on "Issues in the Arts" at the Western Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association last April and continues his pursuit of photography. (Could this last be a way of getting away from the cares of his post as departmental chair, which he still manages to wear with grace and style?)

Michael Morgan has been appointed one of the faculty to the newly restructured Honors Division and has just had an anthology on the famous Jewish philosopher and theologian, Emil Fackenheim, accepted by Wayne State University Press.

George Nakhnikian has had a paper, "Kantian Universalizability and the Objectivity of Moral Judgment," selected for *Essays in Ethical Universalizability*, edited by Nelson Potter and Mark Timmons for D. Reidel.

Raymond Smullyan has

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Our two newest faculty members: Graciela De Pierris and Raymond Smullyan, in front of Sycamore Hall (home of the Philosophy Department). Photo courtesy of E.A. Martin, Jr.

Sycamore Hall notebook

finished a year as Sigma Xi National Lecturer (Sigma Xi is a national science honorary society). Smullyan as usual lectured at many colleges and universities this year and even to the National Security Agency (hope that wasn't "top secret"). He was also on William F. Buckley's television program, *Firing Line*, twice and also was featured in a *Nova* program about the nature of mathematics. His book, *To Mock a Mocking Bird* (a "birdseye view" of combinatory logic), was published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Paul Spade, who is on sabbatical this year (though it is hard to tell from his presence around the department), is working on a critical edition of William Heytesbury's *Regulae Solvendi Sophismata*, Chapter 1 ("De Insolubilibus"), and has been learning Arabic and reading Avicenna in the original. Who says that the age of scholarship is past?

Philosophy alumni newsletter

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