

Indiana University

# PHILOSOPHY

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Alumni Newsletter

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College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

## Barwise joins faculty, cognitive science program

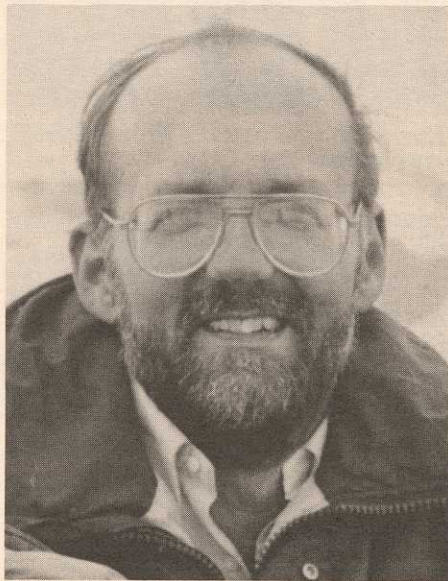
Indiana University and the department of philosophy are proud to announce the appointment of K. Jon Barwise as college professor of philosophy, mathematics, and logic and adjunct professor of computer science. Barwise will become one of the core faculty members in the University's new cognitive science program. "With his leadership, and the strengths we already have on campus and plan to develop, we will have one of the world centers for logic and formal semantics," says J. Michael Dunn, Oscar R. Ewing Professor of Philosophy.

Barwise also will be involved in a project developing software for teaching analytical reasoning, in collaboration with the IU Center for Innovative Computing Applications. This project grows directly out of his theoretical research on logic and language.

In his research Barwise has reversed the traditional goal of finding rules of language interpretation that are independent of context. Starting with the fact that the same word can have different meanings in different contexts, he created "situation semantics" — a set of rules expressing how the content of information is affected by the context in which the information appears.

From his base in philosophy, Barwise draws upon mathematics, computer science, linguistics, and psychology to try to make these rules mathematically precise and general enough to be applied not only to English, but to any language, including computer programming languages.

One of his colleagues has written, "Barwise is probably the best philosophical logician active today. . . . His



*K. Jon Barwise*

contributions to logical theory have made a lasting and indelible mark on our understanding of the basic concepts of logic and semantics. I have no doubt that, many years from now, some of his work will still be recognized as among the central contributions which led to the conceptions of logic and semantics which will then prevail."

Another wrote that "he is one of the leading figures of the world in each of the following: semantics, logic, the philosophy of logic, and computer science. If those four fields together form a unified area of inquiry, as it seems to me they now do, then he is the undisputed leader in that area in the world."

Barwise comes to IU from Stanford University, where he is professor of philosophy and director of Stanford's Center for the Study of Language and Information. However, Jon and his

wife, Mary Ellen, are both native Midwesterners and are eager to return to "the heart of the country."

In conjunction with Barwise's appointment, the College of Arts and Sciences has announced the establishment of the Raymond Smullyan Graduate Fellowship in Logic. A fellowship is to be awarded annually to an entering graduate student whose primary field of interest is logic or closely related to logic. Although applicants came from many different areas, the first recipient is Eric Hammer, an incoming philosophy student.

Barwise's main office will be in the philosophy department, where extensive remodeling is under way. Room 120, the former graduate student office and computer room, will become an office for Barwise and his secretary. Downstairs, rooms 023 and 022 will be split in half to create new AI offices. Remodeling is expected to be finished when Barwise arrives in August.

## Introducing . . .

Several new faculty have joined the department this year and even more will come in the fall of 1990. While some do fill vacancies left by resignations and retirements, the addition of new faculty also testifies to the growth and dynamic nature of the department.

Anil Gupta joined us in the fall of 1989, coming from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He did his undergraduate work in London and received a PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. He has been called one of "the

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# Faculty recognized for outstanding teaching

Two members of the philosophy department have been honored in the past year for their outstanding teaching. Milton Fisk won a Student Choice Award last spring, and this year Karen Hanson is the recipient of the Brown Derby Award.

Each year the Student Alumni Council presents the Student Choice Award to three to five outstanding professors who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields. Nominations are taken from all IU students and are based upon the faculty member's student rapport, knowledge and presentation of subject matter, fairness, and enthusiasm. Milton's award was presented at a banquet on April 9, 1989.

The prestigious Brown Derby Award for teaching was originally given in 1937, and Karen is the 50th recipient. It is given by the Society of Professional Journalists to instructors who are popular among their students. Nominations are solicited campuswide and the soci-

ety selects one winner each year.

The award consists of a hat, a brown derby of course, once worn by New York politician Alfred Smith. According to documents in the University archives, a Mr. Ferguson from Sigma Delta Chi wrote to Smith, told him it was impossible to find such a hat in



Karen Hanson and the Brown Derby

Bloomington, and asked him to send one. And he did—perhaps as a politician recognizing the value of helping future journalists with their problems. It is not clear why the fraternity thought it necessary to have a hat to honor a favorite teacher, but the practice has lasted all this time. Karen also holds for the year a plaque with a long chain of leather tags attached—one for each winner. They begin with C. E. Edmonson in 1937 and represent some of the best-known and most-popular teachers ever on campus, including Tracy Sonneborn, Robert Shaffer, James Ackerman, Paul Zietlow, and Branch McCracken. The last philosopher to win was Henry B. Veatch in 1957. Karen is in very distinguished company indeed!

Congratulations to both Karen and Milton for jobs well done. It's about time the rest of the University recognized what those of us in the department have known for a long time—both of you are outstanding teachers!

## Introducing...

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top philosopher logicians in the country." He taught a graduate class this year (P750) and will do an undergraduate logic class next fall (P350). In addition, he teaches P100.

Timothy van Gelder also came last fall fresh from finishing his doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh. Tim's specialties are philosophy of mind, cognitive science, and philosophy of language. He has been teaching P105 and both graduate and undergraduate courses in the philosophy of the mind.

The third new faculty member last fall was Alice ter Meulen, who has a joint appointment in the departments of philosophy and linguistics. Her areas of specialization include semantics of natural language, Montague grammar, mathematical linguistics, philosophy of language, and cognitive science. She has studied at the University of Amsterdam and holds a PhD from Stanford. Alice teaches one class each semester in each department.

Frederick Beiser will come to Bloomington next fall after spending this year on a Humboldt Research Fellowship at the Free University of West Berlin. His PhD is from Oxford, and he specializes in the history of modern philosophy, especially the history of classical Ger-

man and English philosophy with emphasis on Kant and Hegel. His book *The Fate of Reason: German Philosophy from Kant to Fichte* won the 1987 Thomas J. Wilson Prize for the Best First Book from Harvard University Press. He will teach P100 and a graduate course on Kant during his first semester here.

Leah Savion has been here this year as a visiting assistant professor and will stay on permanently. Her doctorate is from the City University of New York, and she once studied there under Raymond Smullyan. As you might guess, her specialty is logic, and she comes to us with many years of teaching experience in that area. She will be coordinator of elementary logic teaching and also the trainer for new AIs. In addition, she will be involved with the Analytical Reasoning Pilot Project being developed by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Another visitor who decided to stay is Zeno Swijtink, who has had a visiting appointment in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science this year. He will now have a joint appointment as assistant professor there and in the philosophy department. He has studied at the Universities of Amsterdam and Warsaw and received his PhD from Stanford. His research interests are philosophy of science, history of science, decision theory, social choice

theory, and logic. Zeno will also teach in both departments.

The last "new face" to mention isn't really new at all. Dennis Senchuk, who has been in the department of philosophy of education since 1976 and adjunct associate professor in philosophy since 1988, will officially join our department next fall. Dennis received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota and specializes in philosophy of action (in which he taught a course this spring) and philosophy of mind.

### Philosophy alumni newsletter

is published annually by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the philosophy department and the College of Arts and Science Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University.

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# A philosophical travelogue

During the past year, I spent six months outside the country. The first trip, under the auspices of the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA), led me to Moscow State University (MGU) in the Soviet Union. The second trip, under the auspices of a Fulbright Travel Award, which I took along with a sabbatical leave, led me to the Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia. Both places were, and still are, receiving an unusual amount of front-page coverage in the U.S. press. For this reason alone it was exciting to venture into them.

At MGU my duties were quite light. There was a collective student/faculty decision that I would give four lectures and be encouraged to follow a "cultural program," designed by my translator. Oral and written exams were coming up. The professors were too busy giving exams and the students were too busy studying for them to want, in addition, a demanding course of lectures by a foreigner. But, if I were not going to spend two months staring at the Stalinscape out my tenth-floor window, the cultural program would have to be well designed indeed. So I thought perhaps I'd better take a hand in designing it myself.

I set out to interview as many people as my translator could set up appointments with. My goal was to sample ideas about *perestroika*. I interviewed philosophers at a variety of places; I interviewed economists; I interviewed people in the informal opposition groups; and I interviewed unionists. In

the process, I met a spectrum of people, from Friedmanite free-marketeters to Bakunite anarchists. As a result, I was able to come up with a picture of what was happening to Marxism in the USSR. They were perhaps more puzzled by me than I was by them: Here is a Marxist who claims not to be a Stalinist, but what else could he be? Well, they haven't published Trotsky even yet in the USSR.

To add a further dimension to my cultural program I traveled to Leningrad and to Tashkent. In Leningrad, a segment of the philosophy department was engaged in an interdisciplinary project with an orientation toward Western European thought. In Tashkent, one of the philosophers was putting on an Islamic-style festival for the wedding of his son, which was a good context for talking, through numerous courses and many bottles of vodka, about the department's research into Islamic thought.

In Cali, Colombia, my cultural program suffered from the efforts of a departmental chair, who was doubtless out to impress the dean with his efficient use of resources, to occupy all my time with teaching and lecturing. After giving 16 three-hour classes and five public lectures, I was ready to return to my more modulated pace at IU. The students and professors in my classes were, though, willing to discuss things in a thorough way, which will allow me to list the class as a "research experience" for purposes of the IU sabbatical leave committee. Other-

wise, without the active cultural program of the USSR, I would have been at a loss to justify IU's investment in me. On a sabbatical, one is to absorb rather than impart knowledge, whether in the Third World or not.

In fact, Colombia is a veritable empirical laboratory for the testing of political ideas. Unfortunately, some of the experimenters suffer loss of life in the experiments. But I was lucky, since my ideas and those of my lab mates didn't make it into the public arena. I made sure to leave two days before the national screening of a TV program I did with a philosopher in Bogota.

On the serious side, there is a ferment of political theory in Colombia. People are pessimistic about the possibility of the traditional ruling families allowing political power to spread to unrepresented sectors of the population. But they are still anxious to think about ways it could happen. The idea of a Hobbesian compact to end the slaughter, a compact including the guerrillas, the drug cartels, the death squads, the urban poor and working classes, and the peasants, as well as the traditional represented groups, is being widely discussed as a necessity. Some believe that the upcoming constitutional convention might be the context for such a compact.

This wasn't enough to make a contract theorist out of me, but it certainly made me look at politics from a new angle. To see how things turn out, I look forward to being in Bogota in 1992, when the Latin American philosophers convene there.

—Milton Fisk



Milton Fisk with Universidad del Valle, Cali, Columbia, students: Patricia Tascon (left), Jose Reinal Sanchez, Yolanda Gonzalez, and Delfin Ignacio Grueso

## Faculty news

Hector-Neri Castañeda has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a learned society with a dual function: To honor achievement in science, scholarship, the arts, and public affairs and to conduct a varied program of studies reflecting the interests of its members. The ever-busy Hector served as the Distinguished Visiting Research Tinbergen Chair at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam during fall semester and has been to Guatemala this summer.

Milton Fisk has traveled extensively this year (see article above) and has had a book, *The State and Justice*, published by Cambridge University Press.

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## Faculty news

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**Karen Hanson** continues as secretary-treasurer of the central division of the APA and serves as departmental director of undergraduate studies. She co-edited *Romantic Revolutions: Criticism and Theory*, published this spring by Indiana University Press.

**Mike Morgan** has been promoted to full professor this year. His book, *Platonic Piety: Philosophy and Ritual in Fourth-Century Athens*, was published by Yale. He also gave talks in a variety of places, including Ohio State, McGill, and Yale Universities.

**Reinhardt Grossmann** has published *The Fourth Way: A Theory of Knowledge* (Indiana University Press). He is in Germany this summer, eager to see the changes taking place there.

**Timothy van Gelder** has been awarded a 1990 Indiana University Bloomington Summer Faculty Fellowship. This competitive award is given those applicants whose proposals clearly promise research of potential excellence and significance. He has been accepted as a participant in the NEH Heidegger and Davidson Institute to be held this summer at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

**Alice ter Meulen** was an invited commentator at the APA meeting in New Orleans in April. She has been invited to contribute an article on the philosophy of language and linguistics to the *Handbook of Philosophy of Language*. Her book, *Mathematical Methods in Linguistics*, co-authored with B. Par-

tee and R. Wall, was published this spring by Reidel.

**Paul Spade** made one of his rare convention appearances, chairing a session on Moses Maimonides at the New Orleans meeting of the Central Division of the APA in April. He offered a new course last fall, Being and Bop, an Introduction to Improvisational Music. From all reports, it was very successful.

**Mike Dunn**, even though very busy as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was elected president of the Society for Exact Philosophy and attended its annual meeting in Tallahassee in May.

**Paul Eisenberg** assumed the chairmanship on July 1, 1989, following Ed Martin's resignation and departure from IU to become the chair of philosophy at North Carolina State. Last fall, Paul introduced a course on Nietzsche and Nietzscheanisms (in Shaw, Richard Strauss, and others); this coming fall, he will team-teach a course on Nietzsche and Wagner with Mark Weiner of the German department. In the meantime, Paul is serving as a member of the program committee and as local host for the eighth International Workshop-Conference on Teaching Philosophy, to be held in Bloomington on August 6 to 10.

**Henry Veatch**, still busy even though retired, has a new book, *Swimming against the Current in Contemporary Philosophy*, just published as part of the Studies in Philosophy and the History of Philosophy series by Yale University Press.

## Alumni news

**Glenn Lesses**, MA'77, PhD'81, is a tenured member of the faculty of the College of Charleston, S. C.

**Norbert Samuelson**, PhD'70, has a new book out, *An Introduction to Modern Jewish Philosophy*, published by the State University of New York Press. He is a professor of religion at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.

**Adriano Palma**, PhD'89, has accepted a position at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

**Timothy Day**, PhD'86, is now at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

**Monica Holland**, PhD'90, has gone into investment banking. She is working for McDonald & Company Securities, Inc., Cleveland.

The department has started having a **Distinguished Alumni Lecture** each year. The first one in April 1989 was given by **Chris Maloney**, PhD'78, now at the University of Arizona, and was titled "It's Hard to Believe." Chris joked that it was, indeed, hard to believe that he was coming back as a distinguished alumnus, but, nonetheless, everyone enjoyed hearing the talk and seeing Chris again.

This year's lecture was given by **Bill Rapaport**, PhD'77, now in computer science at SUNY—Buffalo. He spoke on "Predication, Fiction, and Knowledge Representation." Like Chris, Bill said it was fun to see the campus again and visit with everyone.

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