Greetings from the Department Head

This has been an extraordinary year for the philosophy department. Over 3,000 students—15 percent of all students at the University of Oregon—took courses in philosophy and, at the end of this academic year, nearly 200 students are majoring or minoring in the field. At our commencement ceremony we honored the accomplishments of sixty-seven of these students as they received their degrees. This year's graduates were a diverse group whose plans include law school, teaching, travel, graduate study, music performance, organic farming, research internships, and the Peace Corps.

In addition, the department conducted three successful searches for new faculty members, who will begin in the fall: Bonnie Mann, (Ph.D., SUNY at Stony Brook), whose work is in feminist philosophy; Beata Stawarska, (Ph.D., University of Louvain, Belgium), who will teach and write in the areas of philosophy of mind and philosophical psychology; and Ted Toadvine, (Ph.D., University of Memphis), who works in environmental philosophy and eco-phenomenology.

The year also included a sober reminder of the need for the kind of work philosophers do as our nation continued its response to September 11 through military action around the world. Philosophers of our department, faculty members and students alike, sought meaning in these larger events. Philosophy, as John Dewey said, is "criticism of criticism"—a critical and constructive reflection on how we think about the world. Dewey concludes, "Thus philosophy as a critical organ becomes in effect a messenger, a liaison officer, making reciprocally intelligible, voices speaking in provincial tongues, and thereby enlarging as well as rectifying the meanings with which they are charged."

One of our recent graduates, Erin Locke '02, captured this notion: "Working for one of the leading real estate developers in Silicon Valley," she writes, "I dove head first into the fascinating realm of political philosophy by becoming an active member of the community. Many people ask how a philosophy degree could ever contribute to a career in business, but what they fail to understand is that a philosophy degree is a lifelong learning process that I apply to everything I do. Philosophy has given me the ability to appreciate my relationship between the political state, the general masses, the corporate world, and the individual." Erin reports that she has been involved in a variety of election campaigns and serves on several local boards.

In light of the things our graduates have already accomplished in learning about themselves and the world, we look forward to what they will do next, what they will make, and what they will change.

Scott L. Pratt, Department Head

www.uoregon.edu/~uophil/
Manuel Pacheco

The Oregon philosophical community lost a great friend at the passing of Manuel Pacheco in the fall of 2000. At the time of his death Manuel was an associate professor of philosophy at Oregon State University, where he had taught since the early 1990s. I have been asked to write some words on Manuel, no small task because he was a man of such great achievement and impact on our community.

Manuel received his Ph.D. from Oregon in 1973 after attending San Jose State University and serving in the U.S. Air Force. He studied here at a time when the philosophy department was deeply hostile to political philosophy and to real world concerns generally. Manuel was not bitter about this, but he devoted his professional life to ensuring that no one repeated his experience. He encouraged students to read the great political thinkers with passion and conviction, as a way of addressing the deep injustices that exist in the world. In 1998 he wrote, “I am especially interested in reaching out to students from the mainstream of society who in general have not been exposed to the social realities, or heard them from a different voice and perspective.”

I first came to know Manuel when he returned to Oregon from teaching philosophy in California to direct the UO’s High School Equivalency Program in the 1980s. As head of the department at the time, I hired him to teach occasional courses for us, but to my great regret was not able to convince our administration to hire him full time. To its great credit, Oregon State offered him a full position in 1993, after which he played an invaluable role in developing its Ethnic Studies Program and other diversity-related programs. He taught a wide range of courses, including pioneering efforts in Mayan philosophy. He was beloved by students and colleagues alike.

The memorial service for Manuel at Oregon State was one of the most moving I have attended. The president of the university sat beside Latino students from MECHA; former students of his, such as our own Lisa Blasch, spoke movingly of his great influence on their lives, while drums and dancing celebrated his unconquerable spirit. Manuel leaves behind his daughter Gia and son Steven, also a philosopher and a graduate of our program. Further, he leaves behind a legacy of compassion and the memories of a life that all of us should emulate.

Cheyney Ryan

Community Philosophy Institute

The department hosted our first Community Philosophy Institute on Saturday, May 31, 2002. The topic of discourse, “Health throughout and at the End of Life,” brought together a dozen health professionals and a dozen philosophers to discuss meanings of the idea of health and their implications for medical practice. The Community Philosophy Institute is a pilot program funded by a gift from UO alumnus Ival McMains ’70 to bring together members of the community and the philosophy department to discuss issues related to the wider community. The purpose of the exchange is to take philosophy beyond the classroom and coffeehouse to respond to problems faced by those who work in areas including health care, business, law, and politics.

This year’s institute, directed by Assistant Professor Peter Warnek, began with readings from Hans-Georg Gadamer’s collection of essays, The Enigma of Health: The Art of Healing in a Scientific Age. Conversation ranged over Gadamer’s conception of health, the role of physicians as interpreters of health, how to understand health in the lives of terminally ill patients, the role of the community in approaching death, the impact of health care policies on medical practice, and what health means for those with limited access to medical care. In conversation after the program, it was clear that there is need for ongoing discussions between philosophers and health care professionals—both as a way of critiquing the ideas that guide medical practice and as a way to challenge the ideas and expectations of philosophers.

Undergraduate News

In each issue of The Thinking Duck we feature one exceptional philosophy major who exemplifies the successes and strengths of the undergraduate program, and who demonstrates the vibrancy and diversity of the community of philosophy students at Oregon. In this issue our featured undergraduate is David Paulsen. David graduated this spring with a double major in philosophy and psychology. He received departmental honors in philosophy with his thesis. “The Process of Meaning: James’ Fringe Revisited.” He has been actively involved with Uniergang, the undergraduate philosophy club, serving as coordinator. He won the department’s Rebek Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Writing in 2002 and 2003. David now works in one of UO Professor Don Tucker’s EEG labs, looking at the depth of subliminal processing for the meaning of words, and how emotion can play a role in that. As David describes it, “In a few words, we’re looking at the interplay of meaning, emotion, and consciousness.” He plans to apply for graduate study in a year.
Faculty Notes

Will Davie is presenting an invited paper in a plenary session at the Hume Conference in Las Vegas this summer.

John Lysaker will participate this summer in a National Endowment for the Humanities Institute devoted to the work of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In fall and winter, he will be on leave preparing a book-length study of Emerson’s account of individualism.

Scott L. Pratt will publish a paper in Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy titled “Rebuilding Babylon: The Pluralism of Lydia Maria Child.” The fall issue of Philosophy and Geography will include two commentaries on his book Native Pragmatism: Rethinking the Roots of American Philosophy. The issue will also include a reply by Pratt entitled “History in Place.”

Cheyney Ryan’s article on pragmatism and war received the Blau Prize from the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy for his contribution to the history of American philosophy. Another article, “War and Responsibility,” published in The Responsive Community, was a subject of stories in the Christian Science Monitor and the Associated Press. His play, Shock and Awe, received a staged reading this spring.

Naomi Zack has had several publications this year, including “Reparations and the Rectification of Race” in the Journal of Ethics; “Existential Theory and Constructions of the Self” in the American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy, Fall 2002; and “Philosophies or Philosophy? The Nationalism of Philosophers” in the APA Newsletter on Hispanic-Latina Issues in Philosophy, Spring 2003. This summer she is working on a book, Third-Wave Inclusive Feminism. In fall, she has a Williams Grant to teach a one-credit seminar, Moral Practice, to accompany her Moral Theory course.

2003 Commencement

Spring commencement was held on June 14. Fifty-one majors and sixteen minors received bachelor of arts degrees in philosophy. The commencement speaker was Les Swanson, a UO law school graduate, former adjunct professor of law at the UO, and professor of humanities at Portland State University.

Three Ph.D. degrees were awarded:


Alexandra Stotts, “Giving Birth to Feminist Pragmatist Inquiry: A Deweyan Alternative to Quinean Empiricism.” Stotts will be teaching at the UO next year in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program.

Two master’s degrees were awarded:

Amy Story. Story will be continuing her doctoral work at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Shane Stroup, “The Role of Moods in Heidegger’s Being and Time.” Stroup will be continuing his doctoral work at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

2002-3 Philosophy Donors

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Mark Johnson is professor of philosophy and Knight Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Oregon. His books include *The Body in the Mind: The Bodily Basis of Meaning, Imagination, and Reason* (with translations in Spanish, Japanese, and Korean), *Moral Imagination: Implications of Cognitive Science for Ethics*, and the anthology, *Philosophical Perspectives on Metaphor*. He also coauthored two books with George Lakoff: *Metaphors We Live By* and *Philosophy in the Flesh: The Embodied Mind and its Challenge to Western Thought*. Johnson has published over thirty articles on metaphor theory, philosophy of language, cognitive science, ethics, and aesthetics. He joined the faculty at Oregon in 1994 from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale where he taught for seventeen years. His current research includes a book-length work on aesthetics.

**Viewpoint: Philosophy Should Speak to Human Concerns**

As an undergraduate student at the University of Kansas in the late 1960s, every day seemed like one more step on an exciting philosophical journey. Night after night my dorm mates and I argued about the pressing moral, political, and social issues of the day—the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, what was then called the Women’s Liberation movement, and environmental issues. I arrived at the University of Kansas to study engineering, and by the start of second semester I was majoring in philosophy, English literature, and mathematics. I was drawn to philosophy because it addressed the fundamental questions of human existence: What makes us human? Who am I? Why am I here? How should I live? Philosophy, to me, was about the meaning of life. I became enamored with Kant, existentialism, the philosophy of religion, and moral theory. I thought, naively, that I was beginning to figure things out.

All of that changed when I graduated in 1972. When I learned that I would not be drafted to go to Vietnam and that I had been accepted as a doctoral student at the University of Chicago, my life changed. I went from studying existentialism at Kansas to attending seminars at Chicago on referential opacity, Frege, and the philosophy of science. I was introduced to the rigorous modes of thought characteristic of so-called analytic philosophy. I was schooled in logic, conceptual analysis, ordinary language philosophy, and the “great” philosophers, which meant mostly Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Frege, Wittgenstein, and Quine. Somewhere along the way of this analytic journey, I lost the meaning of life—or, rather, philosophy ceased to be about the meaning of life. I lost my way, I was disoriented. I couldn’t understand why I should care about analyzing the emotive uses of the term “good,” or what relevance Quine’s thoughts on inscrutability of reference and indeterminacy of translation had for how I should live my life. There was some relevance, I now realize, but I could not see it then.

Fortunately for me, I was saved by the fact that I had some teachers who were fine philosophers and decent, humane people. Studying with Paul Ricoeur reawakened my sense of the relevance of philosophy to life. Ricoeur, who is known mostly for his work on the nature of human understanding and interpretation, taught me that we cannot know ourselves by direct introspection, and that we must always read our own lives and identities as life narratives that we are caught up in. Ricoeur also showed me that there is no single method for doing philosophy or acquiring truth; rather, every tradition and orientation brings us some insight about the human condition, if only we will pay attention. I left the University of Chicago with a renewed sense that philosophy can make a significant difference for our lives, but I also carried away a sense that the tools and methods of analytic philosophy were not fully adequate to the task of understanding human thought and value.

Upon assuming my first position as a new assistant professor at Southern Illinois University, I took another major step on my journey—I encountered the pragmatism of William James and John Dewey, mostly from my colleague, Tom Alexander. Here was a philosophy that made sense of life for me. Its founding assumption was that philosophy must grow out of our everyday experience, arising in response to problems and issues that confront us in our daily lives. Then, through critical inquiry and engaged reflection, philosophy must actually transform our experience to make it better and richer, working through the problems that initially gave rise to our inquiry. Once again, I heard the recurring themes that had earlier captured my imagination: Philosophy must make a difference in how we live, it must be grounded in our experience, and it must utilize whatever methods of inquiry—usually several—will help us deal with our problems.

Then, in 1979, I had the great good fortune to work with linguist George Lakoff while I was a visiting assistant professor at Berkeley. Lakoff introduced me to the cognitive sciences—linguistics, psychology, computer science, anthropology, neuroscience—and he helped me to see that, just as pragmatist pluralism...
argued, philosophy must be enriched by many approaches and methods, and those who study it must attend to ongoing empirical research on the human mind, thought, and language. Writing *Metaphors We Live By* (1980) and *Philosophy in the Flesh* (1999) with Lakoff, plus our ongoing dialogue over the twenty intervening years, has defined for me my principal philosophical project, which is to draw on as many philosophical and scientific sources as possible to understand how people make sense of things and how their symbolic expression and communication works. In particular, I study the embodied and imaginative character of human conceptualization and reasoning. I want to see how learning about the complex ways we understand and reason has profound implications for philosophy, ethics, spirituality, politics, and other universal human endeavors. I believe that the cognitive sciences can work cooperatively with various philosophical traditions, including phenomenology, pragmatism, analytic philosophy, feminist philosophy, hermeneutics, and other perspectives, to shed light on issues important for our lives.

I am extremely fortunate to be part of the philosophy department here at the University of Oregon, with outstanding colleagues who share a pluralistic vision of philosophy and who are open to learning from each other. This is a rare phenomenon. Many departments are built around a single monolithic orientation and so do not welcome alternative perspectives. Even fewer departments try to nurture discussions that could potentially call into question one’s major assumptions. Finally, many departments view themselves as highly professional, but they do not think that philosophy thereby has any serious obligation to speak to public problems or to address fundamental issues of the day. In our department we are not always successful at juggling all of these visions of what philosophy can and should be, but we try, and I am grateful for that.

When I stand before my 300 students in Philosophy 101 each fall, I tell them that I got into philosophy many years ago because I believed that philosophy is about the meaning of life. I still believe this today. If I cease to believe this, I will lose my interest in philosophy. My ideal as a teacher is to keep this in the forefront as I help students confront the existential problems that they face. My ideal as a scholar is to continually ask myself how my research on human thought, language, communication, and value bears on basic issues that are morally, spiritually, and politically important for our lives.

Mark Johnson

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Alumni Philosophy Conference

On Saturday, October 11, 2003, the philosophy department will hold our first Alumni Philosophy Conference. This afternoon and evening event will welcome alumni back to campus to argue again with colleagues and friends about great issues in philosophy. Participants will receive copies of two “assigned” readings well in advance of the conference. There will be two “classes” during the afternoon of October 11. The first, led by Professor Naomi Zack, will focus on her paper, “Race and Racial Discrimination,” recently published in *The Oxford Handbook of Practical Ethics*. The second session will be led by Professor Cheyney Ryan on his paper, “War and Responsibility,” recently published in *The Responsive Community*. The sessions will be followed by a reception and dinner for department faculty, participating alumni, and their guests. The program will begin at 12:30 p.m. (the location to be announced later). The first session will begin at 1:00, the second at 3:00, and dinner will begin at 6:00.

To register, send an e-mail to Scott Pratt, spratt@darkwing.uoregon.edu, or call (541) 346-5547. Please remember to let us know if you will be bringing a guest to the conference or dinner or both.

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Send us your thoughts and updates so we can include them in the next issue of *The Thinking Duck*.

Name __________________________________________

Address _________________________________________

Home Phone ____________________ Work Phone ___________

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Send to: *The Thinking Duck*, Department of Philosophy, 1295 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1295; or e-mail: uophila@darkwing.uoregon.edu
Alumni News

Enrique Andrade '96 is a staff interpreter for the State of Oregon’s Judicial Branch.


Cindy Coe '00 is moving to a new job at Central Washington University after three years at Monmouth College in Illinois.

Harry Fuller '55, formerly editor of the Salt Lake Tribune, was recently appointed to the Utah Supreme Court Ethics and Discipline Committee.

Maurice Hamington '02 received the 2002 Carrie Chapman Catt Research Prize for Feminist Ethics and Politics for his proposed book on the ethics of Jane Addams.

Anthony Hanson '79 recently coauthored the Mayfield Quick View Guide to the Internet for Students of Philosophy, a bibliography of good internet sites for philosophy students.

Mark Jefferis '96 graduated from the UO School of Law in 2002 and works for two judges on the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Erika Jostad '93 is a wilderness ranger for the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Joshua King '90 left the practice of law to become vice president of corporate development for AT&T Wireless.

Eric Maisel '70 is a writer and creativity coach and the author of over twenty books, including The Van Gogh Blues: The Creative Person's Path through Depression.

David Patterson '72 won the Koret Jewish Book Award for his book, Along the Edge of Annihilation: The Collapse and Recovery of Life in the Holocaust Diary.

Christopher Preston '98 has just published a reworking of his UO doctoral dissertation, Grounding Knowledge: Environmental Ethics, Epistemology, and Place (University of Georgia Press, 2003).

Paul Schneider '74 is president of Washington Academy of Languages, which teaches English as a second language and offers more than a dozen languages.

Philip Smith '91 is philosophy professor at George Fox University. His book, The Virtue of Civility in the Practice of Politics, came out last summer.

Joseph Sutton '63 had a collection of his short stories published this year, The Immortal Mouth and Other Stories. His novel, Morning Pages: The Almost True Story of My Life, was previously published. He lives in San Francisco with his wife.

Samuel Swain '86 is CEO and clinical director of ASAP Treatment Services, a nonprofit alcohol and drug treatment program.