

Indiana University Alumni Newsletter

P * H * I * L * O * S * O * P * H * Y

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College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Summer 2003

Venerable Professor Paul D. Eisenberg retires

It is the summer of 2002, the summer preceding Paul Eisenberg's last year before retirement. The current chair of the Department of Philosophy has just been chosen to be the new dean of the Honors College. Eisenberg is asked to serve as acting chair, until a permanent chair can be chosen. He agrees.

Eisenberg proceeds not just to chair the department, but to participate in an active way in every committee of which he is a member *ex officio* (which is to say, nearly every committee in the department). For example, he takes on the full duties of a member of the Recruitment Committee, reading more than 100 dossiers, participating in all of the deliberations of the committee, and leading the team that travels to Philadelphia in late December to interview candidates. In Philadelphia, he is the impresario of the interviews, asking the (always incisive) first question, guiding the ebb and flow of the discussion, charming and challenging the candidate with his courtly manner.

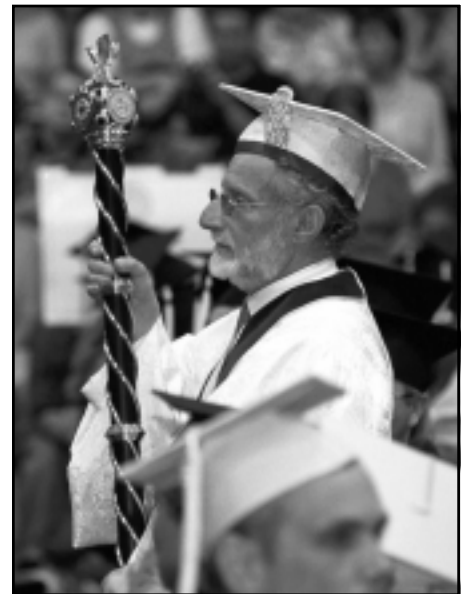
Eisenberg returns to Bloomington and, despite the fact that the chair has passed to another, his devotion to the recruitment effort is unabated. He attends all recruitment functions: papers, parties, dinners, and lunches. He asks hard questions, he draws candidates out. Even as this is written, Eisenberg's efforts go on. No matter that, at the very same time, Eisenberg is equally involved in an ongoing recruitment effort in Jewish studies.

A remarkable story? Not for Paul Eisenberg. On the contrary, it is simply a piece with what he has been doing for his entire career as a scholar, a teacher, and a member of the self-governing academic community at Indiana University.

Paul D. Eisenberg was born, grew up, and earned his undergraduate degree in Worcester, Mass., where he graduated *summa cum laude* and with honors in philosophy from Clark University in 1961. He then went to Harvard University, where he earned an MA (1965) and a PhD (1967)

in philosophy. Yet, even before he obtained his terminal degree, he had already made the trek west to Bloomington, where he joined the faculty of the IU Department of Philosophy in the fall of 1966 (and became adjunct professor of Jewish studies in 1989). This has been his academic home ever since.

Eisenberg's publications at first focused on Kantian ethics, but soon broadened to include Spinoza, Plato, Hegel, and, most recently, Nietzsche. His teaching interests have been broader still. While his main interests lie in the history of ethics, Spinoza, and 19th-century continental philosophy, his courses have run the gamut from ancient Greek philosophy to existentialism — about 2,500 years of the history of philosophy. Eisenberg has directed dissertations on topics as diverse as Plato, the role of generalization in art criticism, the ninth-century neo-Platonist John Scotus Eriugena, and Kant's theory of education. The independent readings courses and informal reading/discussion groups he has conducted, the honors theses he has shepherded, and the MA theses and dissertations he has directed are almost beyond number. In 1989, Eisenberg even produced a half-hour documentary videotape on the life and times of Friederich Nietzsche, distributed by IU.



Paul Eisenberg serves as grand marshal during an IU commencement ceremony.

His interdisciplinary interests have led him over the years to teach "great books" courses in the Honors College and to co-teach courses such as Nietzsche and Wagner, with Marc A. Weiner of the Department of Germanic Studies, and an E103 TOPICS course, Two Ways to

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Department welcomes Kevin Toh

The Department of Philosophy is pleased to announce that Kevin Toh will join the faculty this coming fall. Toh comes to us from the University of Michigan, where he recently finished his PhD. His dissertation *Normativity and Law* is an inquiry into the nature of legal statements. He also has a law degree from the University of Michigan and has the distinction of having served as a clerk for Charles Fried, a former justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Toh specializes in philosophy of law and ethics, along with political and social philosophy and philosophy of action. His first teaching assignments are an introductory ethics course and a graduate course in contemporary ethical theories.

Toh brings a unique perspective and background to the department, and students and faculty are looking forward to working with him.

Around Sycamore

Faculty news

Mark Kaplan assumed the role of chair of the Department of Philosophy in January. He followed Paul Eisenberg, who served as interim chair for one semester after Karen Hanson was appointed dean of the Honors College. Kaplan is an epistemologist specializing in decision theory. He also works in philosophy of science and teaches logic. He joined the faculty last fall.

Marcia Baron gave the APA Central Division Presidential Address, "Manipulativeness," in April in Cleveland. She had contributions in four anthologies published in 2002.

Peg Brand is co-editing a special issue of *Hypatia*, "Feminism and Aesthetics," which will come out this fall. She also has published an article on Simone de Beauvoir and has a contribution accepted for a forthcoming book on aesthetics.

Andy Clark has just completed a book tour for his latest publication, *Natural-Born Cyborgs: Minds, Technologies, and the Future of Human Intelligence* (Oxford University Press, 2003). Clark reports being interviewed on radio stations in San Francisco, Seattle, and Philadelphia, and going to many bookstore signings. He also had several articles published this year.

Professor Emeritus **Milton Fisk** has not noticed that he is supposed to be retired. He traveled to both Hungary and Colombia to give invited lectures and was a featured speaker at a conference on poverty at Loyola University in Chicago.

In addition to being named dean of the Honors College, **Karen Hanson** published an article on "Philosophical Accuracy and Historical Context" (*Intellectual History Newsletter*), gave a number of invited talks, and served on the boards of the American Philosophical Association and the John Dewey Foundation.

Adam Leite gave a talk at the University of Wisconsin and attended the Rutgers Epistemology Conference. He has also submitted a paper on justifying.

David McCarty is the Gast Professor for Philosophical Aesthetics at the University of Konstanz in Germany this summer. He also received a Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching award. These awards are presented to IU faculty who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to teaching and learning through areas of self-evaluation,

course preparation, research and instructional skills, and student impact. McCarty also published a number of articles and gave invited talks in the United States and Europe.

Michael Morgan edited a book on Spinoza for Hackett Publishing and published other articles in both history and Jewish philosophy. Morgan's book *Beyond Auschwitz: Post-Jewish Thought in America* (Oxford University Press) was named a finalist in the category of Philosophy/Thought by the Koret Foundation for their 2002 national Jewish book award competition. Morgan also continued his busy speaking schedule, going to both philosophy gatherings and Hebrew congregations.

Timothy O'Connor has co-edited a new book, *Philosophy of Mind: Contemporary Readings*, with David Robb (Routledge, 2003). He will be giving talks this summer in Oxford, Prague, and Budapest.

Leah Savion had two books published this year by the IU Press: *Brain Power: Logic for the Novice* and *Excellence in Teaching*. She has been invited to give an intensive seminar on teaching philosophy to young faculty in the former communist city of Almaty, Kazakhstan. On her way home, Savion is going to give a talk on default logic and rationality at the World Congress of Philosophy in Istanbul, Turkey.

In addition to being director of graduate studies, **Fred Schmitt** has published two articles on justification and has several other papers either in press or accepted.

Dennis Senchuk had an article on Victorino Tejera published in *Semiotica* and continues work on his book about phenomenological ontology.

Paul Vincent Spade continues work as the departmental webmaster. He has also published two articles on William of Ockham.

Josefa Toribio (Pepa) has published several articles and presented a paper at the University Carlos III in Madrid, Spain.

Jonathan Weinberg has an article coming out in *The British Journal of Philosophy*. He has been working with a group of graduate students to start the Experimental Epistemology Laboratory, a reading group in the cognitive science of philosophy that hopes to bring more students into empirically oriented philosophical research.

Joan Weiner had a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship this year and used the time to continue her work on Frege, publishing two articles and submitting a book proposal.

Student news

Awards

The following awards were presented at the department's annual spring reception:

- Betty Neal Hamilton Special Awards:
 - Libby Lewis**, undergraduate, for community service;
 - Ben Schreiner**, undergraduate, for service to the Philosophy Department;
 - Claire C. Carter**, undergraduate, for a philosophical essay: *Is It Just? Three Perspectives on the Moral Status of the Bush Administrations's War in Iraq*;
 - and **Tony Aumann**, graduate, for scholarly excellence in philosophy
- Academic Excellence Award: **Summer Johnson**, undergraduate; **Georg Theiner**, graduate
- Oscar R. Ewing Essay: **Elizabeth W. Wiegman**, undergraduate, for *The Dichotomy of Individual and Legal Ethics: A Case Study of the Ethics of Postmortem Sperm Procurement*; and **Kevin Kimble**, graduate, for *Some Worries About Deontic Closure*
- Dona Robert Biddle Award: **Lisa Maltz**
- Outstanding Associate Instructor: **Stacey Swain**
- James B. Nelson Dissertation Fellowship: **Dan Werner**

Joshua Shaw was recognized as the recipient of both the Sara and Albert Reuben Scholarship in Jewish Studies and the College of Arts and Sciences Gene Portteus Branigan Memorial Fellowship. The Reuben award will be granted this summer and will be used to support Shaw's study of the role of the Holocaust in Emmanuel Levinas' thinking. The Branigan award will support Shaw for the upcoming academic year and allow him to devote full-time attention to his dissertation.

Phi Beta Kappa

The following students were recognized for their induction into Phi Beta Kappa: **Eric Butterbaugh**, **Summer Johnson**, **Luke Martin**, **Alejandro Melloan-Ruiz**, and **Lucas White**. Johnson graduated this spring with highest distinction, as did fellow philosophy majors **Jae-Yong Chung**, **Megan Thibos**, and **Elizabeth Wiegman**.

Placement information

Michah Gottlieb has a two-year extension on his faculty position at Brown University. (continued on page 4)

Alumni news

1970s

Robert L. Iverson, BA'70, MD'74, retired in July 2002 as chief of critical care at Vassar Hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. He and his family now live in Sarasota, Fla.

Jeffrey C. Martin, BA'75, has published a book, *A Lawyer Briefs the Big Questions* (Bristol House Ltd., 2000).

1980s

John D. Skrentny, BA'88, is a sociology professor at the University of California at San Diego. His new book, *The Minority Rights Revolution*, was published in December 2002.

1990s

Maj. **Todd L. Tinius**, BA'91, MA'00, was promoted to the rank of major on Oct. 1, 2002. He taught ethics for two years at West Point and now serves as installation intelligence and security officer at West Point, N.Y.

Roddrick A. Colvin, BA'92, received a PhD in public administration and policy from the University of Albany in May 2002. He is now an assistant professor at Seattle University.

Thomas M. Kollar, BA'95, recently graduated from Northwestern University School of Law, where he was a member of the *Northwestern University Law Review*. He

is now a corporate associate at Covington & Burling in New York and lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Glenn E. Snyder, BA'98, married Jennifer L. Snyder, BA'97, on June 6, 1998. He received an MA in religion from Yale University Divinity School in May 2002. In September 2003 he will begin a PhD in religion at Harvard University.

2000s

Jack Green Musselman, PhD'00, is the faculty development associate with the Center for Teaching Excellence at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Austin.

Eisenberg retires

(continued from page 1)

Wisdom, with Robert Eno of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. About the latter, Eno said, "I learned more by teaching with Paul than I had in any class taken as a student."

Eisenberg is "the best teacher I had while

I was a student at IU," music Professor Glenn Gass said. "I have never been required to think quite so much or so happily in a classroom. I like to think that some of the lessons I learned helped to shape my own teaching and intellectual life in general."

Eisenberg's devotion to teaching and his mastery of the craft of pedagogy have not gone unrecognized. In 2001, he was elected to the Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching. In 2002, he was awarded the IU President's Award for distinguished teaching. During his career, Eisenberg has chaired the department on three occasions, for a total of 11.5 years. He is a longtime member of the IU Jewish Studies Program's executive committee and is currently president of the Bloomington chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. He has been president of the Indiana Philosophical Association and of the Bloomington Faculty Council, and co-secretary of the University Faculty Council. Since 1999, he has served as the Indiana University grand marshal. But Eisenberg's face has turned up in more unexpected places, including stints as an announcer for the Indiana University College Bowl and foreman of the jury in a local murder trial.

It is Eisenberg's record of service that the university has noticed. In 1997, he was awarded an IU Bloomington Distinguished Service Award, and, in 1998, the Pinnell Award, for distinguished service to Indiana University.

Though he is retiring, there is no real sign that Eisenberg is slowing down. Visitors to the philosophy department's end of the campus still see his office light burning late into the evening. Only last semester he confessed to a colleague that he would be up all night reading and studying

Hegel's *Phenomenology* for a reading group of graduate students — even though he had taught the work often, in addition to reading and studying it dozens of times over the years. He simply wanted to be completely prepared for this particular group of students, their questions, their needs, their interests.

"No one I know," philosophy Professor Michael Morgan said, "spends as much time, day and night, all the time, devoted to teaching and service, as Paul."

The good news is that we can count on more of the same: Eisenberg will spend his retirement in Bloomington, plying the scholar's trade. It is news for which we all, colleagues and students alike, are grateful.

The department honored Eisenberg with a reception at the end of the school year. It was attended by his wife Lana, who is herself well known in the department, and their children, as well as by others from all across the university community who have worked with Eisenberg over the years.

— Mark Kaplan and Paul V. Spade

PHILOSOPHY

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Brands establish new fellowship

A new fellowship for graduate students has been established through the generosity of Myles and Peg Brand. The award will be named after the donors and will be awarded to female applicants whenever possible. No specific field of study within philosophy will be given preference. Although it may be a few years before the Myles and Peg Brand Fellowship is up and running, the department appreciates this wonderful gift, as will future female graduate students.

Student news

(continued from page 2)

Brian Morton will be a visiting assistant professor next year at the University of Idaho, while **Adam Kovach** has the same sort of position at Franklin and Marshall, and **Jim Hardy** has a one-year position at Texas Tech University. **Rony Goldman** has been awarded a postdoctoral teaching position at Fordham University.

Ethics Bowl team successful

Three undergraduate philosophy majors were part of a squad of students who won the national Ethics Bowl at the annual meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics in Charlotte, N.C.

The team was sponsored by the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions. **Jae-Yong Chung**, **Summer Johnson**, and **Betsey Wiegman** were joined by Valerie Aquila, James Bourke, and Jacob Fulk to complete the team. The faculty director was David Smith and the coach was Mark Wilson.

In the competition, each team was asked to respond to a question based on one of 15 case studies given to the contestants in advance. A panel of judges evaluated their responses for clarity, consistency, and ethical acumen. Johnson took primary responsibility for a case in which Indianapolis-based company Eli Lilly engaged in direct marketing of drugs to customers, getting names from doctors and passing the information through pharmacists. The team argued that doctors and pharmacists were at fault for violating patients' privacy, but that the drug company was primarily to blame for orchestrating the plan.

In the final round, in which the Poynter Center squad lost to the U.S. Naval Academy team, the case was about procuring organs from executed prisoners in China for people in the United States who need organ transplants. Wiegman, who presented this case, said the team decided the U.S. government had a responsibility to prevent complicity with Chinese executions, even though the needs and desires of organ transplant patients and their relatives were understandable.

Forty teams competed in the Ethics Bowl this year. One was from IU's Kelley School of Business and was spearheaded by philosophy major **Mark Ishu**. Ishu is actually a triple major: philosophy, marketing, and international studies. Ishu said his team set out to show that business students can and should be ethical, corporate scandals notwithstanding. His team came close to making the final cut and plans to return next year. The department extends its congratulations to all of these fine students.



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