Our 50th celebration and “Integrated HPS”

Norwood Russell Hanson, who co-founded the History and Philosophy of Science Department at Indiana University in 1960, famously argued that history of science is blind without philosophy of science and philosophy of science is empty without history of science. But in the late 20th century, the two fields drifted apart, and Hanson’s sentiment was often merely honored in the breach. Now a new movement to reintegrate the fields is at hand.

A new entity — Integrated HPS (aka “&HPS”) — came into being in 2006, and with two faculty members on the organizing committee (Jutta Schickore and Bill Newman), IU is playing a key role. Integrated HPS aims to invigorate the existing community in history and philosophy of science, and to attract new scholars to the field. The primary venue for achieving these goals is a series of conferences.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Department of HPS will host the third Integrated History and Philosophy of Science Conference (“&HPS3”) in September of 2010. Michael Friedman, one of the most widely respected figures in history and philosophy of science today, and a former IU faculty member, will be a keynote speaker. Friedman’s scholarship, (continued on back page)

CHAIR’S CORNER

A decade of successes

It has been a full decade since the last Goodbody Gazette, our former departmental newsletter, was published. In such a span of time, one can only expect that considerable change will have occurred, and that is in fact the case. Since 1998 we have been joined by a remarkably diverse and able group of faculty members, including Lisa Lloyd, Sander Gilboff, Jordi Cat, Colin Allen, Jutta Schickore, and Amit Hagar. This influx has helped to offset the departure of Fred Churchill (1997), Noretta Koertge (2000), Richard Sorrenson (2002), Michael Friedman (2004), and Michael Dickson (2004). Yet despite this sea-change in the composition of the faculty, the underlying structure of HPS at Indiana University remains much the same as it was before. Early science is still vigorously represented by Nico Bertoloni Meli and Bill Newman, and Jim Capshew continues to hold up the history of psychology. The department still consists of a balanced mix of historians and philosophers (four faculty members with doctorates in history of science, and five in philosophy), and if anything, there is a greater interaction between the two fields than ever before. In recognition of this fact, IU will host the third annual Integrated History and Philosophy of Science meeting in 2010, which will coincide with the 50th anniversary of our department. This exciting event will be accompanied by a celebration of HPS at Indiana University, with the participation of former faculty and alumni.

Perhaps the best way to convey the current climate of HPS at IU is to describe the research interests of the newer faculty. Lloyd and Gilboff, hired as replacements for Koertge and Churchill, work mainly in the philosophy and history of biology. Lloyd’s most recent monograph book, The Case of the Female Orgasm (2005), is an influential study of the non-adaptational role of the orgasm in human females. Lloyd’s current research focuses on philosophical issues surrounding global warming and its assessment, a project for which she recently won an NSF Scholar’s Award. Gilboff, like Lloyd, works in the area of biology, but focuses more on its historical dimensions. His newly published book, H.G. Bronn, Ernst Haeckel, and the Origins of German Darwinism (2008), challenges previous interpretations of early German Darwinism, which tended to shoehorn German evolutionary thinkers into the Procrustean bed of Naturphilosophie. Gilboff is now at work on a second book that will carry his study of evolutionary thought in German-speaking lands into the twentieth century. He has received an NSF Scholar’s Award to carry out the research on this project next year.

Colin Allen and Jutta Schickore were both hired as part of IU’s ongoing life sciences initiative, and both scholars have broad interests in the history and philosophy of biology and related areas. Allen’s main area is cognitive ethology, the study of the behavior and cognition of animals, and accordingly, he has a joint appointment between HPS and Cognitive Science. His most recent book, Moral Machines: Teaching Robots Right and Wrong (2008), co-authored with Wendell Wallach, is generating considerable attention as computational scientists grapple with the issue of teaching “intelligent” machines that interact with humans how to distinguish right from wrong. Allen’s research is cur. (continued on page 2)
Chair’s corner
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rently being funded by the NEH.

Schickore has also recently published an
important book — The Microscope and the
Eye (2007) — which traces the fascinating
historical and philosophical dimensions of
determining the artifactual and the errone-
ous in microscopy. Much of Schickore’s
work has focused on the issue of detecting
and correcting error in the sciences. She
spent last year as a funded member at the
prestigious Institute for Advanced Study in
Princeton working on a new book that will
study the use of snake venom as an exper-
imental object over several centuries.

Jordi Cat and Amit Hagar both work in
the history and philosophy of physics. Cat
is preparing an exciting book-length study
of James Clerk Maxwell that will integrate
the famous Scottish physicist’s scientific
work with his interests in art and culture
more generally. Cat himself has broad rang-
ing interests ranging from “fuzzy-set cau-
sality” to gestalt psychology. Hagar is the
newest member of the department, having
come to IU in 2006. He has done exten-
sive work on the possible limits of quantum
computing, partly by drawing comparisons
with statistical mechanics. He is the third
member of the department to receive an
NSF Scholar’s Award in the last two years,
and will spend the upcoming year and a
half in the research for his project on quan-
tum computing.

The extensive research being carried out
by these post-1998 faculty members shows
that IU remains a powerhouse in the field
of HPS. Not that the ancien régime in the
department has ceased to be productive! Ed
Grant has published three new books
since the last appearance of the Good-
body Gazette, including his most recent,
A History of Natural Philosophy (2007),
Norehta Koertge has brought out the New
Dictionary of Scientific Biography (2008) as
its general editor, and Fred Churchill con-
tinues to do active research in nineteenth-
century German biology.

Things look very good, then, as we
approach our 50th year. Applications to
our strong graduate program are on the
increase, and our undergraduate certificate
remains popular. With a balanced faculty
of influential senior scholars and energetic
younger researchers and a solid pool of
cager graduate students, we are reasserting
the intellectual advantages of integrating
history and philosophy of science at a time
when HPS itself seems poised to make
new inroads in the world of the academic
disciplines.

As I step down from my four-and-a-half
year stint as department chairperson, I look
back in satisfaction at the progress that
we have made, above all in research and
new hirings. And it is with equal satisfac-
tion that I look to the future, under the
prospective leadership of our next chair,
Nico Bertoloni Meli. As we near our quin-
quagesimal celebration you will be hearing
more from us about the precise form that
the event will take. We hope very much
that alumni of our program will view this
as an opportunity to re-establish connec-
tions that may have faded over time and to
let us know what you have been doing. We
look to the future with great excitement as
the community of History and Philosophy
of Science continues to grow and develop
at Indiana University.

—William R. Newman

Distinguished Lectures and Student
Awards since 1998

Lectures

In addition to the lecturers in our normal
colloquium series, the Department of
History and Philosophy of Science invites
two distinguished scholars per year for the
following named lectures:
The annual Westfall Lecture, in honor
of former HPS faculty member Richard
S. Westfall, has brought the follow-
ing speakers to campus in the last 10
years: Margaret Osler, Lorraine Daston,
Peter Dear, John Heilbron, Mordechai
Feingold, Rose-Mary Sargent, Daniel
Garber, Edith Sylla, Roger Ariew, and
Harold Cook.

The Coffa Lecture, also given an-
nually, honors the memory of Alberto
Coffa, a former HPS faculty member.
Since 1998, the following Coffa lecturers
have come to IU: Bas van Fraassen, David
Hull, Don Howard, Ernan McMullin,
Larry Sklar, Nancy Cartwright, John
Earman, Michael Friedman, Helen
Longino, Patrick Suppes, and Brian
Skyrms.

Student awards

HPS also honors graduate students with in-
ternal awards. These include the following:

Westfall Travel Grant
The award, established by friends and
family of Richard S. Westfall, is a $1,000,
one-year award that can also be given to
two students at $500 each. The award
is used for research travel. Recipients in
the last decade have included Mark Bor-
rello, Nicole Howard, Melinda Fagan,
Rebecca Willis, Matthew Dunn, Brian
Hood, Karin Ekholm, Grant Goodrich,
Nicholas Best, and Joel Klein.

Thoren Award
Established by friends and family of
former IU professor Victor Thoren, the
award is granted annually to an advanced
graduate student in the amount of
$1,000. Recipients since 1998 include
Elizabeth Green Musselman, H. Darrel
Rutkin, Paul Pajman, James Mattingly,
Scott Tanona, Mary Domski, Rasmus
Winther, Narisara Murray, Matthew Adam-
son, Melinda Fagan, and Brian Hood.

Hanson Award
Named after HPS co-founder Norwood
Russell Hanson, this honor is presented
to one student each year. Students sub-
mit papers by April 15. From that selec-
tion, one is named to present his or her
paper at the next year’s HPS colloquium
series. Recipients in the last decade
include Judith Johns, Eric Wusberg,
Nicole Howard, H. Darrel Rutkin, Scott
Tanona, Kevin Grau, Rasmus Winther,
Mary Domski, Zachary Jenkins, Melinda
Fagan, and Evan Ragland.

Mikal Lynn Sousa Award
The award was established by an endow-
ment from Alice Dreger and Aron Sousa
and their generous friends and relations
on the occasion of Aron and Alice’s
marriage and in memory of Aron’s sister,
Mikal Lynn Sousa. The $600 award is
granted to a graduate student in HPS, if
no HPS student is eligible, the History
Department nominates a candidate. A
strong preference is for a woman. Re-
cipients of the Sousa award since 1998
include Lynn Sargeant, Dana Oliven,
Jane Wickersham, Nicole Howard,
Narisara Murray, Mary Domski, Gwen
Moore, Rebecca Willis, Melinda Fagan,
Anna Mueller, and Karin Ekholm.
Over the last decade the Department of History and Philosophy of Science has developed an impressive track record in the publication of faculty research. Not counting departed or retired faculty members, we have, collectively, released 15 books. Ten of these were monograph studies, in addition to several hundred articles. In order to give a sense of how faculty research has evolved, all books published since 1998 are listed below, with thumbnails of the most recent monographs.

- Colin Allen (1)
  *Moral Machines: Teaching Robots Right from Wrong* (with Wendell Wallach), (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

- Domenico Bertoloni Meli (2)
  *Thinking with Objects: The Transformation of Mechanics in the Seventeenth Century* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006)

- James Capshew (3)

- Sander Giliboff (4)

- Elisabeth Lloyd (5)
  *Science, Politics, and Evolution* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008)

- William R. Newman (6)

- Jutta Schickore (7)
  *Science, Politics and Evolution* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001)
  *Late Medieval and Early Modern Corpuscular Matter Theories* (with Christoph Luthy and John E. Murdoch) (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2001)

- Jutta Schickore (7)
  *Revisiting Discovery and Justification: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on the Context Distinction* (with Friedrich Steinle) (Dordrecht: Springer, 2006)

Our faculty members’ most recently released books, pictured here, tackle topics from the Scientific Revolution to the female orgasm.
50 years!
(continued from front)

ranging from the philosophy of space-time
to the study of Immanuel Kant and his
pervasive influence both in philosophical and
historical treatments of science, will provide
an ideal entry point for discussion.

The conference is conceived to be largely
an “open call” in order to stimulate the
greatest diversity in both topics and schol-
ars. In addition to the full complement of
“&HPS3” talks, we are planning to organize
a session and round-table discussion on the
history of HPS at Bloomington with alumni
and former members of the department.
We believe that such a session devoted to
the career of integrated HPS at IU will be a
highly valuable addition to the conference
agenda. Apart from emphasizing the central
role of IU in the field, it will provide for the
participants at “&HPS3” an incentive to
reflect on the intellectual and institutional
history of HPS and to continue the conver-
sation about how to strengthen integrated
HPS as a scholarly endeavor. The confer-
ence is currently scheduled to be held Sept.
23–26, 2010. Expect to hear more from us
as the planning for “&HPS3” unfolds!