JOIN US! &HPS3 Conference and 50th HPSC Anniversary

This year the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at IU Bloomington celebrates its 50th anniversary.

In spring 2008, the department won an international bid to host the third Integrated History and Philosophy of Science conference (&HPS3). We are excited to invite department alumni and friends to return to Bloomington for &HPS3, Thursday, Sept. 23 to Sunday, Sept. 26.

Our department was actively involved in the inception of &HPS, with two faculty members on the conference’s organizing committee and numerous colleagues and students presenting during the first two conferences.

Registration & details: www.indiana.edu/~andhps

The 2010 event will include Michael Friedman as invited speaker and the presentation of 20 to 25 selected papers. During a Thursday morning roundtable discussion, six IU HPS alumni will talk about how interdisciplinary education influenced their careers.

Discussants include: Melinda Fagan, MA’05, PhD’07; Mark Borello, MA’97, PhD’02; Karen Rader, MA’91, PhD’95; Mary Domski, MA’02, PhD’03; Eric Winsberg, MA’93, PhD’99; and Alice Dreger, MA’93, PhD’95. This panel will be a valuable addition to the conversations about how to strengthen integrated HPS as a scholarly endeavor. An informal lunch get together will follow.

Bear in mind that Sept. 25–26 will be a football weekend for IU, so accommodations are likely to be very tight. Save the date and book early and avoid the squeeze! — W. Newman and J. Schickore

CHAIR’S CORNER

An extraordinary year in review

Just over a year has gone by since the previous newsletter, yet much has happened under the roof of Goodbody Hall. Despite the financial crisis and budget cuts affecting all universities, including IU, we are in good shape to face future challenges. Indeed, in some respect the past year has witnessed a series of unprecedented achievements by our faculty and students.

In the spring the department underwent an external review. Trevor Levere from Toronto, Moti Feingold from Caltech, Stephen Downes from Utah, and Rob Goldstone from the IU Cognitive Science Program visited our department at the end of March. We were proud and delighted to learn from their report that:

The graduate program in the History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana is one of the strongest in the USA, and indeed internationally. Individually, we ranked it as one of the two or three best programs in the USA, and one of the five best programs in the world. We base this ranking on extensive experience over several decades, and know that external evaluation of the program, nationally and internationally, is very high.

The reviewers, however, rightly noted that the funding package we can offer to incoming graduate students is inadequate with respect to that of other institutions of comparable ranking.

William Newman was promoted to distinguished professor, joining the like of Sam Westfall and Ed Grant, of our department, in the pantheon of the highest academic rank at IU. Warmest congratulations, Bill! Jutta Schickore received the Bunge Prize from the German Chemical Society for her book The Microscope and the Eye: A History of Reflections, 1740–1870. Well done, Jutta!

Over the last year department members have been successful in obtaining prestigious competitive grants, fellowships, and awards, despite the fact that in times of economic hardship competition is fierce.

Newman received more than $523,000 from the National Science Foundation for his project on the Chemistry of Isaac Newton. Colin Allen received $400,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the project “InPhO @ Work,” related to the Stanford Encyclopedia. Amit Hagar received two NSF awards for a total of $366,000 for projects on the “History & Philosophy of the Notion of Fundamental Length” and on “The Complexity of Noise: a Philosophical Outlook on Quantum Error Correction.” Sandy Gliboff received a $214,000 NSF grant for his project on the “German uptake of Darwinism.” And Jordi Cat received an NSF grant of $59,000 for his project on research ethics.

At a grand total exceeding $1.5 million, these awards speak to the standing of the department in the field: funding level of this magnitude for a small department in the humanities is unheard of.

In fall 2009 the department started a new triannual exchange program between the Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin — arguably the premier and largest center for the history and philosophy of science worldwide — and the Collins Living-Learning Center at IU.

Dr. Christina Brandt, a historian of biology specializing on cloning, was the first visitor from the MPI. Her stay and teaching at Collins and in our department during the first eight weeks of the fall semester were a great success. The cultural and intellectual activities on campus, the students, and the holdings and long hours of our libraries impressed Brandt.

(continued on page 2)
Chair’s corner
(continued from front)

The next Max-Planck visitor will be Jochen Büttner, a Galileo scholar who will visit Bloomington in fall 2010. We expect the first graduate student from our department to visit Berlin in spring 2011.

In September the department organized a workshop in honor of Ed Grant, celebrating the 50th anniversary of his joining Indiana University in 1959, one year before our department was established.

Joan Cadden from University of California, Davis, talked about “Textual Contexts of Sexual Texts,” IU graduate student Sarah Smith presented a paper based on her dissertation research, and Rega Wood, from Stanford University, talked about “What Price the Horror of the Vacuum? Interstitial Vacuum and Aristotelian Science.”

Grant gave a splendid presentation in genuine medieval style — without overheads or powerpoint. Lastly, Harvard’s John Murdoch offered “Reminiscences of Ed Grant’s Career.” The workshop ended with a standing ovation for a scholar who has played a key role in establishing the reputation of our department.

I am sure readers will be glad to hear about the success of our most recent alumni, Koray Karaca, currently visiting assistant professor at the University of South Florida, will soon start a three-year fellowship in Wuppertal, Germany. Sean Valles just accepted a tenure-track position at Michigan State University, where he will work on the epistemology of medicine and bioethics. Jun Otsuka received the Ishimoto award from the Philosophy of Science Society, Japan. The award recognizes the best paper published in Kagaku Tetsugaku (Philosophy of Science).

Aside from obtaining prestigious jobs, post-doctoral fellowships, and awards, our graduate students have been spectacularly successful in securing grants and fellowships to carry out their research in the United States and abroad.

Nick Best received a short-term fellowship from the Chemical Heritage Foundation and a one-month Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science (PACHIS). Karin Ekholm received a McNutt Dissertation Fellowship from Indiana University, an NSF grant for research in England, a PACHIS fellowship, and a Beinecke Library Fellowship at Yale University. Evan Ragland received an IU Dissertation Fellowship, a PACHIS Resident Fellowship, and an Edelstein Dissertation Fellowship at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. Allen Shotwell received a Charles Donald O’Malley short-term fellowship at UCLA. Sarah Smith received an exchange fellowship from the Newberry Library and the Ecole Nationale des Chartes, an NSF Dissertation Research Grant, and is currently a Carey Fellow in the History Department at Kansas State University.

Jubilee Fund established

To mark its 50th anniversary celebration, the Department of History and Philosophy of Science has established the Jubilee Fund to support graduate student stipends and fellowships. We hope to raise a $500,000 endowment by 2015, which could provide approximately $25,000 annually to graduate students. This ambitious goal will require a multi-year effort and continued support.

In the event that there is not $10,000 in booked pledges and gifts with the IU Foundation within one year of the establishment of the fund, or in the event that the fulfilled pledges and gifts do not total $10,000 at the end of five years, the account will be converted and all gifts and earnings will be made available for the support of graduate student stipends and fellowships.

How you can help

Mail your gift using the form below. Or, click the “give now” button on our department website (www.indiana.edu/~hpscddept) and indicate Jubilee Fund Acct. No. P37-AS20-057.

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CLASS NOTES

1970s

Tom M. Hughes, MA’70, PhD’74, is a professor emeritus of computer science at Kentucky State University in Frankfort, where he lives.

Steven J. Dick, BA’71, MA’74, PhD’77, is the chief historian for NASA and Director of the NASA History Office. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in astrophysics, and an MA and PhD in history and philosophy of science from IU. Dick worked as an astronomer and historian of science at the U. S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. for 24 years, including three years on a mountaintop in New Zealand, before joining NASA Headquarters in 2003. Among his books are Plurality of Worlds: The Origins of the Extraterrestrial Life Debate from Democritus to Kant (1982), The Biological Universe: The Twentieth Century Extraterrestrial Life Debate and the Limits of Science (1996), and Life on Other Worlds (1998). His most recent books are The Living Universe: NASA and the Development of Astrobiology (2004), and a comprehensive history of the U. S. Naval Observatory, Sky and Ocean Joined: The U. S. Naval Observatory, 1830-2000 (2003). The latter received the Pendleton Prize of the Society for History in the Federal Government. Dick is the recipient of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, the NASA Group Achievement Award for his role in NASA’s multidisciplinary program in astrobiology, and the 2006 LeRoy E. Doggett Prize for Historical Astronomy of the American Astronomical Society. He has served as Chairman of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society, as President of the History of Astronomy Commission of the International Astronomical Union, and as President of the Philosophical Society of Washington. Dick lives in Ashburn, Va.

1980s

Eric C. Barnes, MA’89, PhD’90, is a professor and chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. His research focuses on the philosophy of science, including the nature of scientific progress, scientific explanation, confirmation theory, and the realist-anti-realist debate. In his spare time he is a fan of bluegrass music and Asian cuisine.

1990s

Jeffrey E. Kosokoff, MA/MLS ’94, is director of library and information technology at the Edwin Ginn Library at the Fletcher School of Tufts University in Medford, Mass. He was formerly a librarian for the Ex Libris Group in Newton, Mass.

Elizabeth Green Musselman, MA’95, PhD’99, is an associate professor of history and chairwoman of the Department of History at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. Her areas of expertise include the history of science and British and imperial history; she is particularly interested in the historical relationship between the sciences and society and the sciences in non-western contexts. Musselman’s book, Nervous Conditions: Science and the Body Politic in the Industrial Age, was published by the State University of New York Press in 2006. In her spare time she is an avid knitter.

2000s

Narisara Murray, MA’01, PhD’04, and her husband, John McDermott, are the owners and operators of three photography galleries in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The McDermott Gallery 1 and the Red Gallery are located in the Old French Quarter, and the McDermott Gallery 2 is in the Old Market area of the city. Murray and her husband live in Siem Reap.

Student presentations 2009–2010

Many students presented papers at local conferences and workshops, such as those organized by the Center for the History of Medicine and those in conjunction with the IU College of Arts and Sciences Fall 2009 Semester on “Evolution, Diversity, and Change.” Our graduate students are also visible on a national and international scale. This year:

- Karin Ekholm gave a talk on 17th-century chemistry at the HPS Department in Cambridge, England
- Andy Fiss presented on “The Effects of the Civil War on College-Level Math Education” in Washington, D.C.
- Scott Hyslop was invited to present a paper in Ghent, Belgium, on Huygens and “Algebraic collisions: Challenging Descartes with Cartesian methods.”
- Jun Otsuka presented a paper on “Graphical causal model and the interventionist theory of causation” in Osaka, Japan.
- Cesare Pastorino presented his research on Francis Bacon at the HSS meeting in Phoenix and at London University.
- Evan Ragland was invited to present “Taste and knowledge in chymical medicine in the mid-17th century” at Harvard.
- Allen Shotwell was invited to present a paper on Renaissance anatomy at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Md., and gave a talk on “Vesalius and the book trade” at the Southern Association for the History of Medicine, Louisville, Ky.
- Kent van Cleave spoke at ISHPSSB in Australia on “Biological information: a metaphor gone amok.”

Read more about recent student presentations at www.indiana.edu/~hpcsdept/.
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