

Canadian Philosophy of Education Society

www.philosophyofeducation.ca

Walter Okshevsky, President

Memorial University (wokshevs@mun.ca)

Claudia Ruitenberg, Secretary Treasurer

University of British Columbia (claudia.ruitenberg@ubc.ca)

Douglas Stewart, Past President

University of Regina (douglas.stewart@uregina.ca)

2007 Newsletter

Message from the President:

Dear friends,

Somebody somewhere surely must have said that the most effective and efficient way to be a success as president of a country, organization or an academic society is to surround yourself with very bright, highly committed and energetic people, and then sit back with a dram of single malt and do nothing lest you spoil their work. If nobody has ever uttered this truth, I am doing so now. Over my years as president of our Society, I have attained master level status at staying out of people's way while they pursue projects and responsibilities for the benefit of the Society. Here's a slice of the things people have been up to since our last AGM.

If you were at our AGM in Saskatoon, you recall our collective recognition that foundations urgently requires promotion if it is to retain its deserved share of courses and programmes in faculties and departments of education across Canada. You will also recall that we moved that we actually do something about it. I raised this matter both in my written report to CPES and at the CAFE AGM. Since that time, members of CPES have worked with CAFE to compose a letter and a brief addressed to John Lundy, president of the Association of Canadian Deans of Education, for their Board meeting in late October. The letter and the brief present arguments for educational foundations in teacher education programs, outline the various aspects of the "campaign" being developed, and issue a request that deans show concrete support for foundations in faculties of education across Canada by means of hiring and replacement in this disciplinary area.

This campaign at present involves the following three projects. Should you have other suggestions, please write them down in your reply to the campaign letter you will receive as CPES member.

1. A membership drive to persuade professors, emeriti, teachers and students to join or rejoin CAFE and become active participants in the Association. Thus far, the names and addresses of approximately 35 people whose membership has lapsed have been identified and campaign materials have been sent out to them. Materials on the campaign will soon be sent to all CPES members. Please read this material carefully and see how you can contribute to the campaign.

2. A proposal for special sessions at the CSSE 2008 conference in Vancouver intent on highlighting the crucial importance and irreplaceable status of foundations in education programmes, as well as encouraging public discourse on the nature and future of foundations with educators and administrators. We have written to the CSSE Program Committee with several ideas including a strong suggestion to have Charles Taylor as the keynote for CSSE 2008. I await a reply from Rita Irwin on this matter. If approved, and if we can afford him, and he is available at that time, we will also ask that he participate in a panel discussion with two or three of our own philosophers of education on issues dealing with multicultural conflict and cosmopolitan education (always challenging issues for an Aristotelian to confront ☺). By the time of our conference, his travelling commission hearings should have amassed some interesting data to share with us all.

3. CPES is preparing an overview of education programs and courses in Canadian universities that give prominence or at least place to philosophy in education and/or to philosophical questions, issues, sources, methods and approaches. When complete, we will post the results on our CPES website and this will comprise a resource to support collaboration amongst those interested in the philosophy of education and other foundations subject areas.

You can well imagine that the work involved in drafting and editing these communiqués is long and complex. On behalf of the Executive, I want to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Sandra Bruneau for the work that she has invested in this campaign, and no doubt will continue to invest over the next few months for the benefit of our Society and the discipline it represents and promotes. Thanks are also due to Bill Bruneau, Doug Stewart, David Mandzuk, Claudia Ruitenberg, Michael J. B. Jackson, and Ann Chinnery for helping to get the campaign off the ground. Much of what happens from here on in depends upon YOU!

I was never very good at arithmetic, but my calculations suggest that I am at the end of my second two-year term as prez. of our society. I would be willing to continue on of course, but after four years, I think it is time for new ideas, perspectives, and orientations of which I am not capable. Please deliberate upon this matter for our upcoming AGM.

If you have yet to submit a paper or abstract for our upcoming conference in Vancouver, what are you waiting for?! Remember that the deadline date for electronic submission is November 9th. Looking forward to seeing you all in Vancouver.

Cheers, Walter
Walter C. Okshevsky, *President*
wokshevs@mun.ca

Message from the 2008 Program Chair:

It is my pleasure to invite proposals for the 2008 annual meeting of the Canadian Philosophy of Education Society (CPES), to be held as part of CSSE and the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, May 31 to June 3, 2008 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The 2008 conference theme, Thinking Beyond Borders: Global Ideas – Global Values, should give the philosophically minded much food for thought, but proposals unrelated to the conference theme are also welcome. Common formats for CPES sessions have been single- and multi-authored papers and topical symposia, but if you would like to propose an alternative format, such as a book launch or a working session for instructors of philosophy of education courses, please don't hesitate to contact me.

CPES welcomes contributions from a variety of philosophical approaches. While there will be room for conceptual analysis, ethical inquiry, questions of an epistemological nature, and contributions addressing critical thinking and applied logic, we recognize the increasing interdisciplinarity of academic work. Philosophical methods and sources are used in, and in conjunction with, cultural studies, women's studies, political theory, postcolonial critique, and more. We look forward to interdisciplinary submissions that include philosophical methods or sources and that address educational questions and issues.

All proposals must be submitted through the central CSSE on-line submission system at <http://www.csse.ca/Conference/Conference.htm> Please see the right side bar for links to the official call for proposals and submission instructions. Since CPES is a special interest group of the Canadian Association for Foundations of Education (CAFE), please clearly mark your submission "CPES," and make sure you tick "CPES" in the on-line membership and submission process. (Otherwise, the submission will be sent to CAFE). If you also email me when you have submitted your CPES proposal, I can make sure no proposal is missed. Deadline for submissions is November 9th. Please note that all authors of accepted presentations must be CSSE members in good standing for the year of the conference.

We look forward to meeting many new CPES members, and welcoming you all to Vancouver!

Ann Chinnery, *Program Chair*
achinner@sfu.ca

Message from the Editor of *Paideusis*:

Warm greetings from the wet and cool West Coast!

As I write now, the next issue of *Paideusis* is being prepared. All the accepted articles—again a stunning collection!—are about to be copy-edited. We are just slightly behind schedule, as all of us involved in the “baking” of “Pai” are crazily busy with seemingly endless academic tasks, duties, projects, opportunities, and chores. It seems the more we produce and play, the more we get to produce and play! Academic capitalism at its best? Bravos and groans. At any rate, our readership is growing, our international reach is strong, and work is good. Please wait with bated breath for the next *Pai* to come out of the oven!

Heesoon Bai, *Editor*
hbai@sfu.ca

Awards:

The Canadian Philosophy of Education Society seeks nominations of candidates for its **Distinguished Service Award**. For a candidate to be eligible for the award, she or he must have made important contributions in teaching, research, and professional service to philosophy of education in Canada over an extended period of time. Nominations must be made by a member of the Canadian Philosophy of Education Society and must be sent to the Award Committee by 1st April of the year in which the award is to be made. The nomination should include a letter of recommendation, no fewer than three letters of support, and a current CV of the person nominated. The award will not necessarily be given each year. The presentation of the award is at the discretion of the Awards Committee, which is chaired, by the recent Past-President and two members appointed by the Executive.

Please send nominations, or requests for further information, to Doug Stewart, at: douglas.stewart@uregina.ca

Positions in Philosophy of Education:

The Faculty of Education of Mount Saint Vincent University (Halifax, NS), is seeking applications for a full-time tenure-track position in Philosophy of Education.

MSVU has the largest Faculty of Education in Nova Scotia, with more than 30 full-time faculty and 10 support positions. In addition to BEd and Graduate programs on campus, the Faculty offers distance and international programs. Increased external funding for research projects and off-campus programs supports a vibrant environment for research and scholarship. The successful candidates will be expected to teach BEd and graduate courses and maintain an active research program in their field of expertise. Preference will also be given to candidates who have experience both in schools and in university teaching.

The successful candidate will possess or be near completion of a PhD degree in philosophy of education with a demonstrated interest in applying philosophical concepts and theories to the practical context of contemporary education. Applicants must have publications in this area and a well-developed research program that shows a clear connection between philosophical inquiry and educational practice. Preference will be given to candidates with experience teaching philosophy of education at the BEd and graduate levels. Further expertise in one or more of the following areas would be an asset: science education, mathematics education, literacy education, technology education.

Start Date: 07/01/2008

Department will begin considering applications: Wednesday, January 02, 2008

The position will remain open until filled. Applications should include statement of teaching and research interests, curriculum vitae and the names and contact information for three references. Mount Saint Vincent University is committed to the principles of employment equity and encourages applications from women, aboriginal persons, people with disabilities, and visible minorities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, priority will be given to Canadians and permanent residents.

Please mail or email applications to:

Dr. Robert Bérard, Director of Teacher Education
Mount Saint Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, NS B3M 2J6
robert.berard@msvu.ca

Photos from the 2007 CPES conference in Saskatoon, SK (courtesy of Pia O'Leary and Johanne Provençal)



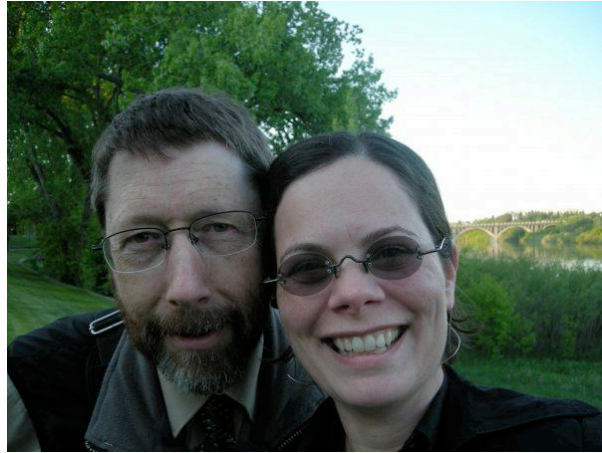
A casual chat between Paul O'Leary, Don Kerr and Doug Stewart.



Daniela Elza and Heesoon Bai flash their best smiles, while Claudia Ruitenberg and Thomas Falkenberg talk in the background.



Doug Simpson and Paul O'Leary are visibly amused.



Daniel Vokey and Johanne Provençal enjoy the trails along the South Saskatchewan river.



President Walter Okshevsky and exiting Secretary-Treasurer Don Kerr.



New Secretary-Treasurer Claudia Ruitenberg and 2008 Program Coordinator Ann Chinnery.



Pia O'Leary, Sandra Bruneau and Paul O'Leary.



The Philosophers and Friends of Philosophers Dinner at the Spadina Freehouse.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Monday, 28th May 2007

University of Saskatchewan

Attendance: Chinnery, A.; Ruitenberg, C.; Falkenberg, T.; Elza, D.; Bai, H.; Cohen, A.; Steward, D.; Bruneau, S.; O'Leary, P.; Simpson, D.; Vokey, D.; Cochrane, D.; Forrest, M.; Provençal, J.; Okshevsky, W. (Chair); Kerr, D. (Secretary)

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of agenda (O'Leary/passed).
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2006 AGM (Ruitenberg/passed).
4. Business arising from the minutes:
 - 4.1 CPES' website (Okshevsky/Ruitenberg). A hard copy of the report was circulated. Claudia said that hosting on the server costs approximately \$30 per year.
 - 4.2 Use of accumulated funds (Kerr). The website has achieved many of these goals. The possibility of a scholarship award with a travel bursary to CSSE was discussed. Don C. mentioned that AME has had much success with their scholarship award.
Moved: to strike a subcommittee to inaugurate a dissertation award with or without a travel component. (Vokey/passed) On committee: Daniel, Michelle, Johanne.
 - 4.3 There were no nominations for the CPES Distinguished Service Award this year.
5. New business:
 - 5.1 This item was moved to 8.1.
6. Reports:
 - 6.1 President's (Okshevsky). A hard copy of the report was circulated. Johanne volunteered to put together some recruitment material. Don C. recommended that faculty cast their net wider in encouraging colleagues to participate in CPES and the program. Claudia recommended that faculty encourage grad student participation.
 - 6.2 Secretary-Treasurer's (Kerr). A hard copy of the report was circulated. Don C. mentioned that the money for *Paideusis* might be put in a higher interest account if it's not needed for a couple of years (looking ahead to server costs.)
 - 6.3 2005-06 Programme Committee Coordinator's (Ruitenberg). A hard copy of the report was circulated. The President was asked to send a letter to Lynn Lemisko thanking her for her help with the CPES program, and copied to her Dean.
 - 6.4 Editor of *Paideusis* (Bai). Heesoon thanked many for their help, and especially Johanne and Thomas. *Paideusis* will be applying for SSHRC online funding at the end of June; please submit your conference papers by 1st June. Future server costs estimated to be \$2500/year. The

- acceptance/rejection rate is available on the system.
7. Election of Officers:
 - 7.1 Secretary-Treasurer: Claudia was nominated by Daniel; acclaimed.
 - 7.2 CPES Programme Coordinator 2007–08: Ann C. was acclaimed to this position. Don C. offered his and Michael Jackson’s help.
 8. Other business
 - 8.1 Replacement of positions in philosophy of education in Canada (Okshevsky). Walter asked for advice with respect to this. CAFE is going to write a position statement with regard to this, although this is not expected to be passed until next year. It may be possible to have a hand in this; it was suggested CPES could choose a couple of people to work with CAFE. It was suggested that CPES should write a separate letter from CAFE; this should go to whoever is responsible for hiring in a University—i.e. the Dean or President. It was suggested that Deans often need support in arguing for positions and the letter should go to them. Some practical suggestions about what members could do to advance the standing of philosophy of education within universities were made: use ‘philosophy’ in course titles instead of esoteric titles that might be taught by people of different training; respond to calls for media reports with items about the role of philosophy in schools, or for calls for the importance of philosophy in schools; can make the case to Deans using the strong links with social justice; in describing our roles should make clear that we do *research* in philosophy of education. We need to have undergrad courses that need taught and grad students that need support. It was suggested we organize joint sessions at CPES with other groups; a panel was proposed for next year with the ABCDE (Association of British Columbia Deans of Education) and CPES on the importance of foundations of education.
 9. Announcements:
 - 9.1 Sandra announced that Sheryle Drewe was not able to attend because she was not well. A card was circulated.
 - 9.2 Heesoon announced the graduate student conference (GSCOPE) which is taking place in Vancouver in the fall.
 - 9.3 Doug Simpson drew attention to the *Journal of Thought*, of which he is the editor.