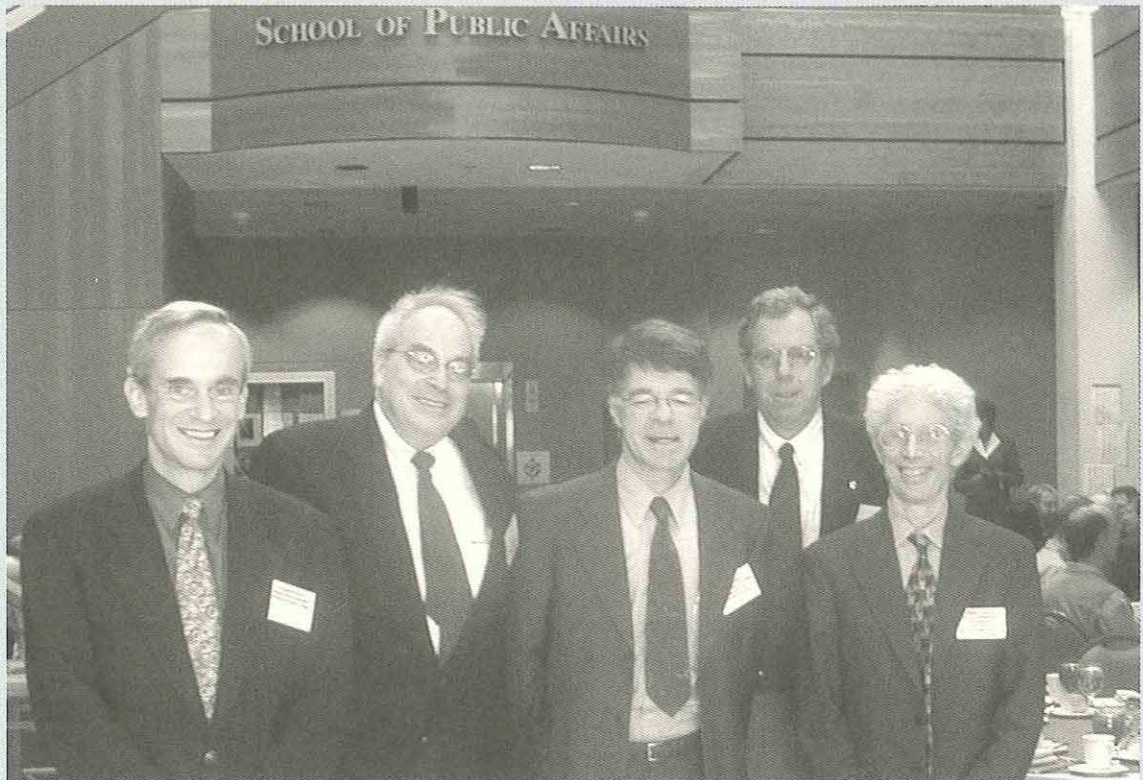

The Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy Celebrates its 25th Anniversary



Institute directors past and present (from left to right): Douglas MacLean (1984–1989), Mark Sagoff (1989–1995), Henry Shue (1981–1984), Peter Brown (1976–1981), William A. Galston (1995 to the present).

On Friday, November 9, the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary with a one-day conference, entitled "Philosophy and Public Policy: Issues and Challenges," which was held at the School of Public Affairs on the University of Maryland, College Park campus.

Scholars and policy analysts discussed the importance of ethical analysis and normative reflection in addressing policy problems. They also celebrated friendships that have sustained the Institute over the years. In his opening remarks, William A. Galston, Director of the Institute, welcomed the attendees and expressed his gratitude to the Institute's past directors. He also briefly recounted the history of the Institute, which owes its birth in 1976 to Peter Brown and Henry Shue. At that time, many were beginning to see the limits of economic thought and analysis applied to

questions of public policy, and Brown and Shue were convinced that applied ethics and public philosophy raised moral and normative issues essential to public policy concerns. Sam Gorovitz, then chair of the philosophy department at the University of Maryland, contributed funds to sustain the Institute during its first year. With further financial help by the University of Maryland, by 1981 the Institute had added the number of scholars it has today. The basic shape of the Institute was completed that same year, with the addition of Carroll Linkins, the Institute program manager who continues her invaluable help to all, and the first Institute editor, Claudia Mills (who inaugurated the journal now known as *Philosophy & Public Policy Quarterly*).

Judith Lichtenberg, Senior Research Scholar and Associate Professor of Philosophy, enriched the story of the Institute's growth and development. During her talk, "The Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy:

Formation and History," Dr. Lichtenberg unfurled a quilt made by Institute scholars on the occasion of her marriage in 1983 to then-scholar David Luban (now Frederick J. Haas Professor of Law and Philosophy at Georgetown University Law Center).

Two lively morning sessions followed these opening remarks. Henry Shue (Institute Director, 1981–1984), Director of the Program on Ethics and Public Life, and Wyn and William Y. Hutchinson Professor of Ethics and Public Life, Cornell University, chaired the first session, "Applied Ethics: New Challenges and Opportunities." In

her talk, "Ethics, Values, Science, and Technology," Rachelle D. Hollander, Director, Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology, National Science Foundation, described the National Science Foundation's rich array of programs and opportunities for ethicists in a variety of disciplines, and she lauded the contributions of the Institute (whose growth and flourishing was aided by NSF funding) in recognizing the moral dimensions in issues of policy concern. Lee H. Hamilton (U.S. Rep. from Indiana, 1965–1999, and chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, among other key positions), Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, in his talk, entitled "Religion, Politics, and International Affairs," considered the importance of religious belief in shaping public policy. And in the question-and-answer period following his talk, Mr. Hamilton discussed possible repercussions of the September 11 attacks on religious practice.

In the next session, conference attendees turned their attentions to the question "Has Applied Philosophy Come of Age?," chaired by Peter Brown (Institute Director, 1976–1981), who is Director of the McGill School for the Environment, McGill University. In his talk, "Applied Ethics and the Philosophy Profession," Christopher Morris, who will join the Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland (January 2002), discussed the history and sources for the increasing respectability of the field of applied ethics, and the growth of undergraduate and graduate studies in the field. Two Institute Research Scholars gave direct application of the importance of their specialties—in his talk, "Genetic Engineering and the Future of

Nature," Mark Sagoff (Institute Director, 1989–1995) examined the convergence of Institute research on issues concerning environment and biotechnology, with the embattled idea of Nature as a unifying theme.

"Challenges to Ethics in International Affairs," presented by Xiaorong Li, concerned the breadth of the Institute's work on human rights and international justice, and the challenges posed by relativism.

After a lunch held in the Atrium at the School of Public Affairs, the afternoon session of the conference examined "Civic Virtue, Civic Education, and

America's Youth," chaired by Douglas MacLean (Institute Director, 1984–1989), Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina. Linda F. Williams, who is Associate Professor, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, discussed her work to educate students about their civic responsibilities and opportunities for engagement. Two Institute Research Scholars contributed to the theme of civic engagement. Robert K. Fullinwider

challenged the conventional wisdom that American youth is characterized by civic disengagement and distrust of government, and Peter Levine outlined a new project at the Institute—the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE). Established with initial funding by The Pew Charitable Trusts, and

with an annual budget of over two millions dollars, CIRCLE will serve as a clearinghouse for information on youth civic engagement and a funder of scholarly research which intends to increase the quality and quantity of youth engagement. (Those interested in CIRCLE are invited to visit www.civicyouth.org.)

Following the conference, presenters and attendees refreshed themselves, made new acquaintances, and renewed friendships at a reception held nearby. Later in the evening, friends of the Institute celebrated at a local restaurant, conversing about projects past, present, and future, and enjoying the company of both friends with whom they work every day and those who now visit from other academic and intellectual homes. Only the light of feet (or the brave of heart) took to the dance floor.

