

# HONOURS

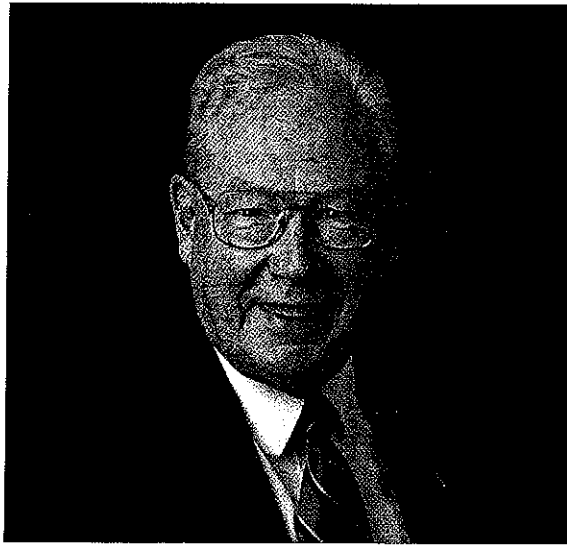
## A Scholarship in Honour of Barry Brown

BY MICHAEL VERTIN

**I**N 2006, A TUITION SCHOLARSHIP was established in the University of Toronto's Department of Philosophy by *ethica* Clinical Research Incorporated to honour Professor Barry Brown for his many years of service to the discipline of bioethics. Conceived by Dr. Janice Parente, founder and Managing Director of *ethica*, the scholarship is worth \$5,000 annually and is intended for an undergraduate in bioethics. The first recipient, Bernice Duan, a third-year student at University College, is pursuing a double major in bioethics and toxicology. After graduation she hopes to undertake specialized studies in either medicine or law.

Barry Brown began teaching at St. Michael's in the 1960s as a member of the SMC Department of Philosophy. A lifelong interest in practical matters disposed him toward not only medieval metaphysics but also current ethics. In 1971, along with Professor Abbyann Lynch, he created an undergraduate half-course entitled "Morality, Medicine, and the Law," in retrospect the first seed of what would eventually blossom into today's extensive undergraduate and graduate bioethics enterprise at the University of Toronto.

Professors Lynch and Brown were quick to build on the success of that course. Their subsequent offerings brought ethical reflection to bear on such diverse medical and legal issues as death and dying in general, suicide, euthanasia, abortion, sterilization, reproductive technologies and genetics, mental illness, the right to health care, discontinuation of treatment,



Professor emeritus of Philosophy Barry Brown was a founding board member of USMC's Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. He remains a member of the Advisory Council and frequent guest lecturer



Dr. Janice Parente, Managing Director of *ethica*, which sponsors the Barry Brown Scholarship, is the daughter of John Parente ST3

and research using human subjects. Both professors remained teachers and administrators in the rapidly expanding area of bioethics after the 1975 integration of the College Department of Philosophy into the UofT. They helped implement an undergraduate bioethics minor, then a major and finally a specialist program. Professor Brown continued as co-ordinator of the undergraduate bioethics programs at UofT until 1999.

He took official retirement in 1999, but his service to bioethics has continued unabated. He conducted two graduate courses in bioethics at the Joint Centre for Bioethics at UofT. He served as a member of the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council of Ontario from

1998 to 2006, and, in 2006-2007, as a member of the Department of National Defence Advisory Committee on the Herbicide Spraying Program at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B.

For the past 11 years he has also played an important role at *ethica* Clinical Research Incorporated, including, since 1996, Chair of the company's Research Ethics Board, which provides ethical reviews of clinical trials that use human subjects. *ethica* is a contract research organization based in Montreal that conducts and manages clinical trials of pharmaceutical products, biologics, medical devices and natural health products.

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