

**UB Department of Philosophy Colloquium**  
**The Future of Ontology in Buffalo**  
*Randall Dipert and Barry Smith*

**4:00pm Thursday February 5, 2009**  
**141 Park Hall, North Campus**  
**University at Buffalo**

The discipline of ontology has its origins as a branch of philosophy. In recent years, however, ontology has demonstrated remarkable potential for applications, for example in the integration of large and heterogeneous datasets. UB is one of the centers of this applied ontology research.

By 'ontology' we mean a representation of kinds of entities and their basic relationships in some domain of reality. By 'formal ontology' we mean an ontology that is formulated in some logical language. By 'upper ontology' we mean an ontology that can serve to ensure that the domain ontologies created by different disciplines can work successfully together.

Randall Dipert will survey the current state of the proposed Common Upper Ontology (CUO) and its representations in classical first-order logic, in Common Logic, and in diagrammatic form (an influence from C. S. Peirce). He will conclude by discussing a concrete problem in applied ontology: the definition and ontological foundations of "command".

Barry Smith will survey some of the ontology projects currently being realized at UB, including:

- The Infectious Disease Ontology (jointly with Duke University)
- The Protein Ontology (jointly with Georgetown University)
- The Semantic Database in Cardiovascular Surgery (jointly with the Cleveland Clinic)

and current UB ontology projects sponsored by the US Army Net-Centric Data Strategy Center of Excellence. Smith will talk about the methodology being used in this research, and about the future opportunities for ontologists at UB.