
Friends of Philosophy NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION

OCTOBER 2004

Dear Friends of Philosophy,

The Department of Philosophy continues to evolve in the face of recent and upcoming departures and arrivals. Dr. Howard Pospesel, a dedicated member of the faculty for 39 years, will retire in May 2004, bringing the number of faculty departures since 1998 to six. I will miss Howard tremendously. He has served as my unofficial "Senior Advisor" since I became Department Chair in 1999, and has saved me from many disasters and helped me with his wise counsel. But I have promised not to write embarrassing reminiscences of him until after his retirement becomes official, so a suitable acknowledgement of his achievements will have to wait until next year's newsletter.

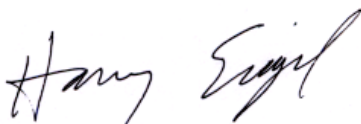
During that same period we have gained five new faculty members, and hope to appoint two additional professors soon, and yet two more in due course. This has been a period of sustained transition and renewal. Through all this change, we have worked hard to provide the best education in philosophy that we can. Our students are flourishing at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Our faculty members are not only fine teachers, but productive, internationally-recognized scholars as well. The Department of Philosophy is one of which its Friends, and the UM community, can be proud.

As always, the department will host many lectures, dialogues and speakers on a variety of topics this year, to which you are invited and always welcome. Of particular interest to our Friends is the Dialogue on "Just War Theory and the Conflict in Iraq," led by our former student, Dr. Jane Mary Zwerner, Professor Edward Erwin of our Department, and Professor Daniels Pals of the Departments of Religious Studies and History, on November 18, 2003. News about these upcoming events can be found in this Newsletter and the accompanying flyers. Please join us for philosophical conversation as often as you can.

As you may know, the University of Miami has just announced a major fund-raising campaign, which we hope will benefit this Department along with the rest of the University community. Accordingly, we hope you will take this opportunity to renew your membership in Friends of Philosophy. As our department evolves and grows, we become better able to teach and contribute to scholarship in philosophy, and also to bring our subject to the larger Miami-Dade/South Florida community. We are committed to doing so, but how effectively we can fulfill the promise of Friends of Philosophy depends upon your support. Please help us make our department strong, and our community more philosophically alive. (*Please note:* In this and future issues of the Newsletter we will list our generous members and contributors. If you wish to contribute but do *not* want your name listed, please let me know. You can contact me at (305) 284-5411, or by email at hsiegel@miami.edu; the department office number is (305) 284-4757.)

We are always happy to hear from you and to receive your comments and suggestions for future activities. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

The Department of Philosophy greatly appreciates your interest and support. Thank you!



Harvey Siegel
Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Recent Faculty Publication



DR. HAACK

Congratulations are extended to Dr. Susan Haack, whose book *Defending Science-Within Reason: Between Scientism and Cynicism* has been published by Prometheus Books. The Chinese edition of Prof. Haack's book, *Philosophy of Logics*, was published in June 2003 by Commercial Press in Beijing, P.R. China. Continuously in print in English since 1978, this book has also been published in Spanish, Italian, Korean, and Portuguese; a Japanese translation is now under way.

Visiting Professor



The Department is enjoying the presence of Professor Keith Lehrer, visiting professor during Fall 2003. A distinguished philosopher, Dr. Lehrer is Regents Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona, and Honorary Professor at the University of Graz, Austria. He is a former Chairman of the Board, and Past-President, of the American Philosophical Association. Dr. Lehrer writes a lot (7 authored books, 10 edited books, 160 papers), paints a lot, and loves cats.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Recent undergraduate philosophy events have attracted a sizable number of students. The Undergraduate Philosophy Club hosted a showing of the film "Three Businessmen," directed by Alex Cox, which introduced a vigorous discussion of questions about values, led by Drs. Peter Lewis and Amie Thomasson. The club also sponsored a discussion of freedom of the will and determinism, in concert with the U.M. undergraduate forum "Solutions," with a presentation by Visiting Professor Keith Lehrer from the University of Arizona, whose research currently focuses on this topic. Among the faculty prominently participating were Dr. Harvey Siegel (our Department chair) and Dr. David Wilson (of the Biology Department). This meeting was attended by a diverse crowd of well over 100 students and faculty. The success of both events can be attributed partly to the energy and hard work of the officers of the Philosophy Club and Philosophy Honor Society, including this year: Bill Hasselberger (President); Christian Wilson (Vice-President and Treasurer), and Waleed Sneij (Secretary). Interest in Philosophy at U.M. continues to be lively, with a high number of students majoring and minoring in Philosophy relative to past years.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

We Welcome our 2003-2004 New Graduate Students

Four new graduate students joined the program in August 2003:

Jeffrey Oakley received his B.A. degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. His philosophical interests range over various topics in the philosophy of science, epistemology, and the philosophy of mathematics. He also has delivered papers at several conferences on issues in the philosophy of biology and the philosophy of mathematics.

Ryan Lake joins us from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan where he received his BA in philosophy, and is now beginning the pursuit of his PhD here at UM. His interests in philosophy include philosophy of mind, ethics, and problems concerning free will.

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Jonathan Quianzon graduated with degrees in both Philosophy and Accounting from De La Salle University in the Philippines. He passed the CPA Board Exam in his country and worked as an auditor for a year before finally shifting gears to pursue his dream of becoming a teacher and philosopher. He comes to UM with a deep interest in Metaphysics and with the works of Heidegger and Wittgenstein.

Dr. Raul DeVelasco is a practicing physician (kidney specialist) who has had an interest in ethics dating back to the mid-1970's when, as member of a "patient selection committee", he had to decide which patient among many was the "right" candidate to receive scarce life saving dialysis and renal transplant treatments. He now has the opportunity to look at ethics and philosophy in a more structured and intense manner and hopefully to have a better understanding of how to develop answers to these difficult issues.

***Congratulations to
our graduate students
at work!***

Recent Job Placements:

Melissa Bergeron
*United States Military
Academy at West Point*

Jason Borenstein
*Georgia Institute of
Technology*

Eivind Balsvik
University of Oslo (Norway)

Timothy Mosteller
Biola University

New Graduate Placement Director Appointed

Dr. Michael Slote has been appointed Graduate Placement Director this year. Dr. Slote will lead the department's efforts to place PhD graduates in suitable positions in the profession.

Adjunct Excellence in Teaching Award

Congratulations are extended to Kiriake Xerohemona who recently received the Adjunct Excellence in Teaching Award from Florida International University. The awards are given by the Academy for the Art of Teaching "which is dedicated to providing FIU's Teaching community with resources and support needed to ensure that the highest quality of teaching and learning takes place throughout the university."

First Annual Graduate Student Conference

In January 2004, the Department of Philosophy and the College of Arts and Sciences will sponsor the First Annual U.M. Graduate Student Conference in Epistemology. The Keynote Address will be given by Dr. Richard Feldman (University of Rochester). Former UM graduate students Dr. Michael Shaffer and Dr. Michael Veber will also present papers, and graduate students from around the nation have submitted papers for inclusion in the conference program. Thanks to current graduate student Jeremy Morris for instigating and organizing this event.

New Appointments

Dr. Kenton Harris (Ph.D. '94) recently accepted a position as Assistant Dean and Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at Florida International University, and Dr. Bernardo Cantens (Ph.D. '99) was promoted to Associate Professor at Barry University. Congratulations!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL 2003 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Sandra Lapointe
(Centre National de la Recherche
Scientifique, Paris)
October 1

Dr. Michael Slote
(University of Miami)
October 3

Sally Haslanger
(MIT)
November 6 & 7

Nicholas D. Smith
(Lewis and Clark College)
November 21

Thomas Pogge
(Columbia University)
December 4 & 5

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY DIALOGUE

“Just War Theory and the Conflict in Iraq”

Discussion led by

Dr. Edward Erwin

Department of Philosophy, UM

Dr. Daniel Palz

Departments of Religious Studies and History, UM

Dr. Jane Mary Zwerner

PhD (UM Philosophy Department, 1986)

Learning Center, Room 110

November 18, 7:30 P.M.

SPRING 2004 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Susanna Siegel
(Harvard University)
January 22

Michael Bratman
(Stanford University)
January 29 & 30

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ALUMNI UPDATE

Alicia Juarrero received all her degrees in philosophy from UM: A.B. 1969, M.A. 1972, Ph.D. 1978. Among her many other honors, she was selected as one of four *U.S. Professors of the Year* by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2002, and was presented the *Edward T. Foote Alumnus of Distinction Award* by UM's Alumni Association in 2003.



I always assumed I'd be a political science major (as a child of Cuban political exiles, politics was all anyone discussed at the dinner table!). But when I took Dr. Werner's philosophy of religion course at UM, philosophy grabbed me and didn't let go. Declaring a philosophy major was also helped by UM's regulation that allowed students to substitute symbolic logic for a math requirement, which I was keen to do (even though I've regretted not taking more math ever since)!

The Honors courses I took were among the high points of my years at UM. Dr. John Hall, who had been an underwater archeologist, enthralled students with his accounts of the way he had retraced Odysseus's itinerary; Dr. Douglas Browning's philosophy course on Philosophical Anthropology was also legendary... so many of my fellow students really majored in "Browning," not philosophy! It was fabulous teachers such as these, as well as Dr. Ramon Lemos's incredibly organized delivered lectures (decades

later, I still use the notes from his classes!), that taught me the difference a good teacher can make in the lives of his/her students.

I really never thought of becoming "a philosopher" (what conceit!). I just learned these ideas, but the Philosophy Department generously offered me a graduate fellowship and so, quite frankly, if I could have, I would have just taken courses forever. After completing the requirements for the doctorate, however, I moved to Berkeley, California, where I was fortunate to audit courses by Searle (whom I've since come to know as a colleague on the Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities), Grice, Dreyfus, and others. To make ends meet I taught as an adjunct at San Francisco State University and the (Community) College of Alameda in nearby Oakland.

Among the courses I taught at SF State was a junior level course on Latin American Philosophy. It was an interesting experience. First, to my surprise I learned that virtually none of the well-known names (such as Vasconcelos) had been translated into English, and Chicano students did not read Spanish. Then, in an uncomfortable confrontation on the first day of class, I discovered that the Chicano student group was up in arms over the fact that the Philosophy Department had hired a Cuban-American (who, they presumed, would be far to the right of Attila the Hun) to teach that course. "Why are you teaching these bourgeois authors?" My answer, "Because that's what's translated into English and you guys don't read Spanish!" When the student leaders realized that I intended to teach, not preach, we became quite friendly, and even shared a laugh over the appearance of the "Blue Meanies" (the TAC – or tactical -- squad in full riot gear) outside the classroom. The early 1970's does seem now like a different millennium!

However, I was glad to get back to the East Coast, to the Washington D.C. area, in 1975. Professionally, though, the combination of the end of the Vietnam war, the elimination of the draft, and the

consequent precipitous decline in enrollment, meant that colleges and universities nationwide were not only not hiring at all; they were cutting back on the positions that had not been awarded tenure. I was very lucky to find a position at Prince George's Community College in the Maryland suburbs of D.C., where I have had a very full and enriching quarter century, in a setting that offers the opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life. At the same time, the numerous colleges and universities in the DC area allowed me to continue to stay current in philosophy. I audited lectures on medieval philosophy at Catholic University, Philosophy of Science at the University of Maryland, and even taught as an adjunct at both of these institutions. In 1992 I was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve on the National Council on the Humanities, the advisory board to the NEH, where I served for 8 years, most of the time as Chair of the Committee overseeing the \$32 million distributed annually to state humanities councils.

After publishing a dozen or so articles in respected journals, friends and colleagues kept insisting I had to put it together in a book. *Dynamics in Action* (MIT Press) appeared in 1999 to very positive reviews, with the paperback edition less than three years later. And as a very positive unintended consequence of its publication, I was invited to present my work – which is on the way *open* systems far from equilibrium can ratchet up and evolve, whereas *closed* systems devolve towards stasis – at the Instituto de Filosofia in Havana.

What next? Who knows?! Wherever my philosophical journal takes me, I will always be glad that it began at UM!

ALUMNI UPDATE FORM

NAME : _____

ADDRESS : _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS : _____

RECENT ACOMPLISHMENTS : _____

Please send to: Department of Philosophy, PO BOX 248054, Coral Gables, FL 33124-4670

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY

2003 HONOR ROLL

FRIENDS

(up to \$99)

Aphrodite Alexandrakis
Orly Anconina
Robert Bachman
George Bailey
Herbert R. Chauser
Deborah & Michael Conrad
Neil Cooper
Harold Evensky
Donna Fleming
A.R. Gonzalez de Castro
Lynne Matous
Jennifer Mayo
Thomas McClary
David McNaron
Margaret & John Nania
Esther Nepomechie
Jorge Nobo
Shanti Persad-Maharej
Herbert Quay
Paul Rosencrantz
Charlotte Shea
Barry Snyder
Karl Sooder
David Stevens
Alfredo Triff
David Wilson
Rita Wilson
Geff Zamor

INNER CIRCLE

(\$1000 and up)

Richard W. Billings
Gonzalo Parodi

PARTNERS

(\$500 - \$999)

David Coulson
Raul De Velasco
Vicki Moreau
Francisco Olazabal
Jane Mary Zwerner

SUSTAINING FRIENDS

(\$100 - \$499)

Carl Cohen
Patricia Erwin
Lawrence Fishman
Joseph Frantin
Kenneth Goodman
John Granrose
Georgie Labadie
Vicente Medina
James Miller
Scott Siegel
Arthur Sokoloff
Ernest Sosa