
Friends of Philosophy NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION

OCTOBER 2005

*D*ear Friends of Philosophy,

Our search for a new senior faculty member ended successfully last April when Professor Colin McGinn agreed to join the University of Miami's Philosophy Department in January 2006. He will move to Miami from Rutgers University, where he has been Professor since 1990, after having been Lecturer and Reader at the University College London and Wilde Reader in Mental Philosophy at the University of Oxford. Professor McGinn is the author of 17 books, some 60 philosophical articles, and more than 70 book reviews. His main field of interest is the Philosophy of Mind, and he has also made significant contributions to ontology, epistemology, philosophical logic, and moral philosophy. His most recent book is *The Power of Movies: How Screen and Mind Interact* (Knopf, 2005). His intellectual (or philosophical) autobiography *The Making of a Philosopher: My Journey Through Twentieth Century Philosophy* (Harper Collins, 2002) and his other works have been translated into several languages.

The department hopes to add another distinguished philosopher to its faculty in the fall of 2006, and is also searching for an assistant or associate professor. If we are successful in these endeavors, the faculty will include next fall 11 full-time tenured or tenure-track professors. With the new faculty the department will set a new academic standard not yet seen in philosophy at the University of Miami. Several of our recent PhD students have accepted faculty positions at other esteemed universities (details on our web site, www.miami.edu/phi), and our undergraduate students continue to be accepted into excellent graduate programs in various fields embarking upon a wide variety of career paths.

As always, the department will host many colloquia, lectures, and dialogues to which you are invited and always welcome. Of particular interest to our Friends is the Dialogue on alternative conceptual schemes and ways of thinking led by Dr. Beth Krancberg, on December 2, 2005. News about the upcoming events can be found within this Newsletter and on the accompanying flyers.

We hope you will take this opportunity to renew your membership in Friends of Philosophy. As our department evolves, 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. (*Please note:* In this and future issues of this 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) 284-5305, or by email at hilpinen@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 continuing interest and support. Thank you!

Risto Hilpinen
Professor and Acting Chairperson
Department of Philosophy



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Colin McGinn, a professor at Rutgers since 1990, says he has had enough of the long and cold northern winters and will head south to the University of Miami next year so he can engage in water sports. Mr. McGinn is probably the most well known of philosophers called the New Mysterians, who promote the view that the human mind is fundamentally incapable of understanding itself completely. He argues that our brain's biological makeup will forever prevent us from understanding our consciousness.

Professor Susan Haack has been named one of the 100 world's greatest thinkers in *One Hundred Philosophers: The Life and Work of the World's Greatest Thinkers*. Haack, who holds a dual professorship in law and philosophy at the University of Miami and is Cooper Senior Scholar in Arts and Sciences, joins a short list of distinguished philosophers and thinkers beginning with the Greek scientist Thales of Miletos in the sixth century BC.

The First Louis J. Appignani Foundation Symposium on Science, Reason and Secular Ethics on September 15 was a lively and entertaining discussion on the topic of evolution and design between Professors Michael Ruse and Paul Nelson. This event and the Appignani symposia to be organized in the future have been made possible by a donation by Louis J. Appignani.

During this academic year Professor Harvey Siegel is enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical leave, but he is expected to resume the duties of the chairperson next fall.

Major Gifts to Friends of Philosophy and the Department of Philosophy

Two long-standing Friends of Philosophy have recently made important gifts to support our efforts:

Gonzalo Parodi has made a ten year commitment to support research in and public discussion of philosophical aesthetics. His generous gift will support the philosophical research of the *Parodi Senior Scholar in Aesthetics*, Professor Amie Thomasson. In addition, his gift will support the *Parodi Annual Lecture in Aesthetics*, to be held in collaboration with Art Basel. Last year the First Parodi Lecture was given by the influential philosopher and critic Arthur Danto. This year's Parodi Lecture will be delivered by Noel Carroll, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in Humanities and Professor of Philosophy at Temple University. Details of the second annual Parodi lecture may be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Louis J. Appignani has given a gift to Friends of Philosophy to support the *Louis J. Appignani Foundation Lecture Series on Science, Reason and Secular Ethics*. This substantial gift will allow us to host a wide range of events (lectures, debates, symposia, etc.) over the next five years. The inaugural Appignani Foundation event – “Design by Evolution or Evolution by Design?” – was held in September and brought well over 100 people to campus for a lively debate and discussion of the Evolution/Intelligent Design controversy. The Appignani Foundation Lecture Series will greatly enhance the ability of Friends of Philosophy to bring discussion of pressing philosophical topics and controversies to the Greater Miami/South Florida community.

We are delighted to publicly thank these two generous Friends of Philosophy for their support!

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Congratulations and welcome to our new graduate students!

We are very pleased to have with us five new graduate students who entered the Ph.D. program in August 2005:

Noel Alphonse joins us from the University of Texas at El Paso, where he received a BA in political science and philosophy and a Master of Public Administration. His philosophical interests include logic, epistemology and philosophy of science.

Kristin Borgwald comes to the department from Webster University in St. Louis where she received her B.A. in philosophy and social science. She also completed a certificate in practical and interdisciplinary ethics and a certificate in leadership studies. Her philosophical interests include ethics, applied ethics (specifically bioethics), and feminist theory.

Kristjan Laasik joins us from the University of Tartu, Estonia, where he received his B.A. and M.A. in philosophy. His philosophical interests include the philosophy of mind and phenomenology.

Brian Mondy joins the department from Bethel College in St. Paul, MN, where he received his B.A. in philosophy. He is interested in a variety of philosophical areas including epistemology, and ethical theory.

Eric Sternberg received his undergraduate degree in philosophy at the University of Miami, where he continues to work toward his PhD. His philosophical interests include applied and theoretical ethics, philosophy of science, and philosophy of religion.

Please join us in wishing them great success in the graduate program.

2005 Ph.D. Graduates:

Corina Vaida
Sharon Fraser-Burgess
His-Heng Cheng

Recent Job Placements:

Congratulations to:

Sharon Fraser-Burgess
is now Assistant Professor of
Social Foundations in the
Department of Educational
Studies at Ball State University

Corina Vaida
is now Visiting Assistant Professor
in the Department of Philosophy at
the College of William and Mary

AJ Kreider
is now Assistant Professor in the
Department of Philosophy at
Miami-Dade College

Third Annual Graduate Student Conference

The Second Annual University of Miami Graduate Student Conference in epistemology, like its predecessor, was a complete success. Participants and observers praised it as one of the best of its kind. The Third Annual U.M. Graduate Student Conference in Epistemology, to be held on January 20 and 21, 2006, will continue this tradition of excellence. The Keynote Address for this conference will be given by Dr. Stewart Cohen (Arizona State). The conference is organized by a team of current U.M. graduate students headed by Meggan Payne and Jonathan Quianzon and is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and the College of Arts and Sciences, both of U.M.

Awards

Dr. Edward Erwin was the recipient of 9th annual Provost's Award for Scholarly Activity. This award recognizes extraordinary research and scholarly pursuits. In addition to the commemorative plaque, recipients received a \$4,000 cash award and \$2,000 toward continued research.

Recent Presentations

Jeffrey Shane Oakley presented a paper entitled "Can a Bayesian Handle Testimonial Evidence" at the University of Sherbrooke (Canada) International Symposium organized by the Canadian Society for Epistemology.

ALUMNI UPDATE



It has been fourteen years since I took Professor John Knoblock's Honors Introduction to Philosophy, my first philosophy course at the University of Miami. Although I have taken many and sundry other philosophy courses since then, both for the BA and then for the PhD at Stanford University; and although I have now taught Introduction to Philosophy several times myself; nothing compares to the impression made by that first experience. For it was an unusual experience, as is evident in the reading list: Descartes' *Meditations*, Wittgenstein's *On Certainty*, and Nietzsche's *Twilight of the Idols* and *The Anti-Christ*. My (admittedly unscientific) survey of fellow philosophy teachers leads me to think that this particular syllabus has never been replicated. Dr. Knoblock introduced the topics by saying that we would be engaging with three authors, each of whom had revolutionized philosophy in a different way, and each of whom continues to challenge philosophers. I certainly found them challenging, in every sense: the texts were difficult, the ideas within surprising or even shocking. Nothing could have been more exciting.

I never looked back. The undergraduate courses I took at the University of Miami provided a wonderful preparation for graduate study as well as for teaching. Alan Goldman's course in aesthetics and Edward Erwin's course in the philosophy of language established foundations for the areas in which I later specialized. I still use my notes from Claudine Verheggen's Modern Philosophy course when I teach that subject. The opportunity to take classes with graduate students, such as Pragmatism with Susan Haack, was invaluable; and writing my senior honors thesis with Dr. Haack trained me in the rigors of philosophical research and writing. When my students spend too much time in their essays exploring ideas before drawing a conclusion, I tell them what she told me (and her advisor told her): "Research like a detective, but write like a lawyer." Find out what others have said, but then state exactly what you think and defend that claim with reasoned arguments. To me this is the essence of what a good philosopher does.

Philosophy for me, though, is not just a topic of study; it is my career. In explaining why I chose this path I return once again to my experience as a freshman. In addition to teaching an excellent class, John Knoblock also shared his enthusiasm for philosophy as a way of life. I will never forget the evening he had the students to his home for dinner: a tour of his beautiful antique furniture and objets d'art from all over Asia, a sampling of exotic foods, an hour spent listening to opera. He told me that he had specialized in Chinese and Japanese philosophy partly because of the travel, and I was enthralled by the possibilities. I knew that evening that that's what I wanted to do.

Philosophy has already set me travelling. After graduating from UM, I lived in San Francisco while working on my doctorate at Stanford. The intellectual community in the Bay Area was marvellous, and combined with the charms of San Francisco and the beauty of Northern California, I would not have minded studying there forever. But such is not the way of academia—a truly itinerant lifestyle. I spent a year of my doctoral studies in Paris, where I had a Chateaubriand scholarship from the French government to study at a research center there (now the Institut Jean-Nicod). I recently gave a paper at the Institut—and visited the friends I met there years before.

After receiving my PhD, I took a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, working with Kendall Walton on philosophical issues related to fiction, and then a post as Assistant Professor at Washington & Jefferson College, a small liberal arts college near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A liberal arts college, especially one with only three professors in the department, offers a splendid opportunity to teach ... well, just about everything. In my two years at W&J, I taught Introduction to Philosophy, Early Modern Philosophy, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Personal Identity, and Social and Political Philosophy. Teaching Political Philosophy during the last presidential election—and to students who were just eligible to vote—has been one of the highlights of my career.

The main difficulty in moving around to academic posts is often called the “two-body problem”: coordinating the lives of both partners when jobs require travel. While perhaps not as intractable as the mind-body problem, it demands flexibility. So when my husband was offered a particularly attractive position with his company in London, we decided to make another move. I am currently lecturing at Birkbeck College, the extension college of the University of London. From teaching 18-21-year-olds who don’t know what to do with their lives, I have gone to teaching mature students who already lead full lives. The dedication of students who choose to give up several evenings a week to the study of philosophy, while juggling full-time jobs and numerous other responsibilities, reminds me of how worthwhile it can be to engage in philosophical thinking. The adventure that started fourteen years ago continues.

Stacie Friend earned her BA in Philosophy and English Literature at the University of Miami in 1995, and her PhD in Philosophy at Stanford University in 2002.

Do you have a story to tell? Let us know! E-mail us at philosophy@miami.edu or fill out the form below.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NEWS: _____

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

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY 2004-2005* HONOR ROLL

INNER CIRCLE

(\$1000 and up)

Louis J. Appignani Foundation, Inc.
Gonzalo Parodi

PARTNERS

(\$500 - \$999)

Carl Cohen
Dawn M. Moreau

SUSTAINING

(\$100 - \$499)

George W. Bailey
Bernardo J. Cantens
David A. Coulson
Raul E. De Velasco
William F. Durham
Lawrence M. Fishman
Joseph G. Frantin
C. Dean Furman
Alicia Juarrero
George C. Labadie
Holly H. Macadam
Billie M. Robinette
Arthur Sokoloff
Ernest Sosa
Billy Yeh

FRIENDS

(up to \$99)

Aphrodite Alexandrakis
Sam D. Ben-Meir
Nancy J. Budd
Deborah A. Conrad
A. R. Gonzalez de Castro
Rita Kaplan
Helen L. Kirby
Michael F. Lodge
David L. McNaron
Jorge L. Nobo
Herbert C. Quay
Robert E. Rosen
Ramon J. Santos
Kevin W. Saunders
Michael A. Schad
Charlotte Shea
Jose A. Solis-Silva
Alfredo Triff
Mark Weinstein
Raymond A. Williams
David L. Wilson

*Dedicated to supporting the philosophy
program at the University of Miami*

* 6/1/2004—5/31/2005



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FALL 2005

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Oliver Black
Kings London College

John Biro
University of Florida

Ahti Pietarinen
University of Turku

Maria Frapolli Sanz
University of Granada

SPRING 2006

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

David Velleman
University of Michigan
January 26-27

Theodore Sider
Rutgers University
February 16-17

Candace Vogler
University of Chicago
February 9-10

2nd Annual Parodi Lecture In Aesthetics

“ Art and Alienation “

Presented by

Dr. Noel Carroll

Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities
Professor of Philosophy
Temple University

Sunday, December 4, 2005

Low Art Museum
9:00 - 12:00 P.M.

Complimentary Champagne &
Continental Breakfast

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY DIALOGUE

Dr. Beth Krancberg

University of Miami

"Alternative Conceptual Schemes:
Thinking in Fundamentally Different Ways"

Friday, December 2, 2005

Learning Center, Room 110

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Some people think in ways that are so radically different from us that they are incapable of understanding concepts with which we are familiar, marking them as operating in "alternative conceptual schemes." Dr. Krancberg will examine the notion of a conceptual scheme, discuss alternative conceptual schemes, and address such questions as: can "Mary," who is confined to a black and white environment, yet has a complete scientific understanding of color, know what it is like to see red? Come share your thoughts on this and related topics concerning the limits of human understanding.

The Department of Philosophy & Lowe Art Museum are proud to present:

The 2nd annual Parodi Lecture in Aesthetics "Art and Alienation"

Sunday, December 4, 2005

Low Art Museum Beaux Arts Gallery

9:00 AM : Complimentary champagne & continental breakfast

10:00 AM: Lecture



Dr. Noel Carroll

**Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Humanities
Professor of Philosophy, Temple University**

Professor Carroll has interests in aesthetic theory, philosophy of film, philosophy of literature, philosophy of the visual arts, social and cultural theory, philosophy of history, ethics, philosophy of the emotions, and the history of early modern philosophy. As a journalist, he has written for *The Chicago Reader*, *Artforum*, *In These Times*, *Dance Magazine*, *Soho Weekly News*, and *The Village Voice*. Professor Carroll is Past-President of the American Society for Aesthetics. In 2002, Professor Carroll received a Guggenheim fellowship to explore the relationship of philosophy and dance. He has also written five documentaries.

Also on view at the Lowe:

"Imaging & Identity"

African Art from the Lowe Art Museum and South Florida Collections.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

* **From the north:** take I-95 south to U.S. 1 (South Dixie Highway). Take a right on Stanford Drive and proceed directly into the University of Miami campus. The Lowe is located on the right hand side of Stanford Drive. **From the south:** take U.S. 1 (South Dixie Highway) north to Stanford Drive. Take a left on Stanford Drive and proceed directly into the University of Miami campus.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US ON THE WEB : <http://www.miami.edu/phi>

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY

DIALOGUE

Friday, December 2

Learning Center, Room 110*

7:30 - 9:00

Alternative Conceptual Schemes: Fundamentally Different Ways of Thinking

Some people think in ways that are so radically different from us that they are incapable of understanding concepts with which we are familiar, marking them as operating in "alternative conceptual schemes." Dr. Krancberg will examine the notion of a conceptual scheme, discuss alternative conceptual schemes, and address such questions as: can "Mary," who is confined to a black and white environment, yet has a complete scientific understanding of color, know what it is like to see red? Come share your thoughts on this and related topics concerning the limits of human understanding.



Dr. Beth Krancberg
University of Miami

~~Dr. Krancberg earned her PhD in Philosophy from Columbia University. She specializes in philosophy of mind, with an emphasis in phenomenal consciousness and the nature of *qualia*. She presently teaches Introduction to Philosophy at the University of Miami as an adjunct professor, and also teaches philosophy courses at Broward Community College on an adjunct basis.~~

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Bring a friend. Refreshments will be served following the discussion.

* Take US-1 to Granada Blvd., then Granada Blvd. west across University Drive to Pisano Ave. The parking lot is to your left across from Doctors Hospital.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US ON THE WEB : <http://www.miami.edu/phi>