
Friends of Philosophy NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION

NOVEMBER 2006

*D*ear Friends of Philosophy,

After a sabbatical leave last year, I am happy to be able to write to you again as Department Chair. While I was away last year, the Department was ably run by Professor Risto Hilpinen, who handled many demanding tasks – including the successful completion of two faculty searches, on which more in a moment – and kept the Department moving on its upward trajectory. We are all deeply in his debt – especially me, who enjoyed some R&R while he did all the work. Thanks, Risto!

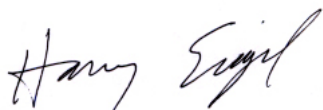
The Department of Philosophy hired two new senior faculty members last year, Professors Otávio Bueno and Mark Rowlands. They join Professor Colin McGinn, who was hired the previous year and began teaching here last spring. (You can read more about them elsewhere in this newsletter.) These three distinguished new colleagues, along with the continuing visits of Professor Keith Lehrer (who offers a seminar for our students each spring), greatly enhance both our faculty research profile and the quality of the education offered to our undergraduate and graduate students. Together with continuing faculty members Edward Erwin, Simon Evnine, Susan Haack, Risto Hilpinen, Peter Lewis, Michael Slote, Amie Thomasson and yours truly, these new faculty members make us stronger than we've ever been – as evidenced by our continuing climb up the biennial rankings of philosophy programs. Since the last ranking, we have gone from 44th to 32nd – the greatest improvement of any ranked department.

And we are not finished yet! We are searching for two new faculty members this year, which will enable us to become an even stronger teaching and research department. When we successfully complete the current searches, our tenured/tenure track faculty will number thirteen – the largest number of faculty we have ever had. In addition, The College and University have committed the resources necessary to allow us to grow and improve still further. We are grateful for the support we have received and been promised for the future.

The last several years have 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. Many of our recent PhD students have taken faculty positions elsewhere (details on our web site, www.miami.edu/phi); our undergraduate students continue to be accepted to law, medicine, PhD and other programs, and to embark upon a wide range of career paths, after graduating with B.A. and B.S. degrees with majors in philosophy. 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 in past years, the department will host many colloquia, 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 “The Elusive Nature of Mathematical Knowledge,” led by Professor Otávio Bueno, on December 5, 2006. News about these upcoming events can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter and on the accompanying flyers. Please join us for philosophical conversation as often as you can.

We are always happy to hear from you and to receive your comments and suggestions for future activities. You can contact me at (305) 284-5411, or by email at hsiegel@miami.edu; the department office number is (305) 284-4757. And of course, we hope you will take this opportunity to renew your membership in Friends of Philosophy. The Department of Philosophy greatly appreciates your interest and support. Thank you!



Harvey Siegel
Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy

DEPARTMENT NEWS



The University of Miami has received an anonymous gift to its *Momentum* campaign that will create new professorships to honor outstanding faculty scholars in arts and sciences and architecture. To date, the *Momentum* campaign has established 22 endowed chairs and professorships; this latest gift will support five new distinguished professorships. Several distinguished professors throughout the college, including one of our own, **Dr. Susan Haack**, received this honor. Dr. Haack also edited *Pragmatism, Old & New* which is now in print and available from your favorite bookstore.

Dr Michael Slote and Dr. Edward Erwin recently made contributions to the Miami Herald and New York Times regarding parent and child relationships and psychotherapy, respectively.

UNDERGRADUATE

The Undergraduate Philosophy Club continues to be active and is planning to have a number of talks during this semester and the next. The first talk of the semester was on "Virtue Ethics" by Professor Michael Slote. In addition, it is holding weekly meetings to discuss existentialism and related themes.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

The department is happy to announce two new additions to our faculty, Otávio Bueno who joined us this fall and Mark Rowlands who will be joining us in the Spring of 2007.



Otávio Bueno received his Ph.D. from the University of Leeds. His research concentrates in philosophy of science, philosophy of mathematics, philosophical logic, metaphysics, and epistemology. He is the author of two books, *Constructive Empiricism: A Restatement and Defense* (CLE, 1999), and *Elements of Paraconsistent Set Theory* (CLE, 1998; with Newton da Costa and Jean-Yves Béziau), and many articles in major journals.



Mark Rowlands received a D.Phil. from Oxford University. He has taught at several universities in both the U.S. and Europe, and is currently Chair of Mental and Moral Philosophy at the University of Hertfordshire. He is the author of ten books, including *The Body in Mind* (CUP 1999), *The Nature of Consciousness* (CUP 2001), *Animals Like Us* (Verso 2002), and *Body Language: Representation in Action* (MIT 2006, forthcoming).

FACULTY SEARCHES

The Department is conducting two searches for additional faculty members:

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, Coral Gables, FL: Assistant Professor, to begin Fall 2007. AOS: Ancient or Modern Philosophy or Ethics (broadly conceived). AOC: Open. We seek a promising scholar who will pursue a vigorous research program, teach at the graduate and undergraduate levels, and take full part in the normal activities of the department. Salary highly competitive and commensurate with rank and credentials.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, Coral Gables, FL: Open rank position, to begin Fall 2007. AOS: Open; preference for Ethics (broadly conceived). AOC: Open. Candidates specializing in areas other than Ethics will be considered only at the Associate or Full Professor levels. We seek a promising or accomplished scholar who will pursue a vigorous research program, teach at the graduate and undergraduate levels, and take full part in the normal activities of the department. Salary highly competitive and commensurate with rank and credentials.

RAMON M. LEMOS (1927-2006)



Ramon M. Lemos, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Miami, was born in Mobile, Alabama, on July 7, 1927, and passed away in Miami on January 31, 2006, at the age of 78.

As a young man, Ramon's service in the United States Marine Corps from 1945 to 1949 took him to the Pacific Islands, Japan, and China. He enrolled at the University of Alabama in 1949 and graduated in 1951 with a B.A. degree in philosophy and political science. He received his Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Duke University in 1955. He was a Fulbright postdoctoral fellow at the University of London from 1955 to 1956, and he was appointed the following year as Lecturer of Philosophy at the University of Miami, which became his permanent academic home. He served as Assistant Professor, 1958-1962, Associate Professor, 1962-1967, and as Professor of Philosophy since 1967. He became Professor Emeritus in 1999, but his retirement did not end his service to the Philosophy Department or the larger philosophical community. He continued to come to his office every weekday and write philosophical works, give lectures, and advise graduate and undergraduate students until he was incapacitated by a serious illness. However, he preserved his good spirits, his sense of humor, and his remarkable mental powers until the very end of his life.

Ramon worked in most major areas of philosophy: ethics and value theory, political philosophy, metaphysics and ontology, epistemology, the philosophy of mind, and the history of philosophy. His principal field of interest was moral and political philosophy. More than half of his seven books and some 60 articles and reviews discuss questions of moral and political philosophy. He was an internationally recognized authority on the political philosophy of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau (*Rousseau's Political Philosophy: An Exposition and Interpretation*, 1977; *Hobbes and Locke: Power and Consent*, 1978). He has also done important and original work in value theory (*The Nature of Value: Axiological Investigations*, 1995) and on the moral foundations and conditions of democracy (*Rights, Goods, and Democracy*, 1986). His works in metaphysics and ontology include *Metaphysical Investigations* (1988), 'Types, Tokens, and Nominalism' (1984), and 'Propositions, States of Affairs, and Facts' (1986). Some of his last papers and his last book, *A Neomedieval Essay in Philosophical Theology* (2001) evince his interest in medieval philosophy.

During his more than 40-year career as professor Ramon taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in practically all areas of philosophy, ranging from ancient and medieval philosophy to the philosophy of law, epistemology, and formal logic. He directed fifteen Ph.D. dissertations to completion and served on the committees of many other students. Several of his students went on to become teachers of philosophy. He was the chairman of the Philosophy Department from 1971 to 1984, served on many university committees, and held offices in several philosophical societies, including the chairmanship of the Program Committee of American Philosophical Association (1982-83). In 1997 the Faculty Senate of the University of Miami recognized his achievements in scholarship and teaching by bestowing on him a Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award.

Ramon was a person of high integrity who treated colleagues and students fairly and with respect. He possessed great charm; he spoke deliberately but had a quick wit and a delightful sense of humor. He was a steadfast and loyal friend to all who were close to him. For his students and his colleagues he was an inexhaustible source of knowledge about philosophy and its history. His was a life of distinguished service to his colleagues, his students, and to the advancement of philosophy. He will be sorely missed.

Two of Ramon's sons, Noah and John, followed his philosophical footsteps and became professional philosophers. The department has invited both of them to visit us in the Spring and help commemorate Ramon's life by holding a conference in his honor. More information is available later in this newsletter. (The department thanks Professors Risto Hilpinen, Leonard Carrier and Howard Pospesl for composing this brief history.)

RAMON M. LEMOS EXCELLENCE IN PHILOSOPHY AWARD

In honor of Dr. Lemos, the Ramon M. Lemos Excellence in Philosophy Award will be presented annually to the outstanding graduating University of Miami senior (or seniors) with either a major or a minor in Philosophy. This award has been created through the generous donation of Dr. Marvin Schiller. The Award will be presented at the end of each academic year during the University's Honors Day Ceremony. The first recipient was **Cristina Guzman**, who received the Lemos Award in May 2006.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

2006 Ph.D. Graduates:
Nenad Popovic

Recent Job Placements:
Congratulations to:

Hsi-Heng Cheng
Assistant Professor
National Tsing Hua
University of Taiwan

Shirong Luo
Visiting Assistant Professor
Simmons College

Osvil Acosta-Morales
Visiting Assistant Professor
University of Toledo

Timothy Mosteller
Assistant Professor
California Baptist University

Matthew Schuh
Instructor
Miami Dade College

Christopher Weaver
Assistant Professor
Lewis University

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!

The Department of Philosophy is very pleased to announce the arrival of an outstanding new class of entering graduate students. Please join us in welcoming them to Miami and wishing them all the best for successful philosophical careers here and beyond!

Ben Burgis comes to us from Western Michigan University, where he completed his M.A. in Philosophy in 2005. His philosophical interests include logic and the ontology of time.

Dan Cohen has joined the department as the recipient of a prestigious University of Miami Fellowship. He received his B.A. from the College of Wooster in May, and is especially interested in pursuing questions in moral philosophy, philosophy of language and philosophy of mind.

Fredrik Haraldsen arrives from Norway where he had been pursuing a dual career as a philosophy graduate student and a professional cross-country skiing coach. He received his masters degree from the University of Oslo in spring 2005, with a thesis concerned with questions arising at the intersection between theories of meaning and epistemology. His primary interests are the philosophy of language and philosophy of logic.

Mark Warren comes to us from Amarillo, Texas. He received his B.A. in philosophy at Texas Tech University, where both Dr. Thomasson and Dr. Lewis were teaching at the time. After graduating, he spent several years teaching English in Japan and traveling around Asia. His current interests include the philosophy of mind and metaethics.

Aaron Wilson received his B.A. (Magna cum Laude) in Philosophy from Boston University in 2005. His research is primarily focused on the "Theory of Inquiry," a field that originally derives from the work of the classical American pragmatists Charles S. Peirce and John Dewey, and connects with issues in the philosophy of science, epistemology, and ethics. He also has a very strong interest in the history of philosophy, especially American Pragmatism and its relation to Kant, Hegel, and the analytic and continental traditions.

THIRD ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

The Third Annual University of Miami Graduate Student Conference in Epistemology was held on January 20 and 21, 2006 and was organized by Jonathan Quianzon and Meggan Payne. The opening address was delivered by our very own Simon Evnine and our invited speaker was Sheron Fraser-Burgess, an alumna of our program who is now an Assistant Professor at Ball State University in Indiana. For each of the past two conferences, five graduate students from other institutions were invited to present their papers, which were selected competitively from the many that were submitted. In last year's conference, seven graduate students presented their papers; they came from different universities including UCLA, Rutgers, and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. As a testament to the conference's growing popularity, this year's conference received submissions from more universities in the U.S. and other countries than in previous years. As expected, the conference was filled with vigorous philosophical discussions, but the participants also had a great time interacting with one another during breaks and dinner. The success of this conference would not have been possible without the enthusiastic assistance of the graduate students and the support (financial and otherwise) of the Department of Philosophy.

AWARDS

Nenad Popovic was the recipient of the Gerritt and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Philosophy. Former student **Bernardo Cantens** was Visiting Fellow, Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts and Science, Spring 2006 and recipient of an NEH Faculty Research Award (2005—2006).

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Jeffrey Shane Oakley presented a paper entitled “A Dilemma for Naturalism” at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN, and at the Kazimierz Naturalized Epistemology Workshop in Kazimierz-Dolny, Poland. He also presented a paper in November entitled “Is the Newcomb Setup an Instance of Simpson’s Paradox?” at the annual meeting of the Florida Philosophical Association at USF in Tampa.

Jeremy Morris presented a paper entitled “Pragmatic Reflexivity in Self-Defeating and Self-Justifying Expressions” at the 6th International Conference of the Society for the Study of Argumentation at the University of Amsterdam which will be published in the Conference Proceedings. He is also co-author of “A Paradox for Possible World Semantics” with our former student Michael Shaffer, which is forthcoming in the journal *Logic et Analyse*.

Bernardo Cantens presented a paper “Pierce’s Evolutionary Cosomology and the Theism vs. Naturalism Debate” and recently published “Peirce on Science and Religion” in the International Journal for Philosophy of Religion (forthcoming).

ALUMNI UPDATE



Dr. Aphrodite Alexandrakis is Professor of Philosophy at Barry University. She received her PhD from the UM Philosophy Department in 1986.

Having a BA in Art History and Archaeology from Rutgers University-Douglas College – rather than a degree in Philosophy – was an obstacle to beginning graduate studies in Philosophy at the University of Miami. As a result, I completed all the relevant undergraduate Philosophy courses at UM as a prerequisite, because of my strong desire to combine my knowledge of ancient Greek art and archaeology with Plato and Aristotle’s notions of beauty. I was very lucky to have as my first Professor on Plato the gentle but strong Dr. Edith Schipper. The late Dr. Schipper’s deep knowledge of Greek philosophy, her positive approach to students, and her encouragement and affirmation of my love for learning philosophy established for me a strong and determined objective to continue my studies. Edith Schipper’s questions to my questions opened up my mind and made me think, research, and read at all times.

The late Professor Ramon Lemos, whose every seminar I took, and who served as my secondary dissertation mentor on Hegel, taught me how to conduct a class in which everyone is actively engaged in analysis and discussion.

Above all, it was a special privilege to have as my primary mentor, and later friend, the late Dr. John Knoblock. While still a graduate student, I worked with Dr. Knoblock on my first publication on Plato’s book III of the *Republic*. Dr. Knoblock was not just a smart man. He was a genius and a rare find. His broad knowledge of the areas of aesthetics in which I specialized, his keen mind, and his understanding of beauty both abstract and sensual were unique and inspired me with good ideas. Had he still been with us, he would have been delighted by my most recent publication in the Journal of Chinese Philosophy on Xunsi and Plato’s views of rituals and the notion of *form*. I will always miss John Knoblock.

I have been teaching full time at Barry University for sixteen years and have been a full Professor since 1998. I was fortunate to have been awarded three National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships by the Philosophy department of the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, the Classics department of the University of Texas at Austin, and the Classics/Philosophy departments at the University of California at Berkeley. At Barry, I have been awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award and the Sister Jeanne O’Laughlin Scholar Award. Recently, I was selected as a Fulbright Senior Specialist Roster Candidate, and in the spring I will be giving a series of lectures at Trinity and All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland.

Even though those were difficult days for a female philosophy graduate student, my determination and the encouragement and wisdom of my mentors, particularly of the late John Knoblock, inspired me to reach my goal of becoming a philosophy teacher and scholar.

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY 2005-2006* HONOR ROLL

Dedicated to supporting the philosophy program at the University of Miami

INNER CIRCLE

(\$1000 and up)

Louis J. Appignani	Gonzalo Parodi
Kenneth Goodman	Marvin Schiller
Anne C. Lemos	Jean Spence

PARTNERS

(\$500 - \$999)

David Coulson	Richard Heise
Joesph Frantin	Francisco Olazabal
C. Dean Furman	

SUSTAINING

(\$100 - \$499)

Richard Billings	Howard Pospesal
Douglas Browning	Robert Rariden
Carl Cohen	Howard Rubin
Derek Cole	Kevin W. Saunders
Deborah A. Conrad	Robert Schwartz
Raul De Velasco	Felicia Smith
Patricia Erwin	Bernice G. Snow
Lawrence Fishman	Arthur Sokoloff
Kristin A. Hall	Ernest Sosa
Arthur Hersh	Kurt Sturm
Alicia Juarrero	T-Med, Inc.
Shirong Luo	David Wilson
Vicente Medina	Yeh & Quesada
Oliver A. Parker	

FRIENDS

(up to \$99)

Robert Bachman
Bruce Kenneth Bartoo
Sam Dabby Ben-Meir
Sue Browning
Bennett Brummer
Chuck Bryant
Nancy Johnson Budd
Leonard Carrier
A. R. Gonzalez de Castro
Dianne Levenshon Collins
Hector Corella
Sarah D'Orazio
Kurt Erhard
Priya Elsa Idiculla
Helen Louise Kilby
Michael Kutell
Peter Lewis
Helene Lodge
Lynne Matous
Thomas McClary
Esther Nepomechie
Jorge Nobo
Anthony Paul
Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk
Herbert Quay
Michael Schad
Scott Siegel
Amie Lynn Thomasson
Alfredo Triff
Mark Weinstein
David Wilson
Rita Kaplan Wilson
H. Eugene Wine
John Wingard
Barbara Woshinsky

* 6/1/2005—5/31/2006

FRIENDS OF PHILOSOPHY

DIALOGUE

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Learning Center, Room 140

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

The Elusive Nature of Mathematical Knowledge

Mathematical knowledge is often thought to be certain and unchanging. In this dialogue, we'll examine together some arguments to the effect that this widespread view is mistaken. These arguments suggest instead that mathematical proofs are subject to negotiation, and that mathematical knowledge is uncertain, revisable, and created rather than discovered.



Dr. Otávio Bueno
University of Miami

Dr. Otávio Bueno is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Miami. His research concentrates in philosophy of science, philosophy of mathematics, philosophical logic, metaphysics, and epistemology. He has published over 80 papers in journals and collections, including: *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Analysis*, *Erkenntnis*, *History and Philosophy of Logic*, and *Logique et Analyse*. He is the author of two books, *Constructive Empiricism: A Restatement and Defense* (CLE, 1999), and *Elements of Paraconsistent Set Theory* (CLE, 1998; with Newton da Costa and Jean-Yves Béziau).



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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

The Department of Philosophy and the Miami Art Central is proud to present
The 3rd Annual Parodi Lecture in Philosophy of Art
“Video Art versus Video Art: Why Video Art Misses the Point of Video Art”

Sunday, December 10, 2006

Miami Art Center (5960 SW 57th Ave)

Seating begins at 10:30AM; Lecture begins at 11:00AM.

Refreshments will follow.



Dr. Dominic McIver Lopes

Professor of Philosophy, University of British Columbia

Professor Lopes is a Distinguished University Scholar and Professor of Philosophy at the University of British Columbia, and author of *Live Wires: A Philosophy of Interactive Digital Art*; *Sight and Sensibility: Evaluating Pictures*, and *Understanding Pictures*. He will be speaking on the nature of video art as an art form and artistic medium, with an open discussion and reception to follow.

This event is free and open to the public, and made possible by the generous support of Mr. Gonzalo Parodi.

Also on view at the Miami Art Center:

“Video: An Art, A History, 1965—2005”

from the New Media Collection, Centre Pompidou

For more information visit us on the web:

<http://www.miami.edu/phi>

Department of Philosophy
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL 2006

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Alan Goldman

College of William & Mary
November 3, 2006

Barry Loewer

Rutgers University
November 16-17, 2006

Jody Azzouni

Tufts University
November 30 & December 1, 2006

Jennifer Fisher

University of North Florida
December 8, 2006

SPRING 2007

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Tyler Burge

University of California
Los Angeles
February, 8-9, 2007

Kwasi Wiredu

University of South Florida
March 23, 2007

Graham Priest

University of Melbourne, Australia
April 12, 2007

Bernhard Nickel

Harvard University
April 26, 2007

Saul Kripke

City University of New York
Date: TBA

For more information:

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Tuesday, December 5, 2006

**Friends of Philosophy
DIALOGUE**

Dr. Otávio Bueno

University of Miami

"The Elusive Nature of
Mathematica Knowledge"

Sunday, December 10, 2006

**3rd Annual Parodi Lecture
In Philosophy of Art**

"Video Art versus Video Art:
Why Video Art Misses the
Point of Video Art"

Dr. Dominic McIver Lopes

Professor of Philosophy
University of British Columbia

Thursday, April 12, 2007

**Louis J. Appignani Foundation
Lecture on Science, Reason
& Secular Ethics**

Dr. Jodi Halpern

University of California, Berkeley

Friday, April 27, 2007

**Conference in Honor of
Ramon Lemos**

Noah Lemos

College of William & Mary

John Lemos

Coe College