Dear Friends of Philosophy,

It is a pleasure to greet you once again as we begin another academic year, and to report that the Department of Philosophy continues to flourish. This year we are joined by three new tenure-track assistant professors: Elijah Chudnoff (PhD Harvard 2008), Bradford Cokelet (PhD Northwestern 2008), and Nicholas Stang (PhD Princeton 2008). We also welcome Matthew Walker (PhD Yale 2008) as our first post-doc. You can read more about each of them elsewhere in this newsletter. These new appointments brings the size of our tenure-track faculty to fourteen, the largest it has ever been. We are excited by our growth, and grateful for the Central Administration’s strong support of our program.

Last spring Simon Evnine was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in recognition of his outstanding and important scholarship in epistemology, metaphysics and philosophy of mind as well as his excellent teaching, and Amie Thomasson was promoted to full professor on the basis of her important and outstanding work in metaphysics, phenomenology, philosophy of mind and high quality teaching. Our faculty has produced another impressive list of recent books, which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter. Our faculty members are contributing substantially to philosophical scholarship and to the education of our students. At the undergraduate level, we have successfully introduced new ‘tracks’ for our majors and minors who are also pre-med students. Students choosing these tracks will take sequences of philosophy courses, including a new course in ‘Evidence and Knowledge in Medicine,’ taught by Professor Otavio Bueno in collaboration with guest faculty members from the Medical School, along with existing courses in philosophy of science, biomedical ethics, and other relevant courses, designed to help them think about medicine in a philosophically informed way. In the coming year we will turn our attention to the creation of similar tracks for our pre-law students. We hope that these new tracks will both enhance the philosophy educations of existing majors and minors interested in pursuing careers in medicine or law, and attract some of the large numbers of UM pre-med and pre-law undergraduates to our subject.

This year’s Alumni Update appears with a special poignancy and sadness. Shortly after completing it, founding Friends of Philosophy member Dr. Jane Mary Trau succumbed after a prolonged illness. We will miss her, and mourn the loss of this exceptional friend of the department.

The department will, once again, host many colloquia, lectures, dialogues and speakers on a variety of topics this year, to which you are invited and always welcome. Details of several 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!

I hope to see you at one of our events soon!

Harvey Siegel
Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
University of Miami

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FALL EDITION

OCTOBER 2008
DEPARTMENT NEWS

UM Ethics Programs recognized by World Health Organization

The University of Miami Ethics Programs have been designated a Collaborating Center in Ethics and Global Health Policy by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva. UM’s center is only the third of its kind in the world to receive this designation and the first ever in the United States. The designation is recognition of the Ethics Programs’ nearly two decades of work in ethics education, research, and public policy in Latin America, the Caribbean, and other regions, according to Kenneth Goodman, codirector of the UM Ethics Programs and director of the University’s Bioethics Program at the Miller School of Medicine. “This recognition underscores and affirms UM’s commitment to ethically optimized international research and public policy,” he said. “It is also a mark of a great university’s dedication to collaborative research in a global context.” The UM Ethics Programs are directed by Anita Cava, an associate professor of business law, and Goodman, an associate professor of medicine at the Miller School with a secondary appointment in philosophy.

The collaborating center application process is arduous and requires several layers of review. In the case of the UM Ethics Programs, center status was first endorsed by leadership of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the regional branch of the World Health Organization. The UM Ethics Programs have worked with PAHO for many years on projects around the Americas. WHO Director-General Margaret Chan, from the People’s Republic of China, gave final approval of the designation.

Keith Lehrer was a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Science for the academic year 2007—2008.

Peter Lewis spent a year visiting the Centre for Time at the University of Sydney, and the Philosophy Department of Durham University working on issues in the foundations of quantum mechanics, especially how to understand probability in the many-worlds interpretation, which was funded in part by NSF Scholar’s Award.

Colin McGinn recently presented the Cooper Fellows Inaugural Cooper Lecture. He explored the role and status of the “common man” in post-war British literature and philosophy in his talk titled “The Rise of the Ordinary Bloke”. The College of Arts and Sciences’ Cooper Fellows Lecture Series features presentations by some of the most outstanding faculty in the college. Cooper Fellows are appointed by the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences after nomination by their departments.

Michael Slote co-directed an NEH summer seminar on Confucianism and Western Virtue Ethics at Wesleyan University in the Summer of 2008.

Amie Thomasson, while on sabbatical during the 2007-2008 academic year, spent time as a visiting fellow at the Centre for Time at the University of Sydney, at the Centre for Consciousness at the Australian National University, and at the University of Durham, England. In addition to talks at each of those places, she also presented her new work on modality and existence at conferences in Sydney, St. Andrews, Geneva, and Barcelona, and gave colloquium talks at the Universities of Leeds and Sussex.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

The department is happy to announce four new additions to our faculty, Elijah Chudnoff, Bradford Cokelet, Nicholas Stang, and Matthew Walker who joined us this fall.

Elijah Chudnoff recently earned his PhD from Harvard University, where he wrote a dissertation defending the rationalist view that our knowledge of abstract matters, such as mathematics and metaphysics, derives from intellectual intuition. He is interested in the rationalist, phenomenological, and gestalt traditions in philosophy and psychology. Elijah's current research focuses on the nature of our intellectual as opposed to our sensory experiences, and on the ways in which such intellectual experiences normatively bear on belief and action.
Bradford Cokelet is very happy to join the Department as an Assistant Professor. Brad switched between many majors at Washington University before finishing with a B.A. in mathematics and religious studies. After graduating, he worked as a social worker, wine and cheese seller, and book seller, but realized he was happiest when reading philosophy books, which combined the rigor of math with the intellectual stimulation of religious texts. Consequently, he moved to Milwaukee to earn his M.A. in philosophy (at the University of Wisconsin) and then to Chicago to earn his Ph.D. (from Northwestern). Brad's current research centers on the nature of and relations between virtue, rational agency, autonomy, and respect for persons, and he has side interests in Buddhism and Christian debates about sin and free will, which he picked up as an undergraduate. In the future he hopes to work on debates about the relation between law and morality and about the role that education should play in shaping the character of citizens.

Nick Stang (Ph.D., Princeton University). His research interests are in Metaphysics, Kant, and other figures in Early Modern Philosophy. His dissertation, Kant's Modal Metaphysics, focused on Kant's views on the epistemology and metaphysics of modality. He plans to continue to work on the epistemology and metaphysics of modality, as it is treated both in contemporary metaphysics and in Kant and other Early Moderns.

Matthew Walker (B.A. Amherst College; Ph.D. Yale) is the 2008-2009 Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Ethics of Virtue at the University of Miami. His areas of specialization include ancient philosophy (especially Aristotle) and ethical theory (particularly issues concerning virtue and well-being). His current work examines Aristotle’s account of the human good, and especially his views on the value of contemplation, against the background of Aristotle’s biological naturalism.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS

Mark Rowlands: The Philosopher and the Wolf - Grant (forthcoming).

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

New officers, a new adviser and an exuberance for all things philosophy can only mean that a new semester of the philosophy club is beginning. Riding high on the success of the spring semester, film nights will continue to be held throughout the fall in addition to discussions and lectures led by members of the faculty. A colloquium is also being planned due to the wonderful turn-out of last semester's inter-departmental seminar on the Ethics of Suicide. Furthermore, motivated by the suggestions of a number of students and Dr. Stang, bi-weekly student reading/discussion groups will be begin to be held quite soon. Cheers to a new semester of the philosophy club!

AWARDS

David Delgado was the recipient of the Ramon M. Lemos Excellence in Philosophy Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior in Philosophy. Navied Mahdavian was the recipient of the Phi Sigma Tau Award and Nima Sharifai received the Gerritt and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Philosophy. Kristin Borgwald was the recipient of the Gerritt and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Philosophy and Brian Mondy received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for the Department of Philosophy. Daniel Hampikian and faculty collaborator Professor Michael Slote are recipients of the 2008 Arshy Award for Research on Ethics and Community. Their project, “Developing A Confucian Model for Moral Improvement Within a Care Ethical System,” is one of eight awards made university wide under the Arshy Initiatives.
GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!

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

Micah Dugas received his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2007. He has a particular interest in epistemology, among other areas of philosophy, and has just published a paper in *Episteme*.

Wilson Man Wai Ho comes to us from the University of Hong Kong, where he completed his B.A. in Philosophy in 2008. He has many philosophical interests, but metaphysics has a special place in his heart.

Mirlene Leyva received her B.A. in Philosophy in 2007 from our own University of Miami. She is passionate and curious about all areas of philosophy, from philosophy of language to aesthetics.

Philipp Schwind arrives from Germany. In 2007, he received his M.A. from the University of St. Andrews in the UK. He has special interests in ethics and metaethics, and has recently presented a paper on moral particularism at the Miami Forum.

Jacob Wilkins received his B.A. in Philosophy and in History from Missouri Baptist College in 2008. Every area in philosophy interests him, but he is particularly intrigued by logic and its philosophy.

ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

Each year the Department of Philosophy is proud to host the University of Miami Graduate Student Conference in Epistemology. Since its inception in 2004, the conference has served as a dynamic and highly successful forum for the exchange of ideas in contemporary epistemology. The 2008 conference continued the tradition of excellence and featured a keynote address entitled "Improbable Knowing" by Dr. Timothy Williamson of Oxford. Dr. Williamson is the author of *Identity and Discrimination* (Blackwell 1990), *Vagueness* (Routledge 1994), *Knowledge and its Limits* (Oxford 2000), *The Philosophy of Philosophy* (Blackwell 2007) and over 120 articles. Along with Dr. Williamson's keynote address, the conference featured the presentation and discussion of papers selected from student submissions. We extend our thanks to all of the Philosophy Faculty Members and office staff, The College of Arts and Sciences and The Friends of Philosophy for all their support and assistance in helping to make the conference a success.

The 6th Annual University of Miami Graduate Student Conference in Epistemology is scheduled for January 2009, with Dr. Gilbert Harman, Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University as the keynote speaker. Dr. Harman is interested in theoretical and practical reasoning, learning theory, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, epistemology and ethics. His books include (with Sanjeev Kulkarni) *Reliable Reasoning; Thought; The Nature of Morality; Change in View; Reasoning, Meaning and Mind; Explaining Value*; and (with Judith Jarvis Thomson) *Moral Relativism and Moral Objectivity*. He is editor of *On Noam Chomsky* and of *Conceptions of the Human Mind*, and is co-editor with Donald Davidson of *Semantics of Natural Language* and of *The Logic of Grammar*.

2008 Ph.D. Graduates: Jeremy Morris

Recent Job Placements:

- Congratulations to:
  - Jeremy Morris
    - Ohio University
    - Visiting Assistant Professor
  - Matthew Schuh
    - Miami Dade College
    - Assistant Professor (Tenure)
  - Anthony Krieder
    - Miami Dade College
    - Associate Professor (Tenure)
RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Nicholas Wiltsher presented a paper entitled “Kornblith on Knowledge and Natural Kinds” at the Joint Session of The Aristotelian Society and The Mind Association at the University of Aberdeen, UK during the summer. He also presented a paper this month entitled “Kornblith on Knowledge and Intuition” at the Kazimierz Naturalised Epistemology Workshop, in Kazimierz, Poland.

Michael Hurlburt presented a paper entitled “Empathic Autonomism” at the Philosophy of Literature Conference at the University of Sussex, London June 2008. He also presented a paper entitled “Divorcing the Ethical Value of a Narrative Work from its Aesthetic Value” at the American Society for Aesthetics Rocky Mountain Division Annual Conference.

Brian Mondy presented a paper entitled “Sider and Distinguished Structure” at the University of Minnesota Graduate Philosophy Conference in February 2008.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Jane Mary Trau (nee: Sutnick) passed away on 27 August 2008 after a long illness. She wrote the following, with the assistance of Frank Harrison, for this Newsletter.

The University of Miami has been a dominant thread in my personal tapestry, for most of my life. Indeed, in many ways it has been “family.” For instance, growing up in Miami Beach, trips to the Lowe Art Museum were among the most popular family outings. There was, and is, always something magical about the campus which I felt the minute I stepped foot there.

The higher consciousness my three brothers and I experienced during those forays unto campus became a part of us. Indeed, between us, we have three bachelor’s degrees, two MBAs, one M.A., and a Ph.D. Indeed, I have a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. (1986) all from the Department of Philosophy at the U! We have been through three campus presidents, multiple deans, and several football coaches. But, for all the changes, the U remains what it always has been, and that is an oasis of intellectual life, artistic performance, and medical aid for the community.

The U has always been a strong and engaged presence in major local businesses, arts, medicine, and general culture. This posture of community involvement has had a large influence on the way I do philosophy. What I have learned in the Department of Philosophy is always to be applied to improve the life of the individual and the community. If this is not done then we, as so-called “philosophers” are really only game-players. We, who are educated at the U, serve, and should serve, a very large presence in the community as a powerful resource. And by ‘community’ I do not mean only the greater Miami area, although I certainly do mean that. It would be natural for the community to turn to us when such difficult issues as stem cell research, abortion, same sex marriages, just war, and the like arise. It is equally the case that we should be able to offer guidance. Certainly it is not for us to tell anyone what is morally permissible, but rather to engage them in the intellectual process necessary to come to reasonable views in such matters. For instance, several years ago, the Friends of Philosophy hosted a public discussion of ‘just war theory.’ After a lively discussion we were able to ask if the current involvement in the mid-East fit any description of a ‘just war’.

I first entered the professional field of Philosophy, and higher education teaching and research, through a faculty position at Barry University where I happily served for six years. I was then, as I have always been, firmly committed to the ideal of applying philosophy both to the life of the individual and the community in helpful, but never dictatorial, ways. If we cannot help in making the individual and the community better, then what real worth do we have? If we cannot help the individual and the community, then why ought they to help us? I cannot stress such questions too much.
While at Barry, I completed a Master’s Degree in Catholic Moral theology (1990). I was, and remain, committed to applied philosophy. I affirm the firmest foundations possible, in metaphysics and epistemology with strong interests in ethics, both theoretical and applied, and both theology and philosophy of religion. I have published chapters in anthologies, book reviews, academic papers, and my book, *The Co-Existence of God and Evil* (Peter Lang, 1991). Further, I have also been active in presenting papers at various academic gatherings such as the prestigious Society for Philosophy of Religion. In my more formal academic life I have served as a member of the executive committee of the Society of Christian Philosophers, president of the Florida chapter of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, and president of the Society for Philosophy of Religion. I am also a member of Delta Epsilon Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society. Yet, through each of these academic paths, a major goal of mine was to help both the individual and the community through philosophy. 

After several papers of mine were published in the field of medical ethics, and a few spots on local radio and TV, I was considered a medical ethicist. It was at this point in my career that I was recruited by a major health care system.

Given my vital interests in the interface between academic philosophy and the betterment of both the individual and the community, I accepted the position of Vice-President for Ethics, St. Joseph’s Health System of Atlanta. I worked closely not only with individual physicians in cases involving difficult ethical decisions, but with nurses and lawyers as well. I served on the ethics board of the hospital where cases involving difficult ethical decisions were reviewed before action was taken in the hospital. I was able to do some graduate teaching for the chaplaincy program. I also met with families, at their loved one’s bedside, as they tried to grapple — for the first time — with the questions I was asking them. It was a wonderful opportunity to do applied philosophy in the world outside the Academy. For this, I shall always be grateful.

After serving for two years in the St. Joseph Health System, I moved to the much larger Allegany Health System. There I served as Vice President of Values Integration and Leadership Development. My duties and responsibilities were similar to those in the St. Joseph Health System. However, my field of influence was much wider.

Due to a long illness leading to the death of my first husband, and then remarriage, I retired from successful careers in both professional philosophy and the corporate world. Now, I do some part time teaching and lecturing. I do some writing and some guest lectures. But best of all, I am having fun with philosophy and its wonderful influence in helping the individual and the community to gain a clearer perspective on many important issues.

In retirement I have become very active in the U family serving in various ways at the level of the President, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Philosophy. For instance, I have served as co-chair of the Executive Committee of the President’s Council, am a founding member of Friends of Philosophy, a Grand Founder at the U, and a member of Iron Arrow Honor Society (the highest honor attained at the University of Miami). I have also been very active in the health system of the U and in particular cancer research. Thus, I have felt, first hand, the growth in our U family throughout the changes in leadership. The alacrity and agility with which we have made the transitions on the administrative levels are clearly in place. We have the most exciting roster of new faculty across campus and in our new health system. I have also reached out to a wider community. For example, I have served on the Executive Committee of the Greater Miami Jewish Foundation of Jewish Philanthropies and am a patron of the Metropolitan Opera of New York.

The U will continue to teach us, train us, and inspire us as we seek personal levels of excellence. The Department of Philosophy ought to be a key stone in this outreach activity. All too often those in academics become insular and, thus, ineffective and useless in the larger world. I hope that our department rises above this very strong temptation.

The lush beauty of our campus provides the ideal environment for us to learn, and return. We learn as students, and return as alumni, for our own purposes, or to seek opportunities. We return as patients, receiving top care right in our own ‘backyard.’ We also return to learn how to live a better life, and not merely a more materially comfortable life.

An academy in paradise ------ sounds like a good idea to me!
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Dedicated to supporting the philosophy program at the University of Miami

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FALL 2008
Colloquium Series

Douglas Patterson
Kansas State University
October 23, 2008

Sandra Lapointe
Kansas State University
October 24, 2008

John Elster
Columbia University
November 21, 2008
(date tentative)

SPRING 2009
Colloquium Series

Nick Zangwill
Durham University
February 5 & 6, 2009

Lenard Carrier
University of Miami
February 27, 2009

Howard Pospesel
University of Miami
February 27, 2009

Mark Johnston
Princeton University
March 12 & 13, 2009

Ernest Sosa
Rutgers University
March 26 & 27, 2009

Richard Kraut
Northwestern University
April 2 & 3, 2009

Friends of Philosophy Dialogue

Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Dr. Bradford Cokelet
University of Miami
"Why Not Be Judgmental?"

Spring 2009
Dr. Matthew Walker
University of Miami
"Happiness"

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

Thursday, November 20, 2008
(date tentative)
“The Ethics of Capitalism”
John Elster
Columbia University

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
“Does Morality Depend Upon God?”
William Wainwright
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Michael Slote
University of Miami

SPRING 2009
“The Ethics of War”
Jeff McMahan    Frances Kamm
Rutgers University         Harvard University

Sunday, December 7, 2008
5th Annual Parodi Lecture
In Philosophy of Art
“Artistic Transgressions”
Dr. Matthew Kieran
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy
University of Leeds
The Department of Philosophy and the Miami Art Museum are proud to present
The 5th Annual
Parodi Lecture in Philosophy of Art

Dr. Matthew Kieran
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Leeds

Matthew Kieran is Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Leeds University. He is vice-president of the British Society of Aesthetics, is currently running the twelve-month ‘Knowing Art’ series of workshops at Tate Britain, and gave the invited public lecture at the National Icelandic Visual Arts Awards, 2007. He is the author of Revealing Art (London: Routledge, 2005) and Media Ethics: A Philosophical Approach (Westport, Conn: Praeger, 1997/99). He is also editor of Contemporary Debates in Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), and co-editor (with Dominic McIver Lopes) of Knowing Art: Essays in Aesthetics and Epistemology, (Dordrecht: Springer, 2006) and of Imagination, Philosophy and the Arts, (London: Routledge, 2003).

“Artistic Transgressions”
Sunday, December 7, 2008

Shonibare’s work is often stylistically and socio-politically transgressive, as can be seen from his reworking of Fragonard’s La Balancoire and Hogarth’s A Rake’s Progress to his 19th century attired figures dressed in African-styled wax-printed cloth. In the contemporary art world transgression is a feature that is often highly prized. Yet the pursuit of transgression has lately come under heavy criticism from the likes of Anthony Julius (as banal) and Susan Sontag (as empty and frivolous). What is it that makes for good transgressive art? The philosophical examination of this question in relation to both contemporary and historical artists will shed light on what it is for a work to be good as transgressive art and why we attribute value to art works in the ways we do.

Miami Art Museum* (101 W. Flagler St.)
Seating begins at 10:30AM; Lecture begins at 11:00AM.
Refreshments will follow.

For more information visit us on the web:
HTTP://WWW.MIAMI.EDU/PHI

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

* Directions to the Miami Art Museum - From the north: Take I–95 south to exit 2C (Downtown, Miami Ave, Biscayne Blvd and Brickell Ave) and make a left on SE 1st Ave. Take SE 1st Ave to Flagler St and make a left and proceed straight until you arrive to Miami Art Museum on the right. From the south: take I-95 north to exit 2A (Biscayne Blvd and Downtown) and make a left on SE 1st Ave. Take SE 1st Ave to Flagler St and make a left and proceed straight until you arrive to Miami Art Museum on the right.
Why Not Be Judgmental?

We usually disapprove of people who are overly judgmental, and we often wish our family and friends were less judgmental than they are. But what exactly does being judgmental involve? Why might it be bad to be judgmental? And what should we make of the Christian injunction, “Judge not, lest you be judged”? To provoke debate about these questions I will sketch a philosophic account of being judgmental and then identify some self-interested, ethical, and religious grounds for criticizing or, instead, commending being judgmental.

Dr. Bradford Cokelet
University of Miami

Dr. Bradford Cokelet is very happy to join the Department as an Assistant Professor. He received his B.A. in mathematics and religious studies from Washington University, his M.A. in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin, and his Ph.D. from Northwestern. Brad's current research centers on the nature of and relations between virtue, rational agency, autonomy, and respect for persons, and he has side interests in Buddhism and Christian debates about sin and free will, which he picked up as an undergraduate. In the future he hopes to work on debates about the relation between law and morality and about the role that education should play in shaping the character of citizens.