Dear Alumni and Friends of Philosophy,

It is, once again, a sincere pleasure to greet you, and share some news from the Department of Philosophy.

This has been another terrific year. The big news is that two fantastic colleagues have joined the department: Professor Magdalena Balcerak Jackson and Professor Brendan Balcerak Jackson. Magdalena’s work focuses on philosophy of mind and epistemology, with particular attention to imagination and reasoning. But her philosophical interests are broad and span all key areas of philosophy, including philosophy of language, philosophy of science, and aesthetics (among other areas). She has already developed a number of new courses for the department, including a course on food ethics that promises to be a big hit. Brendan’s work focuses on philosophy of language, epistemology and metaphysics. His research interests are also very broad, and include philosophy of mind, the history of analytic philosophy, and logic. A significant fact about Brendan’s work is that it is informed by theoretical linguistics, in particular generative syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. This provides him with a distinctive way of addressing philosophical issues. Please join me in welcoming both of them to the department.

Our colleagues continue to be extremely productive. Professor Brit Brogaard published two books: On Romantic Love (Oxford University Press, 2015) and The Superhuman Mind (Hudson Street Press, 2015). Both attracted significant attention well beyond the usual philosophical circles. Professor Eli Chudnoff’s latest book, Cognitive Phenomenology (Routledge, 2015), has also been published. It’s the first book-length treatment of this important field. Professor Mark Rowlands’ A Good Life: Morality from Birth to Death, which was published by Granta Books (in 2015), solidifies even further his work in ethics. In Ethics, Medicine, and Information Technology (Cambridge University Press, 2015), Professor Kenneth Goodman provides a novel approach to the understanding of how machines are transforming health care. Congratulations to all of them for their great work! Additional forthcoming publications by our faculty can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our graduate students are also doing very well, and have been quite busy. This year, three of them successfully defended their dissertations. Congratulations to Dr. Micah Dugas, Dr. David Hodge, and Dr. Ben Yelle for their achievement and their future careers ahead!

Our undergraduate students are making us very proud. A special note goes to Jaewon Kim: he is an amazing student who graduated in the spring of 2015, and was accepted by a number of terrific graduate programs in philosophy, including University of Michigan, University of Texas Austin, Johns Hopkins University, and University of British Columbia, among others. He has a great career ahead (and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Michigan). Keep up the great work, Jaewon!

As always, the department will host Friends of Philosophy Dialogues and lectures. Professor Magdalena Balcerak Jackson will lead a Dialogue on “Imagining Fictional Worlds” on February 24th, 2016. Details on this and several other upcoming events can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. 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) 284-9218, or by email at otaviobueno@me.com; 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!

Otávio Bueno
Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy
Brendan Balcerak Jackson (Ph.D., Cornell University), Assistant Professor. His main areas of research are the philosophy of language, epistemology and metaphysics, and he also has interests in the philosophy of mind, the history of analytic philosophy, and logic. He has published papers on semantic theory, the analytic/synthetic distinction, conceptual analysis, the epistemology of reasoning, ontological commitment and meta-metaphysics. He has a strong background in theoretical linguistics, and much of his work is informed by research in generative syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

Magdalena Balcerak Jackson (Ph.D., University of Cologne/Germany) is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Miami. She joined the Department of Philosophy in Fall 2015. Previously, she has studied and worked in Australia, Germany and the US. Her main areas of research are philosophy of mind, epistemology and meta-philosophy, but she is also interested in philosophy of language, philosophy of science, aesthetics and phenomenology. Currently, her work focuses on the nature and epistemology of two cognitive capacities of the human mind: imagination and reasoning. As part of these projects, she is writing a book on the imagination and co-editing a collection of essays on reasoning.

Javier Cumpa (Ph.D., Complutense University), Post-Doctoral Associate, University of Miami. He works primarily in metaphysics. He has also research interests in philosophy of science and philosophy of mind. His current research centers on the relationship between metaphysics and the scientific image. He has published papers on categories, properties, instantiation, and emergence in journals such as Philosophical Studies, the American Philosophical Quarterly, and Metascience. He has served as guest editor of special issues of The Monist and Grazer Philosophische Studien, and he is currently editing a collection of papers on the nature of ordinary objects for Cambridge University Press (under contract). He has recently been appointed the North American Editor of Metaphysica: International Journal for Ontology and Metaphysics.

Michael Slote was made an honorary professor in the Faculty of Philosophy at Hubei University in Wuhan, China. He is working with our visiting scholars on various projects: Jiang Niling, a graduate student at Fudan University in Shanghai, is working with him on issues in ethics and moral psychology. She is interested in the particularism as well as in moral dilemmas. Niu Jifeng, a graduate student at Beijing Normal University, is working with him on moral education and moral psychology. Li Haichao, a graduate student in Beijing, is working with him on care ethics and the nature of human emotions. Li Jialiang, a professor at Hubei University in Wuhan, China, will be working with him on moral sentimentalism.


Harvey Siegel (co-author), *Teaching Evolution in a Creation Nation*, University of Chicago Press, 2016.

**Upcoming Conferences**

**Inclusiveness Conference: Gender in the Academy**

On April 7-8, 2016, the Philosophy Department, in collaboration with the SEEDS program and the College of Arts and Sciences, is proud to host the first annual inclusiveness conference "Gender in the Academy". The conference will bring in three major speakers to address recent research on issues that affect the presence and success of women in academic contexts. Topics to be discussed may include: implicit bias, stereotype threat, structural inequalities, micro-messages, and the effects of a sexualized workplace. The conference is free and open to the entire university community. It will include three lectures with discussion, as well as opportunities for interactive work together, as we all strategize ways to grow as a department and university that helps foster success for everyone. The speakers will be Dr. Jennifer Saul from the Department of Philosophy at Sheffield University, Dr. Shannon Dea from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Waterloo, and Dr. Mary Anne Franks from the University of Miami Law School.

**Fundamental Truthmakers: A Metaphysics Festival**

April 22-23, 2016, the Philosophy Department will be hosting the conference “Fundamental Truthmakers: A Metaphysics Festival”. Among the themes discussed will be the motivations for a truthmaker theory, the nature of truth-bearers and the truthmaking relation, the essence of truth and its kinds, the connection between truth and fundamentality, the categories of truthmakers, and the relations between manifest and scientific truthmakers. Speakers will include Otávio Bueno (University of Miami), Ross Cameron (University of Virginia), Javier Cumpa (University of Miami), John Heil (Washington University in St Louis), Thomas Hofweber (UNC-Chapel Hill), Kris McDaniel (Syracuse University), Erwin Tegtmeier (University of Mannheim), and Amie Thomasson (University of Miami).

**Society for Exact Philosophy**

The 44th annual meeting of the Society for Exact Philosophy will be held at the University of Miami on May 6-8, 2016. The SEP is dedicated to providing sustained discussion among researchers who believe that rigorous methods have a place in philosophical investigations. The SEP meeting will bring scores of philosophers to the Coral Gables campus, and will feature keynote presentations by Dr. Jennan Ismael (University of Arizona), Dr. Friederike Moltmann (CNRS/New York University), and Dr. Gila Sher (University of California, San Diego).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
**HTTP://WWW.MIAMI.EDU/PHI**
The University of Miami has officially designated its 24-year-old “Bioethics Program” as the Miller School of Medicine’s Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy. A longtime partner of and collaborator with the Department of Philosophy, the new Institute will continue to support the Department’s annual Summer Ethics Internships, help with dissertation advising and otherwise contribute to departmental activities. The Philosophy-Bioethics relationship is one of the University’s oldest sustained inter-campus collaborations. Most recently, the Institute is working with the Department on a special project, “Brazilian-American Initiatives in Neuroscience & the Humanities” (BrAINS) in conjunction with the Pontifical Catholic University (PUCRS) at Porto Alegre, Brazil. The Institute is a World Health Organization Collaborating Center in Ethics and Global Health Policy, one of seven in the world.

The Bioethics Program joins with the Philosophy Department, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Provost to support a program of summer ethics internships for philosophy graduate students who receive stipends for work on research projects. Here are some examples:

Lance Aschliman and Jordan Schummer—“A Contextualist Semantics for Aesthetic Expressions”. In this paper, Aschliman and Schummer argue that contextualism is the most proper semantic treatment for aesthetic predicates like "beautiful," "delicate," "insipid," etc. To do this, they put forward some moderately antirealist commitments and show how contextualism handles the overall theoretical desiderata better than the relativist rival. A major hurdle for contextualism arises through problems of disagreement, but they argue that the relevant sorts of cases pose no problem for their view or for contextualism in general.

David DiDomenico—“Moral Perception, Intuitionism, and A Priori Knowledge”. Perhaps moral perception isn't really a kind of perception. In this paper, DiDomenico offers a taxonomy of the various alternative ways of categorizing what many philosophers call 'moral perception'. Moreover, he uses this taxonomy to assess the prospects for defending an independent a posteriori intuitionism grounded in moral perception.

Theodore Locke—“Counterpossibles for Modal Normativists”. In this paper, Locke develops a view of counterpossibles for an account of modality developed by Amie Thomasson, called modal normativism. Locke discusses reasons to treat counterpossible scenarios and conditionals non-trivially. Given the prima facie importance of counterpossibles, any theory of modality should offer an account of them. He develops an account of counterpossibles for modal normativism and shows how the account can explain comparative impossibilities.

Azenet Lopez—“The Universe Is Not A Fundamental Object”. This paper presents two objections to priority monism, the claim that there is exactly one fundamental (concrete) object, namely the cosmos. She argues that this ambiguity casts doubt on the priority monist's claim, since one upshot of it is that the cosmos is not an object.

Haley Mathis—“Care Ethics and Just Enough Paternalism”. This paper defends Care Ethics against a common objection that the theory is unable to account for the importance of respect for autonomy, and that it counts too many paternalistic cases as right action. Mathis argues that Care Ethics is able to justify the importance of respect and, in fact, it has some advantages over a Kantian recognition of respect in ways that have not been so far acknowledged. By looking closely at what it means to care for another person, it becomes clear that Care Ethics counts just enough paternalistic cases as right action.

Felipe G.A. Moreira—“Images of Philosophy”. What are philosophical disputes? How ought they to be approached? This paper argues that philosophical disputes are disputes that instantiate disagreement, normative dependency and lack of consensus, and that they ought to be approached by means of contingent normative assumptions that an agent could reject without being irrational.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
HTTP://WWW.MIAMI.EDU/ETHICS
Heleana Theixos — “Ticking Time-Bomb Torture Cases and Moral Injury”. Theixos offers a critique of the “Ticking Time Bomb” paradigm, and notices the differences and parallels in ethical consideration between justifications for torture in war (Necessity Defense, for the State), and justifications for causing harm in self-defense (Necessity Defense, civil). Her argument is that within the scope of war, Ticking Time Bomb torture justifications violate conditions of ethics insofar as they do not account for the concept of moral injury to the torturer.

Rina Tzinman—“Is Romeo Dead? An Argument for Survivalism” In the paper, Tzinman argues that animals can persist through death as corpses, by drawing on various conceptions of naturalness and biological laws.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!

The Department of Philosophy is delighted to announce the arrival of a fantastic 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!

Dogan Kazakli finished his M.A. in Philosophy in Bogazici University, Istanbul. His main areas of interest is the intersection of metaphysics and philosophy of language.

Casey Landers received her Masters from Georgia State University and is broadly interested in empirically informed philosophy of mind. Her thesis argued that synesthesia presents a problem for strong representationalism, a view that attempts to reduce consciousness to intentionality. She wants to continue working on synesthesia, on theories of perceptual experience and the imagination, its contents, and its limits.

Shea Musgrave received his M.A. in philosophy from Arizona State University in 2014 after defending a thesis on the methodological role of intuition in metaphysics. His current interests lie primarily in metaphysics, with secondary interests in epistemology, philosophy of language, and metaphilosophy.

John Odito graduated from Harvard Law School with a JD degree. His main interests in philosophy are in philosophy of mind and metaphysics.

At the other end of the program, it has been a bumper year for new Ph.D.s and job placements. See the sidebar on the next page for the impressive details. Well done all, and best wishes in your new jobs!

NOTEWORTHY

Bartek Chomanski was selected as Teaching Mentor.

Daniel Corrigan and Rina Tzinman each received the Gerrit and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Philosophy.

Rami El Ali received this year’s Ruggiero Prize for the best dissertation in the humanities at the University of Miami.

Ludovica Gardani received this year’s Gerrit and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Philosophy.

Nihel Jhou was the recipient of a University of Miami Center for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship, as well as a Taiwan Government Scholarship to Study Abroad.

Jaewon Kim received this year’s Ramon M. Lemos Excellence in Philosophy Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior in Philosophy.

Theodore Locke and Rina Tzinman were elected as this year’s graduate student representatives.

Haley Mathis presented her paper “Gender Equality and Biomedical Enhancement” at the Florida Philosophical Association Meeting in November of 2014.

Vicente Medina, who obtained his Ph.D. in philosophy at UM in 1988, and now teaches at Seton Hall University, published his book Terrorism Unjustified: The Use and Misuse of Political Violence (Rowman and Littlefield, 2015).

Congratulations to all of them!
RECENT PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

Bartek Chomanski gave a talk titled “Are We Conscious of Our Thoughts' Location?” at the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology annual conference in Tartu, Estonia July 2015.

Daniel Corrigan presented a paper titled "What's So Good About Adjudicating Environmental Disputes in Human Rights Courts?: Five Mutually Supporting Benefits” at the 12th Annual Manchester Centre for Political Theory (MANCEPT) Workshop, University of Manchester, in September 2015. This conference is one of the leading international forums dedicated to work in political theory, and included more than 250 delegates from over twenty-five different countries.

Nihel Jhou will be presenting his papers “Feeling Presentness” at the Taiwan Philosophical Association Annual Conference in November 2015 and “What Is It Like to Feel the Present” at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting in March, 2016.

Theodore Locke presented his paper “Grounding and Impossibilities” at the conference “Modal Metaphysics: Issues on the (Im)Possible” in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Rina Tzinman presented her paper “Organisms, Naturalness and Disjunctive Persistence Conditions” at the Central European University (CEU) Summer conference on “Ontology and Metaontology”.

GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING MENTORING PROGRAM

The teaching mentorship program is intended to provide the necessary preparation and support for the graduate students getting ready to teach their first philosophy class at UM. Regular meetings were conducted between the teaching mentor and the first-year graduate students to discuss ways to prepare for a successful first semester of teaching. Topics examined included: how to construct a syllabus, how to make use of available teaching resources, how to select appropriate methods for evaluating students, deliver interesting and effective lectures, skillfully conduct classroom discussions, handle student questions and comments, as well as the details of instructor evaluations. Finally, practice sessions were conducted, approximating as much as possible to a real classroom environment, in which the first-year graduate students delivered short presentations of the material they would be likely to teach the following semester, and dealt with questions and comments concerning the material presented. As their first semester of teaching is underway, the mentorship program provides the ongoing support and advice for the mentees, to ensure they continue their development as effective teachers.

11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SYNESTHESIA ASSOCIATION

The Department of Philosophy hosted the 11th Annual National Meeting of the American Synesthesia Association Inc. (ASA) from Friday, October 2 to Sunday, October 4, 2015. The conference was organized and made possible by Berit Brogaard, a professor in the Department of Philosophy, and the Board Members of the ASA: Sean Day, Edward M. Hubbard, Lawrence E. Marks, Daphne Maurer, and Carol Steen. The University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences was also one of the sponsors for the event. The conference attracted numerous synesthetes and scholars of synesthesia from around the world. The keynote speaker for the conference was Anina Rich, who is Co-Director of the Perception in Action Research Centre in the Department of Cognitive Science at Macquarie University, Australia. She gave a talk titled “Integrating Information and the Human Brain: Insights from Synesthesia”.

FOR A HARD COPY OF OUR NEWSLETTER EMAIL: PHILOSOPHY@MIAMI.EDU
Being a proud alumnus of the University of Miami’s graduate program in philosophy, it is with both great honor and a sense of humility that I write for this year’s alumni newsletter. I entered the graduate program in philosophy in 1985, after having earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy at the University of the South (Sewanee). Being the very first member of my family to have been accepted into a graduate program, the prospect of pursuing graduate work in philosophy was, in my mind, a momentous opportunity that I was determined to exploit for all that it had to offer. As I reflect on my time at the University of Miami, I can confidently and sincerely state that I truly enjoyed my graduate education in philosophy. I received a very warm welcome into the department and immediately formed meaningful friendships with some of my professors. Indeed, I am convinced that I was trained by some of the best philosophers, who were both excellent teachers and productive scholars. They were not only excellent professors, fully committed to the enterprise of philosophy, but they were also kind and generous human beings whose outstanding example continues to shape my approach to teaching and my solid commitment to rigor in philosophy.

Since earning my doctorate in philosophy, my professional life has been dedicated to both teaching and research. And, like my graduate professors, I continuously caution my students about the strenuous demands of philosophy. This caution often takes the form of reminding students that success in philosophy requires critical analysis, active and engaged reading, clear and logical writing, and imaginative and sound thinking. Besides attempting to instill these philosophical virtues in students, I have consistently viewed my role as a teacher as being grounded in an ethics of responsibility. That is, my role as a teacher is not limited to preparing clear and logically structured lectures, to being available for answering questions, and to providing guidance about life after college. I also consider that being an approachable and welcoming person is an integral aspect of being a good teacher.

Since finishing my doctorate at UM, my research has continued to critically engage the concerns about language and logic that so preoccupied Frege, Wittgenstein, Russell, Quine, and other analytic philosophers. But I have also developed a strong scholarly interest in American pragmatism, a tradition whose contributions to philosophy have often been underestimated. This combined interest in the core issues of these two philosophical traditions is reinforced by the conviction that the practice of philosophy requires a robust understanding of its history.

While actively pursuing the joys of teaching, research, and writing, I have increasingly appreciated Wilfrid Sellars’s conviction that “The aim of philosophy, abstractly formulated, is to understand how things in the broadest possible sense of the term hang together in the broadest possible sense of the term.” My appreciation of this synoptic approach to philosophy, as well as my status as one of a small number of Black philosophers, have led me to move beyond the mainstream philosophical paradigm and to become actively involved with the tradition of Africana philosophy. In addition to pursuing scholarly work in this tradition, I have also had the honor of being one of the founding members of the Caribbean Philosophical Association and of serving as its first Vice President and Treasurer. The existence of this organization helps to underscore the lively interest in philosophy that extends beyond the geographical boundaries of North America and Europe, and I am proud to help support the mission of this organization.

In spite of how enjoyable and successful my philosophical career has been, I must admit that my tenure as a Black philosopher has also had its share of challenges. Though several writers have addressed issues dealing with philosophy and race, I highly recommend George Yancy’s series of interviews in The New York Times for those interested in learning more about this topic.

Although I feel as though I have accomplished a great deal as a philosopher, I look forward to what the future has to bring. And, as I continue to pursue the life of a teacher and scholar, I will always look back on the example that was set by my graduate philosophy professors at the University of Miami who embodied the love of philosophy and who, even in the context of the most lively philosophical debates, always conducted themselves as true gentlemen and made the department into a genuine community of scholars.

Clevis R. Headley
Department of Philosophy, Florida Atlantic University
HARVEY SIEGEL
Professor of Philosophy

"Should We Cram Evolution Down the Throats of Fundamentalist Students?"

Abstract: The Evolution/Creationism Intelligent Design controversy has bedeviled public school science education in the United States for nearly two centuries. On the scientific merits, the question should have been resolved long ago. The fact that it hasn’t been suggests that more is at stake than the scientific merits of the opposing views. In this talk I briefly review the history, argue that the controversy is best seen not just in scientific but rather also in broadly cultural terms, and that the educational issue is best resolved by focusing on belief. What exactly should science teachers expect their fundamentalist students to believe?
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2015-2016 Colloquia

Bennett L. Schwartz
Florida International University
September 11, 2015

Julian Cole
SUNY Buffalo State
October 23, 2015

Sean Hermanson
Florida International University
November 19, 2015

Jon Garthoff
University of Tennessee
December 4, 2015

Julia Langkau
University of Konstanz
December 9, 2015

Julia Driver
Washington University, St. Louis
January 15, 2016

Ned Markosian
University of Massachusetts
January 29, 2016

David Plunkett
Dartmouth College
February 12, 2016

Nick Stang
University of Toronto
February 18, 2016

Karen Bennett
Cornell University
February 19, 2016

Markus Gabriel
University of Bonn
February 25, 2016

Elisabeth Camp
Rutgers University
February 26, 2016

Robert Kentridge
Durham University
March 21, 2016

Zehra Peynirioglu
Florida International University
March 25, 2016

Anna-Sarah Malmgren
Stanford University
April 15, 2016

CONFERENCES
Inclusiveness Conference
April 7-8, 2016
Location, TBA

Fundamental Truthmakers:
A Metaphysics Festival
April 22-23, 2016
Location, TBA

Society for Exact Philosophy
May 6-8, 2016
Location, TBA