

## IN THIS ISSUE

- In Memoriam:  
Professor John Arthur
- Professor Goodman on  
India

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## From the Chair

### FROM THE CHAIR

The Department's 2006-2007 academic year was a complex and mixed one.

Professor John Arthur, who has been with the Department as faculty and has directed PPL since 1988, died in January 2007. John attempted to teach in Fall 2006 but became unable to do so early in the semester and his teaching and administrative duties were picked up by various members of the Department who stepped in to help. We recognize John in this *Newsletter*.

We have a retirement that begins at the end of this academic year. Professor Donald Weiss, who has been with the Department since 1969, is retiring. We are lucky though since Don will continue to serve the Department in his capacity as a Bartle Professor and teach one course in the fall of each of the following three years.

We were permitted to add two new faculty who will begin as ladder faculty (on tenure track lines) in Fall 2007. Randy Friedman specializes in Phenomenology, Modern Jewish Thought, and American Pragmatism. Randy received his Ph.D. from Brown University in 2005 and has been with the Department as a Visiting Assistant Professor since Fall 2005. Anna Gotlib specializes in Medical Ethics, Ethics, and Philosophy of Law. Anna will receive her Ph.D. from Michigan State University in May 2007. Our new faculty strengthens and gives depth to our teaching and research programs as well as add new dimensions to the Department.

We have an interesting curricular innovation – the Pell Honors Program in Philosophy and Philosophy, Politics, and Law. The program involves the recruitment of up to 12 of the best students for an honors seminar that will be conducted in the Fall of each year and be dedicated to honor level research and writing. The recruitment for Fall 2007 took place in Spring 2007.

For more information about the Department please look at our website at <http://philosophy.binghamton.edu>. For information about Philosophy, Politics and Law (PPL) please look at <http://ppl.binghamton.edu> or follow the link from the Philosophy website.

The newsletter has a dedicated space for news from Philosophy and PPL alums. We are all looking forward to hearing from you so please send us your news.

Bat-Ami Bar On



## JOHN ARTHUR 1946-2007



Professor John Arthur, a native of Denver Colorado, came to Binghamton University in 1988 where he served as a member of the Philosophy Department and as the Director of the Undergraduate Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Law (PPL). He received his B.A. from Cornell University in 1968. He received two M.A.s from Vanderbilt University. In 1971 he received an M.A. in Philosophy and in 1978 an M.A. in Sociology. In 1973 he received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Vanderbilt. Between 1973 and 1980 he taught at the University of Tennessee at Nashville and between 1981 and 1988 he chaired the Philosophy Department and taught at Tennessee State University. Professor Arthur was the recipient of several fellowships, all recognizing his scholarship. Between 1986 and 1988 he was a Law and Philosophy Fellow at Harvard Law School. In Spring 1993 he was a Research Fellow at the University of St. Andrews Center for Philosophy and Public Affairs. In 2002-2003 he was a Visiting Fellow at Oxford's Center for Ethics and Philosophy of Law as well as Balliol College. Professor Arthur's scholarship was also recognized through his acceptance as a participant in several Institutes and Seminars. He participated in three NEH Summer Seminars and one NEH Summer Institute (1977, 1985, 1986, and 1993). He also participated as a Mellon Foundation Fellow in a 1981 seminar and as an Olin Foundation Fellow in a 1989 seminar. In addition to being recognized as a scholar, Professor Arthur was recognized for his teaching and commitment to students. In 1993 he received the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Binghamton University Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 1997 he was named Outstanding Faculty Advisor by the National Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law Society, and in 2002 he was received the Binghamton University Service for Students with Disabilities Certificate of Appreciation. Professor Arthur published two single authored books: *Words That Bind: Judicial Review and the Grounds of Modern Constitutional Theory* (Westview, 1995) and *The Unfinished Constitution: Philosophy and Constitutional Practice* (Wadsworth, 1989). His third single authored book, *Race, Equality, and the Burdens of History*, is published posthumously and has been slated by Cambridge University Press for publication in September 2007. Professor Arthur is also the editor or co-editor of seven volumes of which the most famous are *Morality and Moral Controversies: Readings in Moral, Social and Political Philosophy* and *Readings in the Philosophy of Law* (with William H. Shaw), both published by Prentice Hall. Professor Arthur also published numerous articles and presented his work at numerous conferences.

Professor Arthur is survived by his wife, Amy Shapiro. A memorial fund has been established in his name. Donations may be made to the John Arthur Memorial Fund, Account 1047850, Binghamton University Foundation.



## Charles Goodman, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Asian and Asian-American Studies Visited India During the 2007 Spring Semester. This is his report.



India is a country of great beauty and stark intensity. I recently spent three months in the central and northern areas of that country, supported by funds from the American Philosophical Society and the Harpur College Dean's Office. I came away with a deepened appreciation for the rich philosophical, artistic and cultural heritage of this vast region.

During the first month of my voyage, I traveled to many important temples and archaeological sites in various parts of India. Perhaps the most impressive sites I saw were the rock-cut temples of Ellora. Visitors to Ellora find that Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain temples from overlapping periods exist right next to each other, testimony to an age of religious harmony and peace, in which debates between scholars of different traditions led to a flowering of logic and epistemology. The temples, once misidentified as caves, were carved from the rock entirely by human hands; the magnificent sculptures and reliefs on the walls were created by cutting away the rock around them.

Most of these rock-cut temples are not presently used for religious purposes. At sites such as Ranthambhore Fort,

however, I was able to observe the religious practices of India's people today. Hinduism is now, as it has been for millennia, highly diverse, colorful, constantly changing, and able to inspire deep devotion among its followers. At the summit of a tall hill are over a dozen ancient temples, including a famous temple of Ganesha, the elephant god, and a Jain shrine.

Around the temple of Hanuman, the monkey god, is a crowd of dozens of local monkeys. I can testify that having a monkey take a peanut from your hand is as convincing an argument for Darwinism as the most unanswerable scientific reasoning.

The second and third months of my trip were spent at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, India. The Central Institute is a university established by the Indian government for young people from the Tibetan-speaking mountain regions of the north, as well as for the Tibetan diaspora. It's a wonderful place to study Buddhism; the faculty includes leading scholars from all the branches of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition.



While there, I made substantial progress on several research projects, including an article on Buddhist logic, a book manuscript on Buddhist ethics, and a translation of a long chapter of an important Sanskrit text. My communication skills in colloquial Tibetan improved greatly. I also gave three talks to the Institute students and faculty, all of which were quite well received. In these talks, I tried to show how the Tibetan Buddhist tradition can draw on scientific developments such as the theory of evolution and on recent work in analytic metaphysics. By doing so, Buddhists can draw out the implications of the deep insights of their tradition in ways that are philosophically defensible today.

My voyage to India has been beneficial to me in a wide variety of ways. I am grateful to have had this marvelous opportunity, and I hope that my students will benefit from my growing understanding of the art, culture, religion, and philosophy of India and Tibet.

## Professor Wins Council/Foundation Award

Steven P. Scalet, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Program in Philosophy, Politics and Law (PPL) was awarded the Council Foundation Award for service. This award is given annually to one faculty. Professor Scalet received this award for his service work both in and outside of the University for developing important programs for PPL, working with Meals on Wheels, as well as serving on local medical ethics boards.



## Professor Wins Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award

Jeffner Allen, Professor of Philosophy, Women's Studies, and Philosophy Interpretation and Culture, was awarded the Faculty Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award. This award honors faculty who show exceptional success in the many challenges and rewards of mentoring graduate students through the full range of their graduate careers and into the workplace.

### **\*CONGRATULATIONS\***

**SPEL GRADUATE STUDENTS:** Fuat Gursozlu and Monica Mueller, who have been awarded a Dissertation Assistantship for Fall 2007.

**5 YEARS BA/MA COMBINED DEGREE STUDENT:** Xing Jian (Jeff) Zhao for completing his MA.

**PPL:** Carly Beth Eisenberg, Mara Avital Posner, Rebecca A. Surash who are completing their BA with honors

**FACULTY & STAFF:** Lisa Tessman, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Director of Graduate Studies in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy (SPEL) for the selection of her book *Burdened Virtues: Virtue Ethics for Liberatory Struggles* (Oxford 2005) for an author-meets-critics session at the 2007 Pacific American Philosophical Association (APA) meetings.



## Faculty Publications and Presentations

**Professor Jeffner Allen:** Received the 2006-2007 Award for Faculty Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring. Presented papers: “Diving Planetarity,” Caribbean English Association, Puerto Rico, November 2006; “At the Green Flash of the Setting Sun: Sonic Generations,” International Society for African Philosophy and Studies, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, S. Africa, April 2007. Publications: “Diving Planetarity.” *Essays on Our Watery World: Humans and the Sea*, ed.; Vartan Messier and Nandita Batra. Mayaguez: CEA, forthcoming 2007; “Lesbian Economics.” *Queer Economics: A Reader*, ed. J. Jacobsen I A. Zeller. New York: Routledge, forthcoming 2007; “Poetic Politics.” *French Feminists*, ed. Anne Cahill and Jennifer Hansen. New York: Routledge, forthcoming 2008. Fellowship and Residency: Fellow, Helen Riaboff Whiteley Center, Friday Harbor Laboratories; Writer in Residence, Saltonstall Foundation.

**Professor Bat-Ami Bar On:** Presentations: “Rethinking Feminism in the Context of New Wars,” *War and Feminism* Conference, Syracuse University, October 2007; “Reading Socrates with Arendt,” Northeast Political Science Association (NPSA), Boston MA, November 2006; participant in memorial for Iris Marion Young, Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association (APA), speaking about her work on violence and Arendt.

**Professor Eric Dietrich:** Presentations: “After the Humans Are Gone,” invited keynote address at the North American Computers and Philosophy Conference; also, the same paper was invited for the Cognitive Science Colloquium series at the Rochester Institute of Technology. A version of “After the Humans Are Gone” was invited for publication in *Philosophy Now* (which is the Scientific American of philosophy); “The Psychology of True Contradictions” – invited talk for the Cognitive Science Program at SUNY Buffalo; “Discrete Thoughts – Why the Mind Needs Discrete Representations,” invited talk for the Cornell Psychology Department.



**Professor Randy Friedman:** Publications: “Traditions of Pragmatism and the Myth of the Emersonian Democrat,” *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 43, 1 (Winter 2007); “Deweyan Pragmatism,” *William James Studies* 1, 1 (August 2006); Review of *Talking With Christians: Musings of a Jewish Theologian* by David Novak (Eerdsman, 2005), *Dialogue and Alliance* (forthcoming). “The I.D.I. and Pursuing Democracy in ‘The Jewish State,’” *AJS Perspectives* (Fall 2006); currently working on a series of articles on Levinas’ Ethical thought in relation to Husserl and Buber.

**Professor Charles Goodman:** Presentations: “How to Refute Materialist Conceptions of Self,” Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, India, Mar. 24, 2007; “Why Traditional Arguments Against Carvaka Do Not Refute Western Materialism,” Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, India, Mar. 15, 2007; “Evolution and its Relevance for Buddhist Philosophy,” Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, India, Mar. 7, 2007; “Bhavaviveka’s Arguments for Emptiness,” Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Fordham University, Oct. 21, 2006.



## Faculty Publications and Presentations

**Professor Robert Guay:** Publications: "The 'I's Have It: Nietzsche on Subjectivity," *Inquiry* 49:3 (2006), 218-241; "The Tragic as an Ethical Category," *Philosophy and Literature*, 30:2 (2006), 555-61; Review of Christine Swanton, *Virtue Ethics: A Pluralistic View*, in *Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 31 (2006), 75-8; "How to be an Immoralist," in Gudrun von Tevenar ed., *Nietzsche and Ethics*, New York, Peter Lang, 2007, 49-81.

Presentations: Commentary on "Artwork, Objects, and Subjects," American Society for Aesthetics National Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, 27 October 2006; "Our Virtues", "Nietzsche in New York" Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, 3 March 2007; "Paradoxes of Culture," Workshop on Multiculturalism and Moral Conflict, University of Durham (UK), 22 March 2007; Invited comment on "Democratic Deliberation, Public Reason, and Environmental Politics," APA Pacific Division meeting, San Francisco, 6 April 2007.

**Professor Christopher Knapp:** Publications: "Assessing Grading", *Public Affairs Quarterly*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (2007); "Harm and Homicide", *APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Law*, Vol. 6, No. 1 (2006); "Myopia, Thresholds and Precaution", Paper presentation at the Joint Conference of the International Society for Environmental Ethics and the International Association for Environmental Philosophy, May 2007.

**Professor Steve Scalet:** Publications: Co-Editor of the *APA Newsletter in Philosophy and Law* (with Christopher Griffin, Northern Arizona University). Most recent editions were symposia on the writings of Joel Feinberg and Joseph Raz. Co-editor (with John Arthur) on *Morality and Moral Controversies*, 8th Edition.

**Professor Lisa Tessman:** Presentations: "Morality on the Open Seas: Seeking a Naturalized Ethics that Authorizes Feminist Critique," Feminist Philosophy at U. Mass.: Celebrating the Career and Legacy of Ann Ferguson, Amherst, May 2007. "Reply to My Critics" in Author Meets Critics session on *Burdened Virtues: Virtue Ethics for Liberatory Struggles*, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meetings (main program), San Francisco, April 2007. "In the Absence of Hope," Radical Philosophy Association 7th Biennial Conference, Creighton University, November 2006.

**Professor Melissa Zinkin:** Publications: "Like the Theme in a Play, Speech or Fable: The Subject of the Critique of Judgment," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*; "Intensive Magnitudes and the Normativity of Feeling" in *Aesthetics and Cognition in Kant's Critical Philosophy*, ed. Rebecca Kukla, Cambridge University Press; a book review on *The Gift of Science: Leibniz and the Modern Legal Tradition*, by Roger Berkowitz, Political Theory, forthcoming. Presentations: While on sabbatical in Taipei, Taiwan as a Visiting Scholar at National Taiwan University, presented the paper "Kant on Secrets and Lies" at Soochow University, Hsinchu University and Chung-chen University; presented the paper, "Kant's Concept of Force" at National Taiwan University; presented my paper, "Kant on Negative Magnitudes" at the Eastern Division North American Society meeting, USA.



## From the PPL Program

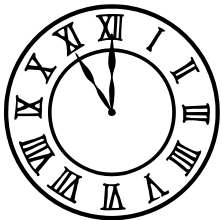
### From the PPL Director:

Our thoughts go to John Arthur who passed away this past year. John was a devoted to his students and the PPL program to the very end. Often we have been reminded of his great contributions these past months. Our thoughts are now turned to an appropriate memorial for and celebration of his legacy. We will be in contact as we have information, especially for those of you who wish to participate or join any such effort. One magnificent effort this past semester was the BU Cancer Relay for Life, which is one of the largest fund-raisers of any kind in this community, and which was dedicated to Professor Arthur. Binghamton University President De Fleur spoke at the event, discussing John's impact in the life of the University. This event literally drew thousands of people.

This is also a time of change and renewal for the program. Next year I will be taking a sabbatical for writing and traveling. Christopher Knapp will be stepping in as the Acting Director of the PPL program. I will return to teaching Fall, 2008. I wish you continued success in your studies and careers, and look forward to keeping in touch in the years to come.

Regards, Steven Scalet

## Alumni



Our names are Anthony and Adele Gagliardo and we have lived in Poughkeepsie, NY, for the last 20 years. Our son Stephen is currently a senior at Binghamton University majoring in Philosophy. This past semester, Stephen had the opportunity to TA for Professor Anthony Preus in the Philosophy Department. He plans to continue his studies at the graduate level next year and aspires to teach Philosophy at the college level one day.

Michael Starr has donated to both the Mike Dillon and the Emilio Roma Funds. Michael graduated in 1975 and is a PhD in Philosophy, as well as a J.D. Michael is a practicing attorney. He just published "Sex and Stereotyping in Employment: Can the Center Hold?", co-authored with Amy L. Strauss. This was published in *The Labor Lawyer*, Volume 21, Number 3, Winter/Spring 2006. © 2006.

## The Binghamton University Alumni Career Network

The **Alumni Career Network** is a searchable database of Binghamton alumni who have volunteered to be contacted by current students and alumni regarding career information. There are currently 47 Philosophy majors and 48 Philosophy, Politics and Law (PPL) or Law and Society (which is what PPL used to be) majors who are part of this network. If you are a current Philosophy or PPL major, consider using the network to identify alumni who have volunteered to be there to give you information. They can be identified by profession, employer, location, major or graduate institution. If you are a Philosophy or PPL alumn, consider becoming part of the Alumni Career Network. To use the network go to <https://www.bconnectalumni.binghamton.edu>.

If you want to contact the alumni office directly, you can email [alumni@binghamton.edu](mailto:alumni@binghamton.edu) or call 607-777-2431.



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*See us at:*

[Philosophy.binghamton.edu](http://Philosophy.binghamton.edu)  
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### MONEY MATTERS

The Department of Philosophy continues to seek support from its alumni and friends to supplement its budgetary allocations in an effort to maintain excellence in all our academic programs. Each year the department depends on your generosity for a variety of projects. Contributions from alumni, faculty, family and friends helped build the Martin (Mike) Dillon Memorial Fund, an endowment which generates needed income for undergraduate philosophy scholarship and academic support. The Leon J. Goldstein Scholarship Fund in Philosophy provides financial assistance for our graduate students thanks to the generosity of alumni Helene Levy Schultz, '81-'83, and David Schultz, '80-'86. David was a former student of Professor Goldstein's and worked closely with him for years. There are many additional projects that we can establish with your support. We would like to develop a Philosophy Alumni Speaker's Series that will bring notable scholars to campus each year. Your gifts to the Philosophy General Fund help support this newsletter and can help with other projects. Please help us make our wish list come true. All contributions regardless of size are welcome and appreciated.

You can make your gift by going online to:

<https://www.bconnectalumni.binghamton.edu/Giving/index.asp>. In the section for *Gift Information*, first select *Harpur College* as the school or unit, then select *other account*, complete the *amount* and *type* either Philosophy General Fund Account #10794, the Martin "Mike" Dillon Memorial Fund Account #20232, or the Leon J. Goldstein Scholarship Fund in Philosophy Account #20361. You can also make a gift to the Binghamton Fund which provides overall unrestricted support to the university or to Harpur College. Alternatively, you can send a check made payable to the Binghamton University Foundation using the printable form at the following site: <https://www.bconnectalumni.binghamton.edu/Giving/PrintableGiftPage.pdf>.

If you are interested in donating to a fund other than the Martin (Mike) Dillon Memorial Fund, the Leon Goldstein Scholarship Fund in Philosophy, or the Philosophy General Fund, please feel free to contact me at 607-777-6198 or the Harpur College Development Officer, Lisa Court, at 607-777-4277 or [lcourt@binghamton.edu](mailto:lcourt@binghamton.edu). We will be happy to provide you with detailed information on gift opportunities for the Philosophy Department, Harpur College, or Binghamton University.

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