From the Chair

The department’s 2006-07 academic year was complex and filled with mixed emotions. On a sad note, Professor John Arthur, who taught in the department and directed PPL since 1988, died in January. He 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 colleagues who stepped in to help. We recognize John’s many contributions and achievements in this Newsletter.

On the retirement front: Professor Donald Weiss, who has been with the department since 1969, will be retiring at the end of the academic year. We are lucky, though, because Don will continue to serve the department in his capacity as a Bartle Professor and teach one course each fall semester for the next three years.

Two new faculty will begin as ladder faculty (tenure-track) this fall. Randy Friedman specializes in phenomenology, modern Jewish thought and American pragmatism. Randy received his PhD from Brown University in 2005 and has been with us as a visiting assistant professor since fall 2005. Anna Gotlib specializes in medical ethics, ethics and philosophy of law. She received her PhD from Michigan State University in May. Our new faculty strengthens and gives depth to our teaching and research programs, and adds new dimensions to the department overall.

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 to be held each fall semester and dedicated to honor-level research and writing.

For more information about the Philosophy 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 encourage you to share your news with us.

Bat-Ami Bar On
**In Memoriam**

Professor John Arthur, a native of Denver, Colo., came to Binghamton in 1988 and served as a member of the Philosophy Department and director of the undergraduate program in Philosophy, Politics and Law (PPL). He received his BA from Cornell University (1968) and two master’s degrees from Vanderbilt University: an MA in philosophy (1971) and an MA in sociology (1978). In 1973 he received his PhD in philosophy from Vanderbilt. He taught at the University of Tennessee at Nashville 1973-80 and then taught at Tennessee State University and chaired its philosophy department 1981-88.

Prof. 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 and at Balliol College. Arthur’s scholarship was also recognized through his participation 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.

Arthur was also 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 Adviser, by the National Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law Society, and in 2002 he received the Binghamton University Service for Students with Disabilities Certificate of Appreciation.

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*, will be published posthumously by Cambridge University Press this September. He was the editor or co-editor of seven volumes, the most famous of which 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. He 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’s India Report

Charles Goodman, assistant professor of philosophy and of Asian and Asian American Studies, visited India earlier this year.

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 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 currently 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, 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 students and faculty there, 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.
Faculty Publications and Presentations

Jeňner Allen
Received the 2006-07 Award for Faculty Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring.


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, November 2006; and participant in memorial for Iris Marion Young, Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association (APA), speaking about her work on violence and Arendt.

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.

Randy Friedman

Charles Goodman
Robert Guay


Christopher Knapp

Tony Preus
Publications: Most significantly, *Historical Dictionary of Ancient Greek Philosophy*, Scarecrow Press, August 2007. Other professional activities: organizing meetings of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, with the divisions of the American Philosophical Association and the American Philological Association; as well as a large meeting with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science, at Fordham University (this year’s conference will be October 19, 20, 21).

Steve Scalet
Publications: Co-editor (with Christopher Griffin, Northern Arizona University) of the *APA Newsletter in Philosophy and Law* (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 ed.

Lisa Tessman

Melissa Zinkin

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 paper “Kant on Negative Magnitudes” at the Eastern Division North American Society Meeting.
Congratulations

**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 member. Prof. Scalet received this award for his service work both in and outside 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.

SPEL GRADUATE STUDENTS: Fuat Gursozlu and Monica Mueller, who received dissertation assistantship for fall 2007

5-YEAR BA/MA COMBINED-DEGREE STUDENT: Xing Jian (Jeff) Zhao, for completing his MA degree

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

FACULTY: 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.

**From the PPL Program 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 fundraisers of any kind in this community, and which was dedicated to Professor Arthur. President Lois B. DeFleur spoke at the event, discussing John’s impact in the life of the University. This event 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 in the fall 2008 semester. I wish you continued success in your studies and careers, and look forward to keeping in touch in the years to come.

Steven Scalet
Alumni

Anthony and Adele Gagliardo, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., wrote: “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 Martin (Mike) Dillon and the Emilio Roma funds. Michael graduated from Binghamton in 1975, has both a PhD in philosophy and a JD, and is a practicing attorney. He recently published “Sex and Stereotyping in Employment: Can the Center Hold?” co-authored with Amy L. Strauss, in The Labor Lawyer, vol. 21, no. 3, Winter/Spring 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 (former designation for PPL) majors who are part of this network. If you currently are a philosophy or PPL major, consider using the network to identify alumni who have volunteered to help. They can be identified by profession, employer, location, major or graduate institution. If you are a philosophy or PPL graduate, consider becoming part of the Alumni Career Network. To use the network go to www.bconnectalumni.binghamton.edu.

If you want to contact the alumni office directly, send an e-mail to alumni@binghamton.edu or call 607-777-2431

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 that 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 Prof. 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.

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Money Matters

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You can make your gift online at 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 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: 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 call 607-777-6198, or contact the Harpur College Development Officer, Lisa Court, at 607-777-4277 or 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.