Greetings! The Spring 2011 semester is over, and summer is in full swing. So once again it is time for the department’s annual newsletter.

During the year we have had a great many visitors, most of them in connection with the Lennox Series on Friendship organized and directed by Damian Caluori. The Lennox lecturers were Michael Slote, University of Miami; Philip Mitsis, New York University; Thomas Hurka, University of Toronto; John Lippitt, University of Hertfordshire; and Anthony Long, University of California, Berkeley. Our 2010 Stieren lecturer was George M. Wilson of the University of Southern California.

Kathy L. Schnare and William Reid again made a generous donation to the department, supporting our annual Hemlock Prize for Outstanding Philosophy Essay. The 2011 winner of the prize was Alex Balotskiy. The runners-up were Haley Mathis and Charlie Mitchell. Alex is also the first student to enroll in our new Honors Program.

I have one extremely bad piece of news to report: Larry Kimmel has decided to retire. This Fall will be his last semester at Trinity. After that, he will disappear into the mountains of New Mexico. Larry has taught at Trinity for nearly a half century, and is the most respected teacher in the department. We will all miss him very much.

As for me, life has been good. I am still trying to grow interesting plants out at my land on the Guadalupe River. Conditions here are tough, so I usually fail. Not only are we in a drought, but there are bugs and armadillos to contend with. Still, I enjoy trying to get things to grow. I just picked many pounds of plums and plan a ‘jam session’ soon. My crinums are blooming like crazy.

Professionally, things are going very well for me. I am still working on epistemology and ethics. I will finish up an essay this summer called “False Negatives” for a book devoted to Nozick’s approach to knowledge. I’m also completing essays on the philosophy of death, and I’m editing a new collection of essays called “The Philosophy of Life and Death” for Cambridge University Press.

I hope you will check out the department web page. More importantly, I hope you will stay in touch, and let me know what you are up to.

from Steve Luper, Chair...
Hello! I’ve been busy with a number of projects this year, personal and professional. I’ve been continuing to co-translate The World as Will and Representation, the monumental (i.e. long) work of the 19th century German philosopher, Arthur Schopenhauer. Volume 1 was published this year (feel free to review it on amazon.com for us) and I’m now at work on volume 2. Translation certainly gives you a front-row view into the way a philosopher’s mind works. A careful reading of the text will acquaint you with the philosopher’s ideas, but translation shows you all their tics, idiosyncrasies, moods, and pet peeves. Since Schopenhauer thinks that the essence of life is suffering and that everyone hates him and nobody understands him, this has been in many ways a dark journey for me.

More worringly, the translator has to make some significant decisions about the sort of voice the author will be speaking in — whether it sounds direct or lofty, speakerly or writerly, British or American. It is impossible to emulate the experience that a German reader will have of the text, because I can’t translate it into 200 year-old English. So the question of what sort of English to translate it into is an open one. Schopenhauer’s (many) insults are the hardest to get right: it sounds stilted and old-fashioned to call people “dolts” but inappropriately modern to call them “jerks” (or worse). It’s temptingly easy to blunt the force of Schopenhauer’s invective by using slightly obsolete swear words!

On the brighter side, I have been enjoying teaching interdisciplinary classes. In the Fall I taught a section of the Humanities class — the first year seminar that focuses on famous texts from classical antiquity such as Homer and Virgil. I love the opportunity to teach texts outside the disciplinary boundaries of philosophy proper and to practice various techniques of literary analysis. In the Spring I taught Environmental Ethics, a class that will contribute to Trinity’s new Environmental Studies major as well as to Philosophy. It’s odd to teach a class on Aristotle’s theory of virtues and then turn to address the problems with using eucalyptus plantations in Brazil for carbon offsets — it reminds me of what an immensely varied discipline philosophy is.

Outside of school, I spend most of my time with my kids, 7 year-old Benjamin and 3 year-old Charlotte, confronting the challenges of holding a crayon properly and discovering the whole chess culture that exists for elementary school students. It’s a change of pace from teaching philosophy, but the kids are capable of posing, in their way, questions (“why isn’t there a last number?” “how does Darth Vader go to the bathroom?”) every bit as baffling as anything Schopenhauer puts on the table.

Please help us in our assessment of the Department of Philosophy by taking the online Alumni Survey linked to our homepage. Thank you!

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Greetings, everyone. I am thrilled to be able to report that early in the Spring semester I was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. This considerable cake got a thick layer of sweet icing at the end of the semester, when I was granted a Junior Faculty Award for Distinguished Teaching and Research. I’d like to thank all of you who’ve accompanied me on part of my journey, and my colleagues in the Philosophy Department, for making Trinity a place I’m pleased to be tenured. (Any tenure is better than none, but in talking to colleagues at other institutions I’m often reminded that our department is exceptionally supportive.)

Of course, this good news didn’t come out of the blue – I have been keeping myself busy! The accomplishment I’m most proud of this year is finally seeing the publication of The Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music, which I co-edited with Ted Gracyk (University of Minnesota, Moorhead). This big book (over 600 pages) is the first-ever reference work devoted to my main philosophical love – the philosophy of music. It comprises 56 chapters on a wide range of topics at the intersection of philosophy and music, from the metaphysical to the musicological, from Plato to rock music. The many authors are all leading or up-and-coming theorists in their fields, both musically-inclined philosophers and philosophical musicologists. At $200 a pop, even I won’t try to convince you to buy a copy, but you could request it from your local library! If you have any interest in music, I guarantee there’s something in here for you.

On the teaching front, I thoroughly enjoyed, as always, teaching Philosophy of Gender. The first time I taught the course, back in 2006, it had only four students in it, and I learned as much as any of them. I feel a lot more comfortable with the material now, but discussing gendered language, feminism, and prostitution with new interlocutors continues to challenge my beliefs about sex, gender, and sexuality. And, of course, the Zoë Gannon memorial cross-dressing day is always a big, if nerve-wracking, hit. Teaching this course has even emboldened me to venture into this area as a writer. I recently published ‘A Horny Dilemma: Sex and Friendship between Students and Professors’ in College Sex: Philosophers with Benefits, a recent Blackwell collection, and I’ve just sent off a revised version of ‘Concepts of Pornography: Feminist Insights for Philosophers of Art (and vice versa)’ that should be coming out in a volume on Art and Pornography from Oxford University Press next year.

In the Spring I taught Metaphysics – a course that had only four students in it this time. This course covers some of the most difficult philosophical issues I teach, so it was nice to have a small group for discussion, but it’s also central to philosophy, in my view, so I’m hoping the small enrolment was mostly a statistical blip! It was great preparation for my main summer project, too: an essay exploring fictionalism concerning musical works, that is, the view that there are no musical works, but that we ought not to stop talking as if they are. (The name comes from the idea that this is roughly what’s going on when we talk about fictional characters such as Sherlock Holmes.)

I’ve had a lot of great opportunities to discuss my work with others this year. I made my first trip to Canada, to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics in Victoria, British Columbia. Then I made my second and third trips to Canada to talk about the nature of music at the University of Manitoba, in Winnipeg, and McGill University in Montréal. I also participated in a couple of small conferences in Austin and in Bloomington, Indiana, the latter irresistibly entitled ‘Aesthetics Anarchy III’.

So, that’s my news from the past year. I hope some of you will drop me a line and let me know what you’re doing with yourselves – especially those I haven’t heard from for a couple of years. Until then, enjoy yourselves (in an examined-life kind of a way), wherever you are!
2010-2011 was a great year. I was on academic leave during the fall, working on issues in the philosophy of mind. I managed to get some writing done, along with a lot of reading, and although I cannot yet boast of resulting publications, I am hoping to have something to show in time for next year's newsletter. In the spring I taught two sections of Symbolic Logic I, for double the usual fun, as well as Philosophy of Science.

I would like to mention one event from last year, which occurred too late to make it into last year's newsletter: at the final faculty meeting of the year, I received Trinity's Distinguished Service Award, given to one faculty member each year for, well, distinguished service (which basically means being on lots and lots of committees). It was very nice to receive this honor, especially since I now have a large medal I can wear around my neck at commencement ceremonies!

At the American Philosophical Association meetings in San Diego this year, I went to a number of interesting sessions. One session was a well-attended and fascinating author-meets-critics session devoted to Tyler Burge's recent book *Origins of Objectivity*, which I had read with great interest a few months earlier. On the other hand, I went to another author-meets-critics session, for a book I won't name, at which the audience was outnumbered by the author and critics, a situation I think everyone there found a bit embarrassing.

Although Burge's book is important and interesting, it is also very long and moves very slowly. A short and jazzy book that I also enjoyed is Susan Blackmore's *Consciousness: A Very Short Introduction*, which offers a nice quick survey that integrates material from philosophy and psychology. Outside philosophy, I enjoyed reading Dorothy Dunnett's Lymond Chronicles, a series of six novels set in the 16th century.

The cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears, or the sea. - Isak Dinesen

Congratulations to Curtis Brown, recipient of the 2010-2011 Trinity University Distinguished Service Award.
To those who remember, and for those who care, a note and a few continuing reminders:

Kimmel will soon (December) be dancing - with a slight list and limp - into a new dawn. To commemorate that passing, this summer Shirley will be establishing an independent home page that will have on-line all his past and continuing published essays.

“...measure your worth finally against the character and stature of your enemies rather than the number of your friends.”

All of you, having also passed through these portals, hopefully are well and still taking time apart to think critically and deeply about things that really matter. If you learned that much and made it part of your very being, as Aristotle put it, we will have done well by you. Keep in mind the legacy of philosophical engagement as a conversation among friends that carries with it the imperative to question authority, as well as the Nietzschean codicil that these be foe-like friends, and that you measure your worth finally against the character and stature of your enemies rather than the number of your friends. May that force be with you always.

Keep the faith, and as always, write home.

You are cordially invited to attend a reception commemorating Dr. Lawrence Kimmel’s retirement from Trinity University after 45 years of service.

Thursday, December 8, 2011
Great Hall, Chapman Building
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
In the Spring the philosophy department hosted the Lennox Lecture Series. Five speakers from all around the world came to Trinity to talk about the philosophy of friendship. It was quite a success. Up to 150 people regularly attended the lectures, eager to learn more about this vital aspect of human life.

Michael Slote from the University of Miami, the first speaker in the series, focused on the remarkable fact that we identify with our friends. What they feel and do is important to us in ways similar to how we feel and act ourselves. Slote claimed that this identification is grounded in empathy.

Thomas Hurka from the University of Toronto discussed the goods of friendship. He asked whether friendship only enhances the value of things that we value anyway (such as pleasure, virtue, and knowledge) or whether friendship itself has an intrinsic value and argued for the latter.

Ancient philosophy, of course, was also very well represented. Phillip Mitsis from New York University presented us the Epicurean view of friendship and asked whether, from an Epicurean point of view, a hedonist really can (and should) have friends. Berkeley’s Anthony A. Long looked at another ancient movement, Stoicism, and their radical claim that only wise people can be friends.

Finally, we had a paper on Kierkegaard. When I put the list of speakers together, I thought of a talk on Kierkegaard because I wanted to add to the series a negative view, and Kierkegaard is generally considered an enemy of friendship. So I invited John Lippitt, a world famous Kierkegaard scholar from the University of Hertfordshire (UK). As it turned out, however, Lippitt actually defended Kierkegaard! He convincingly argued that the Danish philosopher, while warning us against the dangers of friendship, was by no means opposed to it.

“As it turned out, however, Lippitt actually defended Kierkegaard! He convincingly argued that the Danish philosopher, while warning us against the dangers of friendship, was by no means opposed to it.”

Congratulations to Damian Caluori, recipient of the 2010 Conington Prize sponsored by the faculty of philosophy at the University of Oxford, U.K.
ALUMNI SURVEY

Please help us in our assessment of the Department of Philosophy by taking the on-line Alumni Survey linked to the Department homepage at: www.trinity.edu/departments/philosophy/.

Your responses will contribute greatly to the future direction of the department.

Thank you!

images from 2010-2011 . . .

1-Anthony A. Long and Damian Caluori; 2-Curtis Brown, Damian Caluori, and Lawrence Kimmel (Inauguration); 3-Damian Caluori and Michael Slote; 4-Andrew Kania at World Water Day fundraiser; 5-Steven Lator, Paul Mitsis, and Damian Caluori; 6-Damian Caluori, Thomas Hurka and students; 7-Sargent's "The Misses Vickers", image for Lennox poster; 8-Fomer student Scott McClennan, Andrew Kania, and Curtis Brown; 9-Paul Mitsis and Damian Caluori; 10-Thought-filled philosophy students; 11-Philosophy students at Michael Slote's reception; 12-Anthony A. Long's Lennox talk, the Great Hall; 13-Thomas Hurka and Damian Caluori; 14-Alistair Welshman and Judith Norman crafting a chessboard; 15-John Lippitt and Damian Caluori; 16-Lawrence Kimmel; 17-Anthony A. Long and philosophy students. Enlarged versions of these photos can be viewed on the departmental web site.
Friday, Oct. 7

Alumni Weekend Philosophy Events
Location: Ruth Taylor Recital Hall

2:30 p.m.
Lecture: “Popper and Plato's Republic”
Dr. Cinzia Arruzza, New School for Social Research, NY

3:45 p.m.
Debate: “Socialism vs Liberal Democracy”
Shami Patel ’91 & Dr. Cinzia Arruzza

Reception to follow
trinity.edu/alumniweekend

Thursday, Dec. 8

Retirement Reception for Dr. Lawrence Kimmel
4:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Great Hall, Chapman Building
Open to all

Trinity University
Philosophy News
Philosophy Alumni Newsletter

June 2011
Volume 7

If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in water. - Loren Eisley
welcome new philosophy alumni . . .

Below are a few notes about what our most recent Philosophy alumni will be doing after graduation.

Before applying to grad school in England next year, Kyle Anderson will be on the road with his band, Wolves, Where?, testing the market for their music. Pat Donahue is deciding between acceptances from several grad schools in the Western U.S. Elizabeth Dorsey will attend William and Mary Law School, after considering acceptances at several other law schools. Christa Etnyre will attend medical school next year after spending time abroad assisting her mother at a medical clinic. Haley Mathis is taking a year off to pursue her editorial career before applying for a master’s degree in Philosophy.

Charlie Mitchell, who was also accepted to Penn State, will attend Johns Hopkins to work on a master’s degree in Sociology. Robert Owers will teach English abroad for a year. Greg Starbird will pursue a MFA in lighting design at the University of Houston. We are certain that major, Aaron White and minors Taylor Roberts and Ryan Cahill are off to promising pursuits as well. We wish you all the very best.

The 2011 Hemlock Awards for Outstanding Philosophical Essay of the Year

1st Place

"A Defense of Film's Philosophical Capabilities"
by Alex Balotskiy

Runners-up

"Virtue Ethics and Right Action"
by Haley Mathis

"How Contrastivism Presupposes Binary Knowledge"
by Charlie Mitchell

The Hemlock Outstanding Philosophical Essay of the Year awards were made possible through a generous donation from Kathy L. Schnare and William Reid.
Alex Balotskiy, a junior philosophy major, has had a very successful year. In the Fall, Alex was admitted to the Philosophy Department’s new Honors Program. The Honors Program is designed for outstanding philosophy students, particularly those with a serious interest in going on to graduate school in philosophy. The requirements are naturally more demanding than the regular philosophy major, and the program includes a two-semester honors thesis requirement.

In February, Alex won first place in the department’s annual Hemlock Awards for a paper he wrote for the Senior Seminar on Memento and Philosophy through Film, while still a sophomore. Then, in March, Alex was awarded one of Trinity’s first annual Murchison SURFs (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships). These fellowships are intended to foster summer research by undergraduates at Trinity – something relatively common in the sciences, but quite rare in the humanities. There were only ten SURFs awarded, and Alex is the only SURFer working solely in the humanities. The research he is doing is an extension of his honors thesis project.

We hope you join us in congratulating Alex on his successful year!

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Alex is writing his honors thesis on issues of medium-specificity in film. He describes his project as follows.

“Early film theorists, in their attempts to legitimize film as a new, distinct art form, argued that film, in virtue of its medium, possesses certain limitations or possibilities that allow it to achieve effects unlike those in any other medium. Film, according to these early theorists, was not only new in the sense that it was a fledgling art form, it was new with regards to the kinds of artistic ends which could be achieved with an art form. Many of these theoretical claims were questionable, and subsequent philosophers, such as Noël Carroll, argued that they were philosophically in defensible. Recently, in response to Carroll’s criticisms, another philosopher, Berys Gaut, has sought to defend medium specificity in film and reestablish it as a viable thesis in the philosophy of film. In my thesis, I attempt to set out the medium-specificity debate as it has occurred in debates about the philosophy of film, focusing on the arguments presented by the early film theorists, Carroll, and Gaut respectively. In addition to setting out this debate, I argue that Gaut’s new defense fails to reestablish medium specificity as a viable thesis in the philosophy of film.”