Dear Colleagues and Students,

In the past half-year or so, there have been several recent and important developments in the Department, including some major gifts, a high national ranking of its graduate program, and notable accomplishments by the faculty. Originally, I had planned to send to you as well as the alumni a single letter that announces these developments. Since it will take a bit more time to work with the Development Office on the letter to the alumni, I have decided to send you a separate letter (the one you are now reading) in order to bring you all up to date in a timely fashion on these developments.

The department is flourishing. Well over 5,500 students have enrolled in classes offered by members of the department during the past two years. With an average of 175 majors and 42 minors during that time, our undergraduate program continues to thrive. We are in the midst of developing a new series of courses, from “Philosophy and Film” and “Philosophy of Sport” to “Wealth and Ethics” and a new seminar on the nature of the emotions. It is our hope that these courses will draw ever-increasing numbers of students to our program. The Undergraduate Philosophy Association meets regularly for lively discussion, and Arche—a journal for work by undergraduate students of philosophy anywhere—publishes high quality work on schedule. Our undergraduate students continue to win prizes, to excel in their studies, and to go on to a wide variety of careers and impressive activities upon graduation (we are making strenuous efforts to keep track of post-graduation comings and goings!). Our graduate students are equally accomplished; as noted on the department’s homepage, our placement rate is 95% over the last decade. While our ability to support all of our students financially is still not where we would wish for it to be, we have made some progress in that category, too.

Charles Griswold appointed Borden Parker Bowne Professor

I am delighted to announce that the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Virginia Sapiro, has named Charles Griswold to the Borden Parker Bowne Chair in the Department of Philosophy, effective September of this year. On behalf of the Department, I want to extend my warmest congratulations to Charles for this well-deserved honor.

As Professor Emeritus Erazim Kohak mentions in his recollections of the department (available on the “alumni” page of the department’s website - http://www.bu.edu/philo/alumni/index.html), Borden Parker Bowne (1847-1910) was “the first
Dean of the Graduate School and the founder of the Philosophy Department, sometime in the mid-1870s.” The Chair named after him was endowed not long after his death. Erazim sketches aspects of Bowne’s illustrious life, including his courageous struggle for the freedom of learning in the face of religious censure.

After stepping down in 2007 from his long stint chairing the Department, Charles has continued to serve the Department, even during sabbaticals and leaves, particularly in working with donors and alumni. We’ll no doubt need someone to contribute on a regular basis in this capacity in the future and, with that in mind and with the faculty’s permission, I’ve appointed Charles to be the Department’s “Director of Fund Raising and Alumni Outreach.”

**Major Recent Gifts to the Department**

As for the topic of fund raising and alumni outreach, I am happy to share the good news that over the past year the department has been the recipient of over $211,000 in gifts. We are profoundly grateful for this generous support by our alumni and friends.

The estate of John A. Gerda (M.D., GRS, ‘51) bequeathed the Department $171,000 to be added to the principal of the Bertocci Scholarship Fund. Dr. Gerda earned his master’s degree in philosophy at BU, and eventually served as a staff surgeon at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital at the National Center Institute in Washington (for more information about him, please see www.bu.edu/cas/faculty-staff/newsletter/11_10/gifts.html). This gift is wonderful news, particularly since the interest from Bertocci Fund plays such a major role in providing continuing student fees and tuition aid to our graduate students. Dr. Hideo and Mrs. Itabashi also made a generous gift of $10,000 to the Bertocci Fund. The Fund honors the memory of Peter Anthony Bertocci, a Borden Parker Bowne Professor of Philosophy, who died in 1989. He was a beloved and influential teacher and thinker, and member of the faculty for some thirty-one years. In his recollections about the department, Erazim describes Professor Bertocci in greater detail.

The Department also has the good fortune to continue to receive considerable support annually from Steven Karbank, not only to host the Karbank Symposium on Environmental Philosophy, but also to make possible many undergraduate, graduate, and faculty meetings, colloquia, and events. Steve’s recent gift of $25,000, and gifts of $5000 from several donors who prefer to remain anonymous, mean that we can continue to carry out our mission at a high level. Particularly given the difficult economic times, we depend all the more on the support of our alumni and friends. I know that you join me in thanking them most enthusiastically for their generosity.

**High National Research Council Rankings**

In the past month the National Research Council (NRC) produced its long-awaited rankings of graduate schools. While the methodology employed by the NRC is producing these rankings is complex and controversial, they are used as an important benchmark, particularly for outside funding. Hence, we are delighted to relate that the Department received a high ranking (15th) among all philosophy graduate departments in the United States.
Publications, publications, publications

The Department’s high ranking is due in no small measure to the talents of its undergraduate and graduate students, its enviable placement record, the faculty’s dedication to teaching, and the enormous quality and quantity of publications by the members of the faculty. I recently asked members of the faculty to send me a list of recent publications, in most cases those published in the last three months or so and those to be published in the next six months. In a few cases, I’m including invited lectures as well but not in all since the list is already quite long. The list is thus by no means complete and it also does not capture many of the faculty’s other professional accomplishments. (For a more complete list of those accomplishments, please look to the respective professor’s website or departmental website.) Nonetheless, even the following selective list is informative and impressive, giving you some idea of what your colleagues/professors are up to.

Hugh Baxter’s publications include:

- Habermas: The Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy (Stanford: Stanford University Press), scheduled to be published this coming spring (2011) and

Alisa Bokulich’s publications include:

- “Bohr’s Correspondence Principle” in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.
- Philosophy of Quantum Information and Entanglement (co-edited with Gregg Jaeger)

Alisa and Peter Bokulich’s new book

- Scientific Structuralism (Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Vol. 281, Springer) should be out within the next month.

David Bronstein

David has recently published the following two articles:

- "Meno’s Paradox in Posterior Analytics 1.1" Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy, vol. 38, Summer 2010, and

Tian Yu Cao has just published his latest, highly-acclaimed book:

- From Current Algebra to Quantum Chromodynamics: A Case for Structural Realism.

Tian also co-edited (with Xueping Zhong and Kebin Liao)


This past spring and summer Tian gave several talks:
“Reflections on Emergence in Cosmology,” an invited talk at the conference Towards the Origins of Universe and Matter – Theoretical and Epistemological Approaches, organized by the CNRS Interdisciplinary Program Particles and the Universe, Paris, March 22-24;

“Cosmology and Fundamental Physics” at the Robert S. Cohen Symposium—Historical and Philosophical Reflections on Contemporary Science and Technology, Tsinghua University, Beijing, April 26-27;

“Social Ontology and Alternative Modernity,” the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, May 18;

“A Philosopher Looks at China’s Reform in the Era of Globalization,” the School of Philosophy and Sociology, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, July 5;

“Life and Cognition – Reflections on the Externalist Approach,” July 9 at the Fourth Symposium on the Frontier of Philosophy of Natural Sciences, jointly organized by Peking University, Tsinghua University, People’s University and Beijing Normal University, Beijing;

“Structural Realism and Theory Creation,” July 12 at the Institution of Philosophy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai, China;

Tian is presently working on The Making of QCD, a book-length sequel to the book From Current Algebra to Quantum Chromodynamics – A Case for structural Realism, for Cambridge University Press.

Anthony Corsentino
Anthony is happy to announce that Synthese has accepted for publication his paper “Predicates in Perspective.”

Dan Dahlstrom’s publications include:


**Juliet Floyd** notes the following publications:


**Mihai Ganea**’s recent and forthcoming publications include:


**Aaron Garrett** mentions the three following articles:


"Butler and Hume on Reasoning about Morals." *Philosophy and Religion in Enlightenment*
Chair’s Letter to Colleagues and Students/November 9, 2010


Aaron also gave the following keynote address:


Charles Griswold notes three of his latest articles:


"Debating Forgiveness: a Reply to my Critics." Philosophia 38.3 (2010): 457-473. This is Charles' contribution to an exchange on his book Forgiveness: a Philosophical Exploration (the original context was an "author meets critics" session of the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 20, 2008). He is responding to M. Moody-Adams, A. Morton, and H. Wettstein. The entire exchange is on-line at http://www.springerlink.com/content/0048-3893/?k=griswold


Jaakko Hintikka’s recent publications include (since Jaakko has been on sabbatical, I include his 2009 publications):


Walter Hopp's book

Perception and Knowledge: A Phenomenological Account, Cambridge University Press is currently in press, with a projected Spring 2011 publication date.

Walter has also two articles to his credit during this period:

“How to Think About Nonconceptual Content.” The New Yearbook for Phenomenology and
Phenomenological Philosophy (forthcoming).


Paul Katsafanas’ publications include:

“Nietzsche’s Philosophical Psychology.” In the Oxford Handbook on Nietzsche. Edited by John Richardson and Ken Gemes. Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming). A draft of this paper is available on Paul’s website. On Brian Leiter’s Nietzsche blog, Leiter has been discussing Paul’s paper and, in the comments to these posts, Paul’s offered some responses. Notably, the discussion won a third-place award in a contest for the best philosophy blog posts of 2010.

Second post: http://brianleiternietzsche.blogspot.com/2010/07/more-on-katsafanas-on-nietzsche.html
Post on award: http://www.3quarksdaily.com/3quarksdaily/2010/09/the-winners-of-the-3-quarks-daily-2010-philosophy-prize.html

Paul’s other forthcoming publications are:


Vic Kestenbaum is putting the finishing touches on three articles:

"Ideals: Phenomenological Notes" for The Pluralist (formerly the Personalist Forum).
"Dewey’s Possible Paideia" for the Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society.
"Martin Eger on Missing Contexts and Larger Meanings" for Philosophical Forum.

Manfred Kuehn is very happy to report the completion of


Dave Liebesman has two articles forthcoming in major journals:
"Simple Generics" forthcoming in *Nous*, will be published online, the end of October and  
“Causation and the Canberra Plan” (contesting David Lewis’ reasons for rejecting the use of  
the Canberra Plan to analyze causation) is forthcoming in *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*.  

**Krzysztof Michalski**’s eight-volume series, from the colloquia in Castel Gandolfo, has been re-  
published as:  
preface to the two volumes has been published as  
"Rozmowy Castel Candolfo". In: *Gazeta Wyborcza*, 5 April 2010  
Also, the following collection of his early texts is to be published in November:  
"Zrozumieć przemijanie", Kronos Publishers.  
Krzysztof also has published an idea of the good in a Polish newspaper that is  
to be reprinted in another book to appear in December:  
(an anthology), Gdansk 2010  
Several interviews have been and will be published, including  
Finally, a new issue of the semiannual journal of which Krzysztof is editor  
was published:  
"Den Säkularismus neu denken. Religion und Politik in Zeiten der Globalisierung" (Sommer  
10), *Neue Kritik*, Frankfurt.  

**David Roochnik** has published two articles:  

**Amelie Rorty**’s list of publications includes:  
"The Goodness of Searching: Good as what? Good for what? Good for whom?" *The Goodness of  
"A Plea for Ambivalence." *Oxford Handbook on the Philosophy of the Emotions.* Edited by Peter  
Amelie will also be giving the following papers in the coming year:  
"What Did we Really Learn from Kant?" Boston College, April 18, 2011.  
"A Natural History of the Emotions," Anthropology Department, Harvard, end of April, 2011.
Susanne Sreedhar’s list of publications includes:


Allen Speight’s publications include:

- Allen also published the following articles:

Daniel Star has produced the following:

- A Philosophy TV appearance with Roger Crisp: [http://www.philostv.com/](http://www.philostv.com/) (already recorded, to be posted online and in iTunes in late October).
- An entry on Michael Smith for *A Companion to Philosophy in Australia and New Zealand*: [http://www.publishing.monash.edu/cpanz.html](http://www.publishing.monash.edu/cpanz.html) (this can be ordered in paperback or downloaded for free).

Fred Tauber has published, among other things, two books:


Judd Webb is completing a lengthy study on “Geometry, Paradox, and the Crisis of European Science.”

In conclusion, allow me once again to encourage you all to make full use of our website ([www.bu.edu/philo](http://www.bu.edu/philo)) to keep abreast of the Department’s – your Department’s – activities and direction. A special word to students: do not be shy about making inquiries and suggestions to us. Please feel free to contact us (me or any of my colleagues) in the Department of Philosophy.

With best wishes,

Daniel O. Dahlstrom, Chair