Wednesday, March 12th, 2008
Brown Bag Lunch (includes COD meeting)
Students who attended the Teachers College Multicultural Roundtable
will share what they learned with GSAPP students and faculty
A317, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, April 5, 2008
GSAPP Alumni Organization 15th Anniversary Gala
6:00 - 9:00 pm, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum

Friday, October 3rd, 2008
Annual GSAPP Cultural Conference
Douglass Student Center, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Submission of items for publication in the Gazette can be sent to:
Arlene Miller
Email: rellim@rci.rutgers.edu
Or
Fax: 732-445-4888
COLLOQUIUM

Rutgers University Philosophy Department Cordially Invites you to attend the colloquium listed below on Thursday, March 13th at 4:30 pm on the Douglass Campus in Davison Hall, 26 Nichol Avenue, Room 128-129. A reception will follow.

PROFESSOR ALISON SIMMONS (Harvard University)

“MARKING THE MENTAL: ARGUMENTS FOR THE UNCONSCIOUS FROM LEIBNIZ TO FREUD”

ABSTRACT

In this talk I will explore some reasons for a significant shift in the understanding of the nature of the mental that took place in the two centuries between the early modern period and the late 19th century.

In the early modern period, consciousness was the reigning mark of the mental. What makes something count as a /mental/ phenomenon, a phenomenon of the mind, is its being conscious. There was also general agreement that consciousness is some sort of /epistemic/ property of the mental; it is the means through which mental phenomena make themselves known to the mind that has them. Philosophers of the period disagreed in their /analysis/ of consciousness: is it an intrinsic property of each mental phenomenon or some sort of reflexive property or a higher-order property, i.e., the result of one mental phenomenon taking another as its object? Whatever the analysis, the lights are decidedly on in the early modern mind. Leibniz was a rare dissenter, arguing that mental phenomena come in both conscious and unconscious flavors. Just as there is more to body than meets the eye, so too there is more to the mind than meets consciousness. Despite Leibniz’s efforts, the idea of an unconscious mental life did not take hold.

Some two hundred years later, in the middle of the 19th century, the idea that consciousness is a mark of the mental remained fairly entrenched. Even Brentano, whom we think of as giving us intentionality as the mark of the mental, staunchly defended the view that consciousness counts as a mark of it too: intentional phenomena are all present (indeed infallibly, immediately, and self-evidently present) to consciousness, and they are the only things present to consciousness. By this point, however, there were more dissenters. On varying grounds, James Mill, William Hamilton, Henry Maudsley, Gustav Fechner and others argued in favor of an unconscious mental life. William James, surveying the lay of the psychologist’s land in his /Principles of Psychology/ at the end of the century wrote of this development: “it is the sovereign means for believing what one likes in psychology and of turning what might become science into a tumbling ground of whimsies…and yet it has numerous champions.” Whereas Locke in the 17th century could dismiss the idea of unconscious mental phenomena with a mere “tis near a contradiction,” 19th century defenders of the conscious mark felt they had some arguing to do to preserve it. A genuine debate was underway.

My questions are the following: What in the 19th century made possible (or inevitable) genuine debate about the existence of unconscious mental phenomena? What were the arguments for and against them (and were they really any different from Leibniz’s arguments 200 years earlier)? What was at stake in defending one side or the other? And for those who admit unconscious mental phenomena, what marked out the mental such it could come in both conscious and unconscious varieties?
TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

The GSAPP webpage now has a new events calendar listed on the front page. Please go to gsappweb.rutgers.edu and have a look.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Advanced Psychological Specialists, LLC** is seeking a licensed PSYCHOLOGIST or PERMIT HOLDER for employment in a busy practice in Ridgewood New Jersey. Training in Cognitive Behavioral Treatment with children is preferred, and applicant must be willing to work after school hours. In-site supervision suitable for fulfillment of licensure requirements available. For more information please contact Dr. Nancy Just. Phone: 201-447-2242, Press 1, email: njjust@optonline.net, or fax CV to 201-447-4377.

**Montefiore Medical Center of Albert Einstein College of Medicine** has an exciting opportunity for a licensed or limited permit psychologist to work in the Adult Psychiatry Outpatient Department, beginning in July, 2008. Direct clinical services include: initial intakes and assessments, individual and group therapy, collaboration with medication providers. Other duties include: participation in weekly team meetings, supervision of psychology interns and psychiatry residents, teaching in our APA-accredited psychology internship program. Licensed psychologists will receive a faculty appointment at AECOM. Limited permit psychologists will receive supervision, as required for licensure. Highly competitive salary and excellent benefits. Spanish-speaking a plus. Interested candidates should contact Scott Wetzler, PhD., Vice Chairman, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Montefiore Medical Center, 111 E. 210th St., Bronx, NY 10467. For more information, email: swetzler@montefiore.org or phone: 718-920-4920.

MINORITY/INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ALUMNI DINNER A SUCCESS

On Friday evening, February 29th, approximately 45 minority/international students and alumni gathered to share their thoughts on balancing graduate school, career, relationships, family, and life. The evening began with a meeting of the Dean’s Multicultural Advisory Council to discuss how to increase the minority applicant pool, followed by panel speakers David Brantley, Bibiana Ortiz-Levine, and Sudha Wadhwani. A buffet with ethnic food was enjoyed by all.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Jessica Welt-Betensky (School ’06) and husband Keith on the birth of their son Jacob Aaron Betensky. Jacob was born on January 24th at 2:24 pm, weighing in at 6 pounds 9 ounces and 19 3/4 inches long.