Ok. Seriously, I know it’s been awhile since I’ve sent out a newsletter. My sincerest of sincere apologies. I’m not exactly sure where the fall semester went. I’ve had the pleasure of meeting with many of you, but I want to see more☺ I hope this semester has been going well for all of you so far. As always, I look forward to working with and getting to know all of you!! Stop by for a visit sometime. Even just to say HI!

How is philosophy relevant to science?

Sci-Phi, the borderland between science and philosophy, is a highly fecund area of interdisciplinary inquiry, where philosophers and scientists come to approach common problems from different yet mutually enhancing perspectives. It is high time to overcome the psychological divide between what C.P. Snow famously called “the two cultures” and renew the Enlightenment project of unified quest for reason.

Massimo Pigliucci has a PhD in genetics, a PhD in botany and a PhD in philosophy. He received the Dobzhansky Prize for the Study of Evolution and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. He’s the author of several books, including Phenotypic Plasticity: Beyond Nature and Nurture, Denying Evolution: Creationism, Scientism and the Nature of Science, and Tales of the Rational: Skeptical Essays about Nature and Science.

January 29, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.  University of Guelph Science Complex Atrium FREE ADMISSION!!!
Going where no doctor has gone before: Cuba's Medical Internationalism

Public Lecture by Robert Huish, Postdoctoral Fellow at L'Université de Montréal

Wednesday, January 21st @ 6:00pm
Room 115, MacKinnon Building, University of Guelph
Free and open to all

Amid a backdrop of global health care inequity, one small, poor country is making a world of difference. With 36,000 of its own health care workers serving poor communities overseas, and training 13,500 foreign medical students for free, Cuba is working to build a global health workforce on a scale never seen before. This talk discusses the strengths and challenges of Cuba’s Medical Internationalism and the political opposition the country has faced in its pursuit of global health equity. Cuba’s story shows that by investing in people, even in rough economic downturns, it is possible to overcome health care inequity, and to move closer to making health care a human right.

Robert Huish holds a Ph.D. in Geography from Simon Fraser University and is a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow at CRÉUM as well as in the school of public health’s AnÉIS program at L’Université de Montréal. His research interest rests between the pursuit of global health equity and the understanding of public health ethics.

robert.huish@umontreal.ca
http://www.creum.umontreal.ca/spip.php?article925

Event supported by International Development Studies and Citizenship and Community Engagement
Agenda issues...

So it’s come to my attention that there is a mistake in the agendas that you received from the CSA. I was told that it’s on pg 129 of the Survival Guide from the CSA. The dates start to get jumbled after April 12th. Please make sure to double check and correct your agenda.

That’s right in the middle of exams so you DON’T want to mix up any dates during that time! **TELL ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS!**

(you Rebecca Lyon’s keen eye to THANK for this!)
Remember that time...

...four fantASCI students from the BAS program climbed Mount Kilimanjaro over the winter holidays?

CONGRATULATIONS to Lauren Wallace, Normand Doan, Richard Gilbert and Taryn Guldborg! We’re so proud of you! (and that you’re all back safe and sound!)

Capricorn - Ok, so things have been a little hectic for you. The interesting thing is that you’ve really been able to keep it together while everyone around you seems to be freaking out. Good for you. I gotta say...hang in there. Things are looking up for you. Sure it might seem like a little crazy right now, but that’s because things are a little out of focus. Once you start prioritizing and setting some solid goals, I think you’ll see some things really come together. But if they don’t...I always find that duct tape works really well. Not always the prettiest solution...but comes on...were not all in this to win the “pretty” contest. Just get’ter done. Oh...and avoid seafood...for at least the next little while. Eww.

Aquarius - Remember how you were sooooooo relieved to be on holidays last month and you were soooooo happy to relax and just not worry about school. Well sweetie...I hate to break it to you...but then holidays is over. SNAP OUT OF IT. Get back in the game....the whistle has blown...all the players are on the field...and you seem to still be lacing up your shoes. Get it together. You are soooo ready to do this. Get out there and win win win! Ok...it’s not all about winning...but it IS about passing. Seriously...those books aren’t going to read themselves. Unless you’re books on tape...in which case, what is taking you so long?

Pisces - I just finished watching Zohan...and believe me, that is 1.5 hours of my life I am NEVER getting back. I think this can also be said for the time that you have wasted apologizing over what you-know-who thinks you. Really? Is it THAT important? Here’s a little lesson that I learned from watching Zohan...hit the stop button, eject the DVD and do something to repair the damage to your brain after that massive waste of time. Apply that lesson to your own life...and for goodness sake...while you’re at it, do you even KNOW all your friends on Facebook? You have more names on Facebook than Barney Stinson does in his little blackbook. Delete delete delete.

Aries - I was just at a memorial service for my friend’s grandfather. He was 104 when he passed away. Into his 80’s he was still playing golf. At 91, he was driving around Toronto in a convertible. We should all be so lucky. At the memorial were friends of his that he had known for 60 to 80 years. It was amazing. Who are these kind of friends to you? What have you done lately to make sure that your friendships are going to last til you’re 80? Connect with someone new. Call someone for a change. Texting doesn’t count. The next few weeks are looking good for friendship. Just get’er done. Oh, and please do something about you-know-what. That is definitely not going to get any better if you just keep ignoring it.

Taurus - Four year Oprah. So Oprah seems to be in a little trouble with some skeletons from her past high school. Sounds a little familiar? Haven’t it been the beginning of the year...perhaps it’s time you fessed some of your own skeletons before someone else does, them out of the closet for you. Do it on your terms. Gonna...do it. Seriously...what’s the worst thing that could happen? Oh, Ok, that’s pretty bad. Well then...it’s up to you then. But whatever you decide...move on...do SOMETHING. Oh...and if it were you, I’d be eating more veggies in the next few days: Especially carrots...and string beans...always more string beans.

Gemini - I’ve been having a somewhat remarkably bad/crazy year so far in terms of personal health. Not that there’s anything all that serious, but there has been some stress. As a result, I have been eating some serious comfort foods. But while rotisserie chickens are delicious...perhaps they’re not meant to be eaten two a time in one sitting. Medifast: Your loss for the next little while is going to be moderation. Self control. You know what I’m talking. Don’t think that others around you haven’t noticed what you’re doing. They’re just not sure how to talk to you about it. Of course, maybe you don’t care what others think. In which case, dit it up. Let yourself go! Moderation is for losers! Go go go! Live a little!! But not too much.

Cancer - The other day I went to a friend’s birthday party. It was a pothole. I wasn’t exactly sure what to bring and it was in Timmins (I couldn’t even tell if there was a whole to bring). So I settled on bringing some bread and cheese. Let me just say that while there were a lot of people at the party...a 4 kilo wheel of brie was a hit much. But let me tell you...it was soooooo gooood. Moral of the story, check and make sure that others people aren’t also bringing cheese and bread. Don’t know something...ask ask ask. I’m just saying. Oh, and the topic of too much vodka...yeah. everyone is in the dir...but you cannot keep juggling that many people around. Time to choose. Unless of course you live in Utah, in which case, good for you.

Leo - Well look at you. You’re on top of the world...you should be. You’re name it. Just don’t rest on your credentials quite yet...you still have some serious work ahead of you. You’re gonna be fine. It’s gonna seem a little on the brutal side...but you’re going to be fine. Ask for help if you need it...and you’re gonna need it. Trust me. Sure you can top of the world...just like Leo and Katie were on the Titanic. Well. know yourself...there is some iceberg action coming up...and you are gonna have to do a little more than rearrange the deck furniture on your ship. One more thing...there’s a secret admirer near you. Be open to possibilities. Wait, not that open.

Virgo - The other night I watched a great documentary called “I like killing flies” which seems a little common, but it was actually really really great. Check it out. Or not. It’s up to you. I’m just saying...what’re you so afraid about when it comes to trying something new? It seems to be a pattern in your life. Live a little. I’m not saying go out and change everything. I’m just saying...variety is the spice of life. Look for opportunity early next month.

Libra - Who is Little Boots and why is she getting so popular? Seriously? I don’t get it, but perhaps that’s because I’m old and not on the up and up. I think it’s also because I have taste. I’m just saying. That’s my opinion. You don’t have to agree...but at least I have an opinion. Do you have an opinion? On anything? You’re home work this next little while is to have an opinion. Stop being such a fence sitter. Choose. Make up your mind. Change your mind. Use your mind. Do you mind?!!...also...what’s with the hair? Check your head...inside and out.

Scorpio - Ok, so there was a hot lesbian kiss on Gouding Light. What’s the big deal? People kiss. People in soap operas kiss. A lot. Is it really such a big deal? To some people, yes. The main thing here is...the kiss. There may or may not be kissing in your very near future. Good times? Maybe. More importantly, can we talk a little bit about your behaviour the other night? Oh you know what I’m talking about: The pictures are on Facebook. Should they be? Oh and like the way, beware of a dark haired man. Wait...dark haired woman. No. Just dark hair.

Sagittarius - Can we talk a little bit about how much I love to eat? This obviously has a direct impact with how often I go to the gym. The answer is...not often enough. Sometimes I just don’t have the energy. You know what I’m talking about. What’s with the low low low energy and enthusiasm these days? I know, I know, sometimes some down time is seriously needed and you want to make sure that you take care of yourself...but I feel like you keep putting some things off. What are you waiting for? I know it’s hard to get going at first....but once you get it going, I think you’ll find it a lot easier with some momentum. Need some help? Just ask. By the way, keep an eye out for someone in green. It’s gonna be fun!
Graduating and Looking for Fall plans?

I recently received an email from Rebecca Spring, a 2006 BAS graduate. Her minors were Ecology and English.

She contacted me to introduce me to the director of the program that she attended after graduating from BAS. Dr. David Pearson, is the co-director of the postgraduate diploma in Science Communication through Laurentian University and Science North in Sudbury.

This program focuses on the theoretical and practical foundations of science communication as well as the development and practical application of communications to advance the public's understanding of science. An eight-week internship and a major research paper round out this 10 month diploma. Rebecca found that this course fit nicely with her interdisciplinary background and provided her with new applicable skills that helped her land her current job as a Project Manager at Pollution Probe, a Canadian environmental organization.

She has suggested in the past to Dr. Pearson that BAS students may be especially interested/suited for the Laurentian program. While her combination of English and Ecology obviously worked well, many students that have combined an art (be it fine art or social science) with a science might be interested in this program.

The best thing is that the SCOM program is still accepting applications for Fall 2009!

I have actually spoken to Dr. Pearson and he has said that he would be pleased to send you further information on the Science Communication diploma. He can be reached at 705.675.1151 x2336 or you can email him at: dpearson@laurentian.ca

www.sciencecommunication.ca

Just so you know...

More important info that you WILL find useful...

- **JANUARY 23rd** is the last day for you to apply to study abroad or go on exchange for the upcoming year. Check out more information at the Centre for International Programs at www.uoguelph.ca/cip
- There are 50 species of lemurs and 17 are on the endangered species list.
- Graduation applications to convocate in June 2009 are due by February 6th! The application is on Webadvisor!
- Lemurs are only found on the island of Madagascar
- Have you declared your minors yet? Come see me in my office and I can help you. If you’re in 4th year and haven’t declared your minors yet...we’re totally fighting.
- Do you know what your academic/program evaluation is?
- Go ask Jerome about it!
- Have you double checked your exam schedule? It’s your responsibility to make sure you don’t have conflicts. Just a thought...
- Since the lemur’s tail is not prehensile (or grasping), it cannot take hold of anything with it. Therefore the tail is used to balance the animal as it is moving about the trees.
- Course selection for S09 and F09 begins on March 2nd, 2009.

Got a question for Jerome?

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!

www.uoguelph.ca/bas

(seriously...check out the FAQ section as well as the Current Student sections!)
“May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!”  ~Joey Adams

ANY RESOLUTIONS?

Step 1—Aim low. It goes without saying that most New Year's resolutions are easier announced (or written) than done—but if you set the bar too high, you're doomed from the start. Instead of a sweeping declaration like “I will lose 30 pounds by April and finally fit into that dress,” target a goal that's more attainable, like losing 10 or 15 pounds.

Step 2—Don't overload yourself. It's difficult enough for the average person to follow through on one ambitious New Year's resolution; why on earth would you saddle yourself with three or four? Choose the most pressing issue at hand—losing weight, finding a girlfriend, improving your relationship with your parents—and concentrate on that. Trying to do everything simultaneously practically guarantees failure across the board.

Step 3—Tell everyone you know. One school of thought says that New Year's resolutions are best kept to oneself, but look at it this way: the more people to whom you announce your resolution (say, to get out of your dead-end job by spring), the more people there'll be to prod you along if you fall behind. There's no shame in seeking help if you can't accomplish your resolution on your own.

Step 4—Reward yourself. Following through on a New Year's resolution is rarely easy, so a little Pavlovian conditioning goes a long way. If you've resolved to shop less, stroke yourself for not buying those shoes by springing for a steaming hot cappuccino at the mall. If you've resolved to be nicer to people, buy yourself a nice jacket after enduring that tedious cocktail party without delivering any insults.

Step 5—Wait until spring. Sometimes the best way to accomplish a New Year's resolution is to make it at a time of year of your choosing, rather than the one dictated by the calendar. May 1 is a good alternate date, since the change of season will neatly coincide with the change you're hoping to accomplish in yourself.

How will you keep YOUR New Year’s Resolution(s)?

“Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right.”  ~Oprah Winfrey