

# The Phi Sigma Tau

Bulletin

A Publication of the Department of Philosophy, Southwest Texas State University

Spring 2000

Celebrating the New Millennium

Issue 11

## Third Annual Southwest Texas State University Philosophy Symposium

Friday, March 31

12:30-6:00

LBJ Student Center, Room 3-13.1

### 12:30 Professor David Hoekema

Calvin College

**Keynote Address:** "Uncivil religion in a pluralistic society: Why I should respect someone who thinks God told him I'm scum"

### Student Papers

#### 1:30 Clinton Hopper

Southwest Texas State University

"A God of Love or a God of Anguish?"

#### 2:00 Kim L. Packard

Texas A&M University,  
Corpus Christi

"On Personhood: Meaning, Value, and Moral Implications"

#### 3:00 Jason Mallory

Texas A&M University,  
College Station

"Was Plato a Feminist?: Why Definitions Matter"

#### 3:30 Jill Graper

Texas A&M University,  
College Station

"To Perceive is Human, to Know is Divine:  
climbing al-Ghazali's epistemological ladder"

#### 4:00 Vanessa Voss

Southwest Texas State University

"The Truth of God's Banishment of Adam and Eve:  
Whoever Challenged Him and Came out Whole?"

#### 4:30 Jennifer Runnels

Southwest Texas State University

"Beauty and Morality in the Philosophy of  
Immanuel Kant"

#### 5:00 Taj Watkins

Southwest Texas State University

"Antimatter Annihilation"

#### 5:30 Ryan Georgi

Southwest Texas State University

"Two Conscious Worlds, One Mind: A Comparative  
and Integrative Study of Buddhism and Western  
Psychoanalysis"



Attention students, colleagues, and associates of Bob Dyal  
Please join us in honoring Professor Bob Dyal at a luncheon in the  
philosophy department (USC 238) on Wednesday, April 26 at noon

## CONFESSIONS OF MULTIPLE INCARNATIONS

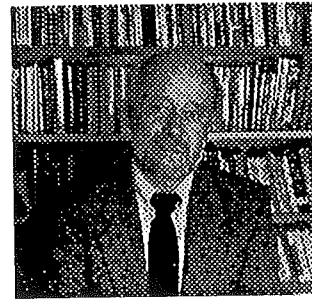
by Bob Dyal

From a fun-loving but shy Depression child, I have undergone several "incarnations" in my life and career. Most, if not all of you, will be surprised if not shocked to learn that my first "incarnation" as a very young adult was as a Southern Baptist minister (before that "cult" [thanks, Gil] was engorged by frothing-at-the-mouth Fundamentalists). I was a naive and idealistic student at a time (the early '50s) and place (Baylor University) where the only option presented to me for making a contribution to the world was the ministry. After Baylor I entered theological seminary and, for six years, pastored three churches. (We later became Presbyterians; however, we have not attended ANY church in over 20 years. I've never before broadcast this early "incarnation", due to the stereotypical stigma, which I have long ago ceased to deserve.) Four factors rescued me from a theology and profession from which I had grown increasingly disenchanted: (1) An undergraduate exposure to the virtues of an open mind, critical thinking, and diversity of ideas; (2) Three Baylor professors (in Philosophy, History, and Drama) who lit my intellectual fires; (3) Genie's Methodist upbringing in a more liberal "Social Gospel" theology; and (4) A move in 1960 from the pastorate to that of University Chaplain at Baylor, where bright students and faculty further stimulated my mind and stretched my creative imagination. I lasted two years before being fired. Why? My work was "reducing the number and size of gifts from political conservatives and religious fundamentalists".

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# MARCUS BORG

# JESUS AT 2000



A community reading/discussion group based on Marcus J. Borg's

*Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*

and

*The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*

Sponsored by: The Texas Council for the Humanities, University Lectures Committee, the SWT Department of Philosophy, the San Marcos Public Library, St. Mark's Episcopal Church and the Campus Christian Community (Price Lectureship Committee)

Marcus J. Borg, a nationally-known Jesus scholar and Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University, will give three public lectures on the theme "Jesus at 2000" on March 26-27. A reading/discussion group is being formed as a way of including the general public in the preparation for this event. Its goal is to provide a forum in which interested persons outside the academic community can deepen their understanding of the biblical/historical traditions regarding Jesus.

Members of the SWT faculty and other invited scholars will serve as discussion leaders for the sessions, which will be held at the Campus Christian Community and the San Marcos Public Library's general meeting room. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with Professor Borg as schedule permits. **There is no registration fee.** Discussion materials, including copies of his two books listed above will also be provided free of charge. Registration is limited to twenty-five individuals, who will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Participants will be expected to attend all sessions and come prepared for discussion. **Deadline for registration is March 13<sup>th</sup>.** These two books and others authored by Dr. Borg will be available at each public lecture and at local bookstores. Copies will also be on reserve at the San Marcos Public Library and SWT Library.

To register or obtain more information, call 245-3143 or 396-4222

## Discussion/Reading Group

**Saturday March 25**

*Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*

10 A.M.-12 P.M. and 1:30-4:30 P.M.

at The Campus Christian Community  
604 N. Guadalupe St. San Marcos, Texas

**Sunday March 26**

*The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*

1:30 P.M.-4:30 P.M.

at The San Marcos Public Library  
625 E. Hopkins St.

## Public Lectures

**Sunday March 26**

*Seeing God Again: What's at Stake?*

7:00 P.M. at University Performing Arts  
Center (UPACC) SWTSU

**Monday March 27**

*Jesus and the New Generation*

4:00 P.M. in Flowers Hall Rm. 341

*Christianity at 2000*

7:00 P.M. at University Performing Arts  
Center (UPACC) SWTSU

*Note: Participation in Reading Groups is not required in order to attend the public lectures.*

<http://www.corridor.net/ccc/price.html>

## *Summer 2000 Mini Session*

**Phil 3301 Philosophical Issues; Phil 4388 Independent Study** - Travel to Beijing, China from May 12 - May 29, 2000. All classes are offered in English, covering western and eastern philosophies. Experts on Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism will be invited to give speeches. Two weekend field trips to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and some famous Buddhist and Taoist temples will be arranged

## *Fall 2000*

**Phil 2311 History of Philosophy** 10:00-10:50 MWF Prof. Geuras  
Early Greek, Roman and Medieval systems of thought

**Phil 2330 Elementary Logic** 1:00-1:50 MWF Prof. Hutcheson  
A study of the nature and forms of correct reasoning, both deductive and inductive

**Phil 2330 Elementary Logic** 9:30-10:45 T-H Prof. Joy  
A study of the nature and forms of correct reasoning, both deductive and inductive

**Phil 3315 Contemporary Philosophy** 6:30-9:15 T-H meets at Kelly AFB in San Antonio  
Selected readings in the late 19th century and 20th century philosophy: existentialism, positivism, also analytic philosophy, phenomenology, and pragmatism

**Phil 3324/5324 Meaning of Life** 2:00-3:15 Prof. Gordon  
Investigation of major theories of the meaning of life in Western and Eastern philosophies

**Phil 3318 Reason, God, and Nature** 12:30-1:45 T-H Prof. Gilbert Fulmer  
An analysis of the concept of God, terms predicated of God, and theological propositions. An attempt to determine the nature of religious utterances in comparison with those of everyday life, scientific discovery, morality, and imaginative expression

**Phil 3323/5323 Environment Ethics** 2:00-3:15 M-W Prof. McKinney  
Study of ethical issues associated with the environment including the nature, use, preservation, and restoration of the environment

**Phil 3331 Phil of Law** (includes human Genome Project) 11:00-11:50 MWF Prof. Luizzi  
The major theses which have been set forth in the history of jurisprudence including foundations of law, natural law, legal positivism, and the judicial process

**Phil 4370 Metaphysics** 3:30-4:45 MW Prof. Zhu  
Systematic study of metaphysical problems by examination of classical and modern texts. Topics considered will involve being and unity, mind and matter, God, causation and necessity, free will and determinism

**Phil 4388/5388 Problems in Philosophy - Space, Relativity, Universe, Etc.** 11:00-12:15 T-H Prof. Kalsi  
Independent study of specific problems in philosophy. Open to students on an individual or small group basis by arrangement with the Department of Philosophy. Problem area, bibliography, and study paper outline are to be approved by the instructor

**Department of Philosophy  
Southwest Texas State University  
Spring 2000**

**Phone: (512)245-2285/ Location: Philosophy Dialogue Room  
University Service Center (USC) 2nd Floor**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SPRING BREAK	13 SPRING BREAK	14 SPRING BREAK	15 SPRING BREAK	16 SPRING BREAK	17 SPRING BREAK	18 SPRING BREAK
PRAGMATISM	20	21 Prof. Richard Hull, Editor, Presidential Addresses, American Philosophical Association 12:30pm	22 <i>Are You a Pragmatist?</i> 12noon Prof. Vince Luizzi	23 <i>Pragmatism and Educational Theory</i> 2pm Prof. Jo Ann Carson	24 Dean Geuras & Charles Garofalo <u>Ethics in the Public Service</u> Booksigning/ refreshments 11am	25
BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION FEATURING MARCUS BORG	27 <i>How Our Ideas About God Matter</i> 11am Prof. Marcus Borg  More on film: Showing of Antonioni's <i>Blowup</i> - 12:30pm Discussion led by Dr. Patricis Deduck on <i>Blowup</i> 2pm  4:00pm <i>Jesus &amp; the New Generation- FH 341</i> <i>Jesus at 2000</i> 7pm UPAAC Prof. Marcus Borg	28 "Hinduism" Prof. Sukhjit Singh 2pm	29	30 <i>The Plain Sense of Scripture</i> 2pm Prof. Rebecca Raphael	31 3rd Annual Phi Sigma Tau Symposium 10am-5pm	APRIL 1
THE MIND BODY PROBLEM	3 <i>What is the Mind- Body Problem?</i> Paul Wilson, Lab Director 12 noon	4	5 Psychology Professor Tim Hulsey 2pm	6 <i>A Feminist Critique of Platonic Dualism</i> 2pm Prof. Rebekah Ross-Fountain	7	8
<i>Continental Philosophy</i>	10 Prof. Paul Cohen "Modern European Anti-Philosophy" 1pm	11 "Critical Theory . . ." Professor Todd McGowen 2pm	12 Ethics of Virtue & Environment Prof. Silvia Elguea 1pm	13 <i>The Concept of the Absurd</i> 2pm Prof. Jeff Gordon	14 FILM: <i>Simeone de Beavoir</i> 1pm	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 12 noon Luncheon honoring Professor Bob Dyal	27	28	29

**Dialogue topics and times are subject to change; for more information, please call the Philosophy department, 512/245-2285.  
The Dialogue Room is part of the Department of Philosophy's Critical Thinking Complex.**

## Lab Report Spring 2000

After Baylor, Genie and I and our two young daughters spent the next four years in Boston, where we were exposed as never before to the arts, cultural diversity, and the ideas of great minds. While working on my Ph.D. I taught Aesthetics part-time at Emerson College (an "arty" school which spawned many actors of the day). With my Boston University Ph.D. in hand, we moved to Missouri in '66 to teach at William Jewell College for three years before I was fired (again) for demanding justice for a faculty colleague who was summarily dismissed in mid-semester. Twelve of us ("The Dirty Dozen") signed a statement presented to the President and Trustees that unless our colleague were at least given due process, our resignations would be forthcoming. As it turns out, I alone was "Dirty" enough to mean it.

By a stroke of good fortune (at such a late date in the AY), a tenure-track position opened and I was hired at Kent State University in Ohio. This was Fall, '69. On May 4, 1970, during an anti-war protest, I witnessed 4 students slain and 9 wounded by 57 rounds of Nat'l Guard rifle fire. This horrific event defined my existence for the next ten years and moved me more to the left politically as I had already been, theologically. Being a credible witness, I was interviewed by the FBI, the President's Commission on Student Unrest, James Michener and virtually every author who addressed the issue. I testified in federal court on behalf of the wounded and the families of the dead. I helped organize and lead the Faculty Observers, who henceforth placed our bodies between the protesters and law officers toward preventing further violence (and was tear-gassed numerous times). I helped organize and taught a course in the Center for Peaceful Change. I also helped organize and lead a faculty union in collective bargaining with the Administration. Oh, by the way, I also taught a wide range of Philosophy courses full-time, including graduate courses (we had an M.A. program).

By 1990, I became another case of Burnout, resigned my tenured Associate Professorship, and (without a golden parachute), Genie and I headed back to Texas and landed in Austin without jobs. Being more employable than I, Genie found work at U.T., but Philosophy Ph.D.s are not much in demand in the non-academic world. So, I earned a Broker's license in real estate and eventually got comfortable selling open land in the Dripping Springs area, where I also drew a weekly editorial cartoon and wrote a weekly op-ed column. Made some money, then lost it trying to build and sell log-homes during the mid-80s Bust, all the while longing to return to teaching Philosophy, my favorite "incarnation". Finally in '87-88 I embraced again my first love, teaching one year at Southwestern in Georgetown and then for the next twelve years here at SWT.

In terms of providing a work environment free of autocratic leadership, petty bickering, ego-posturing, vicious competitiveness, testosterone brandishing, and class warfare, this Department is far and away the best of my experience. Moreover, it has been a joy, FUN, to have been a small part of this faculty, staff, and students!

Retirement, I assume, will be still another "incarnation".

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### The Phi Sigma Tau Bulletin

Editor . . . . . Jo Ann Carson  
(JC28@swt.edu)  
Technical Assistant . . . . . Beverly Pairett  
(BP06@swt.edu)

The Bulletin is published in the fall and spring semesters by the SWT Department of Philosophy, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas 78666

Once again we are preparing for a move to another building. It's back to Psychology for us, but before we leave, our lab computers are getting some much needed maintenance. Computer Science major Matt Stone will be working on the computers in the Critical Thinking Lab, fixing corrupt files, updating programs, and such. We are fortunate to have Matt helping us with our equipment and we still remain hopeful for some new computers in the near future.

The Philosophy Dialogue Series this semester is once again drawing crowds as well as media publicity. For our week on "Contemporary Ethical Issues: Sex and Morality," the dialogue series was featured in two articles in the University Star. We were also treated to a week of our own faculty presenting papers that will be read at the meeting of the New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Association. This was featured as a press release in the San Marcos Daily Record. Other dialogue topics this semester include "Zen," "Philosophy and Film," "Pragmatism," "The Mind/Body Problem," and "Continental Philosophy." In conjunction with theologian Marcus Borg's visit to SWT in late March, we will devote a week of discussion to "Biblical Interpretation."

If you have any questions concerning the Critical Thinking Lab or the Dialogue Series, please contact me at 245-2403 or via e-mail at [pw084swt.edu](mailto:pw084swt.edu).

Paul Wilson  
Critical Thinking Lab Coordinator

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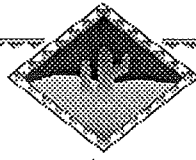
### New Mexico/West Texas Philosophical Association March 30-April 2

Professor Gil Fulmer will be installed as president of the New Mexico/ West Texas Philosophical association at the group's spring conference in Dallas. The topic of his presidential address is "Anthropomorphism and the Anthropic Principle." Other SWT professors presenting papers at the conference are: Lynne Fulmer (outgoing president), Jeff Gordon, Glenn Joy, Vince Luizzi, and Rui Zhu.

Professor Dean Geuras will give two papers on ethics in public administration at conferences in April: the American Society for Public Administration conference in San Diego and the Applied Ethics conference in Beaumont.

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## PHILOSOPHY WEB PAGE

[www.swt.edu/acad\\_depts/philos](http://www.swt.edu/acad_depts/philos)

### WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

Last November a small group assembled for the organizational meeting of PAD -- Philosophy Alumni Development. PAD is a board which will assist with identifying projects important for philosophy alumni and the department and with securing funds for them. Members are mostly former philosophy majors including Allen Bates, Ann Brinegar, Rick Chafey, and Darwin Seidel. Faculty members on the board are Profs. Glenn Joy, Vince Luizzi, and Rui Zhu. Glenda Bailey, an SWT alumna and longtime friend of the department, also serves on the board. Another alumna, Dorothy Evans, who is now Director of Alumni Affairs at SWT, serves in an advisory capacity.

PAD pledged to seek funds for a variety of projects ranging from scholarships and an endowed chair to alumni camping trips and a speaker series. They agreed that central to all of their efforts is the appointment of a Development Officer or professional fundraiser. PAD reasoned that, once funding is secured for this position, raising funds for other projects would be much easier. To this point, philosophy alumni and faculty have pledged funds for three scholarships and an alumni reading group.

PAD meets again on March 31, so there's plenty of time to submit ideas on what to fund and how to do it.

Best wishes,

*Vince Luizzi*