

The Phi Sigma Tau

Bulletin

A Publication of the Department of Philosophy, Texas State University - San Marcos

Fall 2003

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY - SAN MARCOS

Issue 18

What's in a Name?

SWT Becomes Texas State University-San Marcos

On September 1, 2003 Southwest Texas State University officially became Texas State University-San Marcos. The new name is the culmination of the following causal chain of references:

- 1899 Southwest Texas State Normal School
- 1918 Southwest Texas State Normal College
- 1923 Southwest Texas State Teachers College
- 1959 Southwest Texas State College
- 1969 Southwest Texas State University
- 2003 Texas State University-San Marcos

Philosophical question to ponder: Is the 2003 university the same institution founded in 1899?

9/11 COMMEMORATION FEATURES LECTURE ON RESPONSES TO TERRORISM

The Fall 2003 Philosophy Dialogue Series began with a September 11 Lecture by Professor David Luban, Frederick J. Haas Professor of Law and Philosophy at Georgetown University Law Center, who spoke on "War and Law: Responses to Terrorism" at 9:30 a.m. to a capacity crowd in the Alkek Teaching Theatre.

Professor Luban examined two contrasting ways of responding to terrorism, as an act of war or as a violation of law. His primary concern was with the implications for human rights entailed by the war model and the law model respectively, and especially with the inconsistency and erosion of civil liberties which could result from an attempt to create a "hybrid" war-law approach. Following the lecture, Professor Luban conducted a follow-up discussion with students at 11:00 a.m. in the Philosophy Dialogue Room, PSY 132. [In addition to the Department of Philosophy, additional sponsors for this event were: Associated Student Government, College of Liberal Arts, Departments of Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Curriculum and Instruction, English, Geography, History, Modern Languages, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, the School of Social Work, Armed Forces & Society (interdisciplinary journal), The Honors Program, and Jeffrey Gordon, NEH distinguished Professor of the Humanities.] For more information about upcoming dialogues, see the enclosed dialogue calendar or go to www.txstate.edu/philosophy and click on the Dialogue Series link.

FIRST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON LATIN AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY

*The Distinctiveness of Latin
American Approaches to Philosophy*
OCTOBER 31, 2003
10:00-4:00
PSY 132

The Department of Philosophy is sponsoring a symposium on Latin American Philosophy on Friday, October 31 from 10:00-4:00 in the Philosophy Dialogue Room, PSY 132.

The symposium will begin with a keynote address at 10:00 by Susana Nuccetelli of St. Cloud State University. Professor Nuccetelli earned her bachelor's degree in philosophy and linguistics from the National University of Rosario, Argentina. She holds doctorate degrees from Universidad Autonoma of Madrid, the University of Murcia and City University of New York.

In a recent work, *Latin American Thought: Philosophical Problems and Arguments* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2002), Nuccetelli examines the philosophical arguments offered by Latin Americans from the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas to the present day. She traces Latin American thought through questions concerning rationality, gender discrimination, justice, human rights, reparation for historically dispossessed peoples, and relativism vs. universalism—all matters of continuing concern in Spanish and Portuguese speaking parts of the world. She also explores how Latin Americans and their descendants abroad think of their own cultural identity, of U.S. mass-culture and philosophy, and of the vexing problem of which name, if any, to use when referring to this exceedingly diverse ethnic group.

In addition to Latin American philosophy, Professor Nuccetelli also specializes in philosophy of the mind and is editor of a collection of readings, *New Essays on Semantic Externalism and Self-Knowledge* (MIT Press, 2003).

NEWS FROM $\Phi\Sigma T$ DELTA CHAPTER

Officers (elected September 12)

Jackson Schwartz, President jackds1222@txstate.edu

Justin Bell, Vice-President Belldar@txstate.edu

Jake Holt, Secretary-Treasurer jh1054@txstate.edu

Jo Ann Carson, Advisor jc28@swt.edu

Ethics Bowl

The Sixth Annual South Central Regional Ethics Bowl will be held Saturday, November 1 at St. Mary's University. *Delta* chapter has participated in this event for each of its six years and is the current defending champion, having brought home the first place trophy from the 2002 competition.

Cases to be considered involve the moral-ethical and social implications of:

- Breaking a quorum to forestall redistricting by fleeing to another state (the Texas Democrats)
- Removing classical treasures from their original sites
- Targeting young children for commodities like trendy clothing by businesses and marketing firms
- Cutting funds for certain NIH studies considered objectionable by some legislators
- Conceiving a child for the purpose of correcting a genetic disorder in an older sibling
- Discouraging child labor through consumer boycotts or international sanctions
- Using e-mail to organize mass political protest movements (such as MoveOn.org)

Annual Alumni Banquet and $\Phi\Sigma T$ Initiation

Friday, October 17 at 7:00

Crystal River Inn

326 W Hopkins St.

San Marcos, Texas

You are eligible for $\Phi\Sigma T$ if you have

- 9 hrs. of philosophy with a minimum B average
- an overall GPA no lower than 2.75

Initiation fee is \$25.00.

To register contact Jo Ann Carson at jc28@txstate.edu

Call for Papers

Texas State University – San Marcos
(formerly Southwest Texas State University)

7th Annual Philosophy Symposium

April 2, 2004 (Friday)

Papers will be presented throughout the day in the Philosophy Dialogue Room, PSY 132

Submissions should be suitable for a 20-minute presentation (8-12 pages).

The symposium is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Paper submissions on any philosophical topic are welcome **and should be received by**

January 23, 2004.

(Notification by February 27, 2004)

Send two copies of your paper to:

Jo Ann Carson

Department of Philosophy

Texas State University

601 University Drive

San Marcos, TX 78666

Phone: (512) 245-3143

Fax: (512) 245-8335

E-mail: jc28@txstate.edu

The *Phi Sigma Tau* Bulletin

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Philosophy Dialogue Series

Psychology Building, Room 132

The Middle East

9/11 9:30 a.m. (Alk 250)

War and Law: Response to Terrorism Prof. David Luban (Frederick J. Haas Professor of Law and Philosophy, Georgetown University Law Center)

9/11 11 a.m.

9/11, Terrorism, and Civil Liberties Prof. David Luban and Prof. Frederick J. Haas (Law and Philosophy, Georgetown University Law Center)

9/12 1 p.m.

The Art of Belly Dance
Midnight Breeze Dance Company

9/15 2 p.m.

Politics and Change in the Arabian Gulf States
Prof. Byron Augustin (Geography)

9/16 12:30 p.m.

Apocalyptic Expectations and the Middle East
Prof. Rebecca Raphael (Philosophy)

9/17 2 p.m.

The Archaeology of the Middle East
Prof. Norman Whalen (Anthropology)

9/18 2:15 p.m.

Renewal and Reform in Modern Islam
Prof. Carol Barger (History)

9/19 12 noon

Why Religion Has Little To Do with the Current Turmoil in the Middle East
Prof. Samuel Cohn (Sociology, Texas A&M)

Instinct

9/22 2 p.m.

The Reason Emotion Dichotomy
Rebekah Ross-Fountain (Philosophy)

9/30 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Ethics and Work: Ordinary People and the Holocaust
Dick Grisham (Holocaust Museum Houston)

9/24 11 a.m.

A Priori Knowledge: Innate Ideas or Instinct?
Prof. Paul Wilson (Philosophy)

9/25 12:30 p.m.

What Evolution Adds to the Understanding of Human Behavior
Prof. Loyd Wright (Psychology)

Ethics and Work

9/29 11 a.m.

Work: Why Do Any? A Philosophical History of Answers
Prof. Jim Summers (Health Admin.)

9/29 2 p.m.

Ethics as a Factor in Choosing a Career Curt Schafer (Director of Career Services)

10/1 2 p.m.

Ethics in the Job Search Process
Curt Schafer (Director of Career Services)

10/2 12 noon

Reflections on Ethics and Work
Ian Turpin (President and Director, LBJ Holding Company)

10/3 12 noon

Reciprocity, Empowerment, and Equality: A Comparative Study between Confucianism and Feminist Thoughts
Prof. Lijun Yuan (Philosophy)

Brain and Brawn

10/6 12 noon

Admission Policies for Athletes
Prof. Pam Wuestenburg (Director of University Seminar)

10/7 12:30 p.m.

Changing Images in Bodybuilding
Prof. Maurice Johnson (Health, P.E. and Recreation)

10/8 11 a.m.

Sports and Nutrition
Prof. Sylvia Crixell (Family and Consumer Sciences)

10/10 2 p.m.

Philosophy and Current Issues: Ask a Philosopher
Prof. Rebekah Ross-Fountain (Philosophy)

10/13 12 noon

NGOs: Independent Humanitarian Actors or U.S. Government Mouthpieces?
Michelle Brown (Texas State Alum)

Einstein

10/20 1 p.m.

Genus
Prof. Ise Kalsi (Philosophy)

10/22 12:30 p.m.

Moore on Einstein
Billy Moore (Director of Regional and Economic Development)

10/23 2 p.m.

Einstein and Freud
Prof. Jeff Gordon (Philosophy)

Community

10/27 3 p.m.

Speculations on the Origins of 'Community'
Prof. Andrew Zwarun (Agriculture)

10/28 11 a.m.

Can Athena Really Make the Furies Kind? Aeschylus's Claims for Rule of Law in the Athenian Community
Prof. Dan Lochman (English)

10/28 12:30 p.m.

A Civic Engagement Paradigm for Reforming Higher Education and Recreating Community
Prof. Oren Renick (Health Administration)

10/29 12 noon

Imagining Community
Prof. Craig Hanks (Philosophy)

10/30 12:30 p.m.

Technology and Community
Jackson Schwartz (Philosophy Major)

10/30 2 p.m.

Commodity Communities
Prof. Roseanne Mandziuk (Communication Studies)

10/31 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Distinctiveness of Latin American Approaches to Philosophy
Annual Symposium on Latin American Philosophy
Keynote Speaker: Prof. Susana Nuccetelli, (St. Cloud State University)

Crime and Punishment

11/3 12 noon

Alcohol and Violence
Men Against Violence

11/4 11 a.m.

Panel Discussion
Hays County Magistrates

11/5 10 a.m.

Student Justice
Vincent Morton (Assistant Dean of Students)

11/6 9:30 a.m.

The Death Penalty
Prof. John Stickels (Criminal Justice)

11/6 12:30 p.m.

Genocide and Evil
Amy Wilson (Political Science Graduate Student)

11/7 12 noon

New Balance Theory of Punishment
Prof. Vince Luizzi (Philosophy)

Philosophy of Language

11/10 12:30 p.m.

Moore on Philosophy of Language
Billy Moore (Director of Regional and Economic Development)

11/11 2 p.m.

Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation
Prof. Pierre Cagniat (History)

11/12 1 p.m.

Is Music a Language?
Prof. Nico Schuler (School of Music)

11/13 12:30 p.m.

On Possible Worlds Semantics
Prof. Paul Wilson (Philosophy)

11/14 12 noon

On a Recent Attempt to Justify Deduction
Prof. Michael Hand (Philosophy, Texas A&M)

FACULTY NOTES

Welcome to

Professor Lijun Yuan, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, our newest faculty member. Professor Yuan holds degrees from the University of Shanxi and the University of Nankai in China and earned both her M.A. (1998) and Ph.D. (2002) in philosophy from the University of Colorado at Boulder, where her dissertation title was *Re-conceiving Women's Equality in China*. Her areas of specialization are ethics, feminism, social theory, and Chinese philosophy. She will teach a course in Asian philosophy in the spring of 2004.

Kudos to

Professor Lynne Fulmer who was recognized by the College of Liberal Arts for service to the university and community;

Professor Craig Hanks, who received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching from TSU President Denise Trauth at the fall faculty convocation;

Professor Vincent Luizzi, who has been designated a Senior Specialist in Law in the Fulbright Program for the next five years.

Professor Paul Wilson, who received his master's degree from Texas A & M this summer after successfully defending his thesis, *Constructing Numbers Through Moments in Time: Kant's Philosophy of Mathematics*.

ALUMNI NEWS

James Hulgan is working on an M.A. in philosophy at the University of Houston.

Brad Jurica is working on a master's degree in counseling psychology with an emphasis on sports at San Diego State University.

Tracie Mahaffey began work on her Ph.D. in philosophy this fall at Florida State University, where she is a T.A. for a Reasoning and Critical Thinking class.

Jennifer Runnels is beginning her third year in the philosophy doctoral program at the University of Maryland.

Jason Simus has complete his M.A. in philosophy at the University of Colorado at Boulder with a thesis in environmental aesthetics. He has now begun work on another M.A. in environmental ethics at the University of North Texas.

OWL PEOPLE Fall 2003 Discussion PSY 134

*sponsored by *Phi Sigma Tau*, the philosophy honor society

Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics

- September 19 Book I
Aristotle on Human Good
- September 26 Book II
Moral Virtue: Character and the Mean
- October 3 Book III
Moral Virtue: Action, Choice, and Responsibility
- October 10 Book IV
Moral Virtue and Society
- October 24 Book V
Justice
- October 31 Book VI
Intellectual Virtue
- November 7 Book VII
Pleasure and Self-control
- November 14 Book VIII Book IX
Friendship
- November 21 Book X
Pleasure and Happiness

Everyone welcome

Free book for participants

Where Have All Our Alumni Gone

(to graduate school)?

We are gathering data on our SWT/TSU philosophy alumni who have gone into graduate programs. If you have information about yourself or other alumni in this regard, please contact Professor Audrey McKinney at amckinney@txstate.edu.

Spring 2004 Course listings

- Phil 2312.251 History of Philosophy Since 1600** Prof. Lynne Fulmer MW 2:00-3:15
Modern philosophical thought through the 19th century.
- Phil 2330.251 Logic** Prof. Hutcheson MWF 1:00-1:50
Phil 2330.252 Logic Prof. Joy TH 1:00-1:50
A study of nature and forms of correct reasoning, both deductive and inductive.
- Phil 3318.251 Reason, God & Nature** Prof. Gilbert Fulmer TH 9:30-10:45
An analysis of the concept of God, terms predicated on God, and theological propositions. An attempt to determine the cause of religions utterances in comparison with those of everyday life, scientific discovery, morality, and imaginative expressive.
- Phil 3322.280 Professional Ethics** Prof. Hanks TH 6:30-9:15
Study of major topics in business and professional ethics, including what a profession is, whether it differs from business, and what is involved with the moral education, social responsibilities, and ethical standards of professionals and business people.
- Phil 3323.251 Environmental Ethics** Prof. Luizzi MW 12:30-1:45
Phil 5323/7323 Environmental Ethics Prof. McKinney MW 2:00-3:15
Study of ethical issues associated with the environment including nature, use, preservation, and restoration of the environment.
- Phil 3332.251 Social & Political Philosophy** Prof. Hanks MW 2:00-3:15
Critical examination of major theories concerning the organization of societies and governments.
- Phil 3340.251 Symbolic Logic Prof.** Prof. McKinney TH 2:00-3:15
A study of the logic of propositions through propositional calculi, formal proofs, and first-order functional calculi. Also included is an investigation into the axiomatic method as used in logic and mathematics, including the concepts of completeness and consistency.
- Phil 4351/5351 Philosophy of Education** Prof. Carson TH 11:00-12:15, H 6:00-9:15
Study of major philosophical theories on nature, values, and purpose of education.
- Phil 4371.251 Asian Philosophy** Prof. Yuan MWF 10:00-10:50
The course covers mainly Chinese and Indian philosophy, such as Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism. How do people in the orient look at the meanings of life, the nature of the world and their place in the world? This course shall shed light on these issues.
- Phil 5301.251 Public Admin. Ethics** Prof. Geuras M 6:30-9:15
See professor for details on course.

Annual Philosophy Alumni Banquet and Phi Sigma Tau Initiation

Friday, October 17, 2003

7:00 p.m.

Crystal River Inn

326 W Hopkins St., San Marcos, Texas

Banquet Reservation Form

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Menu: Pasta buffet

Please enclose \$20.00 per person* and return **no later than October 10.**

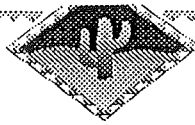
To respond by phone or e-mail contact Beverly Pairett at bp06@txstate.edu or call 512/245-2285.

Texas State University – San Marcos

Department of Philosophy

601 University Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666

*Banquet fee waived for *Phi Sigma Tau* initiates



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Commencement Remarks

Philosophy students and *Phi Sigma Tau* members Justin Bell and Trey Brant were selected to address graduates at commencement exercises in the spring and summer. Some excerpts from their remarks follow:

Justin Bell (May, 2003)

...I believe the most crucial lesson any of us can take away from here is simple, but in the noise and confusion of life often too subtle to perceive. That lesson is that I am now responsible, in communion with all of you, for the care and growth of the living, breathing thing we call society.

...I honestly believe that it is in the process of living full lives that we will gain true wisdom...Yes, I have learned about history, political science, biology, and philosophy but I have also learned about what a friend is, about how to use my time, and about how important it is to run frantically from the library and lazily float down the river from time to time. Life is not a job, a career, or how much money we make but rather who we are, how we love, and how we live life.

...In times of crisis and passion, we must realize that the most patriotic thing we can do is to be outspoken, knowledgeable and active in the world around us, else our entire history of freedom becomes wasted.

Trey Brant (August, 2003)

...One piece of advice...Whenever you buy a used car have a mechanic check out the car before you buy it...The unexamined car may be worth driving in the same manner that the unexamined life may be worth living, but it's a pretty risky proposition

...Introspection and intellectual growth are important factors in the education process, and another invaluable aspect of a university education is the ability to distinguish between facts and opinions...If a fact challenges your opinion on an issue, it is the opinion that must be reformulated because the fact, simply, cannot be altered.

...I remain optimistic about our futures as world citizens because with every year of hardships at home and abroad we attain more knowledge concerning humanity, and it is the responsibility of the educated to utilize this knowledge.

...As a representative of the last graduating class I would like to bid a fond farewell to Southwest Texas State University, and a welcome to Texas State.