

# The Phi Sigma Tau

Bulletin

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

Fall 2004

Sophists and Sages

Issue 19

# 9/11

Associate Student Government and the Philosophy Dialogue Series are sponsoring the 4<sup>th</sup> *Annual Reflections on 9/11* with a talk scheduled for Friday, September 10 at 2 p.m. in PSY 132.

Joseph Brown will speak on “American Conceptions of Tolerance after 9/11.” Brown is an alumnus of Texas State and currently Assistant Dean for Multicultural Graduate Student Services at Stanford University.

This annual lecture has typically followed ASG’s memorial service in the quad. In 2002, President Trauth referred to the memorial service and lecture as the spiritual and intellectual parts of a day of recognition and reflection.

ASG President Jerry Parker described plans to merge the two this year in the single event of Brown’s talk, which contains both spiritual and intellectual dimensions. ASG and Philosophy Dialogue are joined by Common Experience and the American Democracy Project as co-sponsors.

In 2001, within a few days of 9/11, Philosophy Professor Jeffrey Gordon initiated the series with a panel discussion in Alkek Teaching Theater with a standing room only crowd. David Hoekema of the Society for Values in Higher Education spoke in 2002 and David Luban of Georgetown University Law Center delivered the address in 2003.

## News from the Delta

### First Meeting

*Phi Sigma Tau*, Delta Chapter, will meet **Friday, September 24, 2:30** in PSY 132 (Dialogue Room) to elect officers and discuss activities for the year. All students interested in philosophy are welcome. To be eligible for fall initiation (see below) into *Phi Sigma Tau*, one must have 9 hours of philosophy courses with a minimum B average.

There is a one-time national initiation fee of \$25.00.

### Annual Alumni Banquet and

### *Phi Sigma Tau* Initiation

Friday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Crystal River Inn, 326 W. Hopkins St., San Marcos

### Ethics Bowl

The annual Central Texas Regional Ethics Bowl at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio has been scheduled for Saturday, November 13. An exercise in applied ethics, the Ethics Bowl poses cases involving social and political issues, public policy decisions, business/professional/medical ethics, and educational standards and practices. Teams representing the participating universities are given the “case set” in advance, and are asked to identify the ethical questions and implications of each case and to formulate and justify what they consider to be the best resolution of the issues involved. Members of last fall’s Texas State team were: Gina Auzenne, Ron Jimenez, Richard Simmons, and Jackson Schwartz. **If you are interested in serving on this year’s team, contact team coach Prof. Lynne Fulmer or Prof. Jo Ann Carson.**

### Current Membership of Phi Sigma Tau

Danielle Antonetti, Alan Apel, Melissa Arjona, Jeffrey Bird, Olivia Bogrand, Theodore Brooks, Heather Claytor, Carrie Crisp, Charles Michael Davis, Bryan M. Estes, Jon Faviell, Booker T. Franklin, Jake Holt, John Hunt, Ronnie Jimenez, James Johnston, Jacob Kidd, Kathleen Lannen, Deacon Newhouse, Rebekah Morris, Christian Perez, Rhonda Schneider, Richard Simmons, Jessica Sipes, Jessica Talamantez, Christian Trevino, Walker Williamson, Jody Wood, and Ashley Workman

### Alumni Notes

Justin Bell has begun a graduate program in philosophy at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Trey Brant is spending the year in Germany as a Fulbright Scholar. He will teach German students about US culture and history, and will hold class discussions about philosophical, political, and religious issues. He has also been accepted for next year to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Jason Simus is working on an M.A. in environmental ethics at the University of North Texas.

Jennifer Runnels is nearing completion of her course work on a Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Maryland, where she also serves as an administrative assistant in the department.

Amy Wilson has begun graduate study in philosophy at Washington University, where she received a fellowship for being named the top applicant to the Ph.D. program.

## Spring 2004 Philosophy Course listing

**History of Philosophy 2312 MW 2:00-3:15 Fulmer, L**

Modern philosophical thought through the 19<sup>th</sup> century

**Logic 2330.251 MWF 1:00-1:50 Hutcheson, Peter**

**Logic 2330.252 TTh 3:30-4:45 Joy, Glenn**

A study of the nature and forms of correct reasoning, both deductive and inductive

**Contemporary Phil. 3315.251 MWF 1:00-1:50 Geuras**

Selected readings in late 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy: existentialism, positivism, also analytic philosophy, phenomenology, and pragmatism

**Reason, God, & Nature 3318.251 TH 9:30-10:45 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

**Contemp. Moral Prob. 3321.251 MW 12:30-1:45 Luizzi**

Exploration of philosophical dimensions of such contemporary moral problem as abortion, euthanasia, poverty, animal rights, nuclear war, and privacy in a computer age

**Symbolic Logic 3340.251 TTh 2:00-3:15 McKinney**

A study of the logic of propositions through propositional calculi, formal proofs, and first-order functional calculi, including an investigation into the axiomatic method as used in logic and mathematics; including the concepts of completeness and consistency

**Phil. of Edu. 4351.251/5351.251 TTh 11:00-12:15 Carson**

**Phil. of Edu. 4351.252/5351 H 6:30-9:15 RRHEC Carson**

A philosophical investigation of the nature, purpose, and value of education as well as the major problems and themes that have influenced educational theory and practice

**Asian Philosophy 4371.251 TTh 3:30-4:45 Yuan, Lijun**

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.

**Envir. Ethics 5323.251/7323 MW 2:00-3:15 McKinney**

Study of ethical issues associated with the environment including its nature, use, and preservation

**Found., Prophets & Saints 2315 MW 2:00-3:15 Raphael**

An introduction to the contemporary academic study of the New Testament including apocryphal and post-canonical works

**World Religion 3360.251 TTh 9:30-10:45 Raphael**

(taught as Eastern religion)

A survey of the fundamental ideas of the major world religions

**Western Religion 3366.251 TTh 12:30-11:45 Raphael**

(taught on Apocalypticism)

Study of the history, doctrines, and rituals of one of the major Western traditions, or some portion thereof

## Milestones

We were saddened to hear of the death of Professor Bob Dyal on March 14, 2004. Bob taught philosophy for twelve years at Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State) before retiring in spring of 2000. By his own account (in this newsletter, issue 11) his intellectual and personal development involved multiple "incarnations." A graduate of Baylor University, he earned his Ph.D. from Boston University. He taught philosophy at Emerson College (Mass.) and William Jewell College (Pa.) before moving to Kent State University, where on May 4, 1970 he witnessed a bloody altercation between anti-war protesters and the Ohio National Guard, an event that made an indelible impression on him. He and his dear wife Genie returned to Texas in the 1980s, where Bob worked at a variety of jobs including real estate broker, newspaper editorialist, and political cartoonist before realizing that he missed his "first love" (philosophy) and begin teaching again, first at Southwestern University in Georgetown and then here in San Marcos. Upon retiring, Bob conveyed the following benediction:

*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!*

Bob Dyal made a significant contribution to that positive environment. He will be missed.

The department honored Professor Marie-Luise (Ise) Schubert Kalsi with a retirement dinner in March at Palmer's Restaurant. Ise began teaching at Texas State (then SWT) in 1985, and taught previously at Texas A & M, the University of Houston, and San Antonio College. She is the author of four books and many articles, most recently *Meinong's Elements of Ethics* (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1996).

Ise often regaled (and worried) her colleagues with descriptions of her cave diving, a hobby that is perhaps an apt physical metaphor for someone inclined to delve deeply into issues of metaphysics and epistemology. Department Chair Vince Luizzi was once overheard to cajole her: "You know, Ise, if you drown on one of those dives, you'll be out of a job." Never one to succumb to fallacious reasoning, Ise chose the more felicitous route of retiring after many satisfying years of outstanding teaching. We thank you, Ise, for your contribution to the intellectual culture of the philosophy department and the university, and wish you well as you enjoy some leisure time for traveling, grandchildren, and (if you must) more spelunking.

**Philosophy Dialogue Series  
Fall 04  
Critical Thinking Complex-  
Dialogue Room - Psy 132**

9/10 2pm  
*American Conceptions of  
Tolerance after 9/11*  
Joseph Brown, Assistant  
Dean for Multicultural  
Graduate Student Services,  
School of Humanities and  
Sciences, Stanford University

**Dialogue**

9/20 12 noon  
*Democracy and Mediation*  
Profs. Pat Shields and Walter  
Wright, Political Science

9/21 12:30pm  
*Secrets of Socratic Method  
Revealed*Sophists and Sages

9/22 11am  
*Musical Dialogues*  
Prof. Nico Schuler, School of  
Music

9/23 12:30pm  
*Plato's Socrates as Educator:  
The Foundations of Inquiry*  
Sophists and Sages

**Ancient Thought**

9/27 11am  
*The Influence of Plato's  
Theory of Forms on  
Contemporary Thought*  
Prof. Paul Wilson,  
Philosophy

9/28 11am  
*Materialist Foundations of  
Modern Medicine in Ancient  
Greece*  
Prof. Jim Summers, Health  
Administration

9/28 12:30pm  
*Anaximander and the Riddle  
of Origins*  
Sophists and Sages

9/29 1pm  
*The Inspiration of the Birth  
of Philosophy: The Project of  
the Presocratics*  
Prof. Jeffrey Gordon,  
Philosophy

9/30 12:30pm  
*Heraclitus vs. Parmenides on  
the Puzzle of Change*  
Sophists and Sages

10/1 12noon  
*Images of Blacks, Jews and  
Barbarians in Ancient Art  
and Thought*  
Prof. Alan Pizer, Art and  
Design

**Paradox**

10/4 1pm  
*What is Paradox?*  
Prof. Jo Ann Carson,  
Philosophy

10/5 12:30pm  
*Kant's Antinomies of Reason*  
Sophists and Sages

10/6 1pm  
*Community Service for  
Saddam Hussein?*  
Prof. Vince Luizzi,  
Philosophy

10/7 12:30pm  
*Hegel's World of  
Contradictions*  
Sophists and Sages

10/8 10am  
*Statistical Paradoxes*  
Richard Simmons,  
Philosophy Major

**Hate and Tolerance**

10/11 12noon  
*The Anatomy of Hatred*  
Profs. Randall Osborne and  
Chris Frost, Psychology

10/12 11am  
*The Humor of Hatred:  
Political Cartoons in Nazi  
Germany*  
Dick Grisham, Holocaust  
Museum, Houston

10/12 12:30pm  
*Masters and Slaves;  
Bourgeois and  
Proletarians*Sophists and  
Sages

10/13 1pm  
*Hate, Individualism, and the  
Social Bond*  
Prof. Frank Richardson,  
Educational Psychology,  
University of Texas at Austin

10/14 12:30pm  
*Hatred, Bureaucrats and  
True Believers*  
Sophists and Sages

10/14 3:30pm  
*Patriotism: Love or  
Infatuation?*  
Prof. Thomas Scheff,  
Professor Emeritus,  
Sociology, UC-Santa Barbara

10/15 11am  
*Night and Daylight:  
Observations on Hate as  
Ordinary Human Behavior*  
Prof. Paul Kriese, Political  
Science, Indiana University

10/15 1pm  
*Hatred and Objectivity: I'm not prejudiced but...*  
Prof. Catherine Ludlum Foos,  
Philosophy, Indiana  
University

## **Democracy**

10/18 1pm  
*On Democracy*  
Senator Robert Krueger

10/19 12:30pm  
*What's Wrong with Democracy?* Sophists and Sages

10/20 12noon  
*Panel Discussion: The Value of Citizenship*  
Profs. Bill DeSoto and Ed Mihalkinin, Political Science

10/20 2pm  
*Civic Engagement*  
Prof. Oren Renick and Amanda Estrada, Health Administration

10/21 12:30pm  
*Democracy, Terror, and War: Is War Ever Just?*  
Sophists and Sages

10/22 1pm  
*Two Concepts of Democracy*  
Prof. Rui Zhu, Philosophy,  
Lake Forest College

## **Leadership, Equality, and Community**

10/25 12noon  
*The Elusive Community*  
Prof. Craig Hanks,  
Philosophy

10/26 12:30pm  
*Dewey on Democratic Dialogue* Sophists and Sages

10/26 2pm  
*Making Changes on Campus or Changing Lives?: Identifying and Applying Best Practices*  
Prof. Jim Bell, Management

10/27 2pm  
*Defining Leadership*  
Prof. Steve Springer,  
Occupational Education

10/28 12:30pm  
*Mill on Representative Democracy* Sophists and Sages

10/29 1pm  
*Next Generation Leadership: Democracy and Diversity*  
Sonya Lopez, Center for Families and Children

## **Words and Deeds**

11/1 12noon  
*A Critique of Mao's Democratic Centralism*  
Prof. Lijun Yuan, Philosophy

11/2 12:30pm  
*Political Rhetoric: Sound Bites and Fast Food*  
Sophists and Sages

11/2 2pm  
*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner and Other Beliefs on Day of the Dead*  
Prof. Roque Mendez,  
Psychology

11/3 11am  
*Rhetoric and Religion*  
Prof. Rebecca Raphael,  
Philosophy

11/4 12:30pm  
*All Talk and No Action? J. L. Austin on Performative Utterances*  
Sophists and Sages

11/5 1pm  
*Making the Honor Code More Than Words*  
Prof. Rebekah Ross-Fountain, Philosophy

## **Ritual**

11/9 2pm  
*Our Creator Who art in Heaven: Paradox, Ritual and Cultural Transformation*  
Prof. Mary Hoffmann,  
Communication Studies

11/11 4pm  
*Natural Rituals in the Art of Andy Goldsworthy*  
Prof. James Housefield, Art and Design

11/12  
12noon  
Thanksgiving Holiday Ritual  
Philosophy Department

## **Sophists and Sages Take Over Dialogue Room Tuesday/Thursday 12:30**

As part of the Dialogue Series this fall students in the new "Dialogue" class (PHIL 4302/5302) will serve as interlocutors for a series of interactive discussions on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning September 21.

This is an open class and all interested persons are welcome.

# Call for Papers

Texas State University-San Marcos

8th Annual Spring Philosophy Symposium  
sponsored by Texas *Delta* Chapter of  
*Phi Sigma Tau*  
April 8, 2005 (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 February 14, 2005.**

(Notification will be given no later than March 11,  
2005)

Mail a copy of your paper to:

Jo Ann Carson  
Department of Philosophy  
Texas State University  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
Phone: (512) 245-3143

Or e-mail to: [jc28@txstate.edu](mailto:jc28@txstate.edu)

All submissions (including e-mail submissions)  
should include a cover page with the following  
information:

Author's name, address (both mailing address and  
e-mail address), and telephone number

\* Title of paper

\* College or university affiliation

\* Academic status (undergraduate or graduate)

No registration fee

Lunch provided for presenters and faculty

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy Symposium  
was held Friday, April 2, 2004.

The following papers were presented:

- "Aristotle and Slavery"  
by Amy M. Wilson, Texas State University
- "A Critical Analysis of Robert Nozick's  
Minimalist State and Capitalism:  
Sustainable Development and the Tragedies  
of the Commons"  
by Trey Brant, Texas State University
- "The Cartesian Paradox: Descartes'  
Ultimate Fallacy"  
by Alysen Laakso, Texas State University
- "Dewey's Individual: A Defense of the  
Democratic State"  
by Justin Bell, Texas State University
- "Against Immortality as Personal Survival"  
by David Ivy, Texas State University  
alumnus
- "Is This the Beginning of a Skeptical-  
Contextualist?"  
by Andrew Chau, Texas State University
- "A Fresh Look at Newton's Laws"  
by Cynthia R. Nielson, University of Texas,  
Arlington

## The *Phi Sigma Tau* Bulletin

Editor..... Jo Ann Carson  
[Jc28@txstate.edu](mailto:Jc28@txstate.edu)

Technical Assistant..... Beverly Pairett  
[Bp06@txstate.edu](mailto:Bp06@txstate.edu)

The bulletin is published by the Department of  
Philosophy, Texas State University – San Marcos,  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Texas State University – San Marcos  
Department of Philosophy  
601 University Dr.  
San Marcos, Texas 78666



## Annual Philosophy Alumni Banquet

and *Phi Sigma Tau* Initiation

Friday, October 22, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Crystal River Inn

326 W. Hopkins St., San Marcos, Texas

Menu: Pasta

Price per person: \$25.00

Reservations need to be received by Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Contact

Beverly Pairett

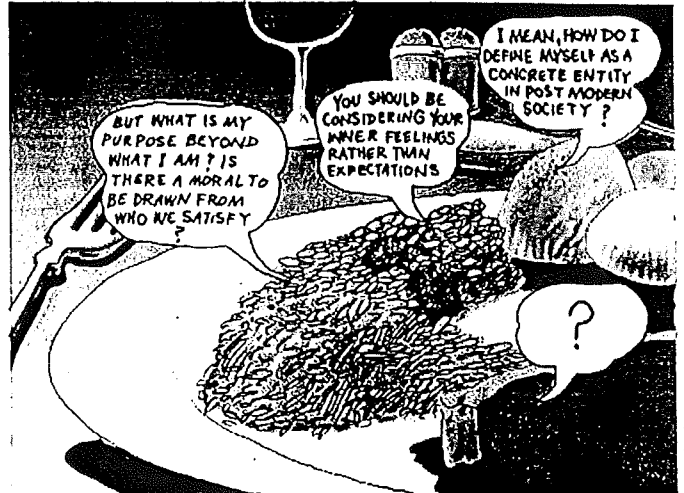
Philosophy Department

245-2285

[bp06@txstate.edu](mailto:bp06@txstate.edu)

\* Banquet fee waived for *Phi Sigma Tau* initiates

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