



The Phi Sigma Tau Bulletin

Fall 2007

30 Years of Philosophy

Issue 22

Words from the chair

Recently department chairs on campus were asked to send profiles of their Departments to each other. I first mentioned that it's been thirty years since Philosophy morphed from a Division of the Department of English to the Department of Philosophy.

"We think a lot here," I told them, "so we're quite certain we exist and hope you are similarly situated. . . . [We have] 100 undergraduate majors, and our majors are all pursuing a BA, since there's no BS in Philosophy."

Adding insult to injury, I reminded them of the unspeakable and unsuccessful push last year to alter the longstanding tradition of philosophy's being a required course in the core curriculum. "The widespread dislike of us on campus stems primarily from our arming some 1400 students a semester with skills of argumentation and critical thinking. Colleagues frequently invite us over for a cup of hemlock, which hurts us to the core. Still, we are willing for everyone to die for our beliefs."

Kidding aside, we're close now to launching a new Master of Arts in Applied Philosophy and Ethics and already have eight graduate Instructional Assistant positions in place to award to students in this program, some of whom we very much hope will be alumni of our undergraduate program.

The number of philosophy faculty and majors continues to grow, and the vitality of our community is invigorating. Still, each loss is deeply felt and saddening. This semester we will have a memorial tribute for Dan Reiter who died in a tragic auto accident shortly after his graduation in May. We will unveil a portrait of Gina Weatherhead, a philosophy major who passed away two years ago, and we remember the lives of Professors James Treanor, Mark Williamson, and Robert Dyal.

The newest addition to the Department is the David Hume Endowed Scholarship in Philosophy which will be awarded yearly in April to the philosophy major or minor who writes the best paper in the analytical tradition of Hume with emphasis on clear argumentation, concern for language, and scientific evidence if appropriate.

Alumni, do consider coming to the banquet this year, since we'll be celebrating your birthday. You are, after all, part of an entity that is now thirty years old!

Best wishes,

Vince Luizzi

Ethics Bowl Update

Texas State philosophy was represented at the National Ethics Bowl Competition in Cincinnati in February of 2007 by the following students: Matt Abedi, Elliott Alford, Nichole McNeil, Zack Perry, Rebecca Quillin, and Christine Vaughn.

Texas State will field two teams for the Regional Ethics Bowl Competition to be held Nov. 10 at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Teams have begun to prepare cases involving FDA research funded by drug companies, churches as polling places, payday loans, Japanese revisionist history, undergraduate tuition, women's (unpaid) labor, and the teaching of "intelligent design" in public schools. Coaches are Professors Lynne Fulmer and Jo Ann Carson

Editor.....Jo Ann Carson
Technical Assistant.....Beverly Pairett

Reception and Special Dialogue
Tuesday, October 16

Reception: Tuesday, October 16 at 12:00 noon
Philosophy Dialogue Room, PSY 132
unveiling of the Gina Weatherhead portrait, commissioned by the department and her husband James Pinder.
(artist: Franziska Gonzalez)

Special Dialogue led by *Phi Sigma Tau*, the philosophy honor society, begins at 12:30
Topic: What is Philosophy and Why Study It?

Everyone welcome
(See the Dialogue Calendar for more events planned for the "Thirty Years" anniversary week.)

Two Special Events on October 11 with
Dr. Jack Zupko of Emory University



Dialogue with Dr. Jack Zupko
"Water and the Elements in 12th
Century Science"

12:30 p.m. Thursday, October 11
Philosophy Dialogue Room, PSY 132
Lunch served starting at 12:00

Philosophy students and professors are invited. Dr. Zupko's dialogue topic is

based on a recent translation by Italo Ronca and Matthew Curr of A Dialogue on Natural Philosophy (*Dragmaticon Philosophiae*) by William of Conches.

Common Experience Lecture/

College of Science Seminar Series

"The Piedmont Project & Teaching an Interdisciplinary Course on Water"

3:30 p.m. Thursday, October 11

R.F. Mitte Technology & Physics, Room 3241

A specialist in medieval philosophy, Dr. Zupko also has teaching interests in environmental studies and religion. He was a founding member of the Piedmont Project, an interdisciplinary group of Emory faculty working to integrate ecological concerns and promote the concept of sustainability in their courses and the community. In 2005, he and a geologist colleague taught the first version of "The Water Course," an interdisciplinary course for juniors and seniors on the theme of water in science, philosophy, and literature. He will discuss his experiences in teaching this course in the Common Experience lecture "Teaching an Interdisciplinary Course on Water" at 3:30.

Dr. Zupko received his B.A. in Latin and Philosophy from the University of Waterloo and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy from Cornell University. Among many publications in the area of medieval philosophy, his most recent work is John Buridan: Portrait of a Fourteenth-Century Arts Master, University of Notre Dame Press, 2003.

In Memoriam

Dan Reiter (1985-2007)

Dan Reiter died soon after he graduated from Texas State. He was a kind person who made many friends while he was here, as evidenced by approximately 300 people at his funeral. He was an intelligent individual who did very well in his classes and had a scholarship throughout his years at Texas State. He was a giving person, as shown by his volunteer work with (among other things) Habitat for Humanity. He was a leader, the outgoing President of the Honors Student Association. Family, friends, and professors who knew and admired Dan will gather to celebrate and honor his life on Monday, October 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the Philosophy Dialogue Room, Psy 132.

Phi Sigma Tau officers:

President, Jessica Talamantez
Vice-President, Deacon Newhouse
Secretary/Honors Liaison, Michelle Methvin

Alumni News

Jay Arnold is a graduate student (of divinity and philosophy) at Yale University.

Rick Chafey wrote a screenplay about 2010, when ancient Mayan beliefs have it that the world will end titled, *XIBABLA, Countdown to the New Sun*.

Booker Franklin is studying law at the American University of International Law in Belgium.

Ben Howard is a law student at Suffolk University (Boston, MA).

James Hulgan finished his M.A. at the University of Houston in spring, 2005. Since then, he has been working for a software company as a technical writer/product manager, as

well as doing some work in natural language processing and generation

Melissa Lomax Jeffrey is Head Librarian for Haslet Public Library in Bedford, Texas.

Jake Kidd is teaching English at Blinn College in College Station.

Jennifer Rowland is teaching philosophy in San Antonio at Northwest Vista College.

Jim Sala, Texas State alumnus and former philosophy program faculty instructor, has developed a philosophy website.

Jackson Schwartz is living in New Braunfels

and teaching at Northeast Lakeview College in San Antonio.

Paul Stearns entered the philosophy master's program at Oklahoma State University this fall and is working as a T.A.

Jennifer (Joon) Tackett, May 2006 graduate in Philosophy and Religious Studies, recently published her first novel 360° (PublishAmerica) under the pen name Bewlah T. Zew. Influenced by the Bhagavad-Gita, 360° is a retelling of the ancient story about friendship, duty, yoga, and wisdom steeped in a whirlwind plot involving corrupt cops and a Buddhist-run mafia. For more go to www.myspace.com/joonzfeat or www.myspace.com/bulaotzu

Christine Vaughn is a law student at Suffolk University (Boston, MA).

Tyler Young is teaching government and philosophy at Temple Jr. College. He also got married in May.

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(While Show is Live)

Hosted by Jim Sala
(Texas State Philosophy Alum)

Current Schedule:

9/23 Nick and Craig Wing it
Old School

9/26 Christianity as Myth

9/30 Free Speech

10/3 I Rant, Therefore I Am:
The Jim Show

10/10 US Health Care

Philosophy Annual Alumni Banquet Friday October 19, 2007 6:30 p.m.

Cool Mint Café – Mint & Yellow rooms
415 Burleson
San Marcos, Texas 78666
512/396-2665, www.coolmintcafe.com

Faculty Price \$30.00

Student Price \$25.00

Menu

Appetizers with wine bar – on deck.

- Goat cheese balls with apricot center, rolled in toasted walnuts
- Mexican cheesecake with chips & salsa
- Greek Platter – hummus, roasted peppers & olives with toasted pita chips

First Course - Spanish salad - orange, jicama, red onions on bed of greens with toasted almonds

Entrée – served with cilantro rice & green beans.

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE

Smoked Chicken Chile en Nogada - Corn, zucchini, tomatoes, onion, garlic, rice, pine nuts & currants in a roasted poblano Walnut-blue cheese Nogada sauce and pomegranate seeds.

Asian Pork Tenderloin Tender natural pork with Asian marinade and spicy Ginger-Mango Salsa.

Lady Fulmer's Ginger Salmon – Wild salmon filet crowned with mushrooms & scallions in a ginger-citrus sauce served with green beans &

Black soy seared beef skewers with green curry coconut sauce

Vegetable Chile en Nogada Corn, zucchini, tomatoes, onion, garlic & rice with pine nuts & currants in a roasted poblano. Walnut-blue cheese Nogada sauce and pomegranate seeds.

Pumpkin gnocchi with Roasted Garlic Alfredo sauce – our own tender house made pasta crowned with toasted pine nuts. (this dish is not accompanied with side dishes).

Desserts – An assortment of Cool Mint desserts to be presented tableside.

Guest Name _____

Entrée _____

Payment _____

RESERVATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 12, 2007 by 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Beverly Pairett, 512/245-8335, bp06@txstate.edu

**Texas State University – San Marcos
11th Annual Philosophy Symposium**

Friday April 18, 2008

**Papers will be presented throughout the day in the
Philosophy Dialogue Room, PSY 132
Paper submissions should be suitable for a 20-minute
presentation (8-12 pages)**

**Papers by both graduate and undergraduate students on any
philosophical topic are welcome.**

Send your paper by mail, fax, or email to

Dr. Jo Ann Carson

Department of Philosophy

Texas State University

601 University Dr.

San Marcos, TX 78666

Phone: (512) 245-3143

Fax: (512) 245-8335

Email: jc28@txstate.edu

by February 29, 2008 (Notification by March 21, 2008)

Call for Papers