

Phi Sigma Tau Bulletin

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**PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE PROGRAM
EXPERIENCING RAPID EXPANSION**

The Master of Arts in Applied Philosophy and Ethics (MAAPE) at Texas State University-San Marcos officially began in summer 2010 and has grown more quickly than could ever have been expected. Phi Sigma Tau is undergoing a renaissance as a result.

The initial department assessment estimate presumed eight to ten new students would matriculate in the first year of the MAAPE's existence. However, the program has already graduated five students who began stockpiling advance credits with hopes that the program would be approved, and two-dozen more are currently enrolled, as the Department of Philosophy revels in increased accomplishment, credibility, and status.

Undergraduates from universities such as, Baylor, Houston, North Texas, UTSA, Southwestern, and Texas A&M flock to San Marcos in order to take advantage of the only applied ethics program in the state of Texas. The diversity of students with sundry professional aspirations from majors as varied as business, political science, English, physics, psychology, education, exercise science, and of course, philosophy, amongst others, provides the foundation for a collegial intellectual community brimming with puissance.

According to the departmental website, "Applied Philosophy is the fastest growing sector of the discipline of philosophy and addresses the need for comprehensive, normative, informed and logically consistent responses to challenges encountered in business, medicine, globalizing politics, economics, and education." As more individuals recognize the significance of applied philosophy and ethics on a grand scale, the MAAPE imparts the theoretical framework and analytic skills required for this nascent program to contribute to society while establishing traction as the premier Texas institution in the field.

**OFFICERS FOR
FALL 2011**

- **Co-President:**
Theresa Hickey
- **Co-President:**
JD Hill
- **Secretary:**
James Ziller
- **Treasurer:**
Hunter Chambers
- **Public Relations:**
Travis Caffey
Ethan Watt
- **Faculty Advisor:**
Prof. Jo Ann Carson

THE DIALOGUE SERIES

The Texas State Philosophy Department in conjunction with The American Democracy Project, The New York Times, and The American Association of Colleges and Universities is proud to present The Fall Dialogue Series at Texas State. The Series is a platform for open, critical discussion of a number of topics and is returning for its 16th Year. The series kicked off on September 19th. Some highlights for the upcoming semester will include:

-A dialogue from Prof. Vincent Luizzi on October 12th at 12:30 titled *Picketing at Funerals: A Freedom for All, or a Free for All?* This dialogue is scheduled for *Freedom and Religion* week, which begins October 10th.

-The following week, starting on October 24th *Corporations: The Good, Bad, and Ugly* will look at the modern state of the Corporation.

-October 31st marks the beginning of a week of discussion on the *Mind, Body, and Brain*. On November 3rd at 5:00 there will be an interdisciplinary panel of graduate students taking a look at modern perspectives on the Mind Body Problem. Pat Shields will round out the week on November 4th at 12:30 with a dialogue on *Creative Scholarship: Deweyan Reflections on Thinking, Doing, and Making*.

-Our final week of dialogue for the Fall semester will take a deeper look at *The Arab Spring*. The final dialogue for the semester, *Politics in the Arab World*, will be presented by Prof. Snehal Shingavi, a professor of Literature from The University of Texas on November 11th at 12:30.

ETHICS BOWL

This year also marks the fourteenth year of The Ethics Bowl. This is a national competition geared around debating a variety of ethical scenarios. The Texas State Philosophy Department has advanced to the national competition six times. This year's team will present their cases for general public discussion on November 7th and 10th at 3:30 in the Dialogue Room. The competition will be November 12th at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The department will once again be hosting its annual Student Symposium on April 13, 2012. This will be the fifteenth year for the Symposium. This is an opportunity for both undergraduate and graduate students in the department to present original research in front of their professors and peers for discussion and feedback. Please contact Prof. Jo Ann Carson at jc28@txstate.edu for more details.

ANNUAL ALUMNI BANQUET

Our annual Alumni Banquet will be on October 28th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. The tickets this year will be \$20.00. It is being held at The Price Center, 222 West San Antonio Street San Marcos, Texas 78666. Please contact Theresa Hickey at tf1083@txstate.edu for more information, or stop by the Philosophy Department office.

Of special note this year will be a ceremony and dedication honoring the late Prof. Lynne Fulmer.

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ALUMNI UPDATES

Jordan Albracht (BA '09) is working for Apple Inc. in Austin, TX.

Evan Bennett (MA '10) is an adjunct professor in the Department of Philosophy at Texas State.

Parish Conklin (MA '11) is an adjunct professor in the Department of Philosophy at Texas State and at Northeast Lakeview College.

Jackson Huguenin (BA '10) is pursuing his J.D. at South Texas College of Law.

Lindsey Jackson (MA '10) is teaching high school in Hungary.

Kandace Lytle (MA '11) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Literature at Texas Christian University.

Andrew Stauffer (BA '10) is pursuing a master's degree in Philosophy and is a logic instructor at Ohio University.

Jessica Talamantez (BA '06) is pursuing a master's degree in Philosophy at Tufts University.

Goyland Williams (BA '09) is pursuing a Ph.D. in African American Philosophy at Kansas University.

Paul Wilson (BA '94) is an adjunct professor in the Department of Philosophy at Texas State and at Austin Community College.

Daniel Viramontes (BA '09) is the Head Library Assistant at the University of Houston's downtown campus.

Claudia Guerro (BA '11) is pursuing her J.D. at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

We are on the web!
www.txtstate.edu/philosophy

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR CHAIR

For a change of pace, here are some numbers! They show impressive growth over the past decade.

	FY 2001	FY 2011
Undergraduate majors:	37	129
MA students	0	34
Faculty	12.5	17
Adjunct faculty	2	25
Intro Students	3566	7177

In a year or so, the Department will move temporarily

to Derrick Hall while the Psychology Building is remodeled. When we return, we'll occupy the first and part of the second floor . . . a 50% increase in space.

I hope to see you at the alumni banquet or sometime soon.

Best wishes,
 Vince Luizzi

In Memoriam

CHRISTINA LYNNE FULMER

1946-2010

Christina Lynne Fulmer, best known as Lynne, passed away on September 25, 2010 at the age of 65. She is survived by Gilbert Fulmer, her husband of thirty nine years, whom she married while completing her MA in philosophy at Rice University. As a member of the philosophy faculty at Texas State, she became the department's resident historian and advisor to the Ethics Bowl team. Many of her students will attest that she had a talent for presenting a remarkably large variety of material so fluidly and rationally that the entire semester felt as if it were one long narrative playing out. She wrote and published for many professional organizations in the US and abroad, including the New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Society, which she served as president from 2001-2002. She was also active in the community, serving as Vice President and President of the Hays Caldwell Women's center and as a member of the board of the San Marcos Public Library.

When we were children a hero, for many of us, was a person we saw as super human. As we mature, however, we begin to find that our idols are no more infallible than we are and, if we are wise, we begin to recognize that it is precisely that fallibility intrinsic to humanity that makes a person worthy of our respect and admiration. Lynne Fulmer was a woman who spent her life showing the world that, while a human being cannot be perfect, there is always room for improvement in our lives - we are never done growing. Her memory will be forever in our minds, our hearts, and our sense of goodwill to our fellow man. This quote will always remind of her.

I must, I must, before I die, find some way to say the essential thing that is in me, that I have never said yet, a thing that is not love or hate or pity or scorn, but the very breath of life, fierce and coming from far away, bringing into human life the fearful passionless force of nonhuman things ... I want to stand for life and thought -- thought as adventure, clear thought because of the intrinsic delight of it, along with the other delights of life. Against worldliness, which consists in doing everything for the sake of something else, like marrying for money instead of love. The essence of life is doing things for their own sakes ... I want to stand at the rim of the world, and peer into the darkness beyond, and see a little more than others have seen of the strange shapes of mystery that inhabit that unknown night ... I want to bring back into the world of men some little bit of new wisdom. There is a little wisdom in the world; Heraclitus, Spinoza, and a saying here and there. I want to add to it, even if only ever so little. - Bertrand Russell

Monica Cosgrove

I was thinking of Lynne just Saturday morning. During an unofficial meeting of my logic class, a discussion of Kant and synthetic a priori knowledge gave me the opportunity to appreciate the quality of her lectures during Modern philosophy, which were clear and memorable enough to make some intimidating material approachable, even with the number of years that have passed between. I silently thanked her for it, as I often have.

I'm immensely grieved to learn of her passing. She was good to us, in class and out, with all of her work during Ethics Bowl, her endless patience, and as a friend. She had students in her home, shared many meals with us, appreciated a bawdy joke, and was often the face I looked for in the audience during presentations because she was so unerringly supportive. Lynne was a big part of my coming up as a philosophy student, and I know many other students of hers feel the same. Her kindnesses stay with me, as does the fact that she asked me to pay that kindness forward to others in need. That's the sort of human she was, and the reason that knowing her has made me a better person.

Jessica Talamantez