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FALL 2012

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- **Vice President:**
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- **Secretary:**
Kathryn Slaughter
- **Treasurer:**
Lacey Merritt
- **Public Relations:**
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- **Faculty Advisor:**
Prof. Jo Ann Carson

WELCOME TO DERRICK HALL!



Whew! It was a long summer. After moving eighteen library carts of books, eleven carts of computers, a plastic dummy or two, a horde of broken chairs, our beautiful Dialogue furniture, and an immeasurable number of more books in boxes, we are finally settled into our new digs. If you did not know, the Philosophy Department has moved from the Psychology Building to Derrick Hall. Please stop by the new office for a quick hi, have a cup of java in our new student lounge (Derrick 101), maybe take in a discussion in our new Dialogue room

(Derrick 111), or stop by for an in-depth chat with any of our Philosophy and Religion faculty. Feel free to explore philosophy at our new location! We will be here for the next two years as the Psychology Building goes through a major renovation.

Beverly Pairett
Department of Philosophy

NEW FACULTY

With a brand new semester also comes new faces on campus. Let's all welcome **Professor Eric Gilbertson** and **Professor Binita Mehta**, who have joined Philosophy as Senior Lecturers in the Department!

ALUMNI BANQUET

Our annual **Alumni Banquet** will be on Friday, October 12th from 6:00-10:00PM. 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.

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 17th year, kicking off on Monday, September 24th. This year's Common Experience theme *A Global Odyssey: Exploring our Connections to the Changing World* will focus on the ways individuals and localities in Texas, the U.S., and around the world form part of a complex, interconnected web. "A *Global Odyssey* will encourage students, faculty, staff and community to consider both the impact of the United States on the rest of the world and to develop a deeper appreciation for how events elsewhere in the world can impact their own day-to-day experiences." Some highlights for the upcoming semester will include:

- A dialogue with Ethan Zuckerman on October 29th, 12:30P on *The Role of Media in Democracies*. There will also be a panel discussion later that week (November 1st, 5:30P) moderated by Dr. Jeff Gordon titled *Political Apathy: Who Cares?*. These are both scheduled for the *Globalization, Technology and Change* week, which runs October 29th - November 2nd.
- The following week, *Democracy's Diverse Voices* will feature guest speaker Deborah Wise, the Director of Educational Outreach at the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation. She will be giving a talk titled *Young Voters: Will Their Voices Be Heard?* in LBJ 4.16 (the Amphitheatre) on Monday, November 5th, 11:00A.
- Our final week of dialogue for the Fall semester will take a look at *Justice in the Global Village*. Maarten Van Delden, Chair of the Spanish & Portuguese Department at UCLA, will be giving two notable dialogues on novelist Carlos Fuentes on Monday, November 12th; one at 12:30P titled *Still Distant Neighbors? Carlos Fuentes on Mexico and the United States*, and another at 6:00P in the Wittliff Gallery of the Alkek Library: *Carlos Fuentes as Modernist Author*.

FALL 2012 DIALOGUES AT THE SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY

DATE/ TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/ PRESENTER
Monday, 24 Sept. 3:30P	<i>From Myth to Philosophy: Universal Themes in Odysseys, Journeys, and Quests</i>	Jo Ann Carson (Philosophy) & the Philosophy Dialogue Class
Monday, 01 Oct. 3:30P	<i>Are We Social Animals?</i>	Vincent Luizzi (Philosophy)
Monday, 08 Oct. 3:30P	<i>Animals and the Global Community: Impacts of Globalization on Animal Welfare</i>	Theresa Hickey (Philosophy)
Monday, 15 Oct. 3:30P	<i>Truth, Doubt, and the Method of Religious Studies</i>	Rebecca Raphael (Philosophy & Religious Studies)
Monday, 22 Oct. 3:30P	<i>Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Foot Traveler</i>	Carole Martin (Modern Languages)
Monday, 29 Oct. 3:30P	<i>Globalization, Technology, and Change</i>	Craig Hanks (Philosophy)
Monday, 05 Nov. 3:30P	<i>The Search for the Great Community</i>	Jo Ann Carson (Philosophy) & the Philosophy Dialogue Class
Monday, 12 Nov. * 12:30P	<i>Still Distant Neighbors? Carlos Fuentes on Mexico and the United States</i>	Maarten van Delden (Chair of the Spanish and Portuguese Dept. at UCLA)

San Marcos Public Library: 625 E. Hopkins St.

*Note: The public library is closed on Monday, Nov. 12th for Veterans Day. Transportation will be provided from the library to the Texas State campus for a 12:30P dialogue with Maarten van Delden.

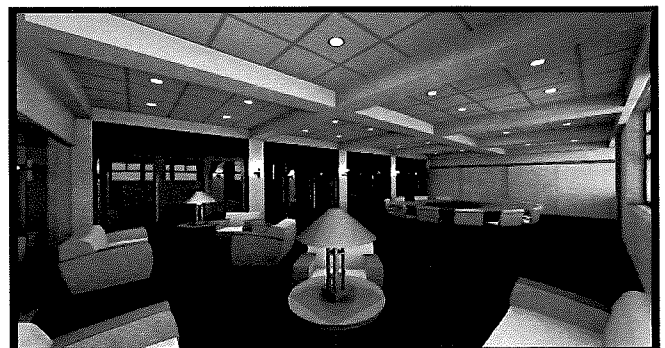
A FEW WORDS FROM OUR CHAIR

From our new quarters in Derrick Hall, greetings all! They're new, but temporary. In May 2014 we'll return to our old home in the Psychology Building. At that point it will be fully renovated and have a new name, The Comal Building. We'll be sharing the building with Computer Science instead of Psychology. I don't think it's too late to have it bear your own name with a large enough donation; do consider!

Demolition of the inside of the building begins very soon, and we are now completing our work with the architects to customize our space. We'll have two seminar rooms, a large classroom, 20 offices for our continuing faculty, and shared space for our 20 adjuncts and 11 instructional assistants. The Dialogue Room will be lavish and large (see the picture below) - more than twice the size of the old one, and we'll be able to make adjustments for small and large groups. Overall, we gained 50% more space; we'll be occupying the first floor as well as half of the second.

With homecoming and our alumni banquet right around the corner, consider visiting us in our new location. And our even newer one in 2014!

Dr. Vincent Luizzi



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Alejandro Bárcenas published a paper entitled "Xunzi and Han Fei on Human Nature" in the June 2012 issue (Vol. 52 Issue 2) of the journal *International Philosophical Quarterly*.

William Brant recently published his first book, *Critique of Sarcastic Reason: The Epistemology of the Neurocognitive Ability called "Theory of Mind" and Deceptive Reasoning*, which is available at Amazon.com. He also co-authored an article titled "Engineering Ethics: Consciousness and Neuroethics" for a PDHonline.org course for engineers, architects and land surveyors seeking professional development hours in order to remain licensed in their professions. In October, Dr. Brant will hold a lecture in London for the Fulbright Association's 35th Annual Conference. The title of the presentation is "Improving Global Education: Reducing Systematic Contract Cheating and Cyber Pseud-Epigraphy," which addresses how students and other academics have taken advantage of online ghostwriting services in order to pay anonymous people to do their homework for them. Ideas will be presented to show what we must do to dramatically reduce this unethical practice.

Gil Fulmer received an invitation to address the Disproof Atheism Society at Boston University again. He will likely draw on both previous and new work on Naturalism for this talk.

Robert Fischer published "Why Incest Is Usually Wrong" in *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, (June 2012): 17-31. He is now in charge of Undergraduate Assessments.

Jeffrey Gordon published "Birth is the Fall from Grace: Children in the Films of Ingmar Bergman" in the *Journal of Literature and Art Studies*, vol. 2, no. 3 which appeared June 2012. He also received the Dean's Excellence Award in Teaching. Dr. Gordon and Dr. Fischer also presented a debate on the best uses of an introductory philosophy course to the Nineteenth Biennial International Workshop/Conference on Teaching Philosophy on July 27, at St. Edward's University in Austin. The debate was entitled "Philosophy: Handmaiden to Democracy or Steward of the Soul?"

Craig Hanks was a participant and session chair in the 15th Annual Summer Institute in American Philosophy at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 16-22 July 2012. Dr. Hanks and three Co-PIs also have been awarded an NSF grant of \$199,997 for their proposal: "NUE: NanoTRA- Texas Regional Alliance to foster 'Nanotechnology Environment, Health, and Safety Awareness' in tomorrow's Engineering and Technology Leaders." Funding will start January 2013. This Fall he assumes the role of Undergraduate Academic Advisor.

Riley Inks will be featured in the October 2012 issue of *BOBCATFANS* magazine in an article on political philosophy and ideas.

Holly Lewis had a paper accepted for publication in the Special Edition of *The Radical Philosophy Review*, scheduled to come out this fall.

Vincent Luizzi published "Four Facts for Leaders" in *African Leadership Review*, vol. 4, June 2012. He also had "Liderler İçin Dört Gerçek," a conference talk about four facts for leaders, translated into Turkish by

Metin Bal and published in the conference proceedings, *Felsefe ve Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, Issue 13, Spring 2012. On assignment as a Fulbright Specialist in Law, Dr. Luizzi drafted and submitted "Statement on Anti-Corruption," a code of conduct to curtail corrupt practices in the universities of The Republic of Srpska of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic, June 2012.

Ivan Marquez is now tenure-track, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Texas State University.

Rebecca Raphael was named NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor for the 2012-2015 term. Her project focuses on religious studies within the humanities at public universities. Events will include lectures, discussions, dialogues, faculty seminars, and conferences. For more information regarding these activities, you may contact Prof. Raphael, rr23@txstate.edu, or the Philosophy Office, philosophy@txstate.edu.

Baldemar Villarreal: "Summer is the time when we get to unwind and relax, perhaps stay indoors and enjoy the time off. This quaint routine changed for me and the rest of the members of Mariachi Charros de Oro; a local mariachi group comprised of current and former students of Texas State. We had the pleasure of accompanying 10 year old San Antonio native Sebastien De La Cruz on NBC's America's Got Talent TV show. Out of 70,000+ acts that auditioned, the group made it to the top 16. We performed in Austin, Las Vegas and New York/New Jersey on five different occasions to a live audience of more than 11+ million viewers per show. We performed a genre of music that is unfamiliar and sometimes unfavorable to mainstream America - especially when immigration has become such a controversial issue. We introduced Mariachi and its culture to millions of Americans over primetime television, and I can positively say that we changed some perspectives - not just the view of AGT judge Howard Stern. Sebastien, the face and voice of the group, is a charismatic young man who captured the hearts of many through his performances on the show; he now has offers from The Disney Channel and other outlets for future performances. I am glad to be back as lecturer in the Philosophy Department. All in all this was a very memorable experience that has been captured on video and will likely be distributed throughout YouTube for many summers to come."



Lijun Yuan was invited to The Sixth Asia Women Forum: "Marriage and Family • Social Change • Gender Culture", in Wuhan, China, May 10, 2012, presenting "Gender Culture: On Women's Chastity in China in the Past Century." She also has a paper in Chinese that is now in press: "Dworkin's Liberal Conception of Equality: Law and Sexual Equality Regarding Issues of Pornography," in *Asian Pacific Forum* (Book Magazine), Beijing University Press 2012. Dr. Yuan received the Dean's Excellence Award in Scholarly/Creative Activities.

STUDENTS IN PHILOSOPHY

PHICTION, SYMPOSIUM & TEXAS PHILOSOPHICAL CALL FOR PAPERS

PHIction

General submissions are accepted from currently enrolled graduate and undergraduate students September 15th – January 15th. You may submit up to three poems and two short stories that do not exceed 3,000 words. Please send submissions to PHIction@txstate.edu in a .doc file. Please prepare your document for blind review and identify the literary genre in the subject heading of your email.

16th Annual Texas State Philosophy Symposium

Undergraduate or graduate papers on any philosophical topic are welcome. Papers should be suitable for a 20-minute presentation and submitted for blind review (author's name on cover page only) and are due by Friday, 01 February 2013. Send by email (.doc or .docx file) to Jo Ann Carson, jc28@txstate.edu.

Texas Philosophical

This journal is open to any philosophical essays written by Texan undergraduate students during the FY12-13 school year. Deadline for consideration is noon on 31st May 2013. Please check TexasPhilosophical.com for information regarding submission. Papers are to be emailed as a word document or in rich text format to TXPHIL@txstate.edu.

TALK OF THE TIMES

Talk of the Times, an activity of the *American Democracy Project* at Texas State University, is a weekly open forum on current events and issues led by members of Phi Sigma Tau. Daily copies of *The New York Times* are provided near the Dialogue Room (Derrick 111) to promote informed dialogues, and the discussions are held on Fridays at 12:30P.

FALL 2012 TALK OF THE TIMES MODERATORS

28 September	Katherine Rompel, Tim Brown
05 October	Tammy Rogers
12 October	Justin Bell
19 October	Madelyn Martin-Buhrdorf
26 October	Bryan Bartley
02 November	Rebecca Covington
09 November	Tim Brown
16 November	Katherine Rompel

ALUMNI UPDATES

Zachary Hamilton (BA '12) teaches Geography and Computer Technology at Gitega International Academy in Burundi.

JD Hill (MA '12) is an adjunct professor for the Texas State Philosophy Department, where he taught *Introduction to Philosophy* in Spring 2012. He is currently the Headmaster at Gitega International Academy in Burundi.

Riley Inks (MA '12) is an adjunct professor for the Texas State Philosophy Department, teaching *Ethics & Society*.

Aaron Taylor (MA '12) is an adjunct professor for the Texas State Philosophy Department, teaching *Ethics & Society*.

Justin Williams (MA '12) is an adjunct professor for the Texas State Philosophy Department, teaching *Ethics & Society*.

ETHICS BOWL

The **15th Regional Ethics Bowl** competition will be held at St. Mary's University in San Antonio on November 17, 2012. Qualifying teams will participate in the National Ethics Bowl on February 28, 2013 in San Antonio. For more information contact Jo Ann Carson, jc28@txstate.edu.

ΦΣΤ ACTIVITIES

In addition to our regular dialogues, Phi Sigma Tau members will be coming together this fall for several fun activities. Members will join in a couple of movie nights at Derrick, bowling at Sunset Lanes, fundraising with our Book/Bake Sales, and preparation for our Halloween Mock Debate, where several members will dress up as current United States presidential candidates and duke it out in a very real (albeit, very satirical) open debate a week prior to the national election. The semester ends with a barbeque at Sewell Park.

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