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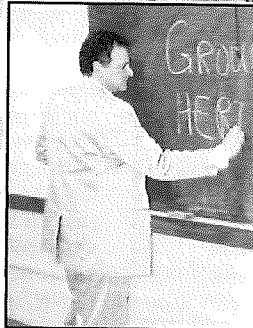
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IN TRANSITION: THE END OF 2013 SEES BIG CHANGES FOR THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT



Prof. Vincent Luizzi, the current chair of the philosophy department, will be returning to full-time teaching next Fall. Thank you, Prof. Luizzi, for all your years of leadership!



After 49 years in academia ("a nice round number in the base 7 system!"), Prof. Glenn Joy will be retiring from the department. Thank you, Prof. Joy, for all your years of service! Best wishes!

OFFICERS FALL 2013

President:
Katherine Rompel

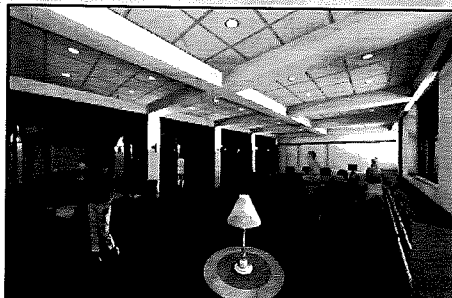
Vice President:
Julian Gonzalez

Secretary:
Chris Cates

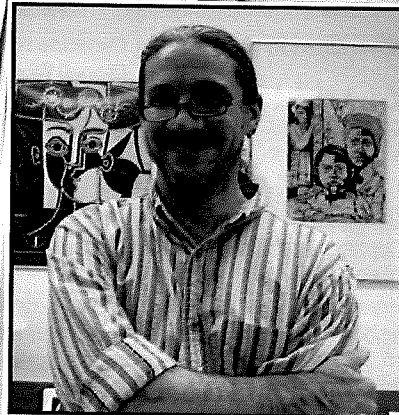
Treasurer:
David Tamez

Public Relations:
Shaula Rocha

Faculty Advisor:
Prof. Jo Ann Carson



Our new home is almost finished! The philosophy department will be moving into the remodeled, and newly named, Comal Building at the end of Summer 2014. Above is the newest virtual rendering of our expanded dialogue room!



Prof. Craig Hanks will be taking over as new chair of the philosophy department in Fall 2014. Congratulations!

THE DIALOGUE SERIES

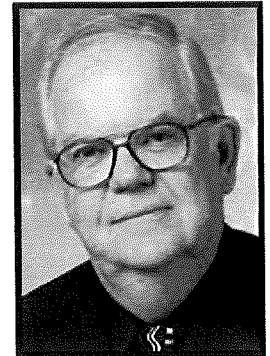
The Texas State Philosophy Department, in conjunction with *The American Democracy Project*, *The New York Times*, and *The American Association of Colleges and Universities*, is proud to present **The Fall Dialogue Series at Texas State**. The Series is a platform for open, critical discussion of a number of topics and is returning for its 19th year, kicking off on Tuesday, September 24th.

Some highlights for the upcoming semester will include:

A dialogue with Richard Hull (SUNY Buffalo), visiting professor, on September 25th, 3:30P on *Incurable Brain Disease: Would You Want To Know?*, at the San Marcos Public Library. Elaine Hull (Psychology and Neuroscience, Florida State University) will be presenting *The Neurophysiology of Free Will: Causal Chains and Human Action* the following week at 11:00a in DERR 111. These are both scheduled for the *Neuroscience* weeks, which run September 24th - October 4th.

The following week, *The Problem of Evil in the 21st Century* will feature Bryan Register (Texas State), presenting *Lovecraft's Solution of Evil: An Amorphous Blight of Nethermost Confusion Which Blasphemes and Bubbles at the Center of the Universe*.

During Week 6 of the Dialogue Series, the Philosophy Department and Phi Sigma Tau will host a Mock Ethics Bowl Competition on Friday, November 01 (12:30p) to prepare the Ethics Bowl team for regionals on November 16. See Page 4 for more details.



Dr. Richard Hull

FALL 2013 DIALOGUES AT THE SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY

DATE/TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/PRESENTER
Wednesday, 25 Sept. 3:30p	Incurable Brain Disease: Would You Want to Know?	Richard T. Hull (Philosophy, Visiting Professor, SUNY Buffalo)
Wednesday, 02 Oct. 3:30p	Bioethics and the Fate of the Responsible Self	Jo Ann Carson (Philosophy) and Students from the Dialogue Class
Wednesday, 09 Oct. 3:30p	Evil 101 in Century 21	Peter Hutcheson (Philosophy)
Wednesday, 16 Oct. 3:30p	Pride, Humility, and the Self	Rebecca Raphael (Religious Studies)
Wednesday, 23 Oct. 3:30p	Adventures in Happiness	Christine Norton (Social Work)
Wednesday, 30 Oct. 3:30p	Rational Living	Gilbert Fulmer (Philosophy)
Wednesday, 06 Nov. 3:30p	Gun Control from a Criminal Justice Perspective	Wayman Mullins (Criminal Justice)
Wednesday, 13 Nov. 3:30p	Heroism, Public Service, and the Common Good	Senator Robert Krueger (U. S. Representative and Senator, former Ambassador to Burundi and Botswana)

Sponsored by the Philosophy Dialogue Series,
San Marcos Public Library, Texas State Common Experience,
and National Endowment for the Humanities.
San Marcos Public Library: 625 E. Hopkins St.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR NEW CHAIR

These are exciting times for our department and university. In Philosophy we have added six Full Time faculty members in the past three years, with specialties including modal epistemology, Asian Philosophy and religion, Latin American Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Queer Theory, and this is just the start! We are growing in the number of students taking courses, with over 5000 students enrolled in Fall 2013 (as many as in Fall and Spring combined only 6 years ago), we have one of the fastest growing graduate programs on campus, and we are continuing one of the most visible programs in the community – our Philosophy Dialogues at the San Marcos Public Library. Professor Raphael is in her 2nd year as the NEH Teaching Professor, the 3rd member of the department to hold this chair, and she is fostering greater dialogue about the meaning, place, and importance of religion in our university, in education, and in daily life. These remarks would be incomplete if I did not note that by the end of Summer 2014 we should be relocated to our new/old home in Comal Hall (previously Psychology.) All of these changes, and all of us in the department, are deeply indebted to the leadership (over 30 years) of Professor Luizzi, who will return to full-time teaching with our move to Comal. Be sure to thank him over this coming year, and look forward to more classes with him!

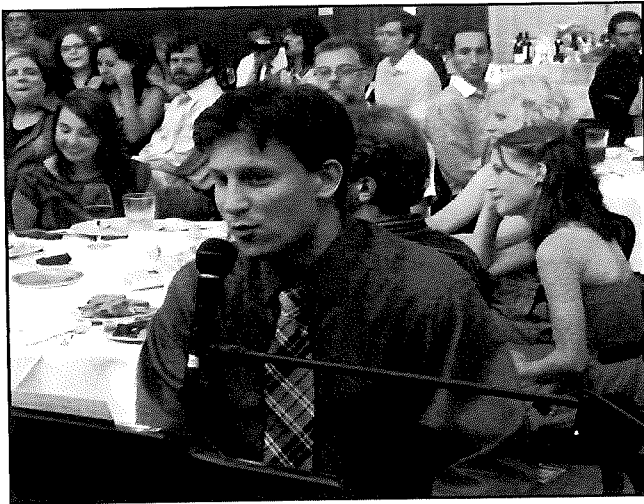
Dr. Craig Hanks

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS

Department of Philosophy
601 University Dr.
San Marcos, Texas 78666
Phone: 512.245.2285
Fax: 512.245.8335
E-mail: philosophy@txstate.edu
Website: www.txstate.edu/philosophy

ALUMNI BANQUET: PAST AND PRESENT

Our annual **Alumni Banquet** will be on Friday, October 25th from 5:30-9:00PM. The tickets this year will be \$15.00 for students, \$20.00 for faculty and staff. It is being held at The Price Center, 222 W. San Antonio Street San Marcos, Texas 78666. Please contact Katherine Rompel at kr1104@txstate.edu for more information.



Above: New members at the Fall 2012 Phi Sigma Tau Initiation Ceremony.

Left: Former PST president Tim Brown entertains the 2012 Alumni Banquet attendees with his original *Let It Φ* , a fun, philosophy-filled melody to the tune of The Beatles' *Let It Be*.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2014 Meeting of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy
Feb. 14-15, 2014; submissions due Dec. 1, 2013 to aaron.simmons@furman.edu
Full papers should be less than 3,000 words, double spaced, and prepared for blind review.

1st Annual San Antonio College Undergraduate Philosophy Conference
Feb. 22, 2014; submissions due Dec. 21, 2013 to sacphil.conference@gmail.com
Papers should be between 1500-3000 words (20-30 minutes), prepared for blind review without personal information. Papers should include cover page with name, university affiliation, phone number, email address.

2014 Humanities Education and Research Association (HERA) Meeting
February 27 – March 01, 2014; submissions due October 24, 2013.
Creative presentations, readings, and exhibitions are also welcomed. Submissions are encouraged from educators at all levels (including advanced graduate students) as well as all those with an interest in the arts and humanities. Proposals for papers, panels, or workshops must be submitted through the conference web portal on the HERA website at www.h-e-r-a.org. Presentation time for individual papers is limited to 15-20 minutes.

1st Annual Princeton-Rutgers Undergraduate Philosophy Conference
March 8-9, 2014; submissions due Dec. 15, 2013 to <http://prupc.com>
All papers submitted should be between 3,000 and 5,000 words. Submissions should include both the paper and an abstract of 100-200 words.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Effective 01 September 2013, Bob Fischer and Holly Lewis were promoted to Assistant Professor Tenured Track. Congratulations to you both!

PHILOSOPHY GOES VIRTUAL!

Prof. Holly Lewis has been working on developing a Virtual Philosophy Dialogue Room with Emin Sagerlamer from VPIT. This experimental space is designed to supplement Prof. Lewis' online PHIL 1305 sections; however, current students, faculty, alumni, and friends from outside the university are welcome. Philosophers can also use the space as a meet up for flying campus tours or teleporting to other user-generated worlds. The Virtual Philosophy Dialogue Room is always open and it can be accessed anywhere in the world. To teleport to our campus, create an avatar at secondlife.com, search for Texas State University's campus and click "teleport." For more information, contact Prof. Holly Lewis at hl18@txstate.edu.

FAVORITE SUMMER READS FROM AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Amelie Benedikt: Mizuno and Wright, *Samadhi on Zen Gardens*. Karin Muller: *Japanland: A Year in Search of Wa*. Mother Teresa, *In My Own Words*. Jean-Dominique Bauby, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain*. Grover, *The Monster at the End of this Book*.

Gil Fulmer: David Ramsey Steele, *Atheism Explained*. Not quite a technical-level book, but rather aimed at the educated general reader. Steele is shown to be wise and insightful by the fact that he includes three of my articles in his bibliography, two of which he discusses in the text, and one of which he uses as a basis for much of his further argument. More seriously, it is a fairly easy read, mostly sound, as an introduction to atheistic thought for those unfamiliar with it (there is a charming, and as far as I know unique gimmick: the verso of the title page includes a statement that the book is wholly true, without error of any sort! Steele mentions this briefly, but for the most part leaves the logical implications for the reader to work out.) Steven Pinker, *Angels of Our Better Nature*. Pinker, a cognitive scientist at Harvard, attacks the commonly held view that violence is continually increasing in human society. Using extremely wide information nets, he shows that, throughout recorded history, the probability of dying by violence has decreased—not quite on a linear progression, but pretty close. Even including the horrific wars of the twentieth century, peaceful lives have become more and more common, as violence becomes more unthinkable. Pinker does not predict the future; but his survey of the past (he goes back to the Pleistocene) it is not as many have thought. The book is long, and sometimes the statistical methods are sophisticated. But it can change the way we think about humanity.

Craig Hanks: Maj Sjöwall & Per Wahlöö, *The Story of a Crime*. Written from 1965-1975, in the evening after the authors' children were in bed, the novels are police procedurals as social critique, ruminations on the successes and limits of the social democratic state and consumer culture. Set in a time when most everyone smoked, before mobile phones and the internet, these books still feel timely. Each of the recently reissued editions includes an introduction by a contemporary writer, including Jo Nesbø, Henning Mankell, and Jonathan Franzen. Styly funny, filled with believable complex characters, and capturing the simultaneous boredom and excitement of contemporary life in developed economies, these books continue to influence, enlighten, and entertain.

Hammad Hussain: Ray Kurzweil, *The Singularity is Near* is a book that is worth reading because it makes a science-based prediction that human life will be radically and irreversibly transformed – by the year 2045. The prediction is made by inventor Ray Kurzweil (inventor of the Kurzweil Reading Machine and the Kurzweil Keyboard, among other things). Kurzweil argues inductively for what he calls the “Law of Accelerating Returns,” citing data about progression in evolutionary biology and several fields of applied science, including computer engineering. The Law states that progression in technological (as well as biological) evolution imperfectly but predictably accelerates over time, as a result of the increasing availability of (biological or technological) tools. According to Kurzweil, while many people are inclined to agree with the idea that the progression of technology accelerates over time, they tend to disagree (or find troubling) an implication of that idea: that there will come a point in time that the rate of progress will become so fast that the world as we know it will become *radically* transformed in a very short amount of time. Kurzweil calls this event “the singularity,”

and predicts it will occur by 2045. While Kurzweil is optimistic about technological progress, he does acknowledge dangers, and deals with the ethics of technology. This includes the ethics of machines as persons, the ethics of preventing a possible *Terminator*-style holocaust, and, deeper, the metaphysics and epistemology of consciousness, especially as it relates to conscious artificial machines.

Riley Inks: Lois Lowry, *The Giver*. I reread this book because it was the first book that I read as a child that made me enjoy reading in general. It's an easy read, and that's what I needed after finishing a semester of teaching. Robert Nozick, *Anarchy State and Utopia*. I read this with a book club. I am the Faculty Adviser for a student group *Young Americans for Liberty*, and we chose to read this book in hopes of justifying the state. Everyone should read this book, not only for reasons of political theory, but also because Nozick brings up other topics and thought experiments that are timeless. Tom Palmer, *The Morality of Capitalism*. I reread most of TMOG because it is thought-provoking. The chapters are set up as small essays by different authors from around the globe who engage the topic of capitalism as it pertains to crony capitalism, entrepreneurship, innovation, human dignity, compassion, greed, impoverishment, and wealth distribution. It's a must-read.

Elizabeth Kanon: This past summer I had the good fortune to read three very excellent books. *The Presidents Club: Inside the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity* details the relationship between past and present presidents. The club officially began with Harry Truman upon his ascension into this seat of power. Somewhat perplexed, Truman sought information and solace from former president Herbert Hoover. This started a trend for future presidencies. This book covers the interactions and influence shared by the few who have ever sought and achieved this seat of power, from Truman to Obama. *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History* was a fascinating read given its subject matter and location, Texas. This book provides personal insight into Texas' transformation from a wild expanse, frontier and ultimately into civilized Texas.

Nevitt Reesor: Herodotus, *The Histories (The Landmark Herodotus, ed. R. B. Strassler.)* The History of Classical Greece 450-480 BCE. I read the book in preparation for a series of alumni seminars at St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM. Herodotus details several conflicts between various Greek city states, the rise of the Persian Empire, and the successful repulsion of the Persian invasion into Greece under Xerxes. It is a fascinating study of human nature, human hubris, political intrigue, and the tensions between fate, divine destiny, and reason. *In the Buddha's Words*, ed. Bhikhu Bodhi. An anthology of excerpts from the *Pali Canon*, the closest we have to the Buddha's original words. I attend a weekly Buddhist book study led by a Burmese monk. Study of these texts not only clarifies basic Buddhism, but it also highlights variations between different Buddhist sects, all of whom have departed from the original teachings to some degree. Philip K. Dick, *A Scanner Darkly*. A science fiction novel, in which addiction to the drug D has become widespread throughout society. Dick, as usual, addresses a great variety of issues such as the surveillance state, the fluidity of reality, abuse of power, the nature of personal identity, the tragedy of drug abuse, etc. It's finally a tragic story, but Dick infuses it with sly humor as well.

STUDENTS IN PHILOSOPHY

TXST SYMPOSIUM & TEXAS PHILOSOPHICAL CALL FOR PAPERS

17th Annual Texas State Philosophy Symposium

Hosted on April 04, 2014. Undergraduate or graduate papers on any philosophical topic are welcome. Papers should be suitable for a 20-minute presentation, submitted for blind review (author's name on cover page only), and are due by Friday, 07 February 2014. 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 FY13-14 school year. Deadline for consideration is noon on 31st May 2014. 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.

ETHICS BOWL

The 16th Texas Regional Ethics Bowl competition will be held at St. Mary's University in San Antonio on Saturday, November 16, 2013. Qualifying teams will participate in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl on February 27, 2014 in Jacksonville, FL. For more information contact Jo Ann Carson, jc28@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. Discussions are held on Fridays at 12:30P.

FALL 2013 TALK OF THE TIMES MODERATORS

27 September	Jason Brazil
04 October	Coleen Watson
11 October	Shaula Rocha
18 October	Chris Cates
25 October	Angela Leibold
01 November	(Mock Ethics Bowl)
08 November	Anthony Megie
15 November	David Tamez

ALUMNI UPDATES

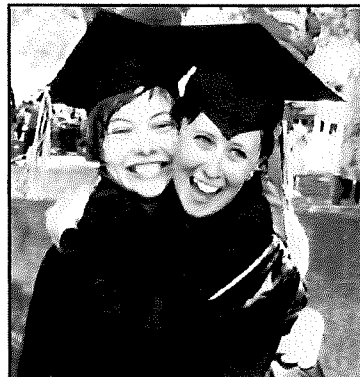
Hunter Chambers (MA '13) is an adjunct professor for the TXST Philosophy Department, teaching *Ethics & Society*.

Cody Chumbley (MA '13) is an adjunct professor for the TXST Philosophy Department, teaching *Ethics & Society*.

Jenn Garcia (MA '13) is an adjunct professor for the TXST Philosophy Department, teaching *Ethics & Society*.

Julian Gonzalez (MA '13) presented "Enframing Nature" at the 64th Annual New Mexico West Texas Philosophical Society Conference on March 22, 2013. He also published a book review of "The Philosophy of Food," ed. David M. Kaplan in *Teaching Philosophy*, Vol. 36 No. 2: June 2013.

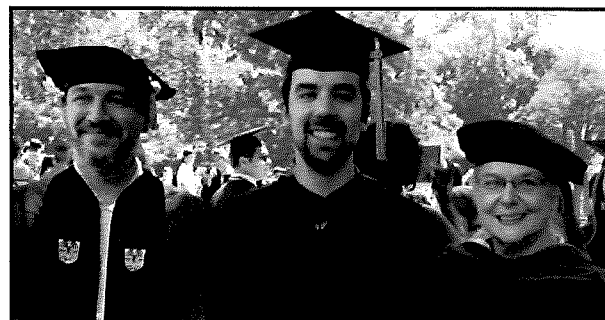
Kyla Hobbs-Darilek (MA '13) is an adjunct professor for the TXST Philosophy Department, teaching *Ethics & Society*.



GRADUATION DAY!

Left: Jenn Garcia (MA '13) and Emma Long (BA '13) celebrate with a dip in the San Marcos River.

Below: Hunter Chambers (MA '13) stands with Dr. Craig Hanks and Dr. Jo Ann Carson.



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, and fundraising with our Book/Bake Sales.

PHILOSOPHY AFTER PHILOSOPHY: AUTHENTICITY AND THE COMMON EXPERIENCE OF THE UNIBRAWDZ

Luna Wilson, *Phi Sigma Tau*

When Marcus Garland, aka "Larry Gunn" founded the Unicycle Football League in San Marcos with only 8 unicycles, no one knew what was to come of it. The UFL is currently in its 9th season, with 8 teams that duke it out on a rotational schedule every Sunday at the San Marcos Activity Center. In the beginning, a lovely woman named Chelsea, "Ginger Root of All Evil," decided it was about "time the UFL needed a momma...but [then] they got the Brawd instead." The Unibrawd now run the interior of the UFL, raising funds, organizing events, bandaging those in need and "antagonizing both players and fans alike," quotes Ginger. The Unibrawd are more than your average cheer squad, it is *jeerleading*. To be a Brawd is to break all social norms of typical cheerleading; it is a battle cry of femininity, self-expression, and authenticity. Although there are two male "Uni-bros," the Unibrawd are a sisterhood of radical individuals who commit blood, sweat, and tears to the UFL community.

Two TXST alumni Annalisa Turner "Trash Boots," Emma Long "General E. Long," and current philosophy undergraduate Luna Wilson "Lunatic" are all members of Phi Sigma Tau, and their background in philosophical studies shines through in the nature of being a Unibrawd. Being able to "embrace the quirks of the human experience" and explore "our most authentic self through the alter egos we develop" the Unibrawd are able to work as a "high-functioning freak show" that becomes a part of our everyday lives and experiences, quotes Trash Boots. This freak show is so much more than the just the Unibrawd, it goes beyond to the community as a whole, forming a tight knit force of radical support and kinship that will never diminish. The UFL is an "organization that invites the



weird and unique, and inhibits the cultivation of the average," quotes General E. Long, "everyone in the league is celebrated...for their individuality, you are who you are, and the league only asks that you come to the game that way." This sentiment is the glue that holds the UFL together; it is for anyone and everyone to come as they are - a player, a Brawd, a referee, or a fan - to rejoice in a community, a philosophy some call religion, and a way of life. Every aspect of the UFL is driven by authentic self-expression, and the Unibrawd are a "loud mouthed group of woman" (and our two men) who "move beyond objectification... we've got something to get off our chests," quotes General E. Long. Unibrawding is not for the weak, but if you desire strength and independence, there is nothing they won't do to help. Being a part of the UFL family is one of the best things you can do for yourself in San Marcos.

The Unibrawd have many current TXST students, as well as alumni, (both from Philosophy and other academic departments), who deserve to be mentioned: Jody Cross "GARY!" in Printmaking, Sara Wendland "Rosie Bush" in Studio Art, Nina "Nina Cochina" in Social Work, Lauren Volpe "Princess Pinche" in English Literature, and Jason "Jackie O'Nasty" in Anthropology.

Top: Phi Sigma Tau members Emma Long "General E. Long," Annalisa Turner "Trash Boots," and Luna Wilson "Lunatic" are pictured here with their fellow Brawd.

Left: "Buffy Sommers," "Trash Boots," "Lunatic," and "Princess Pinche" seen performing a Brawd rendition of Joan Jett's Bad Reputation at a UFL halftime show.



WORDS FROM AN ALUM: THE TRIALS OF WRITING A NOVEL

Evan Bennett, TXST Adjunct Professor

I've been working on my novel for well over a year now, and it's getting harder the nearer I get to finishing. By harder, I don't mean fixing grammatical errors, or structural issues, or narrative coherence. All of that has gotten much clearer with practice. What's so hard about it is difficult to pinpoint. Novelist Haruki Murakami said of writing fiction, "*When we set off to write a novel, when we use writing to create a story, like it or not a kind of toxin that lies deep down in all humanity rises to the surface.*" Whether it's seriously writing fiction, or systematic questioning, or the dogged pursuit of truth (or, at least, understanding), one typically confronts something along the way that can only be described as toxic, unhealthy, or dangerous. Strangely enough, I haven't met a dedicated writer, or thinker, that would trade their projects for a smoother ride. And, if asked why I would keep pursuing something so difficult, I know that putting it into words would be beyond me. But, even with the toxic dangers, there's an ineffable joy in attempting to illuminate those inner forces that are always just outside of reach. Or so I keep telling myself.