

The Dialectic

Classics & Philosophy Newsletter
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Philosophy & Humanities, UTA
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Philosophy and classics majors, minors, and alumni:



Here it is, the long awaited Spring 2000 issue of the Classics and Philosophy Newsletter, *The Dialectic*. I hope not only that you find it interesting and pleasant to read but also that it really renews your curiosity regarding the goings-on on the third floor of Carlisle Hall. If you have enjoyed the news of past semesters — the great campus visits by various enlightening speakers, our alumni-news feature, and, of course, the

fall “pizza feast” — just wait until you see what we are reporting this semester! There are a phenomenal three philosophy-related lecturers visiting campus and a classics lecturer — plus the Philosophy Club is meetings for lunch and discussion every Wednesday (call 272-2764, for details). This issue covers the latest on the Classics Club Travelers and the details of the new “two-track” majors proposed for classics and philosophy. Finally, as always, if you have any questions or comments, you can e-mail me at the following address:

jbrignac@yahoo.com

Cordially,

Jeffrey Brignac

Alumni news: Nhut Tan Tran, Corporate Counsel

Nhut Tan Tran graduated from UTA with his philosophy B.A. in 1995, before attending UT Law School during the years 1995 to 1998. He graduated with a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1998 and passed the Texas Bar Exam later that year. He is currently a student in the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies at the University of North Texas in Denton, majoring in Business Computer Information Systems.

Nhut Tan served as a law clerk for the Office of the Attorney General, Taxation and Texas Employment Commission, from May to August of 1996. During the summer of 1997, he served as a law intern for the Chambers of the Honorable Justice Rose Spector (Supreme Court of the State of Texas). He has

a special interest in copyright and intellectual property law and served as a research assistant in that area under Professor Neil Netanel during the 1997-98 academic year at UT.

Nhut Tan is currently working for Internet Global Services, Inc., in Dallas. He began working on their Special Projects team in March of 1999. Last December he was named Corporate Counsel and In-House Attorney and now functions as the primary legal advisor for the corporation, handling various administrative, corporate, and intellectual property issues as part of the Executive Board. All right Nhut Tan — another home-town boy makes good!

Send us your alumni news, and we'll all be reading about *you* next month.

New “Two-Track” B.A. Majors Stated for Classics and Philosophy

Pending final approval this month in the Undergraduate Assembly, a newly designed two-track major is expected to be in place beginning this fall for both classics and philosophy. Once in effect, the prospective student will have two options to follow toward the B.A. degree, the *pre-professional track* or the *general track*.

The pre-professional track in philosophy will look a lot like the current B.A. major, with a slight reworking of the courses required within the major and a required *senior thesis*. In classics, this track is more language-intensive than the current B.A. degree and requires work in both of the ancient languages (Greek and Latin) as well as literature courses in the student's primary ancient language (*either Greek or Latin*).

The general track is designed for those students interested in philosophy or classics, but not necessarily interested in professional school or in graduate school in one of those areas. This option requires the students to concentrate their elective hours in one or two areas of *secondary emphasis*, allowing them to supplement their major courses in philosophy or classics with, for example, more vocationally oriented courses in business, computer science engineering, or whatever they may choose.

Classics Clubbers Travel Texas!

The Classics Club at UTA recently traveled southward to Baylor University to see *Oedipus the King*, rendered by the world renowned assembly of

tragedians, Aquilla. The actors payed homage to tradition, closely following the original stagecraft and simplicity of set design utilized during the days of Sophocles. The final bittersweet composition of the Oedipus character in chiaroscuro is not soon to be forgotten by those in attendance.

Story contributed by Laura Cleveland — who also discovered, during their dinner at “Buzzard Billy’s,” that Professor Julia T. Dyson eats alligator!

Spring Philosophy Lectures Announced

As opposed to the usual one or, rarely, two philosophy lectures on campus, this semester will have an astounding three speakers of philosophical interest! The first speaker is George Lakoff, Professor of Linguistics at U.C. Berkeley. He is going to be on campus for the UTA Student Conference in Linguistics hosted by the student linguistics group, Lingua. Lakoff is known to philosophers for his work in the philosophy of language and cognition. He is giving the keynote address at the conference: “Cognitive Semantics at the Millennium,” Friday, 25 February 2000, in Room 121 University Hall. The admission is \$5, but students with ID get in for free.

Professor Martha Nussbaum of the University of Chicago, described by some as a modern-day John Dewey, will be here to speak as part of a conference hosted by the UTA English Department, *The Female Principle: Eclipses and Re-Emergences*. Nussbaum’s keynote address is scheduled for March 30th, but there is no information yet regarding time or location — call 272-2692, if you are interested, and they might be able to tell you more. Nussbaum’s lecture is free and open to the public.

The Philosophy Lecture Series lecturer this spring is Julius Moravcsik, Professor of Philosophy at Stanford University. His topic will be in systematic ethics. He is scheduled to speak in the Concho Room in the University Center, at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, 12 April 2000. Moravcsik’s lecture is free and open to the public.

What a line-up, folks! What a glorious time to be alive!!!

Carvey Lecturer Named

The Classics Program is pleased to announce that Professor Erwin Cook of the Department of



Classics at UT — Austin is scheduled to give the 2nd Annual Carvey Lecture in Classics. Professor Cook will speak on Friday, 3 March 2000, at 4:00 p.m. Both the topic and location are yet to be announced. For more

information, call 272-2764 as the date approaches.

Department of Philosophy and Humanities Inaugurates “Philosophy Enrichment Fund”

The Department of Philosophy and Humanities is beginning an annual fund-raising drive. Alumni will have received a “Philosophy Enrichment Fund” pledge card along with their Spring 2000 issue of *The Dialectic*. What’s this all about?

The fund has been set up to help with the expenses associated with the Department’s “academic outreach” efforts. According to Dr. Bradshaw, money contributed to the fund would support such things as the Philosophy Lecture Series. This is a good thing. Each lecture increases the visibility of the Department and of the University. The publicity for the lectures brings philosophy at UTA to the attention of students and faculty from both on and off campus. In addition, last fall, 17 highschool philosophy students and two teachers from Martin High School in Arlington attended the lecture by Adrian Cussins.

But don’t let the word ‘philosophy’ in the name of the enrichment fund fool you. The plan is to help classics with their outreach efforts, as well. For example, the Homerathon has for years been able to attract participants from the campus community, as well as local Latin students from the surrounding schools. Pitch in and support the Department’s efforts to bring our little part of the liberal arts before the intellectual community at large! Thanks!!!

ALUMNI NEWS FORM

NAME (PLEASE PRINT):

Last: _____ First: _____ MI: ___ Class Year: _____ Major: _____

WHAT IS YOUR NEWS?

Please return to Department of Philosophy & Humanities, Box 19527, UTA, Arlington, TX 76019.