

The Dialectic

Classics & Philosophy Newsletter
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Fall, 2000

Philosophy and classics majors, minors, and alumni: Finally, the Fall 2000 issue of the Classics and Philosophy newsletter is here! This issue should serve to fill you in on what is going on and what is to come in our neck of the woods, including interesting facts about one of our alumni, brief descriptions of some upcoming, unique course offerings, the cutting-edge work of our next guest speaker, what the Philosophy Club has up their sleeves, and the current readings and discussions of the Philosophy Reading Group.

If you have enjoyed the previous newsletters, I hope that you have been anxiously awaiting this one, and I hope that this "grapevine" will satisfy your need to know the gossip floating around on the third floor of Carlisle Hall. I enjoyed catching everyone up for this semester, and of course, if you have any questions or comments, please, feel free to email me at the following address: arignote@hotmail.com

Sincerely,
Michelle Kapolowicz

Alumni News: Another Home Town Boy, Travis Foster, Makes Good!

Travis Foster received his philosophy B.A. from UTA in 1999. He was an Honors College *cum laude* graduate. His degree led him to Baylor University, in order to further his studies in philosophy. He will receive his Master's degree this spring, and he plans to continue on the philosophy track and get his Ph.D. His areas of interest include ancient philosophy and hermeneutics. So far, he has edited two faculty manuscripts, while a research assistant at Baylor, one on the Sermon on the Mount and another a book on Augustine.

Travis's own paper on Augustine, entitled "Augustine's *Confessions* as Game Play," was one of 24 papers accepted (out of 91 papers submitted) to be read at the Southwestern Philosophical Society annual conference in November at UT Austin. It will also be published in the *Southwestern Philosophical Review*. For further information concerning the conference, check out <http://www.cc.ukans.edu/~philos/> Way to go Travis! You make UTA proud!

Anyone else interested in sharing his or her achievements, please feel free to send us your news, and we'll be reading about *you* in an upcoming issue. Stay tuned...

Course Offerings: What's Lurking Around the Corner This Spring

PHIL 3302 Roman & Medieval Philosophy. This course covers historical philosophy from the end of the classical period to the emergence of nominalism in the fourteenth century. The period is best understood as the ongoing development of the classical tradition within the context of the three great Western religions.

PHIL 3321 Philosophy of Language. This distinct area of philosophy came of age in the 1960's and early 1970's due to four events, the fruits of which will be evaluated in this course. The four are (1) Frege's becoming recognized as the father of 20th century philosophy with the publication of *Translations from the Philosophical Writings of Gottlob Frege* in 1952, (2) the failure of the Logical Positivist's account of meaning, (3) the bringing to bear of logical theory on ordinary language, with the aim of understanding it rather than reforming it, and (4) a revival of interest in traditional issues about singular reference.

PHIL 4387/5393 Ethical Theory. This course is being offered for the first time this spring. It will aim at the investigation of the history of ethics and take stock of where we are; it will examine both metaethics (the study of morality, moral value, moral obligation, and moral judgment) and theoretical normative ethics (the study of what is good and right).

PHIL 4388/5392 Phenomenology. The primary goal of this course is to introduce the student to the theory and practice of phenomenology, which is a major 20th century movement in philosophy that focuses upon the careful and critical description of lived human experience, as uncovered through intersubjectively controlled introspection.

CLAS 3310 Intro to Greek Civilization. This course is an introduction to the history, literature, art, philosophy, mythology, and religion of ancient Greece.

CLAS 4335 Greek Drama. This course will explore the functions of and relationships among three distinct genres of Greek drama: tragedy, comedy, and satyr-play.

Fall Philosophy Lecture Announced

The Philosophy Club at UTA is pleased to co-sponsor, for the Philosophy Lecture Series, the coming

of Ohio State Professor of Philosophy, Diana Raffman. She will speak on "A New 'Hard Problem' About Consciousness," in which she will be defending a certain form of materialism against an attack by Terry Horgan. She will show that there turns out to be a new problem for the materialist that is parallel to, though different from, the "hard problem" David Chalmers discusses in his recent book *The Conscious Mind* and which has to do with how and why any physical system, such as the brain, that functions in some complex way even is conscious. The lecture is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in the Guadalupe Room, University Center, Friday, 1 December 2000. This one is too good to miss. We hope to see you all there!

What's 'Happening' in the Philosophy Club at UTA?

The Club, which is open to everyone, is meeting every Wednesday, at noon, in Room 314, Carlisle Hall. Philosophical discussion takes place on specific pre-arranged topics, followed by an off-campus rendezvous for lunch some time after 1 p.m. The turn out this semester has been great. The new officers are as follows: Michelle Kapolowicz, President; Maria Schneider, Vice President; Jeremy Hollinger, Treasurer; and Lukas Szrot, Secretary.



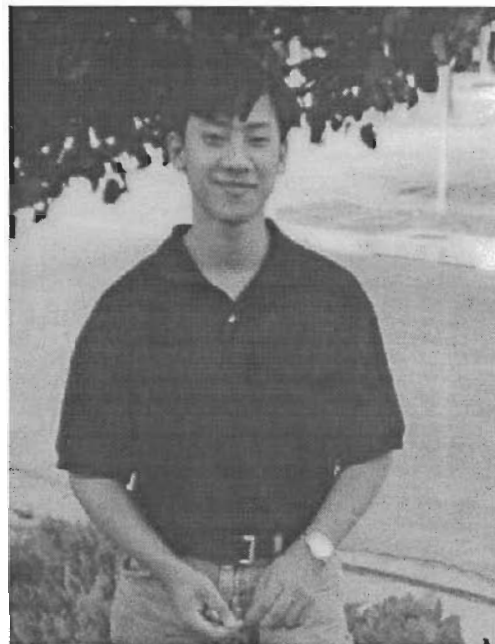
Schneider, Hollinger, and Kapolowicz

We have been working on delivering an exciting addition for all those interested and who qualify. It has been suggested for some time now, and it is time that it happens! We are petitioning to start a chapter of the Philosophy Honor Society Chapter, Phi Sigma Tau on the UTA campus. It would not replace

the Club, rather it would run parallel to it in some ways, similar to the way that Classics Club and Eta Sigma Phi (the Classical Studies Honor Society) have been running here. We'll keep you posted!

Insight on the Philosophy Reading Group

The Philosophy Reading Group, which is also open to all who are interested and which shouldn't be confused with the Philosophy Club, meets every Friday, at 12:30 p.m. in Carlisle 305 (before deciding where to go for lunch and discussion). This semester, the Group has been tackling Robert Brandom's almost 800-page book, *Making It Explicit*. But we are temporarily putting that aside to explore John McDowell's 1997 Woodbridge Lectures. They are reprinted in the September, 1998, issue of the *Journal of Philosophy* under the title, "Having the World in View: Sellars, Kant, and Intentionality. Lecture I. Sellars on Perceptual Experience. Lecture II. The Logical Form of an Intuition. Lecture III. Intentionality as a Relation." We are reading one lecture a week, beginning Friday November 10th. Each lecture is about 20 pages in length. Come join us!



Mystery Man takes the place of Szrot!

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.