

The Dialectic

Classics & Philosophy Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 1

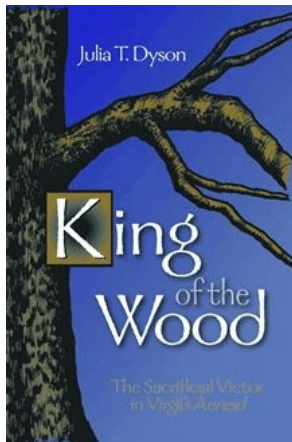
Philosophy & Humanities, UTA
Fall, 2001

Classics and Philosophy majors, minors and alumni, the newsletter which you all have been eagerly awaiting has arrived. The Fall 2001 semester is in full swing, with mid-term exams completed and students filled with anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday. There is a certain something in the air on the third floor of Carlisle Hall this year. Classes are filled with eager students who have replaced glassy-eyed complacency with an unwavering dedication to gleaning knowledge from their texts and professors. The faculty have shown a renewed devotion to maximizing the effectiveness of their already impressive instruction. Believe you me, things are good for Classics and Philosophy at UTA. Here it is, all the essential summation of what has happened since last spring and a preview of all the exciting events to come.

Sincerely,
Gary Robinson
Philosophy Club President

Classics Professor Publishes New Book *Buy a copy now!*

Professor Julia T. Dyson has published her new book entitled *King of the Wood: The Sacrificial Victor in Virgil's Aeneid*. In the book Dr. Dyson offers a radical interpretation of Virgil's Aeneid. She claims that Aeneas's final sacrifice of Turnus, which has always perplexed readers, is demanded within the religious framework of the poem. The book bridges the gap between literary criticism and the study of Roman religion; it shows that Virgil's allusions to Roman cult prophesy the sacrificial death of Aeneas himself. For more information about the book, including ordering information, go to <http://www.oupres.com> and search for *King of the Wood*.



Guest Speaker Fall 2001

This Fall the Philosophy Club has planned an epic event. How much do infants know? Professor Richard Grandy of Rice University addresses this question in his planned lecture, "Objects before Words." Developmental cognitive psychologists seem to have discovered that infants have considerable knowledge about objects. Is this folk metaphysics retained when infants become adults – and, if so, is it replaced with a more sophisticated view or does it become embedded into a more refined view? This



knowledge of physical objects appears to need to be expressed in terms of a count noun which spans many of the familiar essence-giving sortal terms. This conflicts with the conventional wisdom of philosophers concerning sortals and seems to fall into a category that Quine would call "too vague and too narrow" for serious ontology. Professor Grandy plans to focus primarily on the experimental evidence and the alleged content of the infants' knowledge. The event will be held on November 29th at 3:30 p.m. in the Concho Room of the University Center. Dr. Grandy denies any connection to the popular fast-food chain, but he thinks their sweet-rolls are 'delightful'.

Membership Drive for *Phi Sigma Tau* *Uncle Denny wants you!*

The number of new members in our local Texas Mu Chapter of *Phi Sigma Tau*, the International Honor Society in Philosophy, are already impressive. But we shall continue to solicit new members until all of the qualified students at UTA have been initiated! Do you or anyone you know meet the requirements for membership? They are

- (1) at least sophomore standing
- (2) at least two courses in philosophy
- (3) a B average or better in all philosophy courses
- (4) a B average (3.0 G.P.A.) or better, overall.

Members are eligible to take part in the spring New Member Initiation and Dinner (have you heard about the flaming coffee?), as well as other activities scheduled during the year. If you meet the requirements and are interested in joining (don't deny yourself!), please contact Denny Bradshaw (by calling 817-272-3207 or emailing him at bradshaw@uta.edu).



Misun reacts to news of the flaming coffee!

New Courses for Spring 2002

A must for serious philosophy and classics students

Theory of Knowledge

Theory of knowledge, or epistemology as it has been called in the 20th century, has always been one of the core areas of Western philosophy. Epistemology presents three interrelated but distinguishable aspects, the first metaphysical, the second methodological, and the third criterial/justificational. It purports to tell us what knowledge is, how we should go about acquiring it, and how we can determine whether/establish that we have it. The course will be taught on Tuesday and Thursday from 11-12:20p.m. by Dr. Charles Nussbaum. (The MR on some of the flyers, rather than TR, was a typo – eek!).

The Sophists

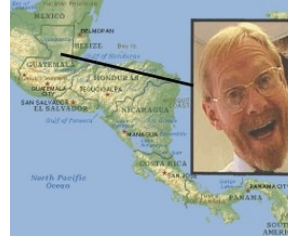
“The Sophists” is a topics course which will study a group of men who are recognized as among the initiators of what is called today the “Fifth-Century [B.C.E.] Enlightenment.” At that time, the focus of philosophical attention shifted from the cosmos to human beings. The Sophists initiated a series of important, continuing debates concerning the nature of knowledge, language, religion and society. An appreciation of their intellectual stature has been obscured because one of our primary sources for their work and thought is Plato, their stern opponent. In this course students will explore the great Sophists (e.g. Protagoras, Gorgias), their ideas, arguments, intellectual, cultural and historical milieu. The class will be team taught by Dr. Tim Mahoney and Dr. Charles Chiasson – however, it is not clear whether they will tag in and out à la wrestling or whether it will be an all out Sophist assault. The course will be taught Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9-9:50 a.m.

Philosophy majors should also think seriously about signing up for PHIL 3307 “Seminar in Research Methods and Philosophical Writing.” Being taught by Dr. Keith Burgess-Jackson, this course is required of both “General Track” and “Pre-Professional Track”

philosophy majors who are coming in under the new 2001-2003 Undergraduate Catalog.

Harry Reeder Goes to Guatemala *Locals Fear the Man They Call ‘Red Beard’*

This Summer Dr. Harry Reeder traveled to Guatemala for the second annual meeting of scholars from Central and North America on topics in Globalization at Universidad Rafael Landivar. Dr. Reeder presented a paper, en Español, entitled, “Phenomenological Insights into the Globalization of Education and the Preservation of Indigenous Cultures.” “Scholars in Central America are very concerned about the influx of globalization in their countries,” says Dr. Reeder. At the meeting, an International Center for Studies in Globalization was established and Dr. Reeder was elected to its editorial board. Dr. Reeder was also interviewed on the radio at Guatemala’s state university, and reportedly the general populace of Guatemala now discusses the advantages of Husserl’s philosophy instead of the day’s goat races.



Phi Sigma Tau Faculty Colloquium

The members of *Phi Sigma Tau* (Texas Mu Chapter) have planned an event which could prove to be *the* intellectual event of the fall season. The members of *Phi Sigma Tau* and the faculty of the Department of Philosophy and Humanities are invited to the first Phi Sigma Tau Faculty Colloquium. Professor Charles Nussbaum will present a paper entitled, “Kinds, Types and Musical Ontology,” at Professor Bradshaw’s house in lovely southwest Arlington, on Friday, 9 November 2001, at 4:00 p.m. For all the student *Phi Sigma Tau* members, this will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about your professors’ research. Reportedly, Pooh Bear will be present to critique the paper and to sign autographs. Those who need directions can get a map and directions from Billie, in the main Philosophy Department office, 305 Carlisle Hall.

63rd Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society

On November 2nd through the 4th, the 63rd annual meeting of the SWPS will take place at the Embassy Suites Love Field in Dallas. Registration, which costs \$30 – although we are seeing whether area students can get a discount – begins at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd with the first presentation at 12:30 p.m. By pointing your ol’ web browser at the following address, www.ou.edu/ouphil/faculty/chris/swpsprogram.html, you can see the convention program, as well as all the

other relevant information including directions, a full list of speakers, and abstracts of papers.

Philosophy Club
We Make Champions

The Philosophy Club at UTA has been going strong this semester and attendance is up even from recent strong semesters. There are a lot of new faces, and the discussion is as good as it's ever been. At the beginning of the semester the Philosophy Club elected new officers:

- President: Gary Robinson
- Vice-President: Thomas O'Mara
- Treasurer: Misun Derouin
- Secretary: Brooks Oakley

Rumor has it that Brooks is working on a web page for the Philosophy Club!

Misun and her committee have worked hard on this year's fund-raising project: On October 30th and 31st, the Philosophy Club was selling donuts and coffee at a table in University Hall from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. We hope that the philosophy majors who got Denny's email were able to stop by and buy 20 donuts. We even bought a tablecloth, for goodness sake!

And Thomas is keeping track of Lukas Szrot. No mean feat that!

Phi Sigma Tau at UTA
Unstoppable coalition planned with Philosophy Club

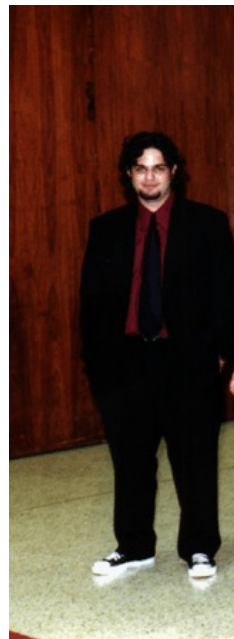
If you haven't figured it out already, last spring an event of monumental proportions took place. The Texas Mu Chapter of *Phi Sigma Tau* was installed at UTA, and 11 charter members were initiated. Led by our indomitable faculty advisor, Professor Denny Bradshaw, the initiation ceremony went off without a hitch. Scores of friends and family came to watch the proceedings and were moved to tears by the emphatic oration of the officers:

- President – April Hunziker
- Vice-President – Michelle Kapolowicz
- Treasurer – Jeff Brignac
- Secretary – Gary Robinson

The ceremony was followed by dinner at Portofino's where what turned out to be the highpoint of the evening took place: flaming coffee with enough liquor to kill a cow. Need I say more?



New officers pose with the Charter



Brooks dressed to the nines



Marge and Seth wonder how they'll keep Zach down on the farm, now that he's seen the sights of Portofino's!

Feeling grateful...nostalgic...generous? Please send any donations in support of our programs and activities (e.g., visiting speakers, the King Scholarship Fund, dept. newsletter) to the address below, c/o Chair.

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.	

