

- MAJOR IN THINKING!
- RUSH WEEK!
- ETHICS BOWL
- PHIL TALKS
- FACEBOOK

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Letter from the Chair 2
- Faculty/Staff List 2
- Faculty Updates 3
- Department Lectures 3
- Alumni Updates 6

Thinking about a major?

Major in Thinking. Major in Philos-

Should you major in Philosophy?

Do you enjoy thinking about big questions? Does God exist? Do we have free will? What is the meaning of life?

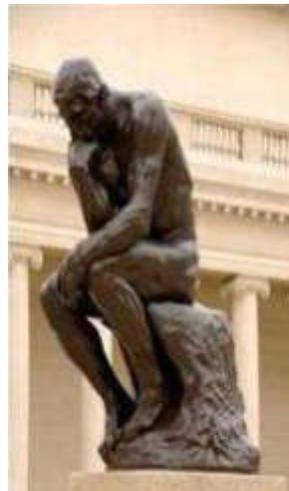
Do you want to reason logically and write clearly?

Do you want to develop skills attractive to employers looking to hire creative people?

Do you want to go to law school?

If so, then

YOU SHOULD MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY!



The Thinker statue by Auguste Rodin.

Philosophy majors learn to analyze arguments, read carefully, think clearly, and write effectively. As a major, you have the joys of small discussion-based classes with some of the best philosophy faculty in the country, and you receive individual attention from your faculty advisor. With a philosophy degree, you can succeed in law school, business, education, health care and much more.

Philosophy Rush Week!

The Philosophy department will have its first Philosophy rush week March 21–25. This week is dedicated to current and potential undergraduate majors. **Your participation is encouraged. Who said philosophers don't know how to have fun?**

See page 4 for schedule of events



Stay connected. We are on Facebook!

Search: "Philosophy at Georgia State Univer-

Between the Rainbolt Lines*



George Rainbolt,
Professor and Chair

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of the *Philosophy Phile*. We hoped you had a good holiday season and that the new year is starting off well for you. The Department is a busy place and this newsletter tells you some of what is going on.

This fall for the first time, our undergraduates fielded an Ethics Bowl team. They did a great job. See page five for more information.

Our graduate students continue to impress. Paul Tulipana's paper "Kant's Conception of Autonomy in Two Objections to Metaethical Constitutivism," Billy Brady's paper "The Principle of Future Alternative Possibilities," and Dylan Murray's paper "Situations, Character, and Perceptual Akrasia" have been accepted for presentation at meetings of the American Philosophical Association. The vast majority of accepted papers are written by professors, not graduate students. It is a great honor for a paper by a graduate student to be accepted.

On the faculty front, Dr. William Edmundson, jointly appointed in Philosophy and Law, was recently named a Regents' Professor. This is the highest honor that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia can bestow on a faculty member and Dr. Edmundson definitely deserves it. His work in philosophy of law is internationally recognized.

Dr. Eddy Nahmias was selected as one of the inaugural winners of the Dean's Annual Faculty Fund awards. This program recognizes rising faculty stars and we are thrilled that the Dean recognized one of our faculty. Dr. Nahmias has a new book, *Rediscovering Free Will*, in which he argues that free will is linked to self-knowledge and self-control, in other words, to wisdom. Unlike much of the previous debate on free will, Dr. Nahmias' research is informed by recent work in the neurosciences. Regular readers of the *Philosophy Phile* may remember that Dr. Nahmias won a grant from the University of Chicago's Templeton Foundation for his work on wisdom.

I'd like to encourage you to look over the list of events for the coming semester. There is a lot going on in the Department and we would love for you to come down and be a part of it.

*At a baseball game, one Rainbolt line extends from second base through first base and into the seats. The other Rainbolt line extends from second base through third base and into the seats. One sitting inside the Rainbolt lines has a great view of the game. Not all philosophers are geeks.

Why is there no 'blue' in Aristotle's rainbow?



Faculty Members

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Altman | Sandra Dwyer | Peter Lindsay | Daniel Weiskopf |
| Jessica Berry | William Edmundson | Eddy Nahmias | Eric Wilson |
| Andrew I. Cohen | George Graham | Tim O'Keefe | |
| Andrew J. Cohen | Christie Hartley | Sebastian Rand | |
| Edward Cox | Steve Jacobson | Andrea Scarantino | |

Staff Members

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Felicia Thomas
Newsletter Editor
Administrative Coordinator | Ellen Logan
Business Manager
Contributing Editor | Claire Kooy
Contributing Editor
Sr. Administrative Coordinator |
|---|--|--|

Pioneers of the Mind

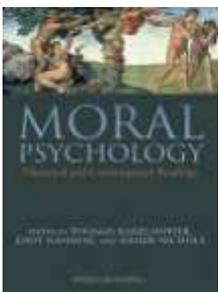
Georgia State Philosophers continue to define academic excellence. In 2010...



Dr. Jessica Berry's book *Nietzsche and the Ancient Skeptical Tradition* was released by Oxford University Press.

Dr. Andrew J. Cohen's "A Conceptual and (Preliminary) Normative Exploration of Waste" appeared in *Social Philosophy and Policy* and was reprinted in *Moral Obligation*, a book edited by Ellen Frankel Paul, Fred D. Miller, Jr., and Jeffrey Paul from Cambridge University Press.

Dr. Christie Hartley and Lori Watson published "Is a Feminist Political Liberalism Possible?" in the *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy*.



Dr. Eddy Nahmias co-edited, along with former GSU MA student Thomas Nadelhoffer, and Shaun Nichols, *Moral Psychology: Historical and Contemporary Readings*, which was published by Wiley-Blackwell. The volume collects historical work in philosophy with recent contributions from psychology and philosophy on topics such as altruism, character traits, moral re-

sponsibility, and moral intuitions.

Dr. Andrea Scarantino's "Insights and Blindspots of the Cognitivist Theory of Emotions" appeared in the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.

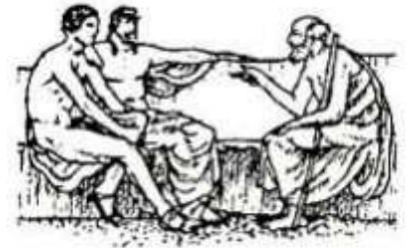
Dr. Daniel Weiskopf's "Embodied Cognition and Linguistic Comprehension" was published in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*.

Dr. Eric Wilson's *On the Nature of Judgment in Kant's Transcendental Logic*, *Idealistic Studies* 40:1-2 will be released Spring 2011.

And this list does not include the work produced in 2010 by Drs. Altman, Berry, Dwyer, Graham, and Rainbolt that was featured in the Fall 2010 Newsletter.



Front row sitting (L-R): Sebastian Rand, Andrew I. Cohen, Ed Cox, Eddy Nahmias
Second row: Dan Weiskopf, Jessica Berry, Andy Altman, Tim O'Keefe, Christie Hartley, Andrew J. Cohen
Third row: Steve Jacobson, George Graham, Andrea Scarantino, George Rainbolt



Philosophy Talks

The GSU Philosophy department hosts lectures, seminars, and talks from national and international speakers.

- Jesse Prinz (CUNY) -
Friday, January 28, 2011
12:00pm
Philosophy Conference Room
- Daniel Dennett (Tufts University) -
Monday, February 7
5:30pm
Speakers' Auditorium-
Student Center
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
12:00pm
Philosophy Conference Room
- Henry Richardson (Georgetown University) -
Friday, March 11, 2011
3:30pm
Philosophy Conference Room
- Rudolf Makkreel (Emory University) -
Friday, March 25, 2011
3:30pm
Philosophy Conference Room

MARCH 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						
27	28	29	30	31		

RUSH Week Events

- } Monday - 3/21 - T-shirt Day
- } Tuesday—3/22—Trivial Pursuit (Faculty v. Students)
- } Wednesday—3/23—Debate Night
- } Thursday—3/24—Movie Night
- } Friday—3/25—Ice Cream Social

For more information, contact Felicia Thomas at 404-413-6100 or fthomas@gsu.edu

The Philosopher's Guild

By: Jamie Bernhardt, Philosopher's Guild President



Students discussing Philosophy at the Guild's 'Speed Networking' event in September 2010.

The Philosopher's Guild at GSU is a student organization open to undergraduate Philosophy majors, minors, and other students interested. Now in its second active year, the Guild continues to host events across campus. The Guild launched its activities this semester with "**Philosophy Speed Networking**," an event where philosophy students could share their interests in the major and socialize outside of ordinary social habits or rubrics. As the Guild officers continued working behind the scenes towards a sustainable club structure, they hosted events every first Thursday of each

month. Participants in these events contemplated and discussed the experience of Socrates, philosophical notions of friendship, and the applicability of each to contemporary contexts. The Guild also collaborated with University Career Services to host "**Non-Academic Career Options in Philosophy Majors**." Lastly, the Guild launched a blog site (<http://philosophiaguild.blogspot.com/>), which students can check for flyers and descriptions of upcoming events. The Guild officers look forward to a philosophy student symposium this Spring!

2010 Southeastern Ethics Bowl

By: Dr. Andrew I. Cohen

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Director of the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics

For the first time, Georgia State fielded a team of 15 students to participate in this annual academic competition featuring teams of students from many schools throughout the southeast. Students prepared for the bowl as part of an advanced **"Topics in Ethics" course**. Students spent several weeks studying a dozen cases in practical and applied ethics. In the process, they sharpened their re, communication, and critical thinking skills. They then competed against other teams in offering the most careful analysis of the relevant ethical themes in the cases.

Of the ten regional com-

petitions, the southeastern one is known as being the most competitive. The field included 24 teams. Georgia **State's team did very well;** they came in 8th place. Their only loss for the day (by a very narrow margin) was to the defending national champions. It was an impressive showing for a bunch of first-timers. (Many people were astounded to hear this was our first time.)

The students did a great job, and we can be proud of how well they did and how much they learned. They were poised, they spoke eloquently and knowledgeably, and they showed a great deal of preparation and

thoughtful reflection. And they really enjoyed it, too.

This year's team was:

Gabrielle Arrington, Jamie Bernhardt, Maria Caruso, Anthony Chavarria, Fahad Chowhury, Christopher Fidalgo, Robert Harris, Sean Huff, Counsel McCullen, Claire Nicolas, Pierce Randall, John Raubach, Morgan Stern, Zachary Watts, and Lindsay Wilson. They were excellent representatives of Georgia State.



"The students did a great job, and can be proud of how well they did and how much they learned."



SPOTLIGHT: Graduate program

In the Fall, the department welcomed 24 first year students into the masters program. Along with students from across the country, we also have students from Bielefeld and the Sorbonne. There were 143 applicants for these 24 slots.

March 11, 2011, the department will host *Prospective Graduate Student Visit*. The visit allows the prospective students to get a first

hand look at the department, gain knowledge from current first year students, as well as interact with the faculty.

The initial deadline for consideration of admission is February 1. The final deadline is April 15. Dr. Tim **O'Keefe, Director of Graduate studies**, is always available to answer questions. tokeefe@gsu.edu



Incoming first year graduate students during orientation August 2010.

Alumni: Philosophy Majors Need Your Help

One question we often get from philosophy majors is: What can I do with a philosophy degree? We have all sorts of data on our web pages but we don't have any personal stories. We would like to collect some. Would you be willing to meet with two GSU philosophy majors for 15 minutes to discuss philosophy's impact on your life and career? They would come to your place of work or meet you in a cafe. If so, send a note to Dr. George Rainbolt, grainbolt@gsu.edu



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Join the Friends of Philosophy listserv and get announcements about talks, conferences and social events in the Department. To join, send an email to:



listserv@listserv.gsu.edu. In the body of the message include only two words: subscribe philfriends. You should receive a welcome message confirming your subscription.

www.gsu.edu/philosophy



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