

- NEW FACULTY
- MAJOR IN THINKING
- CENTER FOR ETHICS
- FACEBOOK

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## Georgia State Welcomes Neil Van Leeuwen



The Department is thrilled to welcome **Neil Van Leeuwen** as a new Assistant Professor. Neil earned his BA from the University of Pennsylvania and his MST from Oxford (both in Classics). He received his PhD in Philosophy from Stanford University. Before coming to Georgia State, he held post-docs at Rutgers, Tufts, and the University of Johannesburg (South Africa). He is the fifth member of our neurophilosophy group. His academic interest focuses on theories of beliefs and the nature of imagination.

## The Arlene & Alvin Altman Endowment in Philosophy

The Arlene & Alvin Altman Scholarship Endowment in Philosophy is being established by their son, Dr. Andrew Altman. Dr. Altman has founded this scholarship in the hope that, over time, it will contribute to the cause of equal educational opportunity. He seeks to honor his parents through a gift that reflects the value that they placed on education and social justice.

Arlene and Alvin Altman met at New York University during World War II. She left school to join him in Wyoming, where he had been sent after enlisting in the army. After the war, during which he served in the European theater, Alvin Altman attended Harvard Law School and became partner in a small New York City Law firm. In 1978 he argued and won a case before the United State Supreme Court. Arlene Altman raised their three children and then returned to NYU to finish an undergraduate degree in Sociology. She went on to work for the Department of Social Services of her local county.

The scholarship will be awarded to a full time undergraduate student in good academic standing. The recipient must be a rising junior majoring in philosophy and show a combination of financial need and demonstrated academic excellence.

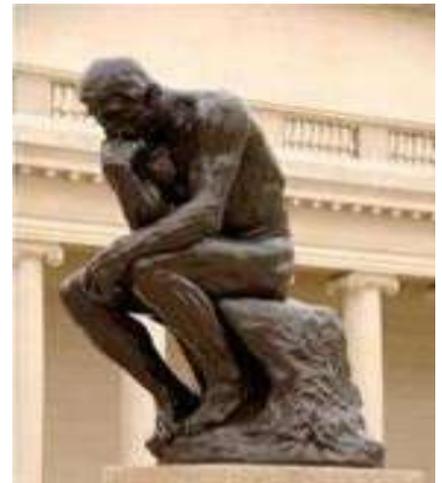
Thinking about a major?  
Major in thinking.  
Major in philosophy!

### 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 go to law school?



The Thinker statue by Auguste Rodin.

If so, then

### YOU SHOULD MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY!

Philosophy majors learn to analyze arguments, read carefully, think clearly, and write effectively. With a philosophy degree, you can succeed in law school, business, education, health care and much more!



Stay connected.

We are on Facebook!

Search: "Philosophy at Georgia State University"

## *Between the Rainbolt Lines\**



George Rainbolt,  
Professor and Chair

*\*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.*

Welcome to the Fall 2011 edition of the *Philosophy Phile*. I hope you had a relaxing and productive summer. The beginning of the fall semester is my favorite time of the academic year. It is similar to baseball spring training. Everyone starts off with great hopes and plans, many of which will come to fruition over the course of the year.

On the undergraduate front, we are continuing our successful program of assigning each philosophy major a faculty advisor. While this is common in small colleges, this sort of individualized faculty advising is rare in large state schools. We are proud of the fact that the Department of Philosophy is one of the few programs at Georgia State whose faculty work individually to advise students.

Our new class of graduate students is the best ever. We had 158 applications for **our 22 slots. Only two other programs in GSU's College of Arts and Sciences had more** applications. The incoming students have an average undergraduate GPA of 3.7 and their average GRE scores were: Verbal 652, Quantitative 675, and Analytic Writing 5.05.

The MA students who graduated this past spring also did well in applying to PhD programs. **Fourteen students went "on the market," nine in philosophy, one in psychology, one in cognitive psychology, one in law and philosophy, and two in law.** Two of the three applicants to law school paced in top-ten law programs, and the psychology and cognitive psychology applicants are in well-regarded PhD programs. One of the philosophy applicants was placed into a top-ten PhD program, two more into top-50 PhD programs, and five into solid PhD programs.

On the faculty front, Dr. Jessica Berry and Dr. Andrew Scarantino were promoted to Associate Professor. Dr. Berry works on late 18th- to early 20th-century German philosophy with a special emphasis on issues in epistemology and value theory in the work of Nietzsche. Dr. Scarantino works primarily in philosophy of mind. His research focuses on the emotions as well as the way the mind processes information. Congrats to both of them for their well-deserved promotions!

**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!**

## Faculty Members

Andrew Altman

Sandra Dwyer

Peter Lindsay

Neil Van Leeuwen

Jessica Berry

William Edmundson

Eddy Nahmias

Daniel Weiskopf

Andrew I. Cohen

George Graham

**Tim O'Keefe**

Eric Wilson

Andrew J. Cohen

Christie Hartley

Sebastian Rand

Edward Cox

Steve Jacobson

Andrea Scarantino

## Staff Members

Felicia Thomas

Ellen Logan

Claire Kooy

Newsletter Editor

Business Manager

Contributing Editor

Administrative Coordinator

Contributing Editor

Sr. Administrative Coordinator

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



# Pioneers of the Mind

Georgia State Philosophers continue to define academic excellence. In 2011...

Dr. Jessica Berry is guest editor of Issue 42 of *The Journal of Nietzsche Studies* and has published four articles, one of which is co-authored by second-year Master's student, **Getty Lustila**. The title of the issue is **"Nietzsche's Ancient History"** and it can be viewed at <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/jns/contents/jns-42-autumn-2011>



Dr. George **Graham's** *Addiction and Responsibility*, text book, co-edited with Jeffrey Poland, was published this summer by MIT Press.

This is the second book he has published since joining the department three years ago. Graham and Poland wrote a long editorial introduction that provides an overview of the philosophical significance of connections between addiction and responsibility. The cover art was designed by Prof. Barbara Von Eckardt, Poland's wife and a dean at the Rhode Island School of Design. Professors Poland and Von Eckardt were guests of the **department's Neurophilosophy Forum** this past year.

**Dr. Christie Hartley's** article **"Disability and Justice,"** was published in *Philosophy Compass* 6 (2011).

Dr. Steve Jacobson has two papers forthcoming: **"Contextualism, Skepticism, and Invariantism"** in *Principia*, an International journal Logic and **Epistemology**. Second, **"Standing on Your Head, Seeing Things Right Side Up"** an article in an anthology called *Yoga—Philosophy for Everyone: Bending Mind and Body*, published by Blackwell Press, John Wiley & Sons.

**Dr. Tim O'Keefe's** paper, **"The Cyrenaics vs. the Pyrrhonists on Knowledge of Appearances,"** was published in *Essays on Ancient Pyrrhonism* (Brill 2011).



Front row sitting (L-R): Andrew I. Cohen, Ed Cox, Jessica Berry, Andrew J. Cohen

Second row: Andrea Scarantino, Sandy Dwyer, Eric Wilson

Third row: Andy Altman, Tim O'Keefe, Steve Jacobson, George Graham

Fourth row: Neil Van Leeuwen, Sebastian Rand, George Rainbolt, Eddy Nahmias

\*Not pictured: Christie Hartley, Dan Weiskopf



## Philosophy Talks

The GSU Philosophy Department hosts lectures, seminars, and talks from national and international speakers **in the department's conference room**.

- Jackie Sullivan (University of Alabama, Birmingham)  
Friday, September 30  
1:30 pm
- Richard Samuels (Ohio State University)  
Friday, October 14  
3:00 pm
- Lydia Goehr (Columbia University)  
Friday, October 21  
1:00 pm
- John Woodridge (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)  
Friday, October 28  
3:30 pm
- Martha Fineman (Law, Emory University)  
Friday, November 4  
3:30 pm
- Paul Bloom (Yale University)  
Friday, November 11  
2:00 pm



## *In Memoriam: Katherine Moore*

The Department of Philosophy was saddened to learn of the passing of Katherine Moore. Katherine was a great friend and supporter of Georgia State and the Department of Philosophy. Born in 1925, she for decades enjoyed a distinguished career as a journalist for several Atlanta papers. She graduated from GSU with her B.A.—at the age of 80! She was a wonderful person who had a sparking enthusiasm for knowledge.

Many students have benefitted from Katherine's many gifts to the University and the Department. After her son, Troy, died tragically just days before he was scheduled to graduate from Georgia State, Katherine established the Troy Moore Library in his honor. With the support of her other son Larry, who is also a graduate of Georgia State, she donated the endowments to establish the Troy Moore Essay Award in Ethics, the Robert Arrington Undergraduate Award in Religious Studies, and the Timothy Renick Graduate Award in Religious Studies.

We will miss Katherine, but her positive impact on the Department and the University will be felt for decades to come. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the Troy Moore fund at Georgia State University.



### ALUMNI AND FRIENDS...

THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU.

SEND US AN UPDATE.

New job? Published a book? Travelled? Keep us informed so we can include you in the next newsletter. Send us your information at [ftthomas@gsu.edu](mailto:ftthomas@gsu.edu). Include your graduating year, degree earned, and current contact information.



(L-R) Sam Sims and Noel Martin wear their philosophy t-shirts on T-shirt Day.



Dr. Tim O'Keefe is carefully planning his next move at the chess tournament.



Dr. Eddy Nahmias and Dr. George Rainbolt hand out ice cream in the courtyard.

## *Philosophy Rush Week Re-cap*

The Department of Philosophy held its first annual rush week March 21 - 25, 2011. This week is dedicated to current and potential undergraduate majors. Rush week kicked off Monday with T-shirt Day with all majors sporting their philosophy t-shirts. On Tuesday, the majors viewed the film *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, starring **Jim Carrey**. **Dr. Tim O'Keefe** was our expert chess player playing six games simultaneously during the chess tournament on Wednesday.

Thursday, our majors went head-to-head against the faculty during trivia night. The undergraduate majors won the most points proving to the faculty that they can think

critically. **Ben Fisher, MA '11**, served as a great moderator along with Dr. Sandy Dwyer. The week ended on Friday, with an ice cream social in the university courtyard in front of Library North. Dr. Eddy Nahmias, Director of Undergraduate Studies, along with Dr. George Rainbolt and many other faculty members handed ice cream bars to majors and potential majors.

Rush week was a huge success. It allowed the Department of Philosophy to become even more visible on main campus reaching a larger student body.

In the spring semester, rush week will be sponsored by the **Philosopher's Guild**. Check the Department's website for more information.

# Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics

By: *Dr. Andrew I. Cohen*  
 Associate Professor of Philosophy  
 Director of the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics

The Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics had a great summer and plans many programs in the year to come. Over the summer, it co-sponsored a conference on **“Death: Its Meaning, Metaphysics, and Morality”** with the University of Newcastle in Newcastle, UK. The conference attracted numerous distinguished scholars from around the world to discuss new research on death. Despite the gloomy topic, the conference featured excellent exchanges among leading researchers.

The JBB Center for

Ethics hosted a workshop on **Neera Badhwar’s manuscript, *Happiness as the Highest Prudential Good***. The workshop was an opportunity for scholars from several universities to discuss cutting edge research in moral psychology and virtue theory.

The JBB Center for Ethics will be co-sponsoring another installment of its annual ethics in film movie series. This fall, along with GSU Housing and the Center for Ethics–Student Forum, we will bring another set of movies to student dorms and facilitate great discussions with

faculty experts on ethical themes. For more information on the movie series, go to [www.gsu.edu/ethics](http://www.gsu.edu/ethics) or email [aicohen@gsu.edu](mailto:aicohen@gsu.edu).

*“The conference attracted numerous scholars from around the world...”*



## SPOTLIGHT: Student awards

ALEX ECONOMIDES, AWARDED MUNSTER FELLOWSHIP



Every year, the philosophy department awards the Ralf F. Munster Fellowship, which goes to the “the best philosophy graduate student who will be continuing in the program in the subsequent year.”

These decisions are often hard to make, including this year, as we have a number of really impressive graduate students. But I’m pleased to announce that the winner of this year’s Ralf F. Munster Fellowship is Alex Economides. Please join me in congratulating Alex!

*-Dr. Timothy O’Keefe*

*Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies*



**William Baird, MA ‘11**, winner of the Excellence in Teaching Graduate Student Award, was the winner of the 2011 “Blumenfeld Center for Ethics–Student Forum Scholar Stipend” for his paper, “A Defense of the Epicurean Position on Death.” The stipend help defray expenses William incurred when presenting his paper at the conference on death at the University of Newcastle in July 2011.



**Paul Tulipana, MA’11**, was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. In addition, Paul was also the 2011 winner of the “Blumenfeld Center for Ethics–Student Forum Scholar Award.” This award helped defray Paul’s expenses in presenting his paper, “Saving the Many and the Value of Human Life in Scanlon’s Contractualism,” at the annual APA central division meetings.

# Fall 2011 Philosophy Events

Mark your calendars! The department will host several events this semester to include not only talks and Pizza Fridays but the Center for Ethics movies series as well. Please visit the website for further details.

SEPTEMBER

**9**

Pizza Friday, 12 noon

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER

**14**

Center for Ethics movie, 6 pm

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER

**21**

Center for Ethics movie 6 pm

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER

**30**

Neurophilosophy Talk 1:30 pm

FRIDAY

OCTOBER

**7**

Law School Talk, 1 pm

FRIDAY

OCTOBER

**14**

Pizza Friday, 12 noon  
Neurophilosophy Talk, 1 pm

FRIDAY

OCTOBER

**17**

Colloquium Talk, 1pm

FRIDAY

OCTOBER

**28**

Colloquium Talk, 3:30 pm

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER

**9**

Pizza Friday, 12 noon  
Colloquium Talk, 2:30 pm

FRIDAY

DECEMBER

**2**

Pizza Friday, 12 noon

FRIDAY



*Below are photos from past Philosophy talks and the Center for Ethics.*

## Featured Alumna: Kay Craigie



Kay Craigie has remained interested in the Philosophy Department at Georgia State since earning her BA in 1968. She credits the professors in the department, particularly Ralf Munster and George Beiswanger, with being key influences in her intellectual development. **“Ralf was a friend long after I graduated,” she says, “and helped me stay somewhere in the neighborhood of sanity through my years in graduate school. He and my husband shared an interest in shortwave radio listening and decided they should get their amateur radio licenses. They did, and then I did, too. So Ralf’s interest in radio is one of the reasons why I am the president of the country’s amateur radio national society today.”**

Kay taught at the University of Maryland, College Park, for three years before moving to the Philadelphia area. There she taught a few courses at Cabrini College in Radnor, PA, and worked part-time on the non-instructional staff of a local high school. In 1983, she earned her amateur radio license and **became editor of her radio club’s newsletter, a position she held for more than 20 years. In 1986, she was elected Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania by members of the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio in the United States. She worked her way up through the ranks of elected officials in the organization, becoming a director of the corporation in 1996 and president in 2010.**

Kay recently joined the board of visitors of the College of Arts and Sciences, a group which assists the development office in encouraging and thanking fellow alumni who donate to the College. **“My parents received extremely good value for their money when they sent me to Georgia State,” she says. “My tuition and fees for four years at Georgia State in 1960’s cost less than \$2,000. I’ve done the math. It adds up to about \$17,000 in today’s money. Georgia State in the 1960’s wasn’t cool, wasn’t sexy, wasn’t rah-rah. Nobody came to home room in high school crowing about getting into Georgia State. But it was where a family of modest means could send their student to get a good education. For me the core of that education came from the Philosophy Department, and I’ve been earmarking my donations for the department for years.”**

Kay and her husband, Carter Craigie, a retired college professor, live in Blacksburg, VA. They have a married daughter and two grandchildren.

## Pizza Fridays!

Each month, the Philosophy Department, along with the Religious Studies Department, hosts *Philosophy on Fridays, Religious Repasts*. This event is held once a month on a Friday at 12 noon. Students, both undergraduates and graduates, have the opportunity to engage with the faculty in a more social setting in the department. Alumni and friends are always welcomed.



Dr. Dan Weiskopf and MA student Michael Huddleson chat over pizza.

Upcoming Pizza on Fridays are:

Friday, October 14

Friday, November 4

Friday, December 2



Ben Fischer, MA '11 and MA student Michael 'Augi' Augustin enjoy chatting with Dr. Andrew I. Cohen.



# SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

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](mailto: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](http://www.gsu.edu/philosophy)



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