

- NEW WEBSITE
- MAJOR IN THINKING
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Department Launches New Website

The Department is excited to announce that our new website has gone live. We've updated the content and provided additional details about the program. The new website features a user-friendly layout that is designed to make it easier for readers to navigate. The side menu is visible on all web pages so that students can quickly and easily access the information they need. The new website shows our continued commitment to strengthening our communication with our readers.

The website has been many months in the making and has required a great deal of work from many people. Dr. Sebastian Rand was the lead faculty member on this complex project. A very special thanks to Claire Kooy, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, for all of her hard work. Without Claire, this would not have happened.

Check it out! www.gsu.edu/philosophy

GSU's 10th Annual Student Philosophy Symposium

The annual Student Philosophy Symposium will take place on **Saturday, March 17**. This event is sponsored by the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Phi Sigma Tau (Zeta Chapter), and the Center for Ethics Student Forum. An invitation for submission of papers from students is sent nationally and internationally. Each year, the symposium has grown more competitive. Last year, there were students from as far as Illinois, Rhode Island, and Hong Kong. In fact, the student from Hong Kong won the award for best paper by a grad student.

There are sessions throughout the day, giving students the opportunity to showcase their best work. The end of the day is capped off with a keynote talk. This year's keynote speaker is Valerie Tiberius (University of Minnesota). Dr. Andrew I. Cohen, Director of the Blumenfeld Center, writes: "I'm humbled by the caliber of papers and commentary that students have brought to this event each year. Both graduate and undergraduate students have contributed to this event and had a great time exchanging thoughts with fellow philosophers."

The deadline for submitting a paper is Friday, January 20. Students must email their papers to Noel Martin at nmartin11@student.gsu.edu. For more information, please visit <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwcfe/11365.html>

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?

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 between the Rainbolt lines has a great view of the game. Not all philosophers are geeks.

Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of the *Philosophy Phile*. I hope your holidays were joyous and relaxing. Now another semester has begun and, as far as the Department of Philosophy is concerned, it looks to be a good one.

After a rocking fall, the Philosophers Guild (our undergraduate philosophy club) is ready for a great spring. They set up regular meetings (first and third Thursdays), decided on a motto (*consilio non impetus*, by council not by force), designed a logo and set up pages on both OrgSync and Facebook. Check them out on orgsync.com/23812/people and facebook.com/groups/137337376290440/

Our Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Tim O’Keefe, has been hard at work pulling together some together numbers on our graduate program. See the *Spotlight* story on page 5. The bottom line is that our graduate program is doing very well indeed. As I can tell you from my own classes, it is a real pleasure working with such a great group of students.

Our faculty continue to win recognition. For example, Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews (ndpr.nd.edu) recently reviewed three books by our faculty. Dr. Jessica Berry’s new book, *Nietzsche and the Ancient Skeptical Tradition*, was reviewed as “rich in content, carefully argued, and always inspiring.” Of Dr. George Graham’s new book, *Addiction and Responsibility*, the reviewer said that “all of the papers offer genuine and often novel contributions to our understanding of addition...” Dr. Tim O’Keefe’s *Epicureanism* was reviewed as “a small masterpiece.”

As always, I’d like to encourage you to look over the list of events for the coming semester. See page 6. We would love to see you at a departmental event.

Faculty Members

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

Why is there no ‘blue’ in Aristotle’s rainbow?



Staff Members

Felicia Thomas Administrative Coordinator Newsletter Editor	Ellen Logan Business Manager Contributing Editor	Claire Kooy Sr. Administrative Coordinator Contributing Editor
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Pioneers of the Mind

Georgia State Philosophers continue to define academic excellence.

Dr. Andrew Altman has three forthcoming publications: "Freedom of Expression and Human Rights Law: The Case of Holocaust Denial," in *Speech and Harm: Controversies over Free Speech*, Mary Kate McGowan and Ishani Maitra, eds. Oxford U.P., 2012. "Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide: Dispelling the Conceptual Fog," *Social Philosophy and Policy*, 2012. Dr. Altman is co-editor of "Introduction," in *Targeted Killing: Law and Morality in an Asymmetric World*, Oxford U.P. 2012.

Dr. Andrew I. Cohen continues his work on issues in moral standing, as well as on themes of apologies and reparations for historic injuries. He is preparing a second edition of *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics*.

Dr. George Graham was invited to deliver the Annual Edwards Lecture in Philosophy and Religion at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan in the Fall. His lecture was entitled "God Behind the Scenes: Religious Belief and the Imagination." He was also invited to meet with the Philosophy-Psychiatry Reaching Group at Cambridge City Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The group, which consists of various philosophers, psychiatrists, and mental health professionals in the Boston area, has been reading and discussing some of Dr. Graham's work on philosophy and mental disorder. He delivered a talk entitled "Is Mental Illness a Disease?." Dr. Graham is currently in the process of revising one of his books on mental illness, *The Disordered Mind*, for a second edition.

Dr. Christie Hartley has a forthcoming article, co-authored with Lori Watson, entitled "Political Liberalism, Marriage and the Family" in *Law and Philosophy*. The article is currently available through *Online First*.

Dr. Eddy Nahmias' article "Is Neuroscience the Death of Free Will?" was published in the *NY Times* (November 13, 2011). This article earned him the *Big Questions in Free Will Essay Prize*. The prize "is aimed at providing incentives for scholars...to prepare essays related to their work that would be of interest to a non-academic audience and to publish those essays in venues of wide readership." It reached #4 for most emailed article and #14 as most viewed. In October 2011, he presented "Defeating Manipulation Arguments" at the Bowdoin Conference on Free Will. He also presented "Which Science Threatens Autonomy?" at the Sussex Autonomy Project in London.

Dr. Tim O'Keefe completed a chapter on "Epicurus' Garden: Physics and Epistemology" for the forthcoming *Routledge Companion to Ancient Philosophy*.

Dr. George Rainbolt recently completed work on three articles for *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics*. He wrote the articles on Justice, Mercy, and Joel Feinberg. He and Dr. Sandra Dwyer also worked on a program to allow critical thinking students to do their work online.

Dr. Neil Van Leeuwen's entry "Self Deception" has been accepted for publication in *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics*. Van Leeuwen is currently in the process of completing his paper "The Meanings of Imagine" for *Philosophy Compass*.



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.

- Elliott Sober (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Title: TBA
Thursday, January 19
4:00 pm
- Deena Weisberg (Rutgers University)
"The Limits of Imagination"
Friday, January 27
2:00 pm
- Ingo Brigandt (University of Edmonton)
"Conceptual Change in Biology and Conceptual Analysis in Philosophy: A Combined Framework"
Friday, March 9
2:00 pm
- Louise Antony (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
"In Praise of Loose Talk: On the Notion of 'Rule-following' in Cognitive Science"
Friday, March 23
3:00 pm
- Don Ross (Economics, University of Cape Town)
Title: TBA
Wednesday, April 4
2:00 pm
- Bernie Boxhill (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Title: TBA
Date/Time: TBA

Alumni Update: Where Are They Now?

Hayden Bui, MA '10, has been working at the Department of Justice, and has been recently accepted to New York University Law School.

Shane Callahan, MA '11, taught intro to Philosophy at Spelman College and Georgia Perimeter College in Fall 2010. Currently, he's teaching Intro to Philosophy, Metaphysics, and Origins of Post-modernism at Spelman College, as well as Intro to Philosophy at Kennesaw State University. Shane also adopted a cat he named Snookie.

Theresa 'Ness' Creighton, MA '09, is continuing her PhD program in GSU's history department. She hopes to complete her course work this semester with plans of doing comprehensive exams Spring 2013.

Jeremy Dollar, BA '11, is currently working at McKesson Consulting in Charlotte, NC.

Jesse Gero, MA '10, is currently attending New York University Law School.

Dan Issler, MA '09, is currently in his third year of PhD studies at the University of Pennsylvania and will be dissertat-

ing on the role of nonrational persuasion in late Plato. He has two daughters.

Kate, 4, who enjoys ballet lessons and Ella, 2, who is learning new vocabulary very quickly.

Brandie Martinez-Bedard, BA '06, MA '08, gave birth to Brayden Newton Myers Bedard October 2011.

Elizabeth Sund, MA '10, with her husband Jeff Dick, currently resides in Melbourne, Australia. She is working on her PhD at Monash University. Her dissertation is on 18th century moral philosopher Catharine Trotter Cockburn, and she recently had a chapter accepted for publication in a book on women thinkers' views on citizenship during the enlightenment. Elizabeth and Jeff welcomed the first child, Felicity Sund-Dick, in December 2011.

Tracy Vanwagner, MA '11, is currently finishing their first semester of her PhD program at the University of Cincinnati. Tracy has become engaged to Howard Ling.



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 fthomas@gsu.edu. Include your graduating year, degree earned, and current contact information.



Philosopher's Guild

The Philosophers' Guild, the undergraduate students' group, has had a busy semester. They have regularly scheduled meetings every first and third Thursdays of the month. The Guild has also set up pages on both OrgSync and Facebook.

The formal meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of the month, are held in the Lucerne Suite of the Student Center. A more casual setting is the theme for the third Thursday meeting. The location varies.

The Guild will sponsor the Department's second annual rush week. Rush week is dedicated to current and potential undergraduate majors. It was a huge success last spring and we anticipate the same for this year. Check

out the Department's website as well as the Guild's pages on Facebook ([facebook.com/groups/137337376290440/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/137337376290440/)) and OrgSync (orgsync.com/23812/people) for further details.



Photos above are of students engaging in philosophical discussions at the Guild's meetings.

Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics

GSU Competes at the 2011 Southeast Regional Ethics

Many students from GSU competed in the annual Southeast Regional Ethics Bowl in November in Clearwater, FL. The GSU team was among about two dozen others from universities throughout the southeast.

The students on the team spent weeks researching and preparing argument on issues such as the ethics of: burning the Qur'an, attractiveness discrimination, home schooling, gender-neutral child rearing practices, physicians' role obligations, and many other themes.

Many seasoned coaches from other teams confided to coach/Prof. Andrew I. Cohen

that the team's performance was impressive, especially considering this was only GSU's second year competing. The students were eloquent, thoughtful, and respectful. GSU will field another team for Fall 2012.

-Dr. Andrew I. Cohen
Associate Professor
Director of the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics



Congratulations to Cary Claiborne (BS '11, Economics) who won a 2011 Scholarship in Classical Liberal Thought.

Student's Experience at the 2011 Ethics

It started like any other class of Dr. Cohen's, he sent his 17-page syllabus the week before class starts. We spent the next 2 1/2 months studying 15 cases, becoming experts on three of them, participating in mock bowls and extra study sessions all to prepare for the Ethics bowl.

The weekend of November 11 started out cold here in Atlanta, but for nine of us in Dr. Cohen's Phil 4760 (Ethics and Contemporary Public Policy) class, a beautiful 8-hour drive to sunny and warm Clearwater, Florida held unlimited possibilities. The next morning dawned bright, beautiful and warm. All the teams had had three rounds to compete in, with the teams that had the most wins then going on to the semi-finals after lunch. University of Alabama (team 1) was our first opponent (UofA 140 - GSU 135), with the win going to them. Our second oppo-

nent was University of South Florida (SF 129 - GSU 126), and the third competition we won against Embry Riddle Aeronautical (GSU 140 - ERA 137). There were only four teams that had three wins at the end of the first three rounds. Unluckily, we were not one of them. In case you were wondering, University of Alabama, Birmingham Team 1, won the Bowl. We wish them great luck in the Nationals in March!

The entire Bowl was an amazing experience.

-Liz Lyon-Brown



Photo courtesy of Cary Clairborne



SPOTLIGHT: Graduate Program

Admission Data

The Department's MA program continues to attract more students and more highly-qualified students. You might not know that admission decisions are not based on a formula, but rather a careful review of all the admission materials. Applicants are often focused on their GRE scores. The Department gives more weight to a student's undergraduate GPA and writing sample. Here is a picture of our admissions back to 2008. Due to the change in the University's computer system, the data before 2010 is incomplete.

	Fall 2008	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011
Applied	74	105	143	158
Accepted	47 (64%)	40 (39%)	37 (26%)	41 (26%)
Enrolled	26 (55%)	23 (58%)	23 (62%)	21 (51%)
From Outside Georgia			22 (96%)	18 (86%)
Mean undergraduate GPA*			3.63	3.70
Mean GRE score*	1293	1332	1329	1328

*of newly enrolled students

Retention and Graduation Data

One important metric by which departments are judged is retention to graduation rates. As our retention rates have gone up (and the PhD programs to which many of our students apply, have reduced the size of their incoming classes), the Department has decided to somewhat decrease the size of its entering classes. Here is a picture of graduation rates back to 2008.

We only admit students in the Fall, so these numbers are also the totals for the year.

	Status Fall 2008	Status Fall 2009	Status Fall 2010	Status Fall 2011
Entering Fall 2008	26 enrolled	24 enrolled	11 graduated 12 enrolled	20 graduated 1 enrolled
Entering Fall 2009		23 enrolled	21 enrolled	13 graduated 8 enrolled
Entering Fall 2010			23 enrolled	23 enrolled
Entering Fall 2011				21 enrolled

Spring 2012 Philosophy Events

Mark your calendars! The department will host several events this semester to include not only talks and Pizza Fridays but the Phi Sigma Tau conference as well. Please visit the website for further details.

JANUARY

13

Pizza Friday
12 noon

FRIDAY

JANUARY

19

Colloquium Talk
Elliott Sober
4 pm

FRIDAY

JANUARY

27

Neurophilosophy Talk
Deena Weisberg
2pm

FRIDAY



James Woodbridge (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) speaking on "Revisiting Truth as a Pretense," October 2011.

FEBRUARY

10

Pizza Friday
12 noon

FRIDAY



Jackie Sullivan (University of Alabama, Birmingham) gave a talk on "The Place of the Mind in Contemporary Neuroscience," September 2011.

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



MARCH

9

Neurophilosophy Talk
Ingo Brigandt
2 pm

FRIDAY

MARCH

16

Pizza Friday
12 noon

FRIDAY

MARCH

17

Phi Sigma Tau
Conference

SATURDAY

MARCH

23

Colloquium Talk
Louise Antony
3 pm

FRIDAY

APRIL

4

Neurophilosophy Talk
Don Ross
2 pm

WEDNESDAY

APRIL

20

Pizza Friday
12 noon

FRIDAY



Paul Bloom (Yale University) presented "Just Babies: The origins of human morality" in November 2011.

Featured Alumnus: Sam Hooper



Sam Hooper earned his BA in 1994. He was a cross country and track athlete at Georgia Tech for three years before transferring to Georgia State University beginning his senior year. Sam enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Studies program. After taking philosophy and religious studies classes, he enjoyed them so much, he became a philosophy major. **“Studying philosophy at Georgia State reinforced my love of learning,” Sam says. “I now believe having strong reasoning skills trump specialization in the long-run because demand for specialties change. Philosophy provides a wonderful foundation for the future.”**

After graduating from Georgia State, Sam moved to Columbus, Ohio to work in the family printing business from 1994 - 2004. He spent most of his time as Operations Manager running the production process of the business coordinating projects from desktop publishing to the printing press and finishing. In addition, he bought real estate and studied investing in his free time. Sam’s investment research led him to reading Warren Buffet’s annual Chairman’s Letter for his company Berkshire Hathaway. It was then, Sam realized he had **“found the best living investment philosopher of our time”** and Warren Buffet’s philosophy of comparing a security’s price to its intrinsic value immediately struck Sam as a sound method.

Sam became an Equity Trader at Diamond Hill Investments in 2005. There he helps managed over \$8 billion in mutual funds, separate accounts, and hedge funds. He implements portfolio models by entering the markets buying, selling, short or covering stocks. He uses electronic trading platforms and trades directly with Wall Street banks. **Sam’s philosophy degree significantly influences his career.** He pursued the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation in part because of its rigorous focus on ethics in addition to sound investment analysis. **“For me, it is important that I work with people and companies that understand the fiduciary and ethical duty we have to our investors,” Sam says. A background in philosophy also helps him view his career with a long-time horizon and how it will impact his lifestyle. His career approach is with the view that, money doesn’t make you happy, but not having it can make you miserable. “In a business that is often very focused on money, I avoid the focus on money and material pursuits and focus on the philosophy and process that guides the day-to-day activities for long-term results for our investors. It’s a fascinating business that relies on quantitative and qualitative skills for success.”**

Sam and his wife, Michelle, are expecting their first child early this year. Sam says, **“I credit my philosophy education with the critical thinking skills that give me the ability to see things for what they really are and not just what they appear to be. It’s the content and character that matter.”**

Graduate Students at Work



Michael Augustin presented **“On the Necessity of Reason in Epicurean Psychology”** at the 29th annual meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy & Science conference in October 2011. He will also present **“Atomism and Euthumoi Souls: An Attempt at a Physical Interpretation of Democritus fr. B191”** at the International Association for Presocratic Studies’ third biennial conference in January 2012.

Cleo Grimaldi successfully defended her thesis titled **“Why Not Penal Torture?”** December 2011.



Ian Halloran successfully defended his thesis titled **“Is Improvised Performance a Counter Example to Nick Zangwill’s Esthetic Creation Theory of Art?”** December 2011.



Kathryn Joyce presented **“Hume on Correcting Error in Moral Judgment”** at Brown University’s sixth annual Mark L. Shapiro Graduate Philosophy Conference in November 2011.

Philosophy Majors in their Own Words



Jeremy Dollar graduated in December 2011 with a double major in Philosophy and Finance. He is now working at McKesson Consulting in Charlotte, NC as an implementation consultant for a hospital software system.

Jeremy says: **“Graduating with a BA in Philosophy was a great career decision and a great asset when I was applying for full time jobs. My finance major helped get my resume on people’s desks, but later in interviews people wanted to talk more about my philosophy degree. The partners at the valuation firm thought that my philosophy degree was more useful in my position than a finance degree because I was able to understand the purpose and essence of the work instead of just the numbers. I was also able to effectively criticize the way**

that the valuation process worked, which really impressed them. **The people at the firm, with whom I’ll be working with shortly, believed that philosophy was valuable to the mindset of consulting because I can easily grasp concepts and solve problems.**

Classes offered in the Department of Philosophy (especially Philosophy of Law and Ethics) were the most challenging and engaging classes that I took while at GSU, and the professors were able to offer great feedback to enhance my arguments. The skills I developed during my philosophy coursework boosted my writing skills, analytical capabilities, and ability to solve problems; all of which are essential in the workplace. **I have yet to meet an employer who doesn’t value logic, creativity, and critical thinking, so I would strongly urge anyone studying philosophy, to enter the job market ready to display these assets to potential employers.”**

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. 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



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

P.O. Box 4089
Atlanta, GA 30302-4089
Phone: (404) 413-6100
Fax: (404) 413-6124
<http://www.gsu.edu/philosophy>