

PHILOSOPHY PHILE

Department of Philosophy Newsletter

Spring 2013

German Philosophy at GSU

The Department continues to develop its strength in Kant and post-Kantian German Philosophy. Last year we added a new faculty member in this area (Greg Moore, joint appointed with History) to our existing group of Jessica Berry (Nietzsche), Sebastian Rand (Hegel), and Eric

Wilson (Kant). Dr. Moore will offer a graduate seminar in Spring 2013 (Science and Philosophy in the Romantic Age), as will Dr. Berry (Beyond Good and Evil: Nietzsche and Moral Psychology). Most recently, Dr. Rand taught consecutive seminars in Spring and Fall 2012 (Hegel's Logic and Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit) and Dr. Wilson plans a seminar for Fall 2013 (Kant's Practical Philosophy).



Beyond the classroom, these faculty have won a number of prestigious external grants (from the NEH, the DAAD, and the British Academy) and receive frequent recognition for their work. Most recently, the North American Kant Society awarded its annual Wilfrid Sellars Prize to Dr. Wilson. Dr. Rand received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in Spring Semester 2012, and the high-profile reviews of Jessica Berry's book on Nietzsche continue to roll in.

At the undergraduate level, these faculty introduce students to German philosophy through courses in a number of areas, including aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy, while showing the continued development and influence of Kant and the post-Kantians in contemporary philosophy. Teaching at the undergraduate level has led to a number of recent undergraduate Honors Theses in this area, on Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, and German Existentialism, among others.

Graduate students working on German philosophy are also thriving, with recent theses on a range of topics, including autonomy, skepticism, philosophy of science, free will, and moral education. Our two most recent Graduate Scholars in German Philosophy were admitted to excellent PhD programs (Stanford, Boston University).

Inside this Issue

Chair's Letter	2
Department News	3
JBB Center for Ethics	6
Events	7
Alumni	8
Student Awards & Recognition	9
James DiGiovanni Walking	11
C. Richard Long The Legacy Continues	11
Giving	12



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Georgia State University**

INSIDE THE RAINBOLT LINES*

Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of the Philosophy Phile. I hope that you had a joyous holiday season and that you are enjoying the start to the new year.

The Department is very happy to welcome a new faculty member, Dr. Sarah Brosnan. Like Dr. William Edmundson, Dr. Peter Lindsay, and Dr. Greg Moore, Dr. Brosnan is joint-appointed in the Department of Philosophy. Her primary appointment is in the Department of Psychology. Dr. Brosnan's research focuses on the mechanisms underlying cooperation, reciprocity, and inequity in nonhuman primates. Her work on the evolution of key moral concepts breaks new ground and crosses disciplinary boundaries. Dr. Brosnan joined Georgia State's Department of Psychology in 2007. She has published more than forty articles and earned an NSF CAREER award. The Baylor University Alumni Association named her as one of the 150 most influential alumni of the last 150 years.

We are proud that our current and former graduate students made a name for themselves by presenting at the American Philosophical Association over the holiday break. Anthony Carreras (GSU MA '05, currently Assistant Professor at Lone Star College) commented on Rachel Lu's "Is Love Blind? Reflections on Partiality and Good Epistemic Practice." Candice Delmas (GSU MA '06, currently Assistant Professor at Clemson University) presented her paper, "Political Resistance as a Samaritan Duty." William Baird (GSU MA '11, currently in the PhD program at Southern Illinois University) presented his paper, "The Apple Falls Far from the Tree: Josiah Royce's Divergence from Joseph LeConte's Evolutionary Totalism." Ryan Born (GSU MA '11) was part of a panel on mental models. Andrei Marasoiu (GSU MA candidate) commented on Adam Bowen's "Perceptual Atomism and the Charge of Tensed Content."

As noted below, our undergraduates will soon be getting great advice from Georgia State's University Advisement Center. Emily Cahill (GSU MA candidate) has been hired to be an advisor and she will be assigned to work with philosophy majors. We are thrilled that Emily will be staying with us to help our majors.

As always, we would love to see you at a departmental event. Check out the list of events on page 7 and come on down to see us!



*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.

EMILY CAHILL (GSU MA CANDIDATE) JOINS GSU UNIVERSITY ADVISEMENT CENTER

Emily Cahill has joined Georgia State's University Advisement Center as an academic advisor. She will assist undergraduates as they work toward their degrees. Emily is currently completing her MA in Philosophy.



SARAH BROSANAN JOINS DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Sarah Brosnan has joined the faculty of the Department of Philosophy. Dr. Brosnan earned her BA from Baylor University in 1998 and her PhD from Emory University in 2004. She joined Georgia State's Department of Psychology in 2007. One of her current projects is an NSF funded investigation comparing three species of nonhuman primates and humans in their response to a cooperative economic game. She is investigating whether these species will cooperate when given the opportunity to do so and how factors such as partner identity, equity in payoffs, and the context of the task affect their performance.



GEORGE GRAHAM AT OXFORD

George Graham has been invited to serve as a keynote speaker at a special summer school on Philosophy and Psychiatry being offered by the Faculty of Philosophy and the Department of Continuing Education at Oxford University from July 14th until the 19th. Several prominent faculty from Oxford and other British universities will also be participating. The school is aimed at mental health professionals and academics, although graduate and post-doctoral students are also welcome to attend. <http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=V560-2>.

ROBERT ARRINGTON AT VERACRUZ

Dr. Robert Arrington, Professor and Chair Emeritus of Philosophy, has been asked to occupy the Ludwig Wittgenstein Professorship at the University of Veracruz, Mexico. He will visit the University for two weeks in February 2013, where he will deliver two public lectures and conduct a number of seminars. The lectures will be on the topics "Wittgenstein and Science" and "Consciousness," and the seminars will deal with Arrington's latest work on "Reasons and Causes," "Can There Be a Science of Human Behavior?" "Thought," and "Babes and Brutes." The latter article concerns a debate over whether a young child or non-human animal like a cat or dog, which has no linguistic abilities, can legitimately be said to think or have emotions. The results of these lectures and seminars will be published.

Arrington has edited three volumes of essays on Wittgenstein and has written an article on Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations in the collection *Central Works in Philosophy*, as well as numerous other articles on Wittgenstein's work, including an essay on "Ethics" in the upcoming Blackwell Companion to Wittgenstein.



FACULTY NEWS

Georgia State Philosophers continue to define academic excellence.

Andrew Altman presented a paper to the American Philosophical Association-Eastern Division, "Conceived in Sin: Lemkin's Contested and Confused Concept of Genocide," December 2012.



Jessica Berry was interviewed in November by the online magazine 3:AM (<http://www.3ammagazine.com/3am/a-pyrrhonian-nietzschean-stakeout/>).



Other philosophers interviewed by 3:AM in recent months include Frederick Beiser (Syracuse), Tim Crane (Cambridge),

Jerry Fodor (Rutgers), John Haldane (University of St. Andrews), Richard Kraut (Northwestern), Valerie Tiberius (Minnesota), and Michael Tye (The University of Texas).

Jessica Berry appeared in Episode 61: "Nietzsche on Truth and Skepticism" of 'The Partially Examined Life', a philosophy podcast and blog that reaches a global audience. The episode got over 28,000 unique downloads. Episodes are available free from

iTunes or from the show's website: <http://www.partiallyexaminedlife.com/>.

Andrew I. Cohen is in the middle of writing a manuscript, Philosophy, Ethics, and Public Policy, which has him looking at several hot-button topics in public policy.

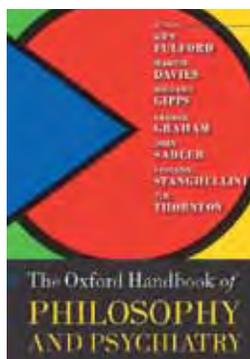


George Graham gave invited talks



about his work on mental illness at a number of different universities, including Arizona and Rutgers, among others, and worked on

three books in Fall 2012. One of these is the Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychiatry, which is being launched this summer at Oxford University.



Eddy Nahmias published "Defining Free Will Away," a Critical Review of Sam Harris' Free Will, in The Philosophers' Magazine 58 (3rd quarter, 2012).



<https://www.equinoxpub.com/acumen/index.php/TPM/article/view/15359/12081>

He also published "Does contemporary neuroscience support or challenge the reality of free will?" Templeton Big Questions Online (July 2012) <https://www.bigquestionsonline.com/content/does-contemporary-neuroscience-support-or-challenge-reality-free-will> "Questioning Willusionism." He was interviewed by 3:AM Magazine (May 2012) <http://www.3ammagazine.com/3am/questioning-willusionism/>

Dan Weiskopf currently has three papers scheduled to appear in edited volumes: "Observational Concepts" is forthcoming in Concepts: New Directions, edited by Eric Margolis & Stephen Laurence for MIT Press;



"The Reality of Cognitive Models" is forthcoming in *Integrating Psychology and Neuroscience*, edited by David M. Kaplan for Oxford University Press; and "The Architecture of Higher Cognition" is forthcoming in *New Waves in Philosophy of Mind*, edited by Mark Sprevak and Jesper Kallestrup for Palgrave Macmillan.

In Fall 2012, Weiskopf delivered a talk at a workshop on Sensorimotor Representations in Cognition at Heinrich Heine University in Dusseldorf, Germany, and a paper entitled "Post-Presence Photography" (written with Jill L. Frank, Lecturer in Photography at GSU) at the Eastern APA in Atlanta. In Spring 2013, Weiskopf will give talks to the philosophy department at Georgetown and the Expressive Communication and the Origins of Meaning Research Group at the University of

North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



Neil Van Leeuwen completed his book review of Robert Trivers' "The Folly of Fools: The Logic of Deceit and Self-Deception in Human

Life." Van Leeuwen's review is forthcoming in *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry*. He's currently working on a paper entitled "Surrounded by Possibilities" for a volume on imagination being edited by Amy Kind and Peter Kung. Also, he is working on a book review of Kristin Andrews' book "Do Apes Read Minds" for *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.

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



Sitting: Andrew J. Cohen, Steve Jacobson, Christie Hartley, Eric Wilson
 First row standing: Ed Cox, Andrew I. Cohen, Andrea Scarantino, Jessica Berry, Dan Weiskopf, Sandy Dwyer, Tim O'Keefe
 Second row standing: Eddy Nahmias, Sebastian Rand, Neil Van Leeuwen, George Rainbolt, George Graham, Andrew Altman



JEAN BEER BLUMENFELD CENTER FOR ETHICS

This year, the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics continues its programs that stimulate research and discussion about themes in ethics and our world. This Fall saw the 10th annual ethics in film movie series. Our theme was "Social Injustice and Cinema," which featured four recent and controversial films discussing marginalized persons and their outcast status. Among the films were "Boys Don't Cry," "Mockingbird Don't Sing," "District 9," and "The Price of Pleasure." The series was cosponsored by GSU Housing and the JBB Center for Ethics Student Forum. We brought these films to students in their dorms, invited scholar/experts, and stimulated thoughtful conversation among our university community.

Our annual manuscript workshop featured Alan Patten's *Equal Recognition: The Moral Foundations of Minority Cultural Rights*. Among our guest discussants were Margaret Moore (Queen's University in Canada), David Miller (Oxford), and Sarah Song (University of California-Berkeley). The workshop continues our tradition of fostering cutting-edge research in social and political theory.

The Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics continues its preparations for the next installment of our Jean Beer Blumenfeld International Conference Series in Social and Political Thought. We are collaborating with the Department of Philosophy at the University of Helsinki for a conference in Helsinki on "Immigration, Toleration, and Nationalism," featuring two distinguished keynotes, Sam Scheffler (NYU) and David Miller (Oxford). We are also preparing for our next manuscript workshop featuring Leif Wenar from King's College.

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

PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS COMPETE IN ANNUAL ETHICS BOWL

Dr. Andrew I. Cohen and 11 students from his Ethics and Contemporary Public Policy class traveled to Clearwater, Florida to compete in the 2012 Southeast Regional Ethics Bowl. After receiving their syllabus at the beginning of the fall semester, the students spent weeks studying cases, becoming experts on them, and participating in mock bowls. The hard work paid off. At the regional bowl, they competed in three rounds, winning two, and losing one.



Dr. Cohen's Ethics Bowl participants were: Mason Arline, Harold Crowe, Darla Greaser, Matt Hiltman, Jess Hullinger, Taylor Jones, Josh McCormack, Jamie Moon, Leman Tatari, Kevin Thurston, and Anastayia Yashchuk

SPRING 2013 EVENTS

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

Colloquium Series

Nomy Arplay, Brown University

Friday, March 1
3:30 pm

George Warnke, University of California-Riverside

Friday, March 8
3:30 pm

Sarah Buss, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Friday, April 19
3:30 pm

Neurophilosophy Forum

Dorit Bar-on, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Friday, January 25
3:30 pm

Pizza Fridays!

Join us for **Philosophy on Fridays** at 12 noon for **free pizza and even better conversation.**

- January 25
- February 15
- March 15
- April 26

Student Philosophy Conference

Saturday, April 6
Time: All Day
Location: TBA



Laura Taylor (North Carolina State University) was one of the guest speakers for the "Value and Social Choices" series made possible by the generous contribution of the late Professor C. Richard Long (see page 11).



Alexander "Sasha" Volokh (Emory University Law School) giving a talk as part of the fall colloquium series.



"Philosophy on Fridays" is our monthly pizza Friday event. It's a great opportunity for students to interact with their professors in a more social setting in the department.

ALUMNI NEWS: Where Are They Now?

William Allen (MA '08) earned his PhD from the University of Memphis in December 2012. In his dissertation, "Liberal Perfectionism and the Revitalization of the Black Underclass," he defended a form of liberal perfectionism in relation to revitalizing black underclass communities.

Ian Dunkle (MA '10) is near completion of his PhD program PhD at Boston University. He anticipates graduation within the next year.

Maria Montello (MA '11) joined the Mary Knoll Lay Missioners in 2011 to work on a project whose goal is to facilitate building critical thinking skills and tools for active reflection among Cambodia university students. Maria is a philosophy instructor in Cambodia at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) where she teaches critical thinking to undergraduates. Local Cambodian business associations and international agencies have identified a lack of critical thinking skills as a significant issue in the country, and Maria believes these tools are important for creating a productive work force and carving a successful development path for Cambodia. "The ability to think critically," she says, "to ask questions, to be reflective about oneself and others—this ability is an essential tool for students to learn to be intentional about how they want to be in the world and about what they want that world to be."

Eric Murphy (MA '12) is currently pursuing his PhD at McGill University, in Montreal, Quebec. He's focusing on the philosophy of music (esp. electronic and/or improvised) and art.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Brad Wissmueller, a Wausau, WI native, earned his MA in 2011. He is a Project Manager for Epic, a healthcare software company based out of Verona, WI. Brad never expected to be in project management, healthcare, or software. He writes, "I had thought about it and decided I didn't want to go into either my mom's profession (healthcare) or my dad's (software) and that a corporate job was something that would never interest me."

After graduating from Georgia State, Brad wanted to try something outside of academia. He decided that in order to gain wisdom and a new perspective, he should take a completely different route than that of his path in academia. A childhood friend of Brad's told him about Epic and their propensity to hire people who have a background in humanities. Brad says, "with hesitation, I went through the interview process and by the time they offered me a position, I had been won over by the company's culture and formal list of commandments and principles."

As a project manager, Brad is charged with coming up with creative solutions for documenting a workflow electronically that has long been a manual, verbal, or handwritten process. Whenever he comes up with a solution, Brad begins to think of all the possible objections and other points of view before making his presentation. A background in philosophy, specifically critical thinking and writing, has had a significant impact in his career. Brad writes: "the professors at GSU who redinked so many of my papers forced me to overcome many of the incorrect and confusing writing habits I had developed."

Brad's experience at Georgia State has left him with fond memories, specifically debating with classmates on free will. He says: "the frequency and quality of these unplanned (and planned) debates about fundamental aspects of our human experience is invaluable and rarely, if ever, found outside a philosophy department."

Brad and his longtime girlfriend, Eleanor Johnson, a Library and Information Science MA student at the University of Wisconsin, live in Madison, Wisconsin.

Alumni News continued on next page

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Congratulations to our majors who graduated with distinction, Fall 2012.

- Brittany Brown
- Matthew Hiltman
- Jessica Hullinger
- Ben Lorentz
- David Milum
- Aanal Patel
- Kristin Siegel
- Tyler Theus

Congratulations to our graduate students who successfully defended their thesis Fall 2012.

Kevin Wallace's thesis, "The Practical Impossibility of Cohen's Rescuing Justice & Equality," was directed by Dr. George Rainbolt, and his committee included Dr. Peter Lindsay and Dr. Andy Altman.

Michel Huddleson's thesis, "Resolving Conflicts within The Mind: Internal Warfare in Non-Human Primates," was directed by Dr. Neil Van Leeuwen, and his committee included Dr. Eddy Nahmias and Dr. George Graham.

Shawn Murphy successfully defended his thesis "Betrayal of Love and Volitional Necessity." It was directed by Dr. Eddy Nahmias and Dr. Eric Wilson. His committee included Dr. Christie Hartley and Dr. Dan Weiskopf.

Tyson Bittrich successfully defended his thesis. Tyson's thesis, "Extending Tomas Kulks' Aesthetic Dualism: Value, Not Meaning, in the Case of Absolute Music," was directed by Dr. Jessica Berry, and his committee included Dr. Steve Jacobson and Dr. Andrea Scarantino.

WRITING EXCELLENCE



Kathryn Joyce's paper, "Exploring the Role of Equality In Adam Smith's Political Theory," was selected for presentation at the October 2012 meeting of of the Georgia Philosophical Society.

ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED

Elizabeth Sund (MA'10) is set to earn her PhD at Monash University (Australia) in June 2013. Her dissertation is titled "Catharine Trotter Cockburn's Moral Philosophy."



Elizabeth pictured here with her husband, Jeff and daughter, Felicity.

Reuben Stern (MA '11) is pursuing his PhD at University of Wisconsin-Madison. While maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Reuben has worked on several papers with faculty members that will be published soon. He will present his paper, "Consilient Generalizations as Laws of Nature," at the Pacific meeting of the American Philosophical Association.

Tracy Van Wagner (MA '11) is teaching Contemporary Moral Issues while pursuing her PhD at the University of Cincinnati. She's engaged to Howard Ling. The couple will marry July 13, 2013 in Roswell, GA.

Keep Us Posted!

Have news that you would like to share with GSU faculty, students, and fellow alumni? New job? Published a book or article? Traveled? Send your submission via email to Felicia Thomas, ftthomas@gsu.edu.

STUDENT GROUPS:



PHILOSOPHERS' GUILD

The Philosophers' Guild, the undergraduate student group, got off to a great start for the fall semester. The group has regularly scheduled monthly meetings held in the Student Center and at a local restaurant.



Rush Week was held in October during GSU's homecoming. The week kicked off with an ice cream social in University Plaza, movie night in the University Center and of course the battle between the students and faculty in a game of trivia. Once again, the students won two rounds of trivia against the faculty, proving that they can think critically. The week's activities ended with the monthly pizza social in the department with Guild members meeting in Hurt Park for some fun and games.



The Guild donated the complete set of the History of Western Philosophy of Religion to the Georgia State library. Casey Fowler presented the set to Brian Kooy, Philosophy Librarian.

PHI SIGMA TAU

The annual Student Philosophy Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 6. This event is sponsored by Phi Sigma Tau (Zeta Chapter), Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, and the JBB Center for Ethics Student Forum. An invitation for submission of papers from students is sent nationally and internationally. The symposium has grown more competitive each year.

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 Professor Alastair Norcross of the University of Colorado.

For more information, please visit www.gsu.edu/philosophy.



LIFE AFTER THE MA: A WALKING JOURNEY



James DiGiovanni, MA'12, ended one chapter at Georgia State and began another. James mapped out a journey from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean—walking! He chronicled his journey with the help of his website and friends could follow him on his Facebook page. James received attention from local media, even being interviewed by an NPR affiliate that covers Illinois and Indiana. Fourteen states later, James's journey was complete once he reached the Pacific Ocean. James recounts his adventure:

After completing my Master's degree at Georgia State, I decided to go for a walk—a saunter, really. I began in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New York City. Five months, 3,400 miles, four pairs of shoes, and more than a few blisters later, I walked into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego.

Why in the world would someone do this? It's a difficult thing to put into words, though I've tried many times. I didn't do it to raise money or awareness. I'm not writing a book about it. I wasn't trying to "find myself," whatever that means. I did it for the adventure. For the challenge. To meet all different people from all different places. To see areas most people fly over or speed past without thinking twice. As an experiment in minimalism. To experience the United States in a way that very few people have. I did it because since I was a child I've wondered what it would be like to walk across America. Philosophy begins in wonder. So too, apparently, does a cross-country walk.

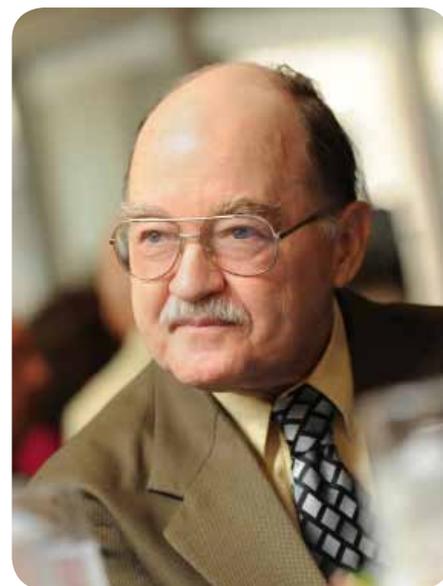
You can see more about the trip at James's website, JamesIsWalking.com



RICHARD LONG'S LEGACY CONTINUES IN PHILOSOPHY & ECONOMICS

This past Fall, the Department of Philosophy and the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics were fortunate to cosponsor a speaker series with the Department of Economics. The series, "Values and Social Choice," was linked to an interdisciplinary senior seminar team-taught by Profs. Yongsheng Xu (Economics, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies) and Andrew I. Cohen (Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences). The course and speaker series were the brainchild of the late C.

Richard Long, an emeritus professor of economics from Georgia State. Dr. Long was a great friend of philosophy and economics. He encouraged us to find creative ways to get scholars and students from the two disciplines to share their research and teaching interests. Among other programs, Long's generous donations in his later years allowed for book workshops, symposia on tax policy, and the distinguished guest speaker series from this fall.



As part of the fall's speaker series, four scholars visited Georgia State: Prasanta Pattanaik (Economics, University of California-Riverside), Daniel Hausman (Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison), Laura Taylor (Agricultural and Resource Economics, North Carolina State University) and Iwao Hirose (Philosophy, McGill University). Each presented their cutting-edge research to students and scholars, and each met extensively with both graduate and undergraduate students to offer career and research advice.

We are grateful to Dr. Long for his generosity and will miss his participation in our Department's events.

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

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MONEY MATTERS

Interested in lending your support? You can!

GSU's Philosophy Department sponsors several special funds that are used to pay for departmental events and activities. They're an excellent way to express your support.

Our faculty are receiving national recognition for the quality of their research and the excellence of their teaching. Our students are taking their place on the national stage – presenting papers at national conference, receiving prestigious scholarships, and finding new ways to connect their learning with the world around them.

Your generosity makes this vital work possible. Alumni and friends support every aspect of Department life, making it possible for us to deal with present needs, and to plan for the future. You can help us:

- build our program; attract and retain outstanding students and faculty; enhance quality teaching and research; bring distinguished speakers to campus.

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