The Owl

The St. Olaf Philosophy Department's Newsletter • February 2017

Editors:
Sue Newland newlands@stolaf.edu
Dempsey Olsen olsen3@stolaf.edu

Contact Information:
St. Olaf Philosophy Department
Buntrock Commons, Suite 052
1520 St. Olaf Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057
Phone: 1-507-786-3170

A Greeting and Introduction to the Department from Charles Taliaferro

Greetings from our temporary offices in Buntrock Commons!

There is nothing temporary, however, about our always welcoming you at any time, including (and of special note) for our Belgum Lectures which will be offered this spring by Ed Langerak. As we complete our 68th year as an independent department, we are coming up to a major self-study, a review of the department in 2017-18 which will include consulting with current students and alumni, bringing to campus three external examiners, all in an effort to explore the ways in which the department can contribute to the life of the college in new ways and to serve our students and colleagues better than ever. We are currently serving 467 students in 18 philosophy courses and 3 independent studies this term, with 44 majors. As the 10th chair in our long history (and philosophy was taught at St. Olaf College from its founding, long before the department was founded in 1949), we are honored to have the privilege of practicing philosophy with current students and colleagues, knowing our debt to the many past students and colleagues who have shaped our lives and the meaning of our vocation here at the college.

Charles Taliaferro, Chair of the Department of Philosophy

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Faculty News

Professor Gordon Marino is pleased to welcome Professor Poul Lubcke, one of Denmark's most renowned philosophers, to the Hong Kierkegaard Library. He also wrote an article published in the New York Times titled "What's The Use of Regret".

Professor Mike Fuerstein has been spending his sabbatical at the INSEAD business school in Fontainebleau, France, working on a book manuscript and continuing a project with their faculty on business and social progress. He was also recently appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Political Philosophy.

Professor Charles Taliaferro is offering with American painter Jil Evans a one-day course on the city of Venice at the University of Minnesota Lifelong learning center on March 25. He is giving the Dunlap Lecture in Millsaps College in late February; he will address the Royal Institute of Philosophy in Oxford on March 22 with a presentation, "Philosophy Can Help You Keep Your Head When All Around You are Losing Theirs"; and he will speak on divine attributes in Brazil in August. He is working on The History of Evil, a six volume-work involving over 130 scholars around the world due out at the end of 2017 with Routledge, the four volume Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion with 400 scholars from around the world, and the second edition of The Dictionary of Philosophy of Religion with Bloomsbury.

Professor Corliss Swain was elected President of the Hume Society in November. Her term began January 1, 2017

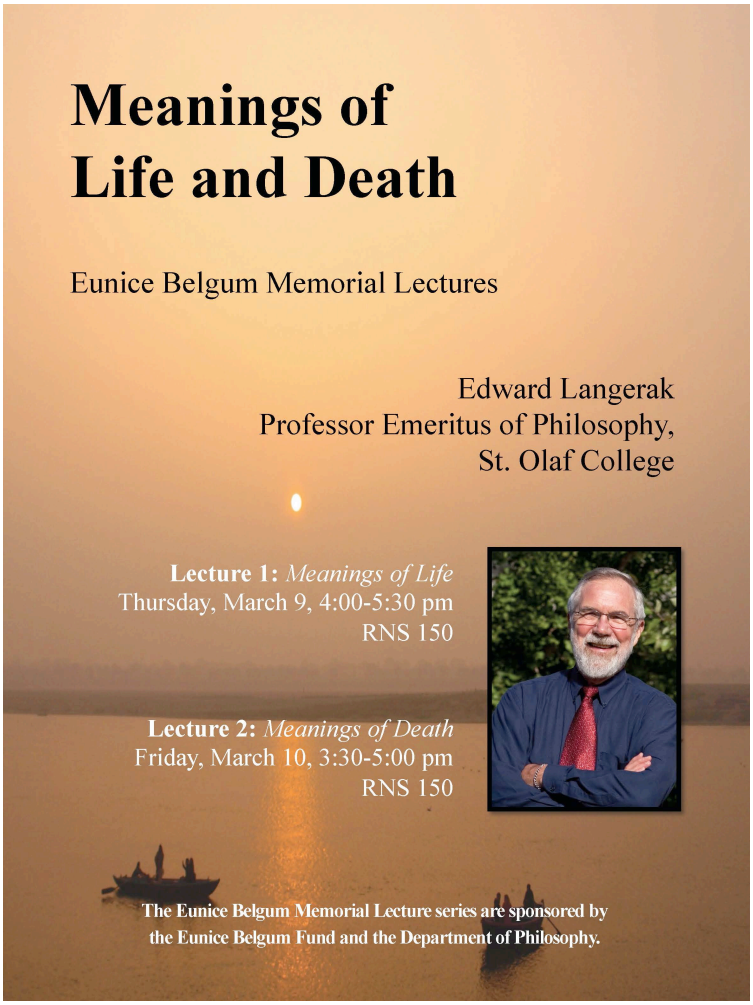
Phi Sigma Tau Spring Events

Phi Sigma Tau is happy to announce several colloquia this spring! Yishu Dai '18 will be presenting "Understanding Moral Understanding" on February 23rd with Zhaoqi Hu commenting, and Annika Beck '17 will be presenting "The *Theaetetus* as a Superior Apology" on April 20th, with Dempsey Olsen commenting.

Furthermore, Phi Sigma Tau plans to hold a paper workshop for St Olaf student's submissions to the Ringstad Prize and Departmental Distinction on April 5th.

Every St Olaf student who loves philosophy is welcome! If interested, contact Annika at: beck@stolaf.edu

The Eunice Belgum Memorial Lecture Series 2017



Eunice Belgum Memorial Lectures

The 38th Eunice Belgum Memorial Lectures will be delivered on March 9 and 10 by Professor Emeritus Edward Langerak of St Olaf College. The series will be entitled *Meanings of Life and Death*, and is available for streaming at the links above.

Professor Langerak joined the St Olaf philosophy department in 1972. In 1978 he received a National Endowment for the Humanieties Fellowship at the University of Chicago, and held the Boldt Distinguished Teaching Chair in the Humanities from 2000 to 2003.

His writings include an article on the abortion issue that has been reprinted in ten anthologies and a popular article "On Becoming Too Old to Die Young".

More details regarding the Belgum Lecture series can be found on the philosophy department's web site at: http://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/eunice-belgum-memorial-lectures-podcasts/

Check out these Resources from the St. Olaf Philosophy Department!

To stay connected and receive regular updates on activities, check out the St. Olaf Philosophy Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/St-Olaf-Philosophy-565288890180412/?ref=h

Learn more about the department and the major on the Philosophy Department's web site: http://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/

Check out stories from St. Olaf Alumni to discover how Philosophy students have used their college training to make the world a better place at: http://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/alumni-profiles/

A Call for Help

For nearly 40 years the Belgum family have financially supported the **Eunice Belgum Memorial Lecture** series via an endowment fund. However the endowment, which the Belgum family generously provided, is no longer sufficient to cover the ever-rising costs of these lectures.

In order to continue the lecture series in its current format, the endowment needs to grow by about $40,000. This is where you, our dear philosophy alumni, come in. Would you be willing to donate 'to the cause'? Any amount would be gratefully accepted.

Please attach the slip below to your check

Thanking you in advance,

Charles Taliaferro,
Chair, Philosophy department

Donation to Eunice Belgum Memorial Endowment Fund (010-41088)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Amount of Donation: $_____

Please make checks payable to 'St. Olaf College', and send to Development Office, St. Olaf College. 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057.

Thank you.