



Bubo's Missive

Spring 2015 Edition



Charles Taliaferro Extends a Greeting from a Productive Philosophy Department

We send our best wishes to all current students in philosophy classes, majors, and philosophy alumni that your life is flourishing and full of the love of wisdom! We are both deeply engaged in our courses and seminars as well as engaged in self-reflection on the future. Arthur Cunningham, Michael Fuerstein and Danny Muñoz-Hutchinson will be coming up for tenure and promotion next year, and Jason Marsh will be in his fourth year. The Department will also be undergoing a self-study in the next two years. I am halfway through a three year appointment as chair so on June 1, 2016 either I will be re-appointed or there will be a new chair to keep in touch with you. Corliss Swain will also be returning to the class and seminar room as she completes her appointment as Associate Dean of the Humanities and concludes her co-editorship of Hume Studies. We continue to co-author work with our students: last year *Homeland and Philosophy*, *Dungeons and Dragons and Philosophy* and the *Toronto Journal of Theology* had work with students published, and there are forthcoming works in philosophy and popular culture series co-authored by students and faculty on *The House of Cards*, *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*. The philosophy department is taking a lead in seeking better relations between Iran and the West. See, for example:

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/component/content/article/93-interviews/121408-ayatollah-khameneis-message-to-western-youth-is-most-welcome-philosopher->

We are also delighted about the forthcoming publication of:

<http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/love-reason-and-will-9781628927344/>

The book is the result or development of a conference held here at St. Olaf College on Kierkegaard, love, and the work of Harry Frankfurt.

Please stay in touch. Send us any news. We would love to see you at the forthcoming Belgium Lectures!

Yours with spirit, Charles Taliaferro
Chair of the Department of Philosophy 2013-2016

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St. Olaf and Carleton Collaborate to Bring Contemporary Philosophers to Campus

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The 36th Eunice Belgum Memorial Lecture Takes Place at St. Olaf Next Month

Northfield's Philosophy Departments Sponsor Collaborative Discussions

On Monday, February 23, students from Carleton and St. Olaf's Philosophy Departments will gather together in a discussion led by Professor Steven Nadler from the University of Wisconsin.

This discussion is one of the three sponsored led by major contemporary philosophers that have been taking place throughout the school year, and are sponsored by the St. Olaf and Carleton Philosophy departments. In November, Professor Rachana Kamtekar (University of Arizona) led students in a discussion on Plato and Myths, and in April, Professor Ken Taylor (Stanford) will guide students through a talk on the Philosophy of the Mind.

These workshops are the latest product of a 40 year history of collaboration between Northfield's two private colleges. Despite the apparent rivalry between institutions, Professors of Philosophy from St. Olaf and Carleton have been gathering for years to hold colloquiums for professors to present their research to peers. More recently, attendance for these colloquiums has been made open to students of either college.

This year's discussions result from a Mellon Grant given to both colleges to further collaborative efforts within various departments, and philosophy professors determined to design a collaboration focused on students. By bringing in prominent professors to lead discussions in their area of focus, professors intend St. Olaf and Carleton

Philosophy students to gain the chance to work and communicate with their fellow lovers of wisdom while receiving the opportunity to share in the wisdom of an expert.

Nadler, who focuses on Early Modern Philosophy with a focus on Spinoza, will guide students through the first part of Baruch Spinoza's *Ethics* to help students gain a unique and advanced perspective the text. The discussion with Nadler is intended to be more than simply an informational lecture and instead encourage students to engage in a complex discourse with a master



Professor Steven Nadler (above)

of the field, similar to an experience they might have in graduate studies.

Beyond the benefit of uniting the philosophy students of Northfield, Grenberg reasons that it is imperative that the two departments combine for the sake of attracting significant philosophers. While the size of each separate Philosophy

department might seem small at first, their combined rosters provide clear evidence of a philosophical community that allows the departments to draw much larger names in contemporary Philosophy than they could alone.

While the continuation of these collaborative discussions into the next school is still in an ambiguous state, students and staff alike have benefited from receiving visits from professors like Nadler and broadening the cooperation between Carleton

“Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice.”

- Baruch Spinoza

Eleonore Stump To Give 36th Eunice Belgum Memorial Lectures



Phi Sigma Tau Prepares for Spring Events

On March 5th and 6th, the St. Olaf Philosophy Department will host the 36th Eunice Belgum Memorial Lectures. Professor Eleonore Stump from St. Louis University will give two talks entitled “*The Nature of Atonement*” and “*Atonement and Shame*.”

Stump, who has published extensively, brings the topic of religious ethics to the St. Olaf community. Her writing has consistently focused on issues in the philosophy of religion, contemporary metaphysics, and medieval philosophy. She has studied the works of Thomas Aquinas in significant depth, and has devoted a book to exploring the problem of evil. She has served as the president of the Society of Christian Philosophers, the American Catholic Philosophical Association, and the American Philosophical Association, Central Division. The St. Olaf Philosophy Department is excited to welcome Stump’s unique perspective on the nature of shame in religion.

The Lectures will take place in St. Olaf’s Viking Theater. The first is on March 5, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm, and the second lecture is on March 6, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. The talks can be understood separately, but have been designed to fit together. All are welcome to attend.



Professor Eleonore Stump (above)

St. Olaf’s Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, under the guidance of Danny Muñoz-Hutchinson, was pleased to accept many new members last semester. Among its activities, Phi Sigma Tau hosts a student-run colloquium series, holds philosophy dinner discussions, and sponsors faculty presentations.

Over the past year the chapter has experienced unprecedented growth and currently boasts 16 full members as well as 53 associate members. In the past twelve months, four students have presented papers for the colloquium series, and the society has sponsored lectures by St. Olaf Professor Jason Marsh and Visiting Instructor Charles Watson III. In December, the society held its first ever “Philosophy Dinner” event. Additionally, Phi Sigma Tau expanded the budget and increased public awareness by selling Greek letter “bro tanks” as a fundraiser.

No dates have been set for future events, but Phi Sigma Tau has plans for several colloquia during the Spring Semester, as well as an talk by a guest speaker. The chapter also plans to sponsor a trip to the Minnesota Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at Gustavus College this April. A second induction ceremony will be held in May to welcome eligible associates to full membership status and to vote for officers for the 2015-2016 academic year.