

TPS NEWS

No.1, September, 2010

The Newsletter of the Talbot Philosophical Society

TPS's Mission

To supply the resources for Christian philosophers to develop professionally.

-and-

To provide venues for greater philosophical learning.

Meet Your TPS Officers

Here are this year's TPS positions with a short description of the duties. If you have any interest or questions about what TPS does, this list has been provided so you know who to contact.

Coordinator for the Fall Event: We're hoping to put on a philosophy of religion/ethics-related event during the Fall Semester. Jarod Sickler is in charge.

Coordinator for the Spring Conference: As always, we'll have a conference in the Spring. Daniel Eaton is heading it up.

Coordinator for Student Presentations: TPS's focus is your development as a professional Christian philosopher. One of the main ways to develop this is by presenting your ideas – to receive feedback and helpful criticism. Tim Houk will be organizing these throughout the year.

Coordinator for Other Events/ Presentations: We'd also like to hear from and interact with people outside of the Talbot philosophy student community. Wesley Chambers will bring people in from time to time throughout the year.

Communications Manager: You won't know what's going on with TPS unless someone tells you. It's

Evan Rosa's job to keep you in the know with the TPS calendar and other updates.

Director of the Newsletter: The TPS newsletter too is designed to help keep you informed. Dennis Bray will be putting all news and announcements into a monthly newsletter.

Director for Vision-Setting and Writing the TPS Constitution: This year we want to hone in on the exact purpose of TPS as well as its exact function. Jeremy Baldwin has this position, and he'll work along side current and past presidents of TPS. The goal is to produce a Constitution by the end of the year for TPS participants (you, the reader!) to vote on.

Conference Researcher: Conferences and philosophical events go on all the time, and a lot of the times they escape the notice of Talbot's philosophy students. Kevin Kiefer will be keeping us up to date on all that's going on in the philosophical world abroad.

Trip Organizer: So suppose you hear from Evan (who heard from Kevin) that the Society for Christian Philosophers is having their regional conference at Westmont this year. You want to go, and you

want others to come with you! Brain Romero will help organize your trip over there.

Assistant to Those Writing Papers: If you want someone to give you comments (helpful feedback) on a paper or presentation – whether it's for class, a conference, or a writing sample – Mike Hogan is your man! He'll look for an anonymous reader to give you comments.

Book Group Coordinator: Want to get really deep into a particular book, practice discussing and debating issues on your feet, while interacting philosophically with your peers? Daniel Martin will be heading up a book group designed to foster exactly that sort of scenario.

Vice-President: James Rhea has this position. He helps the president oversee TPS.

President of TPS: John Forcey has this position. He oversees all of what TPS does. In general questions should be directed to him.

Call For Student Presenters

Do you have a paper idea or a work already completed that you would like to present? If so, presenting a paper to fellow TPS students is a good way to get some helpful feedback.

To submit a paper, send a description of the paper, preferably

an *abstract*, to Tim Houk (timothy.j.houk@biola.edu). If accepted, you are expected to be fully prepared to present by your assigned date.

Information Needed

It is the aim of TPS to keep Talbot philosophy students aware of philosophical happenings both inside Biola and out. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you know of any philosophy conferences, presentations, or events of any sort, let us know so we can get the word out. Contact Kevin Kiefer (kevinkiefer@hotmail.com).

This Issue

Meet Your TPS Officers

Call For Student Presenters

Information Need & What You Can Do About It

Student Paper Presentations For September

August/September Calendar

Book Group- Daniel Martin
daniel.b.martin@biola.edu

Class Announcements/
Communications- Evan Rosa
evan.c.rosa@biola.edu

Conference Research- Kevin Kiefer
kevindkiefer@hotmail.com

Conference Trip Organizer- Brian Romero
brian.e.romero@biola.edu

Fall Event Coordinator- Jarod Sickler
Jarod.l.sickler@biola.edu

Newsletter- Dennis Bray
dennis.p.bray@biola.edu

Book Group- Daniel Martin
daniel.b.martin@biola.edu

Paper Writing Samples- Mike Hogan
michael.c.hogan@biola.edu

Spring Conference- Daniel Eaton
daniel.m.eaton@biola.edu

Student Presentations- Tim Houk
timothy.j.houk@biola.edu

Vice President- James Rhea
james.c.rhea@biola.edu

President- John Forcey
john.g.forcey@biola.edu

Administrative Assistant- Gail Neal
562-903-4764
gail.neal@biola.edu

Paper Presentations for September

Attending paper presentations is a great way to stay up-to-date with subjects in the field. Furthermore, questioning and critiquing speakers helps to sharpen your own philosophical skills. All talks are given at the Phil. House. Here are the presentations scheduled for September:

“Defending the Knowledge Account of Assertion”

Daniel Eaton
September 2nd

The Knowledge Account of Assertion (KA) plays a critical role in contemporary epistemology. In this paper I defend KA against two objections. The first objection is a direct attack on KA from cases of selfless assertion—cases where someone properly asserts some proposition she doesn't believe. The second objection is designed to demotivate KA by offering a

better explanation of the impropriety of asserting lottery propositions than KA does. I respond to the direct attack by pointing out that these cases contain an ambiguously elliptical assertion that, when clarified, will either show that the assertion is not proper or not selfless. I then respond to the demotivating objection by coming up with cases where KA better explains an asserted lottery proposition's impropriety than the objector's explanation.

“Theism and Nonnatural Moral Realism”

Daniel Martin
September 16th

Russ Shafer-Landau argues that moral properties are real features of the world, mind independent, cognitivist, and objective. But he's not a theist.

His position inherits all of the theoretical vices of theism while gaining none of its virtues. I argue that realistically construed moral properties are best at home on a theistic worldview.

“The Ethical Implications of Human Egg Donation in a Clinical Setting”

James Rhea
September 30th

The fertility industry in the United States has created a massive demand for women to donate their eggs to couples seeking to have their own [mostly] biological children. In this paper I examine the benefits and pitfalls of unregulated human egg donation.

Check out the NEW TPS website at:

WWW.TALBOT.EDU/PHILOSOPHY/TPS

or email us at:

talbotphilosophy@biola.edu

September & August TPS Calendar

Visit the TPS website for updates

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat
5:30-8:30 22 Welcome Dinner @ the Phil House	8:30-2:30 23 Bootcamp @ the Business Building	8:30-2:30 24 Bootcamp 7-8:30 Dessert @ the Phil House	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	3:00p 2 TPS student presentation: Daniel Eaton	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	3:00p 16 TPS student presentation: Daniel Martin	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	3:00p 30 TPS student presentation: James Rhea		