



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

December 2002

Dear Friend of Philosophy,

Scholarships for our philosophy majors and graduate students have always been the highest priority for the Friends of Philosophy, and the need is even more urgent this year. As you might know, on December 16, 2002, the CSU Trustees approved a fee increase, effective Spring 2003, of 10% for undergraduates and 15% for graduate students. I sincerely hope you will join me this year in supporting the Friends of Philosophy, especially to support our annual scholarship fund-raising.

As a Department, we are thriving and are determined to continue to provide the highest-quality education for our students, despite the ominous budget problems of the state of California. This fall we have another **record number of undergraduate majors (118)**, almost twice the number of majors we had just five years ago. Students are attracted to the ever-improving strength in our programs, courses, and faculty, as well as the continued success of our graduates in pursuing a variety of worthwhile and important careers in law, education, computer science, and numerous other fields.

Among the many developments in our Department, these might be of special interest to you:

*We have hired several **outstanding junior faculty** in recent years, bringing new energy and ideas for important programs in the Department. **Dr. Jeffrey Moriarty** (Ph.D., Rutgers University) joined us this fall and is working with faculty in the business college to develop courses and conferences in business ethics. **Dr. Ravi Sharma** (Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin) is a specialist in ancient Greek philosophy and will also teach courses in modern philosophy and early analytic philosophy.

Dr. Charles Wallis (Ph.D., University of Minnesota) joined us in the fall of 2000 and has developed a new course in cognitive science. **Dr. Sara Goering** (Ph.D., University of Colorado-Boulder), now in her fourth year with us, has established a Center for Applied Ethics to provide a locus for speakers, conferences, new courses, and research in medical ethics, environmental ethics, business ethics, and other important applications of philosophical insight. **Dr. Lawrence Nolan** (Ph.D., University of California, Irvine) developed a new graduate seminar on Teaching Philosophy and a new Interdisciplinary course on Medieval philosophy, and he also serves as our Graduate Advisor.

*This year we are recruiting another **new tenure-track faculty member**, in American philosophy, who will join us in fall 2003. Three finalists will give public lectures on our campus in late January 2003 and we hope you will join us in meeting these candidates. (Watch our Department web site for exact dates.) These new faculty members are helping us revitalize and expand the department, especially after several retirements (Dr. Steven Davis, Ms. Cheryl Clark, Dr. Daniel Guerriere, and Dr. Ed Quest in recent years).

*Our **Center for the Advancement of Philosophy in the Schools (CAPS)**, established in 2000 by Dr. Goering, has conducted training and in-school pairings of advanced philosophy students

and teachers in several public schools in Long Beach. We are grateful to the Mattell Foundation and the Ralph's Food-for-Less Foundation for generous gifts to support this program. Dr. Goering also won a substantial contract from the City of Long Beach to provide summer CAPS programs to troubled and disadvantaged youths from the City. Last year, the training program was approved as a Service Learning course so our students can earn academic credit while they participate in this important outreach to area schools.

*Our new undergraduate program for **Honors in Philosophy** is now in its second year. Seven outstanding majors are pursuing honors research projects and a spring honors seminar, working individually with faculty advisors, and will graduate with Honors in 2003.

*Our **Philosophy Pre-Law Program**, established in 1994, continues to thrive, with special courses for pre-law students, a philosophy pre-law internship, and invited speakers from the local community of practicing attorneys with philosophy backgrounds. Our pre-law graduates are attending outstanding law schools around the country, including Boalt (at UC Berkeley), the University of Southern California, Cardozo School of Law, Boston University, and Harvard University. This year, six of our pre-law majors are completing internships in the Public Defender's office of Orange County and other legal offices.

*Our **Master of Arts program** is also thriving, with 47 students actively enrolled in courses this fall. Our placement record continues to be outstanding, with recent graduates receiving admission to doctoral programs, with full assistantships, at Boston College; the University of California (Irvine, Riverside, and Santa Barbara); University of Minnesota; University of Ottawa; University of Southern California; and Washington University. Our MA students have had papers accepted after double-blind review for the programs of the American Philosophical Association-Pacific meetings and many other professional meetings. This year, eight outstanding graduate students are working as Graduate Assistants in the Department, and we continue to expand opportunities for our MA students, both as discussion leaders in some of our introductory courses and as graders and writing tutors in other campus departments. With assistance from lottery funds, we prepared a professionally designed and printed poster distributed to philosophy departments around the country to assist in our recruitment of outstanding students.

We hope you will join us at some of our conferences at CSULB. In spring 2003, we are hosting the following important gatherings:

*A **Student Philosophy Conference** on Saturday, February 8, co-hosted with our Student Philosophy Association: Eliot Sober will be the featured speaker. Sessions are being organized with student papers selected in a formal blind review process, as well as "how-to" sessions on getting into graduate school and getting a job.

*Conference on **Religion and Science**, organized by Dr. Thomas Schmidt: Robert Audi and Ernest Sosa have already been confirmed as speakers for this conference on our campus March 20-21.

*Conference on the **Ethics of Cloning and Stem Cell Research**, organized by Dr. Goering: Planned for April 5, 2003, and co-hosted with our Center for Applied Ethics, this conference will address some of the most urgent biomedical ethics questions today.

If you have access to the World Wide Web, please visit our department site regularly. It is the best source of information about upcoming events you might wish to attend, and it will give you more information about the many projects and activities we have underway: <http://www.csulb.edu/~philos/>

Although our College deans and other administrators are very supportive of our activities, the costs of speakers, conferences, and other activities that benefit our students and our community can never be

covered completely through state funding, especially now as the state faces a monumental budget shortfall. It is only with the help of loyal supporters, such as yourself, that we are able to carry out so many activities far beyond the traditional classroom. We hope you will seriously consider a contribution to the Friends of Philosophy. Your generosity is enormously helpful to us as we expand our faculty, our student body, and the activities of the Department. Among our many priorities which will benefit from your contributions are the following:

***Scholarships for students:** The extraordinarily generous support of our Friends in the past two years made possible the awarding of **seven** scholarships of \$500 each in fall 2001 and again in fall 2002 to our philosophy majors, an unprecedented level of support for our students. This achievement is due entirely to our Friends, and we are enormously grateful to the many Friends who sent contributions for scholarships. In the face of fee hikes and a difficult economy, our students greatly appreciate your support, now more than ever. We do understand that many of our alumni and friends are facing economic uncertainties and difficulties themselves, but our students face even greater burdens as they strive to finish their educations and pursue their own careers.

Prior to 2001, we were never able to award more than three scholarships a year, often just one. With your help, we would like to continue to expand these opportunities to better meet the needs of our students. The annual Whittington Scholarship is funded by a generous Endowment fund from the Whittington family. For the others, we pool your contributions to award Friends of Philosophy Scholarships. We understand that many of our Friends have limited incomes and are paying off student loans. Even a very small contribution from you will be enormously helpful to today's generation of students when we combine your gift with other contributions to award additional scholarships. This fall, we reserved three of the Friends scholarships for undergraduates and another three for graduate students, to ensure fair access to all, a practice we plan to continue.

***Conferences and speakers:** Although we receive some campus funding for conferences and speakers, major events, such as the Ethics of Cloning Conference, require substantial additional funding for nationally recognized speakers. Your contributions help us conduct events of benefit to our students and the community, and which highlight our department and campus.

***Centers and Institutes:** I have already told you about the **Center for Applied Ethics** and the **CAPS** program, both already playing a vital role in the Department in the organization of conferences, speaker series, and other educational activities. We are taking advantage of on-campus support for all of these activities, including the lottery funds received by CSU, but your support of the Department will help us develop these activities more quickly and effectively.

***Philosophy in the Schools:** Continuation and expansion of our program to place outstanding philosophy students in area schools will depend on substantial funding to provide the high-quality training and placement essential to a successful program. Support from our Friends helps us show foundations and other funding sources the importance of the program in our community.

These are just a few of the important Department activities that your support for the Friends of Philosophy helps us provide. We have several naming opportunities in the Department, for those of you able to make a major gift. For a suitable Endowment gift, the Center for Applied Ethics or the Center for the Advancement of Philosophy in the Schools (CAPS) can be named in your honor. A \$10,000 gift can endow a \$500 annual scholarship for students in perpetuity. Substantial gifts can also be used to endow a distinguished speaker series in your name, or a permanent source of funding for student research, or an annual conference series.

With today's disappointing interest rates, you might also be interested in supporting the Department through a Charitable Gift Annuity, which would provide you with an immediate tax deduction, as well as lifetime earnings for your retirement. The principal could then be directed to a program of special interest in the Department of your designation. Experts in the campus Foundation offices can assist

you with these plans.

On our Web site is a form for you to provide your contribution to the Department. All donors are listed on posters in the Department, in Department Newsletters, and on our Department Web site. All gifts are deductible charitable contributions on your taxes, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Our new "Philosophy at the Beach" Cooler is our gift to you for support of the Friends of Philosophy. If you prefer, we also have limited supplies available of our "Friend of Philosophy" ceramic mugs and our 24 oz. Car mug with lid, our gift to you for a contribution to the Friends of at least \$50.

My thanks to you on behalf of my colleagues and our students. I look forward to seeing you at department events and hearing from you about your own activities and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Julie Van Camp

Julie Van Camp
Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy