Philosophy Department Faculty

Full-time
Siobhan Nash-Marshall
Paul Kucharski

Adjunct
Andrew Garnett
Galina Stiler

Philosophy Club Officers

2016-2017

Caroline Timmings, President
Stephanie Havens, Vice President
Heather Krannich, Treasurer
Jasmine Quetell, Secretary

2017-2018

Amanda Westin-Da Rocha, President
Avery Kaczka, Vice President
Etta Griffiths, Treasurer
Walter Argueta, Secretary
Allie Aquino, Project Organizer
Tatiana Eftimiades, Project Organizer
Natasha Oliveira, Project Organizer
Caleb Crocker, Project Editor

Events & Activities

In the 2016-2017 academic year, the Manhattanville College Philosophy Department continued to expand in number of students as well as in its events and activities, particularly with the two Ethics Bowls that were hosted in the Spring semester.

Beginning with the Westchester HS Ethics Bowl held in the Spring of 2016, the Ethics Bowls have become a major event for the Philosophy Department; in the upcoming year, two more will be hosted.

In addition to the Ethics Bowls, the 8th annual Mary T. Clark Lecture was held, with Mary Ellen Bork as the keynote speaker. The Philosophy Club welcomed lectures given by Marco Liviero from Eton College, Marie George from St. John’s University, as well as Professors Kucharski, Fasano and Ellis from Manhattanville.

There were 51 Philosophy majors by the end of the 2016-2017 academic year. The Philosophy Department continues to be one of the fastest growing, most active, and most involved departments on the Manhattanville campus.

Lectures

- Professor Kucharski gave a lecture “On Honor and Honor Codes”
- Mathematics Professor Ellis gave a lecture on the philosophical nature of “Infinity”
- Professor Marco Liviero gave a lecture on “Oscar Wide: The Age of Surfaces”
- Professor Marie George gave a lecture “On the possibility of Extraterrestrials”
- Professor Fasano gave a lecture on “Poetry and Philosophy”
Manhattanville Ethics Bowls: Academic Year 2016-2017

Regional High School Ethics Bowl:

This was the third Regional High School Ethics Bowl that the Philosophy Club has hosted here at Manhattanville. Each year philosophy majors get together to invite high schools from the region to come to Manhattanville where three judges (two students and one professor of philosophy) listen to two teams pose arguments about the ethical questions presented to them, and score them based on their responses to each other. The judges have a chance to ask a question of their own to further understand each of their arguments. At the end, the judges tally up their scores and a winner for that round is chosen. There are multiple preliminary rounds, a semi-final round, and a final round. Meanwhile, there are 2-4 active philosophy majors in a separate room during the entire event receiving scores for each of the rounds, and by adding up the scores by team they determine who will be in the semi-finals. We invited several local schools and each of them brought two teams of 5 students to participate. One of North Rockland High School’s teams won first place this year. It was amazing to see how these high school students were prepared, and how much they enjoyed partaking in the event.

Manhattanville Invitational Ethics Bowl:

This was the first Invitational Ethics Bowl the Philosophy Club has hosted here at Manhattanville. This has the basic format of the Regional High School Ethics Bowl, however, the teams invited are those who didn’t get the chance to come in first place at the Regional Bowl. We invited the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place teams of 3 different regions to participate for a second chance, however, this time against different schools. We gave out little trophies to those who came in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the Invitational.

-Amanda Westin-Da Rocha  
2017-2018 Philosophy Club President & Ethics Bowl Organizer

Contact us at ManhattanvillePhilosophyClub@gmail.com
8th Annual Mary T. Clark Chair of Christian Philosophy Lecture

Sister Mary T. Clark, R.S.C.J. ‘39, was honored on Wednesday, the 29th of March, 2017 as the Philosophy Department of Manhattanville College conducted the 8th annual Mary T. Clark Chair of Christian Philosophy Lecture. To recognize and celebrate Sister Clark and her impact, the Philosophy Department welcomed back alumna Mary Ellen Pohl Bork ’63 to present her lecture entitled “Finding a Place to Stand in an Age of Discontent,” which considered the current difficulties with finding and standing by one’s principles, as well as the importance of remembering and reflecting on history: as it is within our history that we can find the inspiration for our own strength by recognizing the principles that served to establish our culture, our values, and our own identity.

Mary Ellen invited those in attendance (which comprised of nearly one hundred Manhattanville students, alumni, and friends, of which approximately half consisted of current student majors within the Philosophy Department) to embark on a figurative cruise in which she shared insightful truths that anchored her throughout her own life. Through the examples of Saints Thomas More and Catherine of Siena, Mary Ellen expressed the values and virtues that have transcended their own times, and serve as exemplars of the Judeo-Christian values that are the roots of American culture. By spurning these traditional values in favor of secularism and materialism, which has no place for God, faith is abandoned by reason, where the union of the two is necessary in order to provide balance: to provide not only the rationality necessary in order to assess reality, but also the moral principles to guide us.

Without acknowledgement of our own history, culture, and values, we lose sight of that which is the inspiration for what we believe, and lose an aspect of our own identity. Mary Ellen concluded by offering three steps toward finding a place to stand: to not be satisfied with superficial views and instead to rationally and morally assess them; to go outside oneself and consider both one’s history and one’s future; and to seek higher things, those that have meaning and that are for the good. The strength that one has within oneself cannot be taken away, and it is through one’s virtues and values that one can stand by what they believe in.

Mary Ellen’s lecture inspired a powerful response from Besiki Kiknadze, a Manhattanville senior and Philosophy major who declared that, in spite of how many have lost sight of their own history and values (even at Manhattanville College), the students of the Philosophy Department stand with Mary Ellen in solidarity and friendship, hoping to embrace the principles that served as the foundation for Sister Clark, Manhattanville College, and the United States of America. It is Professor Nash-Marshall’s determination, with the full involvement of the Philosophy Department and its many friends and family, to “make America a thinking nation,” upholding the indispensability of the truth, reason, and faith, and standing strong in an age of discontent. It was a privilege and an honor for the Philosophy Department to receive Mary Ellen and all attending alumni to celebrate the pursuit of the truth in recognition of Sister Clark, and the Philosophy Department hopes to welcome Mary Ellen back in the Fall to conduct a weekend seminar.

-Avery Kaczka
2017-2018 Philosophy Club Vice President
& Philosophy Department Assistant
Manhattanville College Philosophy Department

2016-2017 Academic Year

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