



Phi Sigma Tau National Alumni Chapter



Bulletin #54

November, 2021

News of the Society

Though we thought the worst of the pandemic might be behind us, we continue to be affected. Many schools have been able to resume in-person teaching in some fashion, and classes are continuing, though work with Phi Sigma Tau has suffered. As faculty are pressed for time, many are unable to continue with their honor society work. Faculty I know have been pushed by a need to accommodate both on-line work as well as in person work. This has been a problem for a couple of years. In addition, I am receiving notices now and again of cancellation of philosophy programs at schools. Since many of our chapters are at smaller schools, some chapters are in danger of revocation. Recently, I received notice of the cancellation of the philosophy program at Bloomsburg University.

However, at Phi Sigma Tau we are attempting to carry on. As noted below, one of our Executive Council members died suddenly, leaving a vacancy on the Council which we hope to fill soon. In addition, we are looking to replace the Executive Secretary and the President; both of those officers are long past retirement age, and the organization needs younger blood on the Council. Since all Council positions are voluntary, it becomes difficult to recruit new members, especially when faculty are under stress.

Phi Sigma Tau continues to be financially secure. Though we operated at a deficit in the 2019-2020 school year, so far as I know, that year was the only one where we had a deficit. Income covered expenses with a bit of surplus in the 2020-2021 year. And we have the funds to continue publishing our journal, our major

project during the year. This year welcomed the 64th volume of *Dialogue*.

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NAC Membership

Membership in the National Alumni Chapter continues to be five dollars per year; we have no plans to increase that. Members will receive *Dialogue* for one year as well as Newsletters and the yearly NAC Bulletin. However, we do also offer an email membership in the Chapter at no charge. You will still receive copies of the journal, the Newsletters, and the Alumni Bulletin, but this will be by email attachment. If you wish to continue with an email membership, please let me know.

I will be able to contact you by email if you have given me your email address. However, I do not know when you move or change email or street addresses. Please let me know if your street address or email address changes so that I can update the PST files. I would like to be able to keep in contact with you. If you need to change an address, please feel free to contact me by email.

Email addresses for members who make them available are taken from both NAC renewal and registration forms. If you neglected to provide an email address [or registered using an earlier registration form which did not contain a space for email information] and would like to be on the NAC email distribution list, you need only drop me a message [david.gibson@pepperdine.edu] from your email account with the Subject Line: "ADD TO NAC EMAIL." **The NAC membership**

database (including email listings) is not given or sold to any other organization (educational or commercial).

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Dialogue

Our November issue begins our 64th volume of *Dialogue*. Since the journal is for student publication only, we do depend upon students who are willing to share their work and provide thoughtful papers and essays. Submissions continue to arrive, and in general we are able to publish approximately 20 papers each year. Congratulations to those having their work published! And thanks to all who devote time to the preparation of papers. We also owe a debt of thanks to advisors who assist and encourage students to submit work to our editor, Dr. Steve Barbone (sbarbone@sdsu.edu). And special thanks to Dr. Barbone for all he does to prepare each issue for publication.

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From the Executive Secretary

I regret to inform you that long-time Executive Council Member, Fr. Joseph Koterski, died in August of this year. Fr. Koterski served on the Council for more than 15 years and was also the Phi Sigma Tau advisor at Fordham University for an even longer time. During his long tenure at Fordham, Fr. Koterski taught and mentored many students who went on to become professors and even advisors for Phi Sigma Tau. We remember Fr. Koterski for his long service to Fordham, to philosophy, and to Phi Sigma Tau.

From time to time, we have had a section of the Bulletin reserved for Alumni Chapter members to reminisce about their experiences with philosophy. However, in order to do this, Alumni members need to send me information about their experiences. Some of those experiences may be memories of long ago classes or

of professors who have had a great influence upon your thinking or life. In some cases, you may recall a time when your study of philosophy had an impact on your career. We would love to hear from you about your experiences. If you have some memories you would be willing to share with other Alumni members, please write them down and send them to the Executive Secretary (gibson@pepperdine.edu).

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PST Executive Council Members

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