

Save the date: April 16, 2016

How are *you* thinking about your philosophy major *now*?

A Gustavus Philosophy Alumni Event

The faculty and students of the Philosophy Department invite you to a first-ever all-philosophy-alumni gathering, to be held **Saturday, April 16 at Gustavus.**

The event will give you, our alumni, a chance to talk with other philosophy alumni, Gustavus philosophy faculty and (crucially!) our current philosophy students.

The topic? How do you think about that philosophy major, now that it's one or ten or thirty years in the rearview mirror?

- What was your first job after Gustavus?
- What path has your work life taken since then?
- [How] does philosophy inform your work and your life today?
- What do you say, when people ask "what did you study in college?"

Did all those promises we made you about the value of critical thinking and deep reading and analytical writing ever pan out? How are *you* thinking about that philosophy major these days?

We invite you to join us on April 16 to give a brief talk (we're thinking eight to ten minutes) that describes how you're thinking of your major. Not interested in giving a talk, but interested in joining the conversation? No problems! We'd love to have you too! We envision it to be a day of conversations, interspersed with some good food.

Come and honor the Gustavus philosophy department triumvirate of Douglas Huff, George Georgacarakos and Deane Curtin, who, collectively, have taught at Gustavus 109 years and counting. With this event, we honor the teaching legacy of George (whose passing we mourned in 2013), Deane (who retired just this spring), and Doug (who is still very much in the classroom fulltime).

Why are we doing this? Three reasons compel us.

- First, because we really *love* it when we hear from you all about your lives. We've not been very good at asking you how you're doing, and, well, we thought "what better way to rectify this than a great big gathering where lots of alums from different years can gather?" (We expect you'll want to hear from each other, too.)
- Second, because we and our current students *need* to hear from you! Students are eager—anxious—to think about how choosing to major in philosophy will shape their own lives. Some of their questions are practical. (You remember! "Will I ever get a job with a philosophy degree?") Many are more abstract and theoretical. We believe you can help them to start to draw a line between their lives in the classroom at Gustavus, and their lives in the world after Gustavus.
- Third, we, the faculty, want to learn how we can strengthen our philosophy major, so as to help students to be drawing those connections.

Watch for details in the fall, but feel free to send us a note of interest right now, and include your preferred communication address.

- **Write to Lisa Heldke (heldke@gustavus.edu)** and let her know you plan to come.

In the meantime, you can keep abreast of some of the department's doings in one of two ways:

- Check out the department blog at <https://philosophy.blog.gustavus.edu/>.
- Become a member of our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/543170069122038/> and post your own news!