

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
CALENDAR YEAR 2011
STRATEGIC PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT**

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PART I: CHAIR'S REVIEW OF 2011

Administration

Department administration in 2011 for the most part remained the same:

	2011 spring	2011 fall
Department chair	Burkett	Burkett
Section head, Philosophy	Cogburn	Cogburn
Section head, Religious Studies	Arai	Arai
Undergraduate advisor(s), Philosophy	Sirridge, Crystal, Song	Roland
Undergraduate advisor, Religious Studies	Pasquier	Pasquier
Director of Graduate Studies	Schufreider	Schufreider

After 14 years of working for the department, Jen O'Connor retired as chief administrative coordinator in the summer of 2011. Margaret Toups took her place in the fall of 2011.

Faculty

Paula Arai underwent a tenure review in 2010-11 and received tenure as an associate professor in Religious Studies, effective August 2011. Jeff Roland underwent a tenure review in spring 2011 and received tenure and promotion to associate professor in Philosophy, effective January 1, 2012.

In spring 2011, Michael Pasquier in Religious Studies and James Rocha in Philosophy underwent a third-year review. Both were reappointed. Each received a fourth-year teaching release for fall 2011.

Husain Sarkar and Greg Schufreider submitted proposals in 2010-11 for sabbaticals in 2011-12. Both proposals were approved for spring 2012. Mary Sirridge submitted a proposal in 2011-12 for a sabbatical in 2012-13.

On December 5, 2011, the philosophy faculty voted to approve an exchange between John Protevi of the Department of French Studies and François Raffoul. Raffoul will have a gratis appointment in the Department of French Studies, while Protevi will have a gratis appointment on the Philosophy faculty. Each will normally teach one course each semester in the host department.

Students

The following table shows the number of majors and minors over the last five years, counted in the fall semester.¹

	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
senior college	96	93	78	77	82
University College	11	16	15	28	21
total undergraduate majors	107	109	93	105	103
undergraduate minors	97	91	80	83	67
Masters	16	12	15	12	12

The following table shows the number of graduates over the last four years.

	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11
undergraduate majors	39	30	30	31
undergraduate minors	40	46	54	59
Masters	3	8	3	8
graduate minors	0	1	0	0

Instruction

In 2011, department faculty offered 87 sections of 1000- to 4000-level courses and two 7000-level courses, distributed as follows:

	1000-2000	3000-4000	7000
Philosophy (PHIL)	31	15	2
Religious Studies (REL)	25	12	
Honors (HNRS)	04		
Total	60	27	2

Several of our courses were cross-listed with other departments or programs: namely, with Anthropology (1), Foreign Languages (2), International Studies (1), and Linguistics (2). Other departments also offered courses that were cross-listed with Religious Studies: namely, English (1), Geography (1), and History (2).

The department offered one service-learning course in spring 2011: REL 3010 Religion of Louisiana (Pasquier). Song directed one Honors thesis.

The number of student credit hours offered by the department in 2011 was the highest in recent years, as the following table shows. All figures are for the fall semester (no figures are available for spring).

	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
lower-division	3900	3677	3001	3617	4678
upper-division	801	1275	1201	927	672
total undergraduate	4701	4952	4202	4544	5350
graduate courses	72	84	78	69	78
total	4773	5036	4280	4613	5428

¹ Data comes from EIS, which does not distinguish between Philosophy and Religious Studies.

In addition to regular offerings, upper-level independent studies in philosophy were offered by Rocha (2), Roland (6), and Song (1). Upper-level independent studies in religious studies were offered by Henderson (1), Pasquier (5), and Finley (1). Graduate-level independent studies in philosophy (PHIL 7991) were offered by Cogburn (7), Henderson (1), Raffoul (3), Rocha (2), Roland (1), and Schufreider (1).

Graduate education

In 2011, members of the philosophy faculty directed six M.A. theses in philosophy: Cogburn (1), Rocha (1), Roland (1), Sarkar (1), and Schufreider (2). Stephen Finley of Religious Studies also directed an M.A. thesis for the MALA program. In addition, members of the department served on dissertation committees in other departments: Crystal (2), Finley (4), Irvine (1), Raffoul (1), Roland (1), Sarkar (2), Schufreider (2), and Sutherland (2).

Sponsored lectures

The department sponsored its fourth annual Graduate Philosophy Conference on April 8-9, 2011. Dr. Istvan Berkeley of ULL delivered the keynote address, entitled "Machine Minds."

In addition, the department sponsored three invited lecturers in November 2011: Dr. Jeffrey Kripal, holder of the J. Newton Rayzor Chair in Philosophy and Religious Thought, and Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Rice University; Dr. Richard N. Boyd, Susan Linn Sage Professor of Philosophy at Cornell University; and Dr. Mark Lance, Professor of Justice and Peace and Director of Graduate Studies in the Philosophy Department at Georgetown University.

Publications

Paula Arai published her second book in 2011: *Bringing Zen Home* (University of Hawai'i Press). Ed Henderson published a collection of essays coedited with David Hein: *C. S. Lewis and Friends*. In addition to these two books, the faculty also published the following:

- 9 articles in refereed journals: Cogburn and Roland (1), Cogburn with Silcox (1), Raffoul (2), Rocha (4), Song (1)
- 6 chapters in edited volumes: Cogburn (1), Henderson (2), Isbell (1), Rocha (1), Rocha with Rocha (1)
- 1 documentary film: Pasquier
- 4 book reviews: Crystal (1), Finley (2), Pasquier (1)

A paperback edition of Sarkar's book *Group Rationality in Scientific Discourse* was issued. In addition to the department's publications that appeared in 2011, a number of others were accepted for publication.

Conference activity

Conference activity for 2011 consisted of the following:

- 10 papers presented at professional conferences: Finley (1), Pasquier (2), Raffoul (3), Rocha (2), Roland (1), Song (1)

- 2 conference sessions chaired: Rocha (1), Song (1)
- 4 administrative positions held: Finley (2), Pasquier (2)

Grants

Faculty in the department received or proposed a number of grants in 2011.

- Arai: applied for NEH Fellowship but did not receive funding
- Finley: COR Summer Stipend;
- Finley: HSS Summer Research Grant
- Finley: Africana Research Award (AAAS)
- Pasquier: Coastal Sustainability Studio, LSU (\$60,000)
- Pasquier: Coastal Sustainability Studio, LSU (\$25,000)
- Roland: Assistant Professor Summer Research Grant (\$5000)
- Sarkar, Manship Summer Research Fellowship (\$9000)

Awards

Francois Raffoul received notice that his translation of Juan David Nasio, *Oedipus: The Most Crucial Concept in Psychoanalysis* (SUNY Press) was named by [Choice: Reviews Online](#) as one of the "Outstanding Academic Titles" for 2011. It was one of 629 print and electronic titles selected by the *Choice* editors from among the 7,264 titles reviewed by *Choice* during calendar year 2011.

Professional service

Three members of the department serve as editors of a journal or book series:

- Finley: associate editor of the *Journal of Men, Masculinities, and Spirituality* [<http://www.jmssweb.org>]
- Pasquier: co-editor of the *Journal of Southern Religion* [<http://jsr.fsu.edu>]
- Raffoul: co-editor of the book series Contemporary French Thought at SUNY Press

Crystal served as an editorial assistant for the series, Ancient Commentators on Aristotle. Other members of the department serve on the editorial boards of journals: Arai (*Religion Compass*), Cogburn (*Teaching Philosophy*), Raffoul (*Research in Phenomenology*), Raffoul (*The Yearbook of Comparative Literature*), Raffoul (philosophy editor of *Mondesfrancophones.com*).

Others served as referees for journals or presses. These include Cogburn (4), Meshal (1), Raffoul (2), Roland (2), Song (2). Raffoul also served as a philosophy evaluator for the Chateaubriand fellowship and gave publicity endorsements for four presses.

University service

Members of the department served the University in a variety of ways in 2010. The following are some of the most noteworthy: Finley (Committee on Institutional Repository); Irvine (president of HSS Faculty Senate, 2010-11); Irvine (dean's committee on undergraduate advising); Meshal (LSU Faculty Senate); Pasquier (Arts and Humanities Research and

Development Board); Raffoul (HSS Faculty Senate, 2011-12); Rocha (CAPPE); Sirridge (HSS Promotion and Tenure Committee); Song (Honors College Board); Song (Chancellor's Future Leaders in Research Mentoring Program).

Public service

In 2011, members of the department gave 13 public lectures in a variety of venues. These included lectures or panels at LSU by Finley (2), Meshal (2), Pasquier (3), Roland (1), and Raffoul (1). Other lectures or panels were non-LSU but local: Isbell (1), Pasquier (1). Two faculty members presented invited lectures at other universities: Pasquier (St. Francis University, Loretta, PA) and Song (Hope College). Arai gave an interview that became a chapter in a book on healing.

Facilities

Throughout the spring of 2011, the department chair had ongoing discussions with the dean, the chair of Communication Studies, and the director of CxC about the allocation of space in Coates Hall. These discussions led to an improvement of the department's situation with respect to facilities in Coates Hall.

- In fall of 2011, the department office moved from the inadequate space in 106-7 Coates to a new office in 102 Coates. The College paid to convert 102 from a classroom into an office with carpet and new furniture.
- With financial help from the College, the department converted 106 and 107 Coates into faculty offices.
- The department traded two offices in the third-floor attic of Coates to the Department of Communication Studies in return for Coates 217, which now serves as the department's storage room.
- When Hugh Buchanan from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders retired, his office in Coates 136B became available. This went to the Department of Communication Studies, which in return relinquished the faculty office in Coates 231 to our department.

These additional offices enabled us to start moving some of the tenure-track faculty from the third-floor attic to adequate offices on the first and second floors. The department still needs at least one additional faculty office on the first or second floor and a larger seminar room to replace Coates 116.

Website

We began to work with Sydney Nakashima, the College's webmaster, to create a new department website using the program "Rhythmyx." The work on this has proceeded slowly.

PART II: STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mission Statement: The mission of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies is 1) to preserve and effectively transmit to undergraduate and graduate students knowledge about the philosophies and religions that have shaped and continue to shape the history and cultures of the world; 2) to develop in our students the ability to read, to understand, and to think critically and synthetically; 3) to generate new knowledge and deeper understanding of philosophical and religious matters as a contribution to knowledge in these disciplines; and 4) to make professional expertise in philosophy and religious studies available to meet the needs of the larger community in appropriate ways.

Vision Statement: The vision of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies is to be a community of teacher-scholars of the highest caliber who work together effectively to accomplish the mission of the department.

Goal 1: to increase the department’s publication rate from an average of 1.31 articles² per faculty member per year over a five-year period (2006-2010) to an average of 1.5 articles per faculty member per year over a five-year period (2011-2015).

Table 1: Department Publication Rate

	2006-2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Average number of articles per faculty	1.31	1.44				

The department publication rate in 2011 exceeded the average rate for 2006-2010. It did not rise to 1.5, but since that is the goal for the next five-year period, the goal is still attainable.

Goal 2: to increase the number of research grants obtained, specifically to increase the number of NEH research grants from one over a five-year period (2006-2010) to at least two over the next five-year period (2011-15).

Table 2: NEH Research Grants

	2006-2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of NEH research grants obtained	1	0				

Paula Arai applied for an NEH Fellowship in 2011 but did not receive funding.

Goal 3: To increase the number of students graduating with a major in philosophy or religious studies from an average of 33 per year over a five-year period (2006-2010) to an average of 40 per year over the next five-year period (2011-15).

Table 3: Number of majors graduating per year

	2006-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15

² Here the term “article” refers to either a journal article or a chapter in an edited volume. As in the 2010 NRC survey, a book (whether single-authored, co-authored, or edited) will count as five “articles.”

Majors graduating per year	33	31				
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The number of majors graduating in 2010-11 was close to the average for the previous five years. No progress was made toward improving that rate.

Goal 4: To increase the number of women faculty from four to five by 2016.

Table 4: Number of women faculty

	2009-2010	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number of women faculty	4	4				

No new hires were made for 2010-11.

PART III: PRIORITY PLANNING FOR 2012-13

The priority for 2012-13 will be to replace faculty who have retired and fill other lines that have been lost. The Philosophy faculty will seek to replace Ed Henderson, who retired at the end of 2011-12, and to fill a Visiting Assistant Professor position. The Religious Studies faculty will seek to fill a position in the History of Christianity that has been vacant for years.

APPENDIX: DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY 2011

Scholarship (only list publications actually appearing in print during the year)

Books	
Monographs, novels, collections of poems, screenplays, and other major works	1
Edited collections of essays by other authors	1
Edited texts of other authors	0
Films or performances	1
Articles/chapters	
Articles in Peer reviewed journals	9
Essays in collections/book chapters	6
Poems or stories	0
Book reviews	4
Conference Presentations	10
Presentations to non-LSU public forums and such	4

Professional Service

Editors of journal	3
Serve on editorial board of journals	4
Officers in national professional organization	4

Prizes and Fellowships

Prize or award (not from LSU)	1
Fellowships (not reported as funded grant)	0

Graduate Students

Articles in peer reviewed journals	0
Essays in collections/book chapters	0
Presentations at conferences (not at LSU)	0
National fellowships and external grants	0

Departmental measures

Number of courses taught on load in interdisciplinary programs	7
Number of undergraduates with internships	0

Signature of chair _____ *Date* _____