



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

We welcome ideas and suggestions for how to expand and improve our Outreach initiatives to better meet the needs of our community.

If you have suggestions, questions, or are interested in working with our Outreach Program, please contact Michael Burroughs (Outreach Coordinator) at burrougm@email.unc.edu or 919-962-3329.

For general information on our Outreach Program, see our web page at: <http://philosophy.unc.edu/outreach>

Follow us on Twitter!
@UNCPhilOutreach



The University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Department
of Philosophy

**Outreach
Program**

Testimonials

"The philosophy department Outreach Program has enriched our discussion group, Socrates Cafe', by introducing both our senior community and the college students to an inter-generational set of viewpoints... it's this exchange of ideas and opinions that keeps minds sharp and opens our world to the multi-tiered perspectives of today's youth while offering the student participants the wisdom that comes with our age. Win-win!"

*Joan Welch, Director of Life Enrichment,
Alta Walk Senior Living Community*

"The philosophy discussion group has helped our students greatly. This is not something they would normally receive in other continuing education classes. Working with the team of philosophers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the coordinating team here at Central Carolina Community College has been exceptional. Each week class participation increases. Students are able to express and explain their opinions in a comfortable and non-judgmental setting."

*Randy Diller, GED Instructor,
Central Carolina Community College*

"Morehead Afterschool Program is in its second year working with the UNC-Chapel Hill Philosophy Outreach Program. During this time, Philosophy students have visited our classroom delivering educational, thought provoking lessons that our students and teachers have been engaged and impressed with. Every time they visit, we look forward to participating and learning something new."

*Kyle Hunter, Director,
Morehead Afterschool Program*

About Us

The aim of our Outreach Program is to use the Philosophy Department's intellectual resources both (1) to help people in the community think carefully and clearly about a broad range of ideas, commitments, and practices that regularly shape their lives, and (2) to get them excited about philosophy.



Current Initiatives

Youth Outreach Initiative

Young people are natural philosophers; their minds are infused with an open, questioning spirit. Therefore, we work with area public and private schools to bring the world of philosophical ideas into primary- and secondary- level education. We consult with teachers on practical aspects of teaching philosophy, help to devise philosophical lesson plans, and visit pre-college classrooms to facilitate critical debate and thoughtful discussion. Our current partners include: Cary Academy, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, C. A. Dillon Youth Development Center, the Triangle Area Homeschool Philosophy Club, and the Morehead Afterschool program.

Senior Outreach Initiative

Those with significant life experiences are well poised to reflect on philosophical issues. Senior citizens contribute positively to the practice of philosophy and bring unique perspectives to philosophical discussion. In an attempt to support philosophical thinking among senior citizens, we visit retirement communities to facilitate weekly philosophy discussion groups. Our current partners on this initiative include: Carol Woods Retirement Community, Carolina Meadows Retirement Community, and Alta Walk Retirement Community.

Community College Outreach Initiative

Our Outreach Program is committed to providing access to philosophy to community colleges that do not have the resources or curriculum space to offer a philosophy class. To this end, we have recently begun to work at Central Carolina Community College, offering weekly philosophy discussion groups for GED students. We facilitate philosophical discussion on concepts of interest to these students and work on critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills that will be of use to these students in their current academic work and future professions.

Interdisciplinary Outreach Initiative

As part of our initiative to expand access to philosophy, we look to partner with other programs, both at UNC and in the community. Through interdisciplinary and community partnerships, we benefit from the dedication, experience, and insight of the many North Carolinians working to serve others. Also, we are able to share our time and resources with those committed to Outreach and, in doing so, we continue to expand access to philosophy in North Carolina. Currently, we are partnering with the UNC School of Education and LEARN NC to develop online philosophy resources for North Carolina teachers and students.

National High School Ethics Bowl

High School Ethics Bowl (HSEB) is a competitive yet collaborative event in which students analyze and discuss real-life, and timely, ethical issues. An ethics bowl differs from debate in that students are not assigned opposing views; rather, they defend whatever position they believe is right and win by showing that they have thought more carefully, deeply, and perceptively about the cases in question. Experience shows that the event encourages and promotes ethical awareness, critical thinking skills, civil discourse, civic engagement, and an appreciation for diverse points of view.

In the spring of 2012, UNC hosted the first annual High School Ethics Bowl. Seven teams from six local high schools participated. The Outreach Program provided coaches to local teams to teach them about ethical theory and to help them develop effective lines of reasoning. Our Outreach volunteers also served as judges and moderators to facilitate the HSEB competition.

Two more HSEB competitions are scheduled to take place at UNC in 2012-2013: (1) the North Carolina Regional HSEB and (2) the National HSEB. As the HSEB initiative grows, so will the efforts of the Outreach Program: we will continue to provide coaches for HSEB teams, as well as judges and moderators for all HSEB competitions.

