

Curriculum Vitae  
Chris A. Kramer  
Philosophy Department  
Santa Barbara City College  
721 Cliff Dr. Santa Barbara CA, 93109  
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[Webpage](#)

**Areas of Specialization:**

Philosophy of Humor; Philosophy of Religion; Philosophy of Mind

**Areas of Competence:**

Informal Logic; Ethics; Social Philosophy; History of Philosophy

**Degrees:**

PhD, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, Dissertation: *Subversive Humor* (May 2015).

Committee Members: Michael Monahan, Nancy Snow, Anthony Perresini, Theresa Tobin

M.A., San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, Philosophy, Thesis: *A Defense of the Higher-Order Thought Theory of Consciousness*, 2002.

B.A., Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL, Philosophy and History. Thesis in Philosophy: *Wittgenstein's Invasion of the Solipsists' Privacy*, 1997.

**Academic Teaching Experience:**

Academic Chair, Philosophy, Santa Barbara City College, (Spring 2023 - present).

Assistant Professor, Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara, CA (2017-present).

Professor, Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL (2017).

Associate Professor, Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL (2011-2017).

Assistant Professor, Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL (2007-2011).

Academic Chair, Philosophy, Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL (2015-present).

Full-Time (Temporary), Imperial Valley College, Imperial Valley, CA (2004-2005).

Independent Research Assistant, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA (2000-2001).

Teaching Assistant, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA (2001).

Adjunct Instructor of Philosophy:

San Diego State University, San Diego, CA (Fall 2004).

Imperial Valley College, Imperial Valley, CA (2005-2007).

Southwestern College, Chula Vista, CA (2005-2007).

Mesa College, San Diego, CA (2005-2007).

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Cuyamaca College, San Diego, CA (2006).  
Mira Costa College, Oceanside, CA (Spring 2007).

**Teaching:**

**Courses Taught:**

Introduction to Ethics ([Umoja](#)-based)  
Introduction to Philosophy (historical—Thales through Dennett)  
Introduction to Philosophy (thematic--emphasis on Philosophy of Mind and Human Nature)  
Introduction to Philosophy (thematic--emphasis on Metaphysics and Epistemology)  
Introduction to Philosophy (Honors)  
Introduction to Nonwestern Philosophy  
Ancient and Medieval Philosophy  
Modern and Contemporary Philosophy  
History of Philosophy: Contemporary  
Informal Logic/Critical Thinking  
Critical Thinking and Writing in Philosophy  
Philosophy of Religion  
World Religions  
Ethics  
Contemporary Moral Issues  
Political Philosophy  
Formal Logic  
Knowledge and Reality  
Principles of the Humanities

**Courses Developed:**

Introduction to Ethics ([Umoja](#)-based) (Spring 2023)  
Contemporary Philosophy (Fall 2019)  
Critical Thinking and Writing in Philosophy (Fall 2017)  
Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (to be taught Fall 2016)  
Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Spring 2017)  
Environmental Ethics (Fall 2017)  
Thinking Logically about Media (Spring 2018)  
Philosophy of Religion (Spring 2014)

**University Service: Santa Barbara City College:**

Faculty Inquiry Group on Equity in STEM  
Equity Coach for the Race Equity Assessment Project  
Equity Coach for transition to fully online education (due to COVID-19)  
Participant in Equity Mindset Training  
Participant in Crossroads Anti-Racism  
Participant in Affective Learning Group  
Participant in Reading Apprenticeship Workshop

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Mentor for the Umoja Project

Advisor to the Philosophy Club

Advisor to the Chess Club

Hosted and organized the 12th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference at SBCC, October 12-13, 2018.

Honors for Philosophy 100: Introduction to Philosophy

### **University Service: Rock Valley College**

Committee member of Curriculum Development Group for a new program in Graphic Design (Fall 2016).

Member of the Caskey Lecture Series Committee (2016—present).

Member of PAIC (Promoting an inclusive community).

Participant in the MCTA (Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Academy 2014-2015).

Subcommittee member for faculty negotiations (2015).

Faculty Council—(2008-2010).

Creator and Advisor to the RVC Philosophy Club, *That Club Than Which None Greater Can Be Conceived* (2007—eternity).

### **Department Service: Rock Valley College**

Academic Chair of Philosophy Department (2015-2017).

Successfully passed three new courses through curriculum committee: Environmental Ethics,

Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, and Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Fall 2015)

Head of Program Review (five year assessment) for Philosophy Department (2014-2015).

Chair of Tenure Committee Philosophy Department (2014-2017).

Hiring Committee Philosophy Department (2011; 2014).

Tenure Committee Philosophy Department (2011-2014).

Co-Chair of the Philosophy Department (Fall 2010).

### **Community Service:**

Philosophy for Fourth Grade (Hope Elementary)

Member of SURJ-SB (Showing up for Racial Justice: Santa Barbara).

The Philosophy Club sponsored a “Peanut-Butter Olympics” (April 12, 2011), in which donations were acquired for food pantries around the Rockford area.

I brought members of the Philosophy Club to teach philosophy to young students in under-resourced schools in Rockford, Haskell Elementary in particular.

The Philosophy Club periodically holds shirt sales for local charities.

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At least once a year I bring students and community members to professional philosophy conferences in the nearby area.

Radio program hosted at nearby Rockford College in which students discuss philosophical issues—we call it *Mental Gymnastics with That Club Than Which None Greater Can Be Conceived*: <http://www.mixcloud.com/MentalGymnastics/12211-mental-gymnastics-with-that-club-than-which-none-greater-can-be-conceived-on-wrcr/>

### **Publications:**

#### **Books:**

*Religion Today: A Critical Thinking Approach to Religious Studies*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Co-authored with Ross Basil Aden. Forthcoming 2023.

#### **Articles:**

“Artificial Intelligence, Phenomenology, and The Molyneux Problem.” In *The Yearbook of Philosophy of Humor* Vol. 4, no. 1, (2023): 225-227.

“Positive Propaganda: What Kind of Rhetoric is Acceptable”, *American Philosophical Association Blog: Teaching and Learning Video Series*, March 2023.

“Thought Experiments, ‘Reverse Racism’, and Comedy”, *American Philosophical Association Blog: Teaching and Learning Video Series*, December 2022.

“Irony and Analogy: Uncovering Implicit Biases”, *American Philosophical Association Blog on Teaching and Learning Video Series*, November 2022.

“The Philosophy of Humor: What Makes Something Funny?”, *1,000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*, November 20, 2022. <https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2022/11/20/the-philosophy-of-humor/>.

“Is Laughing at Morally Oppressive Jokes Like Being Disgusted by Phony Dog Feces? An Analysis of Belief and Alief in the Context of Questionable Humor”, in *The Yearbook of Philosophy of Humor* Vol. 3, no. 1, (2022): 179-208.

“A Wise Person Proportions Their Beliefs With Humor”, in *The Yearbook of Philosophy of Humor* Vol. 2, no. 1, (2021): 139-144.

“Parrhesia, Humor, and Resistance”, *The Israeli Journal of Humor Research*. Vol. 9, No.1 (2020): 22-46.

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“Subversive Humor as Art and the Art of Subversive Humor”, *The Yearbook of Philosophy of Humor*. Vol. 1, No 1, (2020): 153-179.

“Moral Imaginative Resistance to Heaven: Why the Problem of Evil is so Intractable,” *De Ethica: Journal of Philosophical, Theological and Applied Ethics*. (2018): 51-67.

“World Travelling, Double Consciousness, and Laughter,” *The Israeli Journal of Humor Research*, Vol. 6 Issue No. 2 (2017): 93-119.

“Incongruity and Seriousness,” *Florida Philosophical Review Special Issue: Philosophy of Humor and Humorous Philosophy*, Volume XV, Number 1. (Winter 2015): 1-18.

“Philosophers from Rock Valley College Respond to Marco Rubio,” *Rock River Times*, 11/18/2015.

“An Existentialist Account of the Role of Humor Against Oppression,” *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*, 26(4), (2013) (accepted Fall 2011): 629 – 651.

“As if: Connecting Phenomenology, Mirror Neurons, Empathy, and Laughter,” *Phaenex: Journal of Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture*, 7(1), (spring/summer 2012): 275-308.

### **Book Chapters:**

“Philosophy Through Memes: Significant Teaching Tool or “Suspension of Seriousness”?”, forthcoming in *Thinking Through Memes*, Hackett Publishing, (2023).

“Which Direction Do We Punch? The Powers and Perils of Humor against the New Conspiracism”, in *Punching Up: Stand Up-Comedy Speaking Truth to Power*. Rashi Bhargava and Richa Chilana Eds., Routledge, 2022, 235-254.

“Dave Chappelle’s Civic Rhetoric: Positive Propaganda in a Liberal Democracy”, in *Dave Chappelle and Philosophy*. Ed. Mark Ralkowski. Open Court, 2021, 75-87.

“How To Philosophize With A Hammer (A Squeaky Plastic One)”, in *Teach with a Sense of Humor: Why (and How to) Be a Funnier and More Effective Teacher and Laugh All the Way to Your Classroom*, Ed. Kishor Vaidya, 2021, 176-187.

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“I Laugh Because It’s Absurd: Humor as Error-Detection”, in *The Lighthearted Philosophers Society’s Introduction to Philosophy through Humor*, Eds Steven Gimbel and Jennifer Marra-Henrigilis, 2021, 82-93.

“Mark Twain’s Serious Humor and that Peculiar Institution: Christianity.” In *Mark Twain and Philosophy*, Ed. Alan Goldman. Rowman and Littlefield; 2017, 125-136.

“How Socratic Was Swift’s Irony?” in *Jonathan Swift and Philosophy*, Ed. Janelle Pöttsch. Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield; December 2016, 13-26.

“The playful thought experiments of Louis C.K.” in *Louis CK and Philosophy*, Ed. Mark Ralkowski. Open Court; April 2016, 225-235.

### **Book and Journal Referee:**

*Journal of Social Philosophy* (Spring 2023)

*De Ethica: A Journal of Philosophical, Theological, and Applied Ethics* (Spring 2023)

*British Journal of Aesthetics* (Fall 2022)

*Cases on Applied and Therapeutic Humor* (Spring 2021)

*Hypatia*, (Fall 2020; Spring 2021).

*The Southern Journal of Philosophy* (Summer 2020).

*Soak the Rich! Make the One Percent Pay for the Windfall They Receive from Our Society’s Wealth and Productivity* by Gregory Arnold (2018).

*Ultimate Questions: Thinking About Philosophy*, by Nils Rauhut (2018).

*Concise Guide to Critical Thinking*, by Lewis Vaughn, Oxford University Press, (2016-2017).

*Isn’t That Clever: A Unified Philosophy of Humor and Comedy*, by Steve Gimbel, (2016).

### **Book Reviews:**

*A Philosophy of Humour*” by Alan Roberts, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019, forthcoming in *The Yearbook of Philosophy of Humor* (Vol. 1) (2020).

### **Conference Referee:**

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Referee for the 17th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference Whitefish Montana, November 10-11, 2023.

Referee for the 16th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference Greensboro NC, October 7-8, 2022.

Referee for the 15th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference St. Petersburg FL, October 8-9, 2021.

Referee for the 13th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference San Antonio TX, November 2019.

Referee for the 12th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference at SBCC, October 12-13, 2018.

Referee for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, Deerfield Beach, Florida, October 10-11, 2015.

### **Editorial Work:**

Member of the Advisory and Editorial Board for the publication *Teach with a Sense of Humor: Why (and How to) Be a Funnier and More Effective Teacher and Laugh All the Way to Your Classroom*, Ed. Kishor Vaidya, 2021.

### **Conference Papers Presented and Commentaries:**

Invited Paper: “Humor As An Aesthetic Experience Liberating Our Reason From Our Passions.” *Rocky Mountain Division of the American Society for Aesthetics*, Santa Fe, NM, July 7-9th, 2023.

“Mirth Over Madness Even When “Oppression Makes a Wise Man Mad”” presented at *The Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa Seminar: The Power of Humour*, 2022.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OSsEkpeM6w>.

“Argumentation, Metaphor, Simile, and Analogy: It's Like Something Else” presented at *The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking* in conjunction with American Philosophical Association (Chicago, 2022).

“Comedic Epistemologies: Humor as a Response to Propaganda and the New Conspiracism” presented at the INCITATUS Symposium *On Political Humor*, UFPR - BRASIL Universidade Federal do Paraná, May 28th-29th 2021.



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“Philosophy Through Memes: Significant Teaching Tool or “Suspension of Seriousness”?” presented at The Lighthearted Philosophers Society 15th Annual Conference, St. Petersburg, FL 10/15/21.

“Is Laughing at Morally Oppressive Jokes Like Being Disgusted by Phony Dog Feces? An Analysis of Belief and Alief in the Context of Questionable Humor” presented at the 14th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference, April 10th, 2021. The paper was the Winner of the Joseph P. Ellin Prize for this conference.

“On Cliché: It Is What It Is - ‘Stupidity Masquerading as Wisdom’ - Or *Is It?*” presented at the 13th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference at San Antonio, TX November 8th, 2019. The paper was the Winner of the Joseph P. Ellin Prize for this conference.

“Nietzsche’s Laughter at the *Spirit of Gravity* and Foucault’s *Parrhesia*: Two forms of Dissent Through Humor”, presented at The 2019 Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies will take place at the University of Texas at Austin from June 24 to 28, 2019.

“The Curious Case of Milo Yiannopoulos: Subversive Humorist, Sycophantic Troll, or Some Other Thing Altogether (It’s the Second One)”, presented at the 12th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference at Santa Barbara City College, October 12-13, 2018. The paper was the Winner of the Joseph P. Ellin Prize for this conference.

“The Serious Humor of Mark Twain” presented at the *Humor in America Conference* July 12-15, 2018 Chicago.

“World Travelling, Double Consciousness, and Laughter”, presented at the American Philosophical Association (Group Meeting: International Association for the Philosophy of Humor), Seattle Washington, April 15, 2017.

“The Single Greatest And Best Critiques Of Christianity God Has Given Man In The History Of The Planet: Mark Twain’s *Letters From The Earth, What Is Man, Extract From Captain Stormfield’s Visit To Heaven, The Mysterious Stranger, Little Bessie, And Extract From Adam’s Diary*: A Somewhat Critical Appraisal And An Extraordinarily Unabashed Fawning Over Twain’s Serious Humor Employed To Undermine Peculiar Institutions: In This Case, Christianity, As Noted Above In The Earlier Portion Of This Title, Prior To The First Instance Of A Colon” presented to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, St. Augustine, Florida, April 1-2, 2017.

Commenter (“Heckler”) for “The Hair and The Hands: How Jokes Helped Trump, and What We Can Do About It”, By Jenn Marra, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, St. Augustine, Florida, April 1-2, 2017.



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“World Travelling, Double Consciousness, and Laughter”, presented at the sixth meeting of *The Association for Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies*, University of Notre Dame, October 2-4, 2016.

Commenter (“Heckler”) for “How to Enjoy the Most Boring Book in the History of Philosophy”, by Stuart Dalton, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, Deerfield Beach, Florida, October 10-11, 2015.

“The Irony of Jonathan Swift: Socratic or Dickish?” presented to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, Deerfield Beach, Florida, October 10-11, 2015.

Commenter (“Heckler”) for “On the Nature of Belief in *Blason Populaire* Humor”, by Michael Cundall, 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, Galveston, TX, October 10-11, 2014.

“Tweaking our Mirth Addiction: Humor as Imaginative Thought Experiment”, presented to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, Galveston, TX, October 10-11, 2014 (Winner of the Joseph Ellin Memorial Prize).

“Are We Culpable for Implicit Automatic Consciously Unendorsed Stereotypes?” presented to the American Philosophical Association, San Diego, CA, April 16-20, 2014.

“Subversive Humor against the Spirit of Seriousness” presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, Treasure Island Florida, October 11-12, 2013.

“Humor, Heuristics and Oppression” presented to Wisconsin Philosophical Association, April 20, 2013.

“Humor From the Margins: Comedic Rhetoric against Oppression,” presented to the Kent State University Graduate Philosophy Conference, March 16, 2013.

“Humor, Heuristics and Oppression”, presented to the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Philosophical Society, Drake University, Des Moines, IA, October 20, 2012.

“*As if*: Connecting Phenomenology, Mirror Neurons, Empathy, and Laughter”, presented to the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences conference in Philadelphia, October 21-24, 2011.

“An Existentialist Account of the Role of Humor Against Oppression”, presented to the North American Society for Social Philosophy, Marquette University, July 21-23, 2011.

“An Existentialist Account of the Role of Humor Against Oppression”, presented at Freedom and Freedoms: Uniting State, Responsibility and Will, Toronto University, April 15, 2011.

**Public Lectures:**

“Mirror Neurons and Mirth Addiction: A Neuro-Philosophical Peek into Humor.” Presented to SBCC campus 4/24/2020.

“How not to Reason in Public Discourse: An Analysis of Current Political ‘Argument.’” Presented to the SBCC Honors Society 10/26/2018.

“The Moral and Epistemic Wrongs of Stereotyping”, presented to the Social Science Seminar at SBCC, Fall 2017.

“Errors, Lies, Political Spin and Bullshit”, Keynote Speaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual RockMUN (Rockford Model United Nations) Conference, Rock Valley College, 3/4/17.

“Presidential Election 2016: A Basket of Deplorable Logical Fallacies. Or, Why Logic and Reason Should Still Have A Place in Public Discourse. Or, What The Hell Just Happened?” First Tuesday Lecture, Rock Valley College, 3/14/17.

“How to teach logic and critical thinking in a ‘post-truth’ world” Faculty Development Day, Rock Valley College, 1/6/17.

“Faculty Expectations” New Student Welcome Event, Rock Valley College, 1/5/17.

“The Philosophical Art of Banksy” Faculty Development Day, Rock Valley College, 9/6/16.

“What has posterity ever done for me: our moral obligations to future generations” presented at the Earth Day Lecture Series, Rock Valley College, 4/6/2016.

“Miracles, Freedom, and the Problem of Evil” First Tuesday Lecture, Rock Valley College, 5/5/15.

“Animals, Ethics, and the Environment” presented at the Earth Day Lecture Series, Rock Valley College, 4/6/15.

“The Role of Humor Against Oppression” First Tuesday Lecture, Rock Valley College, 3/4/14.

“The Relationship between a Philosophical and Humorous Attitude” presented to the Rock Valley College Retiree Breakfast, 4/11/13.

“Laughter and Mirror Neurons” presented to the Rock Valley College Psych-Soc Club, 10/31/11—I went as a philosopher.

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“What it Means to be a Scholar”, presented to the History Awards Night, Rock Valley College, 4/24/09.

Organizer and Panelist on “The Problem of Evil”, an interdisciplinary panel discussion comprised of a local Imam, Rabbi, Pastor, and philosophers, at Rock Valley College, 4/21/09.

“The Philosophy of Humor” First Tuesday Lecture, Rock Valley College, 3/3/09.

**Public lectures through RVC Philosophy Club (2008-present):**

“The Epistemic and Moral Wrongs of Stereotyping.” (Fall 2016).

“Moral Imaginative Resistance in Fiction” (Spring 2016).

“What has posterity ever done for me: our moral obligations to future generations” (Spring 2016).

“Philosophers from Rock Valley College Respond to Marco Rubio: Why we need more welders AND philosophers” (Fall 2015).

“The Irony of Jonathan Swift: Socratic or Dickish?” (Fall 2015).

“Humor and Civilized Oppression” (Spring 2015).

“Paraconsistent Logic is a Joke; and also it isn’t” (Fall 2014).

“Tweaking our Mirth Addiction: Humor as Imaginative Thought Experiment (Fall 2014).

“Dostoevsky’s *Rebellion* and the Problem of Evil” (Joint meeting with Literature Club--Spring 2014).

“Are We Culpable for Implicit Automatic Consciously Unendorsed Stereotypes?” (Spring 2014).

“Don’t Drink the Water...or Eat the Animals: Jainism and Vegetarianism” (Spring 2014).

“Subversive Humor against the Spirit of Seriousness” (Fall 2013).

“Subversive Humor against the Spirit of Seriousness” presented to the Philosophy Club Radio Program (Fall 2013). <https://soundcloud.com/that-souncloud-page/mental-gymnastics-september-9/27/13>.

“Riddles of Religion: Zen Koans and Christian Parables” (Spring 2013).

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“On Kierkegaard on Irony and *Fear and Trembling*” (Fall 2012).

“The *Putative* divide between Continental and Analytic Philosophers” (Spring 2012).

“Augustine on Christian and Pagan Virtue” (Fall 2011).

“Humor and Civilized Oppression” (Fall 2011).

“On Identity and Essences: The Selflessness of David Hume and Buddha” (Spring 2011).

“Phenomenology and the *Science* of Consciousness” (Fall 2010).

“Of Mollusks and Men: Good and Evil in Plato” (Fall 2010).

“The Hard Problem of Consciousness: Dennett v. Chalmers” (Spring 2010).

“On Frankfurt’s little treatise *On Bullshit*” (Fall 2009).

“The Distinction between Lies, Political Spin, and Bullshit” (Spring 2009).

“Rhetoric and Philosophy in Plato’s *Gorgias*” (Fall 2008).

“What is Philosophy?” (Spring 2008).

**Professional Memberships:**

American Philosophical Association

Lighthearted Philosophers Society

International Association for the Philosophy of Humor

American Humor Studies Association

**Honors/Awards:**

Faculty of the Year 2016

Commencement Speaker for Spring Graduation, Rock Valley College, 2016

Winner of the Joseph Ellin Memorial Prize for “Is Laughing at Morally Oppressive Jokes Like Being Disgusted by Phony Dog Feces? An Analysis of Belief and Alief in the Context of Questionable Humor” presented at the 14th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference, April 10th, 2021.

Winner of the Joseph Ellin Memorial Prize for “On Cliché: It Is What It Is - ‘Stupidity Masquerading as Wisdom’ - Or *Is* It?” presented at the 13th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference at San Antonio, TX November 8th, 2019.

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Winner of the Joseph Ellin Memorial Prize for “The Curious Case of Milo Yiannopoulos: Subversive Humorist, Sycophantic Troll, or Some Other Thing Altogether (It’s the Second One)”, presented at the 12th Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society Conference at Santa Barbara City College, October 12-13, 2018.

Winner of the Joseph Ellin Memorial Prize for “Tweaking our Mirth Addiction: Humor as Imaginative Thought Experiment”, presented to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighthearted Philosophers Society, Galveston, TX, October 10-11, 2014

President’s Scholar in Philosophy, 1997

Student Class Orator, Spring Graduation, Spring Hill College, 1997

Howard Smith Award for History, 1996

Hutchinson Award for Philosophy, 1996