

The Society of Philosophers in America (SOPHIA)

**Report on 2013 American Philosophical Association Grant Fund award for activities in 2014**

October 24, 2014

In June of 2013, SOPHIA applied for \$5,000 of support for two events planned for 2014. The APA generously awarded SOPHIA \$2,500. Both of SOPHIA's symposia took place in the Spring of 2014. Support from the APA Grant Fund was split evenly in support of each of our events, which covered honoraria for key speakers and facilitators.

**"If Steinbeck Was a Farmer"** California State University, Bakersfield.

With the support of the APA, SOPHIA put on our first symposium on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, titled "If Steinbeck Was a Farmer" in Bakersfield, CA.

David "Mas" Masumoto, renowned organic farmer and author of numerous books including *Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on my Family Farm* (1996); *Wisdom of the Last Farmer: Harvesting Legacies from the Land* (2010); *Harvest Son: Planting Roots in American Soil* (1999); *Heirlooms: Letters from a Peach Farmer* (2007); *Letters to the Valley* (2004); and *Country Voices: The Oral History of a Japanese American Family Farm Community* (1987), spoke to an audience of 300 composed of students, community members, and faculty members under the title "If Steinbeck Was a Farmer." The program also included a response panel with Jill Eglund, Director of Community Development, United Way of Kern County; Aaron Hegde, Director, CSUB's Environmental Resource Management Program and Fatima Hernandez, BIA Accredited Representative, UFW Foundation. Jackie Kegley, Professor of Philosophy and Lifetime Associate of the Kegley Institute of Ethics served as moderator.



Support from the American Philosophical Association was instrumental in helping SOPHIA to cosponsor the event with a variety of funders, including the Kegley Institute of Ethics, the CSUB Institute for Religion, Education, and Public Policy, and CSUB's Schools of Arts and Humanities, Natural Science Mathematics and Engineering, Social Science and Education, and Business and Public Administration.

**"Food Symposium,"** Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA

On April 2-5, 2014, the Department of Philosophy at Pacific Lutheran University held its second Food Symposium. This year's event focused on the issue of food democracy and addressed local and global solutions to hunger and food access. Due in great part to the success of PLU's first symposium in 2012 organized by Erin McKenna and SOPHIA's generous grant received from the APA, the 2014 symposium was able to secure a broad base of campus support for sponsorship and attendance. This year's grant to SOPHIA was used for the honorarium of our keynote speaker, Professor Thomas Pogge, Director of the Global Justice Program and Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs at Yale University. Professor Pogge's lecture on the first night of the symposium presented the ways in which the promises stated in the Millennium Development Goals to halve world hunger by 2015 have been diluted. Professor Pogge also outlined his own proposal for meeting these goals. This lecture was well attended (approximately 120-130 people) and prompted much discussion which continued throughout the following days of the event.



On the second day of the symposium, six PLU faculty from five different departments (philosophy, sociology, biology, religion, and chemistry) discussed the topics of food diversity, sustainability, and justice with community partners working on food issues. These community partners

included farmers, a farm workers' rights advocate, a Native nutrition educator, a food bank executive, and a local business owner who is providing commercial kitchen space for those who plan to start their own restaurant. The final events of the symposium included a community meal at a local church which has a feeding ministry for the neighborhood and a day of service for students, faculty, and staff in the community gardens at PLU.

Our event had several objectives: 1) to show the ways in which philosophers can contribute to pressing moral issues concerning food production and distribution, 2) create campus and community interest about these issues, 3) show students how they can participate in solutions to these issues, and 4) connect faculty to local community partners to encourage partnerships and service learning opportunities for students. Our event was successful in meeting all of these objectives to the extent that many students, faculty, and staff have requested that this become a regular biennial event.

The website for the event may be found here: <http://www.plu.edu/philosophy/foodsymposium.php>

Funds from the American Philosophical Association offer financial means, but also a strong demonstration of professional support for SOPHIA's activities. The latter is valuable for the pursuit of further funding, which means that dollars received from the APA are multiplied in their consequent support for our efforts. We are most grateful for your support.

Sincerely,



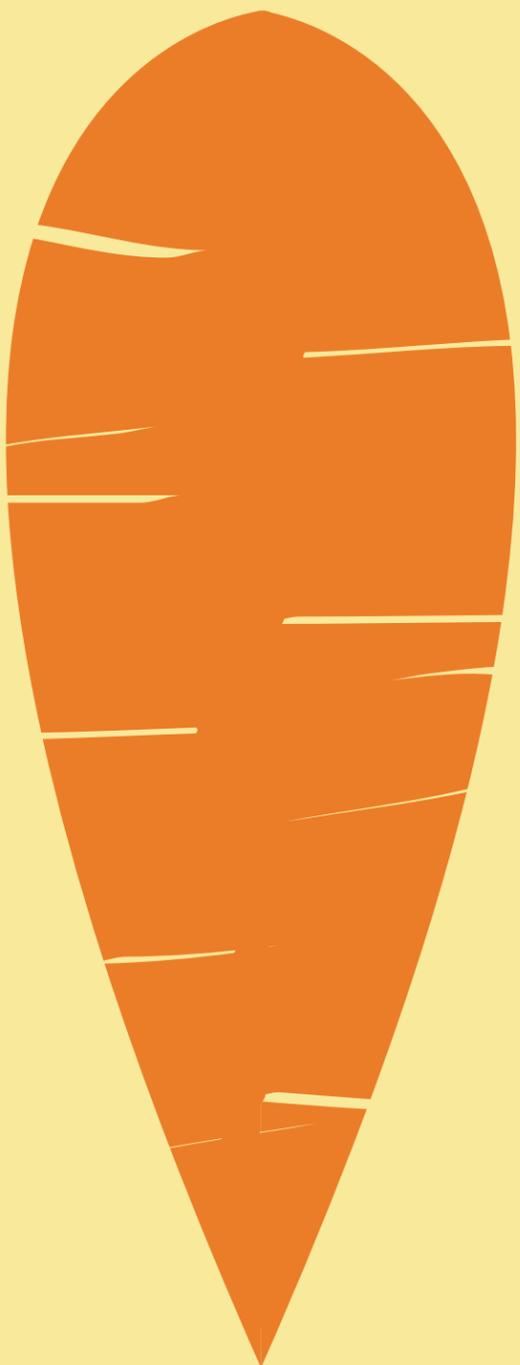
Dr. Eric Thomas Weber  
Executive Director  
The Society of Philosophers in America (SOPHIA)  
Associate Professor  
Public Policy Leadership  
The University of Mississippi  
662.915.1336  
[etweber@olemiss.edu](mailto:etweber@olemiss.edu)  
<http://www.philosophersinamerica.com>

# FOOD SYMPOSIUM



**April 2-5, 2014**

[www.plu.edu/foodsymposium](http://www.plu.edu/foodsymposium)



**Wed  
Apr 2**

**Keynote**

Scandinavian Center

***The Hunger  
Games***

**Prof. Thomas Pogge**

Yale University  
7 pm

**Thurs  
Apr 3**

**Panel  
Discussions  
& Food Expo**

Scandinavian Center

**Diversity & Food**  
12-1 pm

**Justice & Food**  
2-3 pm

**Sustainability & Food**  
4-5 pm

**Community Dinner**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
5:30 pm

**Sat  
Apr 5**

**Day of Service**  
Gather at the Anderson  
University Center

**PLU and Trinity  
Community  
Garden**

**Work Parties**  
9:30 am - 12 noon

Sponsored by:

Pacific Lutheran University Department of Philosophy,  
Office of the Provost, and Division of Humanities

Trinity Lutheran Church Feeding Ministry



All participants are welcome. If you need special accommodations  
please call PLU Disability Support Services at 253-535-7206

More information: [www.plu.edu/foodsymposium](http://www.plu.edu/foodsymposium)