

## **Sherra N Theisen, PhD**

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### **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT:**

#### **Instructor, Prince of Peace Christian, College Preparatory Academy, Dallas, 2014-2017**

Senior British Literature, Sophomore British Literature, Latin I, II and III; Founder and Faculty Sponsor of Classical Club 2014-2017, Faculty Bible Study Color Group Leader 2014-2017.

Sole responsibility for curriculum mapping, daily planning, teaching and grading for three classes of seniors, two classes of sophomores and Latin I, II and III.

#### **Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, St. Mary's University, San Antonio 2007- 2013**

Philosophical Anthropology, Phil of Religion, Aesthetics, Foundational Ethics, Environmental Ethics, Foundations of Civilization, Ethics in the Professions, Existentialism, Director of Independent Undergraduate Research: Peace and War, Leadership; Domestic Violence and At Risk Youth, Children and Philosophy; Coach of Ethics Bowl Teams Fall 2011-Fall 2013.

#### **Chief Executive Officer Director, Texas Nature Project, July 2005 to 2013**

Texas Nature Project is a 501(c)(3), educational non-profit dedicated to interdisciplinary, nature-immersion studies in sustainable leadership. Develop and oversee budgets, strategic plans, marketing, finance, policies and procedures. Develop and implement education, conservation and community programs. Research program development and grant support. Cultivate community partnerships, recruit board members, recruit volunteers and staff, and develop training and scheduling for volunteers and staff. Land and Water management for maximum wildlife diversity on the 100-acre outdoor environmental laboratory in consultation with Texas Parks and Wildlife and Lower Colorado River Authority. Care, training, housing and feeding of two horses, two miniature donkeys, six sheep and two ducks.

**Director of Educational Programming:** On site and outreach: hands-on educational programming for tens of thousands of students and visitors: nature and culture, nature and art, nature and food, water, science and empirical method, nature, peace and violence, nature photography, land navigation, nature and history, geology and climatology, identification of native flora and fauna, land management, organic gardening.

#### **Artist, Mason Artisan's Gallery, 2011 to 2013.**

Exhibit and sell nature photography, pottery, paintings and sculptures.

#### **Philosophy Lecturer, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2006-2007**

Philosophy in Literature, History of Ideas. Adjunct Lecturer.

#### **Philosophy Lecturer, University of St. Thomas, January 1998 to May 2005**

Philosophy of the Human Person, Ethics, Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Existentialism, Being Peace, The Examined Life and The Good Life, and MLA Seminar: Problems in Social Justice. Full-time Visiting Lecturer 1998-1999 and 2000-2001, Balance, Adjunct Lecturer. Student Research on philosophical, environmental and social justice topics.

#### **Director of Academic Advising, University of St. Thomas, June 2001 to July 2005**

Complete responsibility for First Year Experience Program, Peer Advisor Program, Faculty Advisors, FYE College Success Seminar, Transfer Advising, Academic Orientation, professional development workshops for faculty advisors, newsletter, web-based handbook, and academic advising. *Ex Officio* membership Retention Committee, Admissions Committee, Financial Aid Appeals Committee, Enrollment Services Council.

**Resident Director of Augustine Hall, University of St. Thomas, June 2001 to July 2005**

Created, developed and proposed with the Director of Residence Life; implemented Fall 2001. Admission, courses, service-learning, community sponsored events, guest presentations, Peer Mentor Program. One-year, seamless academic, emotional, social and spiritual experience for the twenty-eight student-residents. Service-Learning Committee, Social Justice Committee.

**Philosophy Professor, University of Houston-Downtown, Fall 1991 to Summer 2001**

Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Moral Issues Personal and Professional, Classical Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Environmental Ethics and Philosophy of Religion. Designed and proposed new curriculum for Environmental Ethics adopted permanently by the department. Full-time Visiting Associate Professor 1995-1996 and 1999-2000; balance, Adjunct Professor 1991 to Spring 2001.

**Psychological Enrichment of Chimpanzees, Black Beauty Ranch, Murchison, TX, 1999**

Direct responsibility for daily care of four chimpanzees and sixty other primate, mammal, avian and reptile species, including habitat, diet, medical care, nursing orphans, providing enrichment activities. Rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife. Conducted educational tours, assisted with training of volunteers and new staff, developed manuals for Primate House.

**EDUCATION:**

**Ph.D. Philosophy**

Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas

Dissertation: *A Dialectical Analysis of the Intra-subjective Relations Between Intellect and Will in Hannah Arendt and Thomas Aquinas*

**M.A. Philosophy, Distinction**

Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts

**B.A. Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Bapst Philosophy Medal**

Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts

**Fine Art**

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Drawing, Painting, Wood and Metal Sculpture

**PUBLICATIONS:**

- ◆ *The Courage to Counter Culture*, in progress.
- ◆ *The Thoughtful Child's Book of Rhymes with Reason*, with Jan Schultz, pub 2012.
- ◆ *Reconciling the Natural Law and the Civil Law*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, October 2003.
- ◆ *Enacting a New Myth: Givers*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, October 2003
- ◆ *Secular Foundations of Wildlife Rehabilitation*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, November 2002
- ◆ *Theological Foundations of Wildlife Rehabilitation*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, November 2002
- ◆ *Anatomy of Choice*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, November 2002
- ◆ *Anthropomorphism: Turning a Vice into a Virtue*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, October 2001

- ◆ *Absolutely Painless Fundraising*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, October 2001
- ◆ *The Debate Over Non-Human Personhood in the Philosophical Literature and its Practical Significance*, “Wildlife Without Borders,” The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, October 2000
- ◆ *Waging the War Against Ignorance on the Urban Front*, “Wildlife Without Borders,” The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, Oct. 2000
- ◆ *Choosing Excellence for the Future*, Proceedings, “Wildlife Without Borders,” The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, October 2000
- ◆ *Psychological Enrichment of Chimpanzees*, “Your Piece of the Puzzle,” The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, October 1999
- ◆ *What Should I Do? Dialectic as Method in Ethical Analysis*, “Your Piece of the Puzzle,” The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, Oct. 1999
- ◆ *Let Us Do Nothing Uselessly: The Ethics of Wildlife Rehabilitation*, “Educating – Respecting – Protecting” The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings, IWRC, Suisun City, CA, October 1998

#### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- ◆ *Planting the Seeds of Love* Faculty Devotion, Prince of Peace Christian School, Spring 2017
- ◆ *East of Eden* Faculty Devotion, Prince of Peace Christian School, Spring 2016
- ◆ *Christ through Creation* Faculty Devotion, Prince of Peace Christian School, Spring 2015
- ◆ *Ten Years of War, Was It Worth It?* President’s Peace Commission, St. Mary’s U, Fall 2011
- ◆ *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes*, Domestic Violence Awareness speaker, Summer 2011, San Angelo, TX
- ◆ *Last Lecture: The Beauty and Wonder of the Natural World*, Phi Sigma Tau and University Programming Council, St. Mary’s University, Spring 2011
- ◆ *Nature and: Food, Water, Building, Living, Land Management, Wildlife, Art, Artifacts, History, Culture, Land Navigation, Species Identification and Behavioral Psychology*, Provided as six-hour workshops for Texas College Students, on an ongoing basis 15 per year, 2008 to 2013, Texas Nature Project, Mason, TX.
- ◆ *Thinking about Life and Life Choices*, Georgetown Juvenile Correctional Facility, Georgetown, TX, 2010. Two presentations for different age groups.
- ◆ *Dead Man Walking: The Memoir*, Four-Part Series on *Dead Man Walking*, myself with Sr. Helen Prejean as the first speaker, a principle from the film and a principle from the play, Houston, TX
- ◆ *The Courage to Counter Culture*, Onestar Conference, Austin, TX 2010
- ◆ *Professional Ethics in the Nonprofit World*, Governor’s Nonprofit Leadership Conference, Dallas, TX, 2010
- ◆ *Coffee and Politics*, St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, March 2009
- ◆ *Women and the Environment*, St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, March 2009
- ◆ *Nature and Art*, Green Living Expo, Austin, March 2009
- ◆ *Children and Nature*, Green Living Expo, Austin, March 2009
- ◆ *Naturally Fun Games for Kids*, Old Yeller Days, Mason Public Library, October 2008
- ◆ *Does it Matter?* Presentation on Sustainable Leadership Education to Mason Lion’s Club, Sept 08
- ◆ *Plugging Children into Nature*, Fredericksburg Renewable Energy Roundup, Sept 2008

- ◆ *Literature and Medicine*, MD Anderson, Houston, July 16, Aug 6, 2008
- ◆ *Children and Nature*, Green Living Expo, Austin, January 2008
- ◆ *Children and Nature*, Green Living Expo, Arlington, January, 2008
- ◆ *Nature Inspiration in the Arts*, Museum of Fine Arts, San Angelo, October 2007
- ◆ *Sustaining Hope*, Fredericksburg Renewable Energy Roundup, Sept 2007
- ◆ *Meaning and Freedom*, Connally Unit GED and Vocational Graduation, May 2007
- ◆ *Just War?* University of Texas at San Antonio, October 2006
- ◆ *To End All Wars: Living Our Faith in Peace*, UST, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2006
- ◆ *“Difficult” Persons and Personalities*, UST, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2006
- ◆ *Friendship for Life*, Archway Academy, February, 2006
- ◆ *Human Responsibilities With Animals*, University of Houston-Downtown, Environmental Ethics, Sept 2005
- ◆ *Nature, Beauty and Truth: St. Augustine Birthday Celebration*, UST October 2005
- ◆ *Crash: Us and Them*, UST, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2005
- ◆ *Animal Sanctuaries*, University of Houston-Downtown, Environmental Ethics, July 2005
- ◆ *Cultivating a Life of Respect for the Dignity of All Persons: Survival and Reconciliation*, University of St. Thomas Social Justice Committee, Augustine Hall, Holocaust Museum Houston and The Rothko Chapel, March 2005
- ◆ *After Twilight, Church and State*, Panel Discussion, Artery, Houston, March 2005
- ◆ *Juvenile Death Penalty*, University of St. Thomas, March 2005
- ◆ *Socrates Theater: Run Lola Run & Princess and Warrior*, UST Residence Life and Phi Sigma Tau, February 2005
- ◆ *Socrates Theater: Donnie Darko*, UST Residence Life and Phi Sigma Tau, September, 2004
- ◆ *Character Development: Academic Integrity*, Briarwood School, October, 2004
- ◆ Hosted Houston’s only District Attorney Debate, October 2004
- ◆ *Can You Keep Your Faith and Your Job?* St. Anne’s Continuing Adult Education, October 2004
- ◆ *Socrates Theater: Clockwork Orange*, UST Residence Life and Phi Sigma Tau, September, 2004
- ◆ *Principled Profession of Faith: Old Law and New Law*, UST, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2004
- ◆ Presentation “Faithful Citizenship Social Justice Institute,” *99 Days, 99 Ways to Peace* with Dr. Trish Vandiver, Chair of Psychology at UST, June 2004
- ◆ *Cultivating a Life of Respect for the Dignity of All Persons: Genocides of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, Panel Discussion, University of St. Thomas Social Justice Committee and Augustine Hall in partnership with Holocaust Museum Houston and The Rothko Chapel, April 2004
- ◆ *The Meaning of the Dream*, First Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at UST, Panel of Civil Rights Activists from the 60’s speak to students of today, January 2004
- ◆ Presentation and Discussion: *Character Development: Cheating to Get Ahead*, DeBaKey High School, December 2003
- ◆ Paper Presentation at 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: *Reconciling the Natural Law and the Civil Law*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, October 2003
- ◆ Paper Presentation at 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: *Enacting a New Myth: Givers*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, October 2003
- ◆ Ethics Seminar: *Use and Abuse of Power: Declarations of Independence*. Presented with Dr. Rose Signorello, Director of Counseling, UST, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2003
- ◆ Ethics Seminar: *Justice vs. Mercy in The Emperor’s Club* UST, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2003

- ◆ *Peer Advising*, University of St. Thomas, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2003
- ◆ *Matrix Revelations*, Café Catholica, St. Cyril's Catholic Church, July 3003
- ◆ *Cultivating a Life of Respect for the Dignity of All Persons: A Response to the Rise of Anti-Semitism*, Panel Discussion, University of St. Thomas Social Justice Committee, Holocaust Museum Houston and The Rothko Chapel, April, 2003
- ◆ *Making the Obvious Obvious*, Blessed are the Peacemakers, University of St. Thomas, March 25, 2003
- ◆ *What Would Machiavelli Do? What Would Jesus Do? What Should We Do?* UST, Residence Life Staff, August 2002
- ◆ *Shallow Hal; Deep Integrity*, University of St. Thomas, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2002
- ◆ *Finding the Truth in the Beauty of Nature: Christ in Culture Series*, St. Cyril's, June 4, 11 & 18, 2002
- ◆ *What is Philosophy? Why do it?* Invited Lecture, Reagan High School, Philosophy Club, April 2002
- ◆ Invited Lecture: *Intrinsic and Extrinsic Principles and Determinants of Right and Wrong*, Scarborough High School, Government and Economics Senior Class, March 2002
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *Right vs. Right*, University of St. Thomas, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2001
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *This Boy's Life*, Roundtable Discussion on Domestic Violence, UST, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2001
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *As Nature Made Him*, Calapinto, Roundtable Discussion of Legitimacy of Authority, presented with Dr. Rose Signorello, Director of Counseling, University of St. Thomas, Residence Life Staff Training, August 2001
- ◆ Paper Presentation at 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting: *The Debate Over Non-Human Personhood in the Philosophical Literature and its Practical Significance*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, October 2000
- ◆ Workshop at 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting: *Waging the War Against Ignorance on the Urban Front*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, October 2000
- ◆ Roundtable Discussion at 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting: *Choosing Excellence for the Future*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, October 2000
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *Domestic Violence and Abuse: Prevent, Detect, Respond*, Staff of Residence Life, UST, August 2000
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *How Theory Applies to Practice*, Staff of Residence Life, University of St. Thomas, August 2000
- ◆ Invited Paper Presentation: *Most Noble Savage*, University of Houston-Downtown, February 2000
- ◆ Paper Presentation at 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting: *Psychological Enrichment of Chimpanzees*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, October 1999
- ◆ Roundtable Discussion at 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting: *What Should I Do? Dialectical Analysis in Wildlife Rehabilitation*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, October 1999
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *Right vs. Right*, Staff of Residence Life, University of St. Thomas, August 1999
- ◆ Panel Discussion of *Fides et Ratio*, University of St. Thomas, February 1999
- ◆ Paper Presentation at 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting: *Let Us Do nothing Uselessly: The Ethics of Wildlife Rehabilitation*, The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, October 1998
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Find Out What it Means To Me*, Staff of Residence Life, UST, September 1998
- ◆ Graduate Psychology Seminar: *Moral Development*, University of Houston-Central, April 1998

- ◆ *How to Make Connections between Philosophy, History, Literature and You*, UST Learning Center, March 1998
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *Leadership and Group Think*, Staff of Residence Life, University of St. Thomas, September 1997
- ◆ *How to Read a Philosophical Text*, University of St. Thomas Learning Center, Feb 1997
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *Once Were Warriors: Finding Courage*, Staff of Residence Life, University of St. Thomas, September 1996
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *Key Concepts: Understanding and Interrelating Ethical Concepts and Ideas*; Staff of Residence Life, University of St. Thomas, September 1995
- ◆ *Why Do We Love the Truth*, Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium, October 1994
- ◆ Moderator and Speaker for Houston Women's Caucus in conjunction with the Republican National Convention 1992, *Women Taking a Stand, What Have We Got to Loose?*
- ◆ Ethics Seminar, *Prioritizing Life's Conflicting Demands*, Staff of Residence Life, UST, Sept 1994
- ◆ *Images of Mary*, Spiritual Images of Women: Religion and Art, "Public Images, Private Truths," University of Houston-Downtown, Women's Month, March 1992

### **SERVICE:**

- ◆ Volunteer POPCS Annual Auction, 2014-2017
- ◆ Trunk or Treat POPCS Fall, 2014
- ◆ Volunteer Conservation Trust, wildlife care, transportation of wildlife, fundraising 2005-present
- ◆ ESL Tutor and Immigration Advocate, 1974-present
- ◆ Self-Appointed Busybody and Gadfly in the Face of Injustice, 1974-present
- ◆ Saturday Workshops on Sustainable Leadership, 2006-2013, serving over 10,000 college students with hands-on experiences between 2006 and 2013
- ◆ Outreach Education for Young Texans serving over 100,000 since 2006
- ◆ CEO, Director of Educational Programming, Texas Nature Project, 2006-2013
- ◆ Coach of St. Mary's Ethics Bowl teams, Fall 2009 to 2013
- ◆ Catechist, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Mason, TX, 2010-2011
- ◆ Colorado River Watch Network, 2009
- ◆ Mason County Democrats Scholarship Committee, 2009-11
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity, Mason, 2007, 2008
- ◆ Hospice Volunteer, 2006 to 2008
- ◆ Board of Directors, Archway Academy, 2006
- ◆ Board of Directors, Lone Star Wildlife Rescue, 2004-present
- ◆ Vice President A-P-E-S, Advanced Primate Ethical Studies, 2003-2005
- ◆ Volunteer and fundraiser, Lone Star Wildlife Rescue, 2000-present
- ◆ Volunteer Program Committee, Archway Academy, 2005-2006
- ◆ Volunteer and fundraiser, SAFE, Stop Abuse ForEver, 2001-2005
- ◆ Prison Outreach, Death Row at Polunsky Unit, Maximum Security at Connally Unit, Kairos at Darrington Unit Maximum Security, 2004-2013
- ◆ Social Justice Committee, UST 2002- 2005
- ◆ Service Learning Committee, UST, 2001-2005
- ◆ Admissions Committee, UST, 2001-2005
- ◆ Retention Committee, UST, 2001-2005

**References Available Upon Request**