
MINORITIES &
PHILOSOPHY

ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO

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WHERE WE ARE NOW

Although the move to online during the COVID-19 crisis was difficult, our MAP chapter membership has grown and we've introduced exciting new programming.

The third year of our LUC MAP chapter has been a challenging one. We have not only had to continue responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since LUC's move to online in Spring 2020, we have also executed our first significant change in leadership with both faculty sponsor Hanne Jacobs and founder and graduate organizer Rebecca Valeriano-Flores leaving their positions. Despite these challenges, our chapter has continued to grow and adapt. We have continued previous years' programming by moving events and reading groups online. We have also introduced new programming--most notably our first-

ever conference, the Living Philosophy Retreat, and our Public Philosophy Talks YouTube series--to better respond to the interests and needs of our students as well as the changing realities of the academic philosophy world. Additionally, the students we serve has increased from 40 to 46 undergraduate and graduate members between Spring 2020 and Spring 2021. In this report, we share the programs, events, struggles and successes of the 2020-2021 academic year, celebrate our 2021 MAP graduates and other student accomplishments, and look forward to how LUC MAP will continue to grow and improve in future years.

**Gina Lebkuecher,
Rebecca Valeriano-Flores,
& Rene Ramirez
Graduate Co-Organizers**

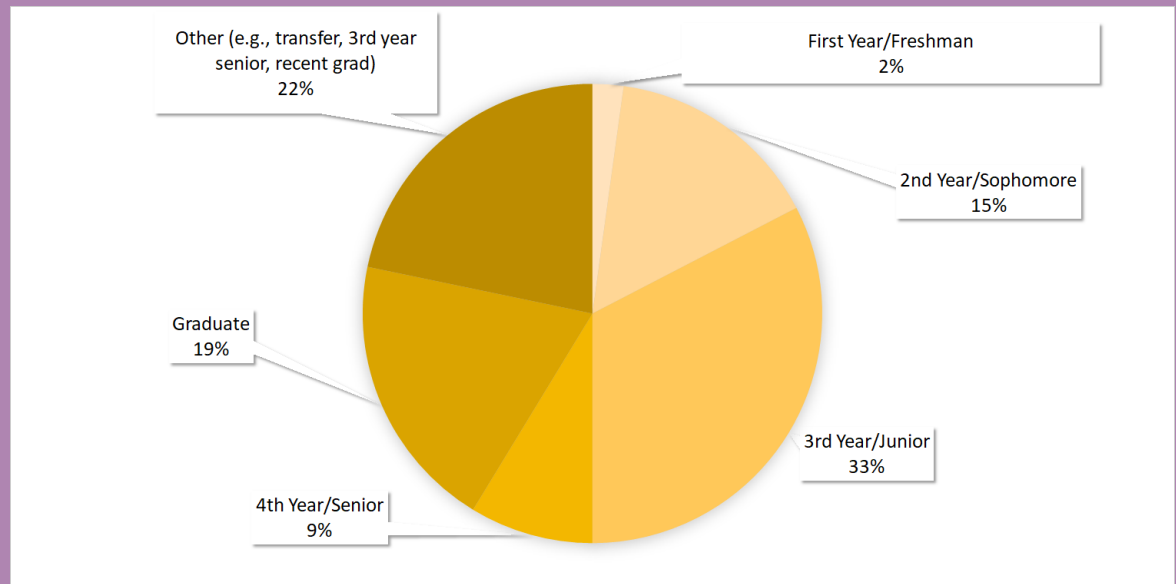
**Dr. Jacqueline Scott
Faculty Sponsor**

Special Thanks

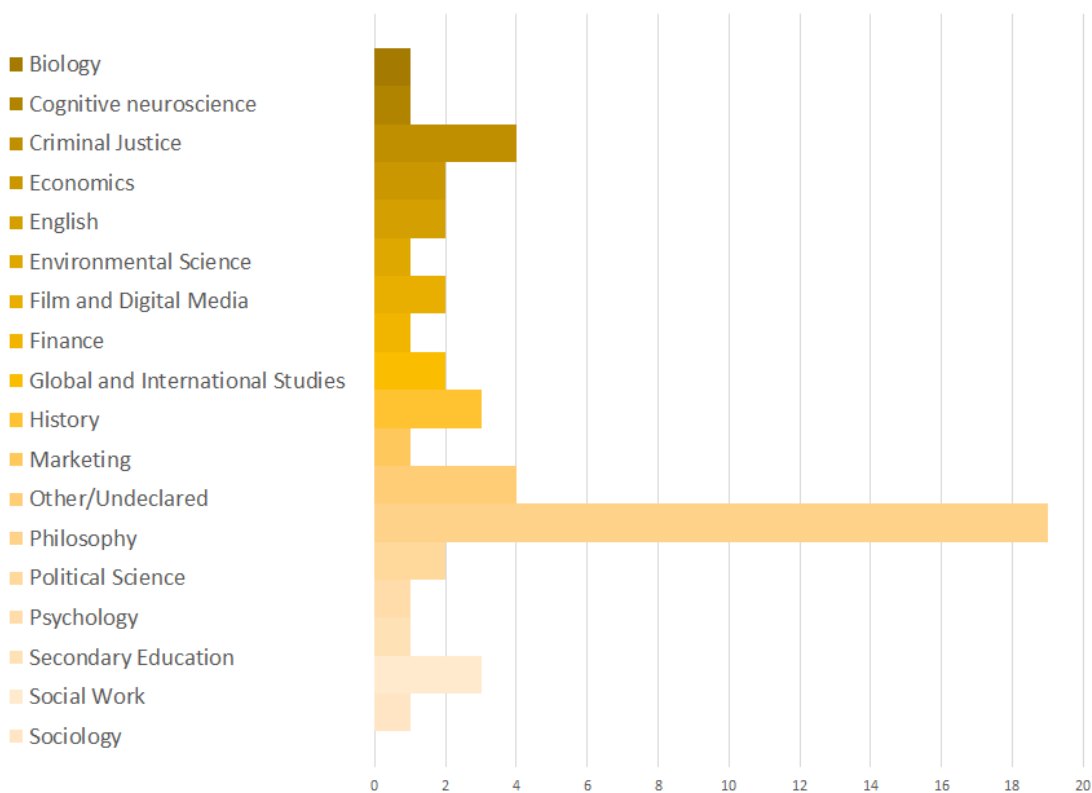
Dr. Hanne Jacobs
Dr. Jesús Luzardo
Dr. Vincent Samar
Tamika Toler
Dr. Joe Vukov
Dr. Mark Waymack

2020-21 MEMBERSHIP

Our 2020-2021 MAP members included 37 undergraduate and 9 graduate members. The plurality (33%) of members were juniors. After philosophy, the most common undergraduate majors were undeclared, criminal justice, social work, and history.

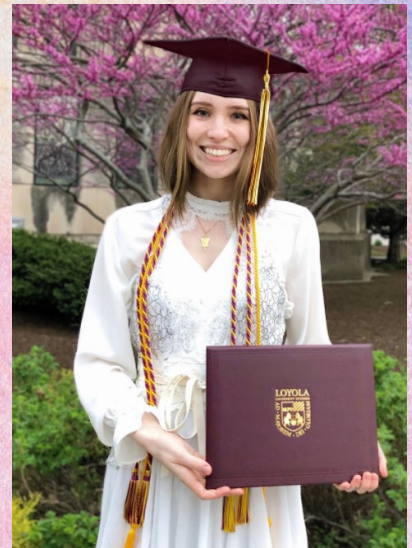


Undergraduate Majors



Congrats, Grads!

Alena Stankaitis graduated in Spring 2021 with Philosophy & Global and International Studies (GIST) majors and a Chinese minor. She has accepted a research assistantship position at University Chicago's MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. Congrats, Alena!



Devashree Thaker graduated in Spring 2021 Magna Cum Laude with degrees in Film and Digital Media & Philosophy. Congrats, Devashree!

Katherine Brichacek, PhD(!) defended her dissertation, "'Refuting the Single Story of Political Action in Hannah Arendt: Navigating Arendt's Eurocentrism and Anti-Black Racism" with distinction. Congrats, Doctor Brichacek!



STUDENT SUCCESSES

Besides our recently graduated seniors, we also want to recognize the other incredible accomplishments of 2020-2021 undergraduate and graduate MAP members.

Samantha Chipman was a 2021 recipient of the Building Community Scholarship for the humanities, and was awarded a 2021-2022 Provost Fellowship for her project "Autism and Identity: Standing at the Axis of Oppression".

MAP graduate members led workshops and reading groups, helped with the Living Philosophy Retreat, and served as mentors for undergraduate members. MAP depends on them! In addition to all this, they also carried out some incredible accomplishments during this challenging academic year:

Pippa Friedman was awarded a Teaching Fellowship for 2021-2022.

Gina Lebkuecher defended her dissertation proposal, published a book review and co-authored a peer commentary, and presented at the APA/AAPT Central Division Teaching Hub.

Claire Lockard received a research fellowship from the American Association of University Women, had a paper accepted for publication in *Hypatia*, completed a teaching seminar with the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, and co-organized the APA/AAPT Central Division Teaching Hub.

Rebecca Valeriano-Flores received the 2021 Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship in Leadership and Service and the 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award from the Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching and Scholarship (CELTS), the Loyola Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (LUROP), and the Graduate School.

2020-2021 MAP GRADUATE MEMBERS

Katherine Brichacek

Abram Capone

Jean Casellas Cruzado

Pippa Friedman

Gina Lebkuecher

Claire Lockard

Daphne Pons

Rene Ramirez

Rebecca Valeriano-Flores

Thank
you!

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

We kicked off the 2020-2021 academic year with a MAP Fall Welcome Meeting in September. Led by graduate organizers Gina Lebkuecher and Rebecca Valeriano-Flores, this meeting provided an introduction to MAP for new members, and introduced all members to new programming, resources, and structural changes (mostly due to the move to online).

A summary of changes and challenges that accompanied the move to online can be found on the following page.

During 2020 and 2021 the major ongoing programs were the virtual MAP Lounge and reading groups. These programs are described in the following pages.

In addition to this new programming, we also continued our academic advising program for MAP members who were philosophy majors or minors. Dr. Jacqueline Scott served as the MAP advisor and met with MAP members online both fall and spring semester.

We also continued our mentorship program, but due to the increased number of undergraduates we made a few changes. First, junior and senior MAP undergraduates were invited to serve as mentors for first-year MAP students. Second, only first year MAP students were assigned individual mentors, while returning MAP students were encouraged to reach out to MAP organizers for mentorship and support through the newly instituted "Chat with a Grad" program.

Finally, events--both new and continuing--are detailed in the following section (starting p. 12). These events include workshops, social events, presentations and talks, and the Living Philosophy Retreat.

Of these events, the Public Philosophy Talks and Living Philosophy Retreat were the most significant new events this academic year.

MOVING ONLINE



One of the biggest challenges our MAP chapter faced this year was moving online. Although LUC moved online midway through Spring 2020, this was at the time expected to be a temporary change. During the 2020-2021 academic year, MAP organizers needed to find new ways to adapt continuing programming to an online environments, and to come up with new online programming and events.

This move to online, during which MAP students were also adjusting to lockdowns, new living situations, and other negative effects of COVID, led to a significant drop-off in engagement. Recurring events and ongoing programming--like workshops, advising, and finals week study breaks--were moved online but not very well-attended, likely as a result of students' demanding schedules and "Zoom Fatigue" from taking classes online. As one way to bolster online community, we (the organizers) created a Discord server. This server, dubbed the "Virtual MAP Lounge," provided an opportunity for students to connect with each other and graduate mentors. It also served as the meeting place for some of our online reading groups and as a platform for hosting

social events like movie screenings.

The Virtual MAP Lounge was the heart of our MAP chapter this academic year, and we hope it will continue to serve as a place for MAP members to socialize and support each other even as we move most programming back in person. It also underscored the importance of community for LUC MAP. This has taught us that in future years we should provide more opportunities for undergraduates to connect with each other.

Another lesson we hope to take from our move to online is the value of engaging with larger communities, outside of both LUC and academic philosophy. Two of our new events--the Public Philosophy Talks and the Living Philosophy Retreat-- were open to people outside our LUC MAP chapters, and MAP members reported enjoying to opportunity to expand their networks. We hope to continue these events in the future.

Overall, the move to online taught valuable lessons that will help LUC MAP continue to improve--but we are grateful and excited to be going back in person!

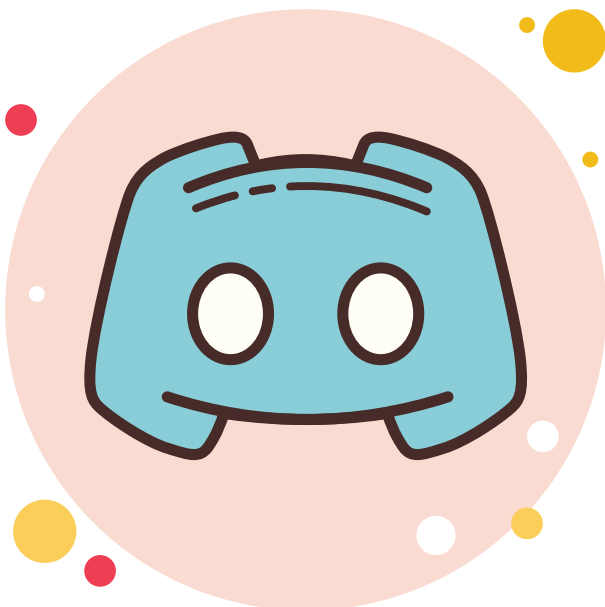
VIRTUAL MAP LOUNGE

We are at the highest point we've been since 2002. Congratulations to everyone!

The Virtual MAP Lounge was MAP LUC's Discord server. Discord is a social media platform and voice, video and text communication service. Using Discord, we created a private server for MAP undergraduate and graduate members, faculty sponsors, and alumni. The server was further subdivided into channels where members could chat or share memes, stream study music, get help with assignments, learn about upcoming events, and connect with members of each reading group. Resources, flyers, polls, and information were regularly shared to the server by organizers, making it a valuable point of communication for members.

The Virtual MAP Lounge also served as a platform for hosting social events. We used Discord to join Philosophy Club for an Among Us game, live-chat as we streamed movies for movie night, and to host the twice-weekly "Chat with a Grad" hours. During the Chat with a Grad hours, MAP co-organizers Gina, Rene, and Rebecca hung out on both the voice and text chat channels to answer questions or talk with any undergraduate members who dropped by.

Due to the success of the Virtual MAP Lounge, we hope to continue it even when we reopen the in-person MAP Lounge.



READING GROUPS

We are at the highest point we've been since 2002. Congratulations to everyone!

During the 2020-2021 academic year, MAP graduate members led five regularly recurring reading groups. Each group was open to all interested MAP undergraduate and graduate members. Of these groups, two were continuations from previous years while three were new for this academic year.

Feminist, Queer, and Disability Studies

This group, led by Claire Lockard and Daphne Pons, ran Fall 2020 to Spring 2021. It was sparked by a mini-reading group from the 2019-2021 academic year which discussed Allison Kafer's *Feminist, Queer, Crip*.

Indian and South-Asian Philosophy

This group, led by Gina Lebkuecher, started this academic year and ran Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.

Filosofía en Español

This group, led by Jean Casellas Cruzado, started this academic year and ran Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.

Philosophy and Literature

This group, led by Katherine Brichacek, started this academic year and ran Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.

Zen Philosophy

This group, led by Pippa Friedman, continued for its second year.

Mini-Reading Groups

In addition to these regularly recurring reading groups, there were also two mini-reading groups over the 2020-2021 academic year. The first, held in January, was an Islamic Philosophy mini-reading group. This group, hosted by MAP graduate organizers Gina Lebkuecher and Rene Ramirez, not only served students' interests in this area but also helped them prepare for meeting job candidates interviewing for the Islamic Philosophy position. We discussed Dr. Seyed Mousavian's "Did Suhrawardi Believe in Innate Ideas as A Priori Concepts?" The second mini-reading group was hosted by Rene in March. It discussed M. Jacqui Alexander's *Pedagogies of Crossing*, and related to concepts from that month's movie night pick, Mati Diop's *Atlantics*.



EVENTS

WORKSHOPS

During the 2020-2021 academic year, MAP held four workshops (the Applying to Grad School workshop was held twice) to support MAP undergraduate members.

Applying to Grad School

This workshop was held twice in September to accommodate the high number of interested students. The first session was hosted by Rebecca Valeriano-Flores and the second by Rene Ramirez. The workshop, which was geared toward juniors and seniors, discussed logistics of choosing, applying to, and attending graduate school and included a Q&A.

Applying to Law School

This workshop, held in October, was hosted by Professor Vincent Samar, JD. It discussed the logistics of applying to law school and was geared toward interested juniors and seniors.

Reading and Note Taking in Philosophy

This collaborative workshop was hosted by MAP graduate member Katherine Brichacek in October. The workshop introduced best practices for reading and note taking in philosophy, and helped students learn to format and organize notes and maximize comprehension. It was open to all MAP members.

EVENTS

SOCIAL EVENTS

Among Us

In March, MAP and Philosophy Club teamed up to host a Spring Break Among Us game. We played the game together online while chatting on Zoom and the Discord server. This popular video game (which has a free mobile and a paid computer version) provided an opportunity for MAP and philosophy club members to chat and get to know each other in a stress-free environment.

"Chat with a Grad"

Starting in October, MAP graduate organizers began hosting twice-weekly "Chat with a Grad" open hours on the Discord server. During this time MAP members were invited to chat (either using a voice channel or text) with the MAP grads and ask questions, similar to office hours.

Movie Screenings

Dr. Jesús Luzardo and MAP graduate organizer Rene Ramirez hosted virtual movie night discussions during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. The first movie night was held in October and was Halloween-themed. For this event, we screened Bong Joon Ho's *Snowpiercer* (2013). The second movie night was held in March. For this event, we screened Mati Diop's *Atlantics* (2019). For both events, we hosted a live chat on the Discord server for anyone who wanted to watch the movie together and provided access to anyone who preferred to watch the movie on their own. Then, Dr. Luzardo and Rene hosted a one-hour Zoom discussion of the movies.

Study Breaks

In addition to the above social events, MAP graduate organizers Gina Lebkuecher, Rene Ramirez, and Rebecca Valeriano-Flores also hosted a Halloween Party, as well as Finals Week Study Breaks for both Fall and Spring semester. All three events were drop-in, so MAP members could drop by and chat, listen to music, or get study help. The Halloween party also featured a trivia game, while the Fall Study Break featured the chance to play Among Us.

EVENTS

PRESENTATIONS
& TALKS

Public Philosophy Talks

Starting in March 2021, our MAP chapter began hosting monthly "Public Philosophy Talks". In this talk series, LUC MAP members interview philosophers in different stages of their career—undergraduate and graduate study, teaching, research, or working outside of academia in various applied philosophy fields. The focus of these talks is the intersection of academic philosophy with public life. The talks are open to the public and attendees can join the conversation through YouTube chat during the livestream. This year's interviewees included LUC graduate students Rebecca Valeriano-Flores, Kit Rempala, and Claire Lockard. Interviews were conducted by MAP graduate organizers Gina Lebkuecher, Rene Ramirez, and Rebecca Valeriano-Flores.

Guest Lectures & Visiting Speakers

Dr. Jesús Luzardo invited MAP members to attend guest lecturer visits in his Philosophy of Race class. The guest lecturers were Drs. Axelle Karera, Tyrone Palmer, and Kris Sealey. Additionally, LUC's Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy Workshop invited MAP members to join their guest lecture with Dr. Sealey. Some MAP members also attended Northwestern University's Critical Theory in Critical Times Workshop, featuring presentations and discussions in both English and Spanish of *Crítica de la razón latinoamericana*, or *Critique of Latin American Reason*, by Santiago Castro-Gómez.

Job Candidate Meetings

MAP members were invited to meet with each of the Islamic Philosophy job candidates being interviewed in Spring 2021. MAP undergraduate members Samantha Chipman, Joohee Cho, and Wardah Mohammed, as well as MAP graduate organizers Gina Lebkuecher and Rene Ramirez, met with the candidates. After these meetings feedback from each of the MAP attendees was collected, and Gina presented their preferences to the faculty.

EVENTS

LIVING PHILOSOPHY RETREAT

In June 2021 we held our first LUC MAP retreat. The event, themed around "Living Philosophy," consisted of workshops, classes, break out groups, a keynote, and social events led by faculty and graduate instructors from LUC and other Chicago-area schools. MAP co-organizers Gina Lebkuecher, Rene Ramirez, and Rebecca Valeriano-Flores also served as organizers for the Retreat. The Retreat took place June 26-27.

The LUC MAP Living Philosophy virtual retreat was open to all MAP and MAP-eligible undergraduate philosophy students in the greater Chicago area. Due to Covid-19 related difficulties in promoting the event, we received only 10 applications; 9 students ended up attending the retreat. Of these, the majority (7) were LUC students. All students were undergraduate philosophy students from the Chicago area, and self-identified as members of MAP-eligible groups.

Instructors, also members of marginalized groups, led classes and workshops on less commonly taught areas of philosophy--for example, decolonial theory and philosophy of food--as well as how to apply philosophy in the "real world"--such as to abolition work or in creative artistic expression.

This retreat provided MAP and MAP-eligible students the invaluable opportunity to learn about and discuss these marginalized philosophical topics in a supportive environment and to network with their peers and instructors. Additionally, it helped students discover ways they could apply their philosophical skills and knowledge regardless of their career choice.

Each student attended one class, one breakout group, and one workshop each day of the retreat (over two days, Saturday and Sunday). For each day, attendees had the choice between two classes, two or three breakout groups, and two workshops, and could attend optional social events and collective events.

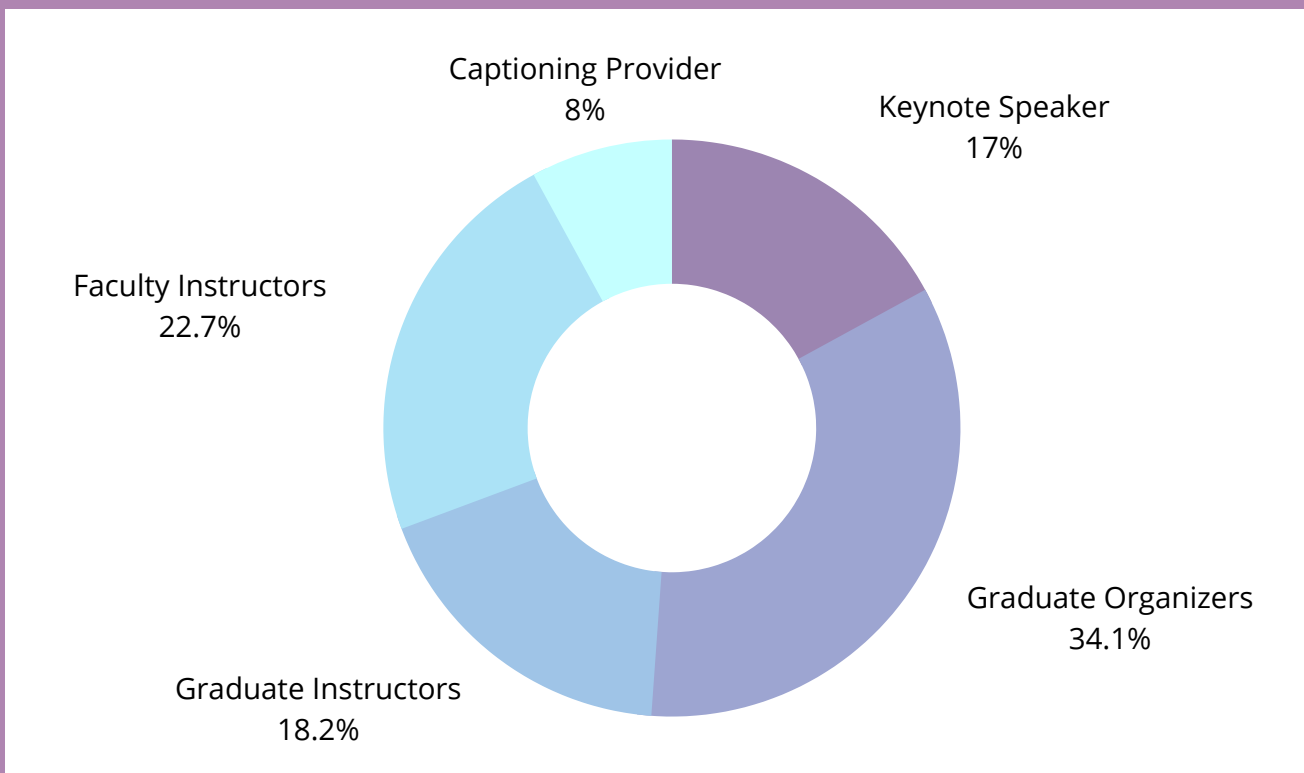
Because MAP serves philosophy students who are members of marginalized groups, including students with disabilities, we were committed at the outset to making sure that this event was accessible to all who wanted to attend. To that end, we asked all attendees to let us know any accessibility needs, and followed the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to ensure that all events would be as accessible and inclusive as possible.

For more information about the retreat, please email Gina ([glebkuecher@luc.edu](mailto:glebkiecher@luc.edu)) for the full report.

BUDGET & SPENDING


Due to COVID-related budget constraints, our LUC MAP chapter received no departmental funding other than the graduate assistantships for lead organizers. However, we applied for and received funding from the Graduate School Office to hold the virtual Living Philosophy Retreat. We received a total of \$1,760 in funding for the retreat, divided as indicated in these charts.

Position	Expense per employee	Total expense for position
Keynote Speaker (1)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Graduate Organizers (3)	\$ 200.00	\$ 600.00
Graduate Instructors (4)	\$ 80.00	\$ 320.00
Faculty Instructors (4)	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00
Captioning Provider (1)	\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00
	Total expenses:	\$ 1,760.00



WHERE WE'RE GOING

Although the COVID pandemic and move to online made 2020-2021 a challenging year, MAP membership continued to grow and we instituted a lot of exciting new programming. We look forward to continuing to improve and grow our chapter in the coming years, and to taking the lessons we learned online back in person!



LUC MAP is entering the 2021-2022 academic year with 30 undergraduate and 7 graduate members, since several MAP members graduated this year. Rene Ramirez will take the reigns as the lead MAP organizer, and we look forward to seeing where his leadership will take us!

We plan to continue our online programming--in the form of the Virtual MAP Lounge and the Public Philosophy Talks YouTube series, as well as to reintroduce in-person programming like workshops, the in-person MAP Lounge, reading groups, and social events.

As with previous years, LUC MAP's growth is both exciting and challenging. We continue to adjust our mentorship program to accommodate the large number of interested undergraduates while respecting the constraints on graduate members' time. We hope to increase undergraduate student leadership so experienced MAP undergraduates can support newer students and help shape the future of MAP. We also look forward to continuing and expanding programming that helps students prepare not only for careers in academic philosophy but also for applying philosophy to their daily lives, activism, and advocacy, and to succeed in varied careers.

We are excited to continue MAP for its fourth year at Loyola, and are grateful for the support we've received as our chapter has continued to evolve and grow.

Thank you,
Gina Lebkuecher,
Rebecca Valeriano-Flores,
& Rene Ramirez



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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives