

## **Questions Editorial Board**

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St. Joseph's College-NY

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Student, Packer Collegiate Institute

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Fostering Leadership Academy

DAVID HEISE  
Associate Professor of Philosophy,  
Humboldt State University

BO HO  
Graduated from United World College USA  
in New Mexico

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RORY E. KRAFT, JR.  
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Pennsylvania; *Questions* Editor Emeritus

**Questions** is an open-access journal published by the **Philosophy Documentation Center** in cooperation with the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization, the APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy, and the Center for Philosophy for Children.

[www.pdcnet.org/questions](http://www.pdcnet.org/questions)

Information about membership and **Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization** is on page 28.

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## Editor's Note

Welcome to our 21<sup>st</sup> edition of *Questions!* In response to the pandemic and the upheavals of our lives, our theme for this issue is hope. This is a rich concept full of cognitive import and emotive power. It is future directed, a consideration of what might be or should be, rather than simply accepting whatever is facing us at any present moment. In the Greek myth of Pandora's Box, the curious Pandora opens a forbidden box and unleashes all the evils into the world but slams the lid shut in time to keep hope inside. And that is what we see demonstrated around the world as we all struggle to overcome the pandemic and the many other ills that beset us human beings. Hope keeps us going and ultimately represents the shining potential of the human being to overcome. But hope can also be futile and in some cases work against our taking action if it leaves us in a state of quiescence anticipation that something or someone else will fix the "problem."

Our contributors this issue capture the duality of hope as both a force for active engagement and social betterment but also as a danger if it is misplaced, or paralyzes us from taking action ourselves. You will find thoughtful and thought-provoking essays that challenge us to view hope in these possibly conflicting ways. Please use the essays to engage in discussion in your classes, philosophy club, or around the dinner table. We also have a wonderful array of images provided by fifth graders that can spark discussion as these young people share their own vision of hope.

We welcome Bo Ho, a student who just graduated from high school, as a new editor to our editorial board for this issue: As always I am grateful for the dedication and hard work by our editorial board in reviewing the many submissions we received. Sadly we could not accept all of them but we remain so pleased by the overwhelming response and encourage all readers to continue to philosophize and send us your work. I would be remiss if I did not thank the teachers and parents who worked so diligently with their students to write, draw, and discuss important ideas.

2021 has proven to be a year of sadness, loss, but also of hope. You will see this reflected in the poetry, art, essays we include here. Please visit the PLATO website in the fall for an announcement of the new theme for 2022.

—Wendy C. Turgeon