GW Department of Philosophy
Fall 2012 Alumni Conference
Friday, September 28th
Marvin Center 404-405

9:00-9:30 a.m. Registration
Coffee, Tea and light refreshments

9:30-9:45 a.m. Welcome by CCAS Dean Peg Barratt and Department Chair Gail Weiss

9:45-10:45 a.m. Session 1: Special Friends of the Department:
Thomas Goutman BA '76, Beth Loker BA '69, Michael Thacher BA '70

10:55-12:10 p.m. Session 2: The Next Generation of Philosophers:
Amanda Huminski BA '09, Cameron Bassiri BA '06, Jason Fisette BA '04, Ndidi Nwaneri MA '09

12:15-1:15 p.m. LUNCH
Sponsored by the Columbian College Alumni Office

1:15-2:15 p.m. Session 3: Our Legal Team:
Max Utzschneider BA '09, Ananda Joy Norris BA '97, John Hanson BA '67 JD '70

2:15-3:15 p.m. Session 4: Creative Careers for Philosophers:
Marin Randall MA '07, Clyde “Bo” Davis BA '97, Nikole Yinger BA '06,

3:15-3:30 p.m. Afternoon Refreshment Break

3:30-5:00 p.m. Session 5: Our Colleagues:
Brook Sadler BA '93, Rachel Singpurwalla BA '93, Mark Alfino BA '81

5:00 Closing Remarks

5:30-7 p.m. Columbian College Cocktail Reception Smith Hall Art Gallery
Hosted by CCAS Dean Peg Barratt
GW Alumni Weekend 2012

“Classes Without Quizzes”

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University Professor Peter Caws: “Left, right, and center: the shifting ground of 21st-century politics”

ABSTRACT: This lecture will take a good-humored look at the current political scene from a philosophical point of view, asking how the contrast between left and right has changed over time and how some of the markers of these positions now play out in relation to one another. The old ideal of a loyal opposition curbing the excesses of the ruling party and cooperating in bringing policy back towards a stable center is in danger of succumbing to intractable ideological conflicts. How seriously should we take these conflicts and how can they be defused? Philosophy suggests that we should all be a little less sure of how right we are, and a little more ready to embrace one another’s worries and uncertainties.