“Every good mathematician is at least half a philosopher, and every good philosopher at least half a mathematician.”

-- Gottlob Frege

The Eric Paul Allison Memorial Prize Fellowship was established to help finance the graduate education of an outstanding graduating senior in the Department of Philosophy. The award was established in memory of Eric Paul Allison, a former distinguished student in the department. It is given to the graduating senior who best exemplifies the ideals of personal integrity, academic excellence, and commitment to learning that were affirmed by Eric Paul Allison. The department is delighted to announce the selection of Thomas Barrett as the 2012 recipient of this honor.

Graduating with a double major in Philosophy and Mathematics from Revelle College, Thomas will be starting a PhD in Philosophy at Princeton University in the fall as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow, where he plans to pursue his interests in logic and philosophy of science.

Thomas has been an active and integral part of the philosophical community throughout his four years at UCSD. He has twice published papers in the department’s annual undergraduate journal *Intuitions*, and participated as a speaker in the associated conferences.

This spring, Thomas delivered a paper, “Laws of Nature: A Response to Maudlin from All Humeankind,” and demonstrated his special ability to make engaging and accessible somewhat technical material. Thomas excelled in his coursework, and wrote an honors thesis, “Too Hot, Too Cold, or Just Right? Philosophical and Foundational Issues in Relativistic Thermodynamics,” which received honors with highest distinction.

“Atmospheric body and boost it into another inertial frame, is it hotter, colder or the same temperature as before? Although a basic question, many greats in the history of physics fought over the answer, and a thinker no less than Einstein changed his mind twice, occupying all three positions over the course of his life. Thomas was amazing: he was equally strong at the philosophy, history of science and math/physics. In my experience that’s a very rare combination.”

At Princeton, Thomas plans to continue his work in philosophical and foundational issues in physics. “I think it is important that there is an ongoing dialogue between the physics and philosophy communities,” Thomas writes. “There are ideas in physics that have important applications in philosophy, and conversely, ideas in philosophy that have important applications in physics. I hope that as a graduate student in philosophy I can contribute to this dialogue.” Thomas adds, “I have immensely enjoyed my time as a student in the UC San Diego Department of Philosophy, and I can say unequivocally that there is no other department in which I would rather have conducted my undergraduate studies.”

The department eagerly awaits Thomas’ future contributions to the field, and offers warmest congratulations on his singular achievements.