Julius A. Syvanen is selected for the
2011 Eric Paul Allison Memorial Prize Fellowship

The Eric Paul Allison Memorial Prize Fellowship was established to help finance the graduate education of a 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 very pleased to announce the selection of Julius Syvanen as the 2011 recipient of this honor.

Julius came to us from Santa Barbara Community College, where he first discovered his love of philosophy. He explains what it was that captured him in this way: "on the one hand, I loved that few, if any, assumptions were left off the table of discussion. The mere process of uprooting assumptions, and the resulting uncertainty and confusion invoked a kind of roller-coaster like thrill. On the other hand, philosophy seemed at the time to offer a path to a kind of certainty unavailable elsewhere, and a feeling of mastery and control associated with getting there; the rigor of the methods and the depth of the content gave me the uplifting feeling that I could put the world into a neat and definite order, so to speak." Finding UCSD a wonderful place to pursue his new path, Julius immediately became an outstanding student, and graduates from Sixth College Summa Cum Laude as a double major in Philosophy and Political Science. While at UCSD, he excelled in all of his coursework and has been an integral part of the philosophy department community.

His interests are now mainly in the areas of ethics and political philosophy, and he plans to pursue them in his studies at the London School of Economics graduate program in philosophy starting in the fall. Julius writes, "at LSE I'm really looking forward to developing some of my thinking about metrics of distributive justice, and their unsteady relationship with the reasons, and institutions that animate their distribution. My eventual hope is that my thoughts and actions make a difference in the world, hopefully in the form of teaching and writing."

The Department of Philosophy congratulates Julius on his extraordinary achievements and wishes him all possible success for the future.