All Roanoke College students are invited to compete in the eleventh annual Zeno Contest, a critical thinking competition sponsored by the Religion and Philosophy Department and the General Education program.

A modest cash prize and an extravagant trophy will be awarded to the student with the best solution to the following paradox:

**THE SHIP OF THESEUS**

When the legendary Athenian hero Theseus died, the Athenians for the Adulation of Heroes (AAH) preserved his ship to celebrate his exploits and to enhance the glory of Athens. As the ship rode at anchor year after year it was necessary to replace parts of it periodically—timbers, fittings, rigging, etc. As each part was replaced, it was taken to a warehouse and stored away. Eventually, the ship in the harbor retained none of the original material from Theseus’ day, though in appearances the ship was exactly the same. Meanwhile, the Sons of Theseus Society (SOTS) took it upon themselves to honor Theseus further by taking the parts stored in the warehouse and putting them back together, each in its original place relative to the other parts. Which of the rival groups has the real Ship of Theseus? Is it AAH, SOTS, both, or neither?

You have to solve the Athenians’ dilemma. Does AAH have the ship of Theseus, SOTS, both, or neither?

Papers should be brief: anywhere from 1-3 pages, typed and double-spaced. Concise, elegant solutions are encouraged. Papers should be written in standard English with a minimum of errors in spelling or grammar. Papers must be individual, not collaborative efforts. The usual rules regarding academic integrity apply.

A panel of distinguished Philosophy and General Education faculty will judge all entries by the clarity and rigor of their analysis. **Successful papers should explain as clearly as possible the reasoning that generates the paradox itself and the reasoning behind its resolution.**

Entries should be submitted to Dr. Hans Zorn, Religion and Philosophy Department. Electronic submissions are welcome, and should be sent to zorn@roanoke.edu. Please direct any questions to that address or call x2024.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 2. Good luck!