

# The Poynter Center

for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions *Newsletter*

Indiana University Bloomington

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## Ethics Bowl Team in National Semi-finals

Each year the Poynter Center sponsors a team of undergraduates to compete in the Ethics Bowl competition. This year's team placed third at the Eleventh Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl February 24<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio, Texas.

The team included five members: Khalil AbuGharbieh, a sophomore in Political Science, Religious Studies, and Near Eastern Languages and Culture; James Bourke, a senior in Philosophy, Political Science, and an individualized major in Nonviolence in Theory and Practice; Ryan Funk, a sophomore in Political Science and Religious Studies and a certificate in the Liberal Arts and Management Program; Megan Robb, a freshman in English and India Studies; and Emma Young, a freshman who is exploring her interests in History, Linguistics, Classics, and Religious Studies. The faculty director was Richard Miller, Director of the Poynter Center and Professor of Religious Studies. The coach was Melissa Seymour, a doctoral student in Philosophy and a research assistant at the Poynter Center.



Left to right: Khalil AbuGharbieh, Melissa Seymour, Ryan Funk, Megan Robb, James Bourke, Emma Young, and Richard Miller.

IU defeated Clemson University in the quarterfinal round and lost to Eckerd College of Florida in the semifinal match. The Ethics Bowl was won this year by the University of Washington team.

The day-long competition is held each year as a method of involving students in assessing difficult situations from a variety of normative perspectives. The competition is presented by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and the Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

## Poynter Center Fellows Focused on the Ethics and Politics of Childhood

The Poynter Center hosted three guest speakers this spring in conjunction with the Poynter Fellows topic of the Ethics and Politics of Childhood.



Gary Matthews and Richard Miller

Gareth B. Matthews, Department of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts Amherst, believes children can be philosophers—sometimes even better

philosophers than adults who are stuck in a particular pattern. Professor Matthews spoke March 7 about “A Philosophy of Childhood.”

Matthews received his Ph. D. from Harvard University and has been at the University of Massachusetts since 1969. He has written *The Philosophy of Childhood* and *Socratic Perplexity and the Nature of Philosophy*. In addition to his work in philosophy for adults, Matthews has written about how children can *do* philosophy, not just read *about* philosophy or philosophers.

On March 31 John Barbour read selections from a family biography he is writing. Professor Barbour is the Martin Marty Chair in Religion and the Academy at St. Olaf College. His most recent work is *The Value of Solitude: The Ethics and Spirituality of Aloneness in Autobiography*. He also has written *Versions of Deconversion: Autobiography and the Loss of Faith* and *The Conscience of the Autobiographer: Ethical and Religious Dimensions of Autobiography*.



Scott Sanders of the IU Department of English listens as John Barbour talks about his work.

Professor Rob Reich of Stanford University explored the numerous issues involved in deciding what is best for children in “Beyond Negligence and Abuse: Intervening in Families on Behalf of Children” on April 21.

Professor Reich is assistant professor of Political Science and Ethics in Society at Stanford University. In 2004-05 he was a

visiting scholar at the Center for Human Values at Princeton University.

His most recent book is *Bridging Liberalism and Multiculturalism in Education*. He has also contributed chapters in edited volumes and published numerous articles.

## 2005 Matthew Sims Lecture

What are contemporary conceptions of human dignity? What are the implications for public policies toward research and commerce in transplantable organs? Professor James Childress, who served on the National Bioethics Advisory Commission from 1996-2001, addressed these issues in the annual Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture on March 3. His presentation is available by audiostream on the web site:

<http://poynter.indiana.edu/simslec.shtml>.

Professor Childress is the Hollingsworth Professor of Ethics and Professor of Medical Education at the University of Virginia and the director of the Institute for Practical Ethics.

Childress is co-author with Tom L. Beauchamp of *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, a classic in the field of biomedical ethics and now in its fifth edition. He also wrote *Priorities in Biomedical Ethics*, *Who Should Decide? Paternalism in Health Care*, and *Practical Reasoning in Bioethics*.



James Childress ponders a question.

## Teaching Research Ethics

Kenneth Pimple, Director of Teaching Research Ethics Programs at the Poynter Center, led the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Teaching Research Ethics Workshop May 12-14. The forty participants came from many states, Canada, Pakistan, and Kyrgyzstan. They spent the three days discussing ethical theory, issues of authorship and mentoring, using case studies, developing curriculum, techniques for teaching responsible research methods, and related subjects. The 2006 program will be May 10-13.

## New Publications

David Smith, Nelson Poynter Senior Scholar and former director of the Poynter Center, has edited two books this year. The first, *Partnership with the Dying: Where Medicine and Ministry Should Meet*, was the result of a Lilly Endowment funded project at the Poynter Center. The book is available from Rowman and Littlefield.

The second, *Good Intentions: Moral Obstacles and Opportunities*, was the outgrowth of a project funded by the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy and is published by the IU Press.

## James Bourke Receives Awards

James Bourke, who has been a research assistant at the Poynter Center in 2004-5 and a member of the Ethics Bowl team the last three years, will be attending Duke University in August, where he will pursue a Ph.D. in political science, with a focus on political theory. He has received a number of fellowships and awards for graduate study, including an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, awarded to only 85 students in the humanities nationwide. Duke has also awarded him their University Scholars Program fellowship and James B. Duke fellowship.

## PC Fellows Present at APPE

Three participants in the Poynter Center Fellows program presented papers on the Ethics and Politics of Childhood at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics annual meeting February 25-27. Samuel Odom from the School of Education spoke on "Ethical Principles Guiding Educational Research with Children: Protections and Limitations." Aviva Orenstein from the School of Law spoke on "The Ethics of Custody Evaluation: Justice, Intimacy and Respect for Parents." Sandra Shapshay from the Department of Philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presented an argument for "Children's Health and Children's Rights." Richard Miller, director of the Poynter Center, served as moderator.



Sandra Shapshay, Aviva Orenstein, and Samuel Odom at APPE

## Health Care Ethics

The Health Care Ethics series, coordinated by Byron Bangert, continued this spring with presentations by three guests. Dr. Paul Helft, Director of the Charles Warren Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics at Clarian Health in Indianapolis, discussed medical ethics in a clinical setting. Professor Jeffrey Fry, Director of the Center for Sport, Ethics, and Culture at Ball State University, spoke about "Faith, Hope and Love in Sports." Summer Johnson, a Ph.D. student at Johns Hopkins University and IU graduate, gave a presentation on ethical issues in public health research.

## Scientists and Subjects

Ken Pimple, Director of Teaching Research Ethics Programs at the Poynter Center, led fifteen people from around the world in Scientists and Subjects, a ten-week online seminar on the ethics of research with human subjects. Participants studied and discussed four major subject areas:

1. Justifying human experimentation.
2. *The Belmont Report* and implementing the three principles articulated therein.
3. Informed consent.
4. Therapeutic obligations in research, including non-therapeutic research.

The seminar offered Continuing Medical Education credits this year through the IU School of Medicine. Participants included two people each from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The project is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

## Donate Online

The Poynter Center is now able to accept donations through our web site, thanks to the Indiana University Foundation. See <http://poynter.indiana.edu> and select Support the Poynter Center. Or you can contribute by mailing a contribution to the Indiana University Foundation, State Road 46 Bypass, Bloomington, IN 47405, with a note stating the donation is for the Poynter Center.

### Poynter Center Newsletter

This newsletter is published twice a year by the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions at Indiana University and mailed free of charge. We welcome additions to our mailing list.

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