

The Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions

Indiana University Bloomington

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For more information, see the web page, <http://poynter.indiana.edu>.

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Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture

Rebecca Dresser of Washington University in St. Louis presented the sixth annual Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture March 1. Speaking on "Terry Schiavo and Contemporary Myths about Dying," Professor Dresser examined three myths that she sees as impeding progress toward developing a better understanding of death and dying. She also argued that the country needs to be creating improved public policy in this area.



Richard Miller, Rebecca Dresser, Damon Sims

Professor Dresser is the Daniel Noyes Kirby Professor of Law and Professor in Medicine at Washington University. She received a bachelor's and master's degree at Indiana University and her law degree from Harvard. She has been a member of the President's Council on Bioethics since 2002. Professor Dresser teaches medical and law students about legal and ethical issues in end-of-life care, biomedical research, genetics, assisted reproductions and related topics.

The lecture is presented by the Poynter Center and the Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture Fund in memory of Matthew, who died in infancy. The lecture was audio-streamed and is available at the Poynter Center web site, <http://poynter.indiana.edu/simslec.shtml>.

Ethics Bowl Team Reaches Quarterfinals

The 2006-07 Ethics Bowl team reached the quarterfinals of the national competition in Cincinnati, Ohio February 22, 2007.

The team members were Khalil AbuGharbieh, a senior in Political Science, Religious Studies, and Near Eastern Languages and Culture; Emily Crouch, a senior in Religious Studies and the Liberal Arts and Management Pro-

gram; Ryan Funk, a senior in Political Science and Religious Studies; Neil Shah, a sophomore in Mathematics, Finance, and Accounting; and Emma Young, a junior in Classical Studies and Religious Studies. The team was coached by Mark Wilson, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Religious Studies and a research assistant at the Poynter Center. Richard Miller, *Continued on page 2*

Privacy and Technology

The Poynter Center has completed three lectures in a four-part series on issues of privacy and technology in public places.



Each presenter looked at the issues raised by public surveillance and the web and at the blurring of public and private, such as who has access to our records at businesses and in government, what happens to our information when we give our card number online, and who hears us when we have per-

sonal phone conversations in public places.

Deirdre Mulligan from University of California Berkeley (shown at left with Fred Cate from IUB School of Law and Richard Miller, director of the Poynter Center) spoke February 1 on the topic, "In Defense of Public Places."

Richard De George from the University of Kansas will speak October 11, 2007 on "Privacy, Public Space and Non-Governmental Surveillance." The programs are supported by a New Frontiers grant from the Office of the Vice-Provost for Research at IU.

Research Stipends in Practical Ethics

The Poynter Center awarded Research Stipends in Practical Ethics to three undergraduates this year. Each recipient presented the findings of her research at the Poynter Center in April. The students and their topics were:

- Indira Dammu, a sophomore in economics and political science, who studied the new Massachusetts health care plan.

- Maggie Downham, a senior in religious studies, who studied the Eastern Orthodox Church in North America and how it identifies its social responsibility.
- Emily Campbell, a senior in sociology, who studied restorative justice conferencing in public city schools.

The program began in 2005-06,

with the goal of providing students who are doing research with a small stipend to help cover expenses of travel, research materials, and other expenses.

The research stipends will be offered again in 2007-08. For more information about the presentations this spring or application process for 2007-08, see [http://poynter.indiana.edu/Research Stipends.shtml](http://poynter.indiana.edu/Research%20Stipends.shtml).

Ethics Bowl Team

Continued from page 1

director of the Poynter Center, was the team's advisor.

The Ethics Bowl team, left to right: Ryan Funk, Emily Crouch, Khalil AbuGharbieh, Neil Shah, and Emma Young



Richard Miller Receives Holland Teaching Award

Richard Miller, professor of Religious Studies and director of the Poynter Center, has been named the recipient of the James Philip Holland Award for Exemplary Teaching and Service to Students, as a result of nominations by undergraduate students from the College. The award is named for James Holland, a revered biology professor at IU.

Miller was nominated by two students, Khalil AbuGharbieh and Emily Crouch, both of whom were seniors and members of the Ethics Bowl team this year.

Crouch stated, "In the classroom,

Professor Miller excels at capturing the voice of the respective philosopher or theologian studied. . . . [He] equips his students with the ability to think critically about various philosophies, as he mediates the issues with thought-provoking questions and concerns. He continually encourages his students to enter into the dialogue of the issue at hand. His method of instruction teaches students to form an independent and engaged mind, which is one of the hallmarks of a liberal arts education."

AbuGharbieh added, "While Dr. Miller's teaching skills make him an outstanding professor, his com-

mitment to the IU Poynter Center Ethics Bowl team makes him a truly exceptional professor and servant to students. For the past five years, Dr. Miller has served [as] the sponsor for the IU team, spending countless weeknights and Sunday afternoons coaching the squad. Practices are an ideal forum for the exchange of ideas, as the five students get to combine with the two coaches in developing and fine-tuning responses to difficult and sometimes intractable ethical dilemmas. . . . I have been a team participant for three of my four years at IU, and it has been the most valuable academic experience of my life."

Khalil AbuGharbieh Receives Wells Recognition Award

Khalil AbuGharbieh is the 2007 recipient of the Herman B Wells Senior Recognition Award.

AbuGharbieh majored in Political Science, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and Religious Studies. This combination of majors, all related to the Middle East, reflect both an effort for self-understanding and a passion for studying issues deeply in search of common ground among disparate

views. In order to pursue these interests, AbuGharbieh spent a summer at Birzeit University in the West Bank and a year abroad at the American University in Cairo, where he worked with refugees and taught English.

Developing an interest in ethics, AbuGharbieh joined the IU Poynter Center's intercollegiate Ethics Bowl team. He competed with the team

at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics' national tournament three times, winning the national championship in 2004, making the semifinals in 2005, and reaching the quarterfinals in 2007.

AbuGharbieh will pursue a joint degree in law and Middle Eastern Studies.

Mike Martin speaks on Mental Health & Morality

Mike Martin, Chapman University in California, spoke April 19 on the topic of "From Morality to Mental Health: Virtue and Vice in a Therapeutic Culture," from his recent book by the same title. Martin argued that we need to integrate morality and mental health in creative ways to hold people responsible for their actions and to provide the help they may need. He used the example of the drug courts and

other court-ordered therapy that some states have adopted. He noted that most people who have an anti-social personality disorder are not violent but would nonetheless benefit from therapy.

On April 20 Martin met with a group to discuss virtues and philanthropy, tackling the tough questions of how to give fairly and responsibly, while recognizing individual

choice and personal connections to certain nonprofits. He argued that we need to engage in caring and service because we are compassionate, other-focused, and issue-focused, not just because it makes us "happy."

Martin's visit was co-sponsored by the IU Center on Philanthropy.

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Teaching Research Ethics Workshop May 15-18, 2007

The 14th annual Teaching Research Ethics Workshop convened May 15-18, bringing 45 people from across the United States and Canada to Indiana University Bloomington.

Topics each year include discussion of ethical theory, teaching research ethics, designing curriculum, using case studies, considering ethical issues in research and administration of research programs, and related topics. The workshop includes presentations and discussion groups.

The workshop was funded the first three years by the U. S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. Since then a num-

ber of sponsoring institutions have helped insure the continuation of the program. This year fourteen universities were sponsors.

Participants include faculty from many different disciplines and administrators from a variety of colleges and universities across the United States and Canada. More information is at <http://poynter.indiana.edu/tre>.

Melissa Seymour

Melissa Seymour, a research assistant at the Poynter Center since Fall 2004 and an Ethics Bowl coach in 2005, is completing her Ph. D. this summer and moving to the University of Georgia Athens, where she will join the Philosophy Department in the fall. Her dissertation is entitled "Duties of Love and Kant's Doctrine of Obligatory Ends."

The photo shows Melissa pondering a response during a practice Ethics Bowl round at the Poynter Center. Melissa also participated in the Poynter Center Fellows Program the last three years.

