

# The Poynter Center

## for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions

Indiana University Bloomington

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The newsletter is published twice a year by the Poynter Center and sent free to interested people. Contact Glenda Murray at [poynter@indiana.edu](mailto:poynter@indiana.edu) to be added to the mailing list.

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## Poynter Center Fellows Colloquium “Memory: Ethics, Politics, Aesthetics”

In addition to meeting ten times as a part of the Poynter Center Faculty Fellows Program, each faculty participant worked on his or her own related research project. The Fellows from 2006-07 focused on “Memory: Ethics, Politics, Aesthetics.”

On September 28, 2007, they presented the results of their research at a public colloquium at the IU School of Law building. The presenters and topics were:

“Remembering the Civil Rights Struggle: Figuring Citizenship as a Visual Democracy,” John Lucaites, Department of Communication and Culture.

“Hindutva Abroad: California Textbook Controversy,” Purnima Bose, Department of English.

“Memory and the Death Penalty,” Joseph Hoffmann, IU School of Law.

“How to tell the Story of Your Grandparents: Ethical Dilemmas of Post-Memory,” Maria Bucur-Deckard, Department of History, Russian and East European Institute.

“After History: Memory, Ethics and Literature in Post-dictatorship Argentina,” Patrick Dove, Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

“Using Dream Testimonies—In the Synapses of Historiography, Psychoanalysis, Ethics, and Brain Science,” Lynn Struve, Department of History, East Asian Languages and Cultures.

Edward Linenthal, from the Department of History and the editor of the *Journal of American History*, moderated the colloquium.

The Poynter Center Fellows Program will not have a new seminar in 2007-08, since the Poynter Center director is on sabbatical. See the web site for information about the previous four years, including the reading lists from the seminar sessions.

## Ethics Bowl Team prepares for Regionals

The Poynter Center has selected its Ethics Bowl team for 2007-08, and the team is hard at work preparing for the regional competition in Indianapolis on November 10. Winning teams from each regional will compete in

the national competition Feb. 21, 2008 at the annual meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics in San Antonio, Texas.

The IU team members are: Andrew Hahn, a sophomore majoring in Political

Science and Ethics; Megan Robb, a senior majoring in English and India Studies; Sam Ross, a senior majoring in Political Science and English; Neil Shah, a junior majoring in Mathematics, Finance,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Ethics Bowl Team, 2007-08

(Continued from page 1)

and Economics; and Emma Young, a senior majoring in Religious Studies. Robb, Shaw, and Young are veterans, having been on previous teams.

Robert Crouch, Research Assistant at the Poynter Center, is coach. Sandra Shapshay from Philosophy is the faculty sponsor for 2007-08.

The competition is presented annually 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. The competition is a method of involving students in viewing difficult situations from a variety of perspectives.



Sam Ross, Andrew Hahn, Megan Robb, Emma Young, Neil Shah

## Poynter Center Staff Updates

### Richard Miller on Sabbatical

Richard Miller, Director of the Poynter Center and Professor in Religious Studies, is on sabbatical for the 2007-08 academic year. He will be completing a book tentatively entitled, *9/11, War, and Moral Memory*. The book aims to develop a sustained ethical discussion of 9/11, focusing on the ethics of war in Afghanistan and in Iraq, the moral challenges of dealing with terrorism, and related issues.

### Brian Schrag is Acting Director

Brian Schrag, Executive Secretary of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, is acting director for the 2007-08 academic year.

Schrag's research interests include practical and professional ethics; teaching research ethics; research ethics; organizational loyalty; ethics of faculty; and civility. He is currently collaborating on a book about ethics in higher education.

### Other Staff Changes

Byron Bangert, Research Associate, has completed his three year appointment at the Poynter Center. He is continuing work on a book.

Chera Steimel is the new Office Assistant at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. Laura Collins joined the APPE staff as a part-time office assistant. Cameron Buckner is the coordinator for the book room at the APPE Annual Meeting.

## Scientists and Subjects, Online Seminar, Feb.-May, 2008

Kenneth Pimple, Director of Teaching Research Ethics Programs at the Poynter Center, will conduct a ten-week online seminar February 25-May 4, 2008. The seminar involves an intensive, focused curriculum addressing core issues in human subjects research. The emphasis

is on the ethical and moral foundations of research with human subjects rather than on existing regulations and laws. Units typically consist of an article-length reading, a short writing assignment analyzing or reacting to the reading, and guided, asynchronous discussion.

The seminar was originally funded by the National Institutes of Health. The seminar is limited to 17 participants to maximize interaction and attention to each participant's concerns.

More information about the seminar and registration is available at the web site.

## International Visitors

The Poynter Center hosted six international visitors on August 21, 2007. The visit, organized by the U. S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, focused on ethical issues in government and business. The program is designed to introduce the international visitors to the meaning and implication of ethical standards and how they are defined, monitored and enforced in government and business in the United States.

The visitors met with Richard Miller, Poynter Center Director, and Brian Schrag, Executive Secretary for the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. Miller and Schrag prepared two cases for discussion, which the group received in advance. One case focused on problems that international businesses face when their products are used by despotic regimes to repress their citizens. The second case focused

on political lying by a democracy aiming to destabilize a corrupt regime abroad. In both cases visitors were asked to consider ethical principles and consequences,

along with the challenges of thinking about ethical values in different contexts.



The group included: kneeling: Mr. Gbessay Ehlogima Momoh, Sierra Leone. Left to right: Ms. Mariana Tukana, Fiji; Mr. John Bande, Malawi; Brian Schrag; Ms. Beverly Castillo, Belize; Richard Miller; Mr. Bayee Tanyitiku Enochachuo, Cameroon; Mr. Erkut Sahali, Cyprus.

## Research Stipend in Practical Ethics

The Poynter Center has announced the selection of five undergraduates to receive Research Stipends in Practical Ethics for 2007-08. The students will present the results of their research in the spring at the Poynter Center.

The recipients are:

1. Aaron Goldman, a senior in Biology and Religious Studies, whose research project is with Brian Powell in the Department of Sociology. Goldman is studying how faculty understand the role of ethics in their research.
2. Jamie Lee Gunn, a senior with majors in Religious Studies and French, who is working is Lisa Sideris in the Department of Religious Studies. Gunn is researching the works of Holmes Rolston III, John Haught, and Thomas Berry.
3. M. Tyler King, a senior majoring in Philosophy and Biology. King will be comparing the current health care system and health care proposals from six or seven of the leading presidential candidates. King's mentor is Sandra Shapshay in the Department of Philosophy.
4. Lisa Koers, a senior in Entrepreneurship. Koers will be studying ways to improve prenatal health care for low income women in the U. S. Her faculty mentor is Laura Ginger from the Kelley School of Business.
5. Oliver McGraw, a senior in Informatics, who has minors in Philosophy and Anthropology. McGraw will be studying methods and concerns of student designers as they develop systems for a larger multi-disciplinary NSF-funded project concerning privacy in home-based computing in the homes of elders. He is working with Kalpana Shankar from the School of Informatics.

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## Teaching Research Ethics May 13-16, 2008

The Poynter Center is now accepting registrations for the Teaching Research Ethics Workshop, May 13-16, 2008. The three-day workshop is geared toward faculty who teach research ethics and administrators and staff who administer research ethics programs at college and universities. This will be the 15th annual workshop, which is held at the Indiana Memorial Union in Bloomington.

The TRE Workshop includes plenary sessions, breakout sessions, and an intensive track in which participants meet three times to discuss one particular areas of interest (ethical theory, ethical issues in research with human subjects in biomedical research, or ethical issues in re-

search with human subjects in social, behavioral, and humanistic research).

The program is directed by Kenneth Pimple, Director of Teaching Research Ethics Programs at the Poynter Center. Faculty members come from Boston College, Indiana University, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, and Michigan State University. Participants have attended from 43 states and 13 other countries.

More information and the registration form are on the web site at <http://poynter.indiana.edu/tre>.

### Mark Wilson Completes Ph. D.

Mark Wilson, Research Assistant at the Poynter Center who coached four Ethics Bowl teams, has completed his Ph. D. in Religious Studies. His dissertation is "The Emotion of Regret in an Ethics of Response." Wilson, who received a 2006-07 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, is a graduate of St. Louis University.

### Poynter Center Spring Events

Professor Allida Black, George Washington University, editor of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, will speak March 5, 2008 at the Women's History Lunch and will present other lectures on human rights later in the week.

John Arras, Philosophy, University of Virginia, will present the Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture April 3, 2008.