



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

POYNTER CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ETHICS AND AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS

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Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture, April 3, 2008

John Arras, Porterfield Professor of Biomedical Ethics and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Virginia, spoke on “Human Rights and Bioethics: Curb Your Enthusiasm,” at the seventh annual Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture, April 3, 2008.

As the title implies, Arras expressed some reservations about applying the idea of human rights as the lingua franca and method of addressing global bioethical concerns. He spoke about the limited scope of human rights within justice and morality before he turned his discussion to genetic enhancement and access to health care.



John Arras, Richard Miller, and Damon Sims (Matthew’s father) after the Sims Lecture

The Matthew Vandivier Sims Lecture is named in honor of Matthew, who died in infancy. The lecture is a collaboration of the Poynter Center and the Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Fund.

The lecture is available by audio-stream at <http://broadcast.iu.edu/lectures/sims08/index.html>. The previous four lectures are also available at the Poynter Center web site, <http://poynter.indiana.edu>.

Poynter Center Hosts ORI Boot Camp

The Poynter Center, in cooperation with David Wright of Michigan State University, hosted a Boot Camp for Research Integrity Officers March 31-April 3, 2008 in Bloomington. Sponsored by the Office of Research Integrity at the United

States Department of Health and Human Services, the workshop included presentations and role playing for Research Integrity Officers and their legal counsel from 18 universities in the United States.

The workshop focused on the process for handling allegations of misconduct in research. ORI is hosting a series of workshops around the country to assist universities in knowing how to handle allegations.

Ethics Bowl Team Competes in National Competition

The Poynter Center Ethics Bowl team participated in the Fourteenth Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl February 21, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas. The team began their preparation in the fall and placed first in the Central States Regional competition at Marion College, Indianapolis, on November 10, 2007. The team did not reach the quarterfinal round this year at the national competition.

In January the team members began studying the cases for the national competition. At the competition team 1 responds to the main question about a case and responds to questions from the judges and comments from the opposing team. In the second part of the match, team 1 responds to the comments the opposing team makes in response to their major question for a different case.



Left to right: Emma Young, Neil Shah, Andrew Hahn, Megan Robb, and Sam Ross at the national Ethics Bowl Competition. Young participated in the competition four years. Robb and Shah have each competed three years. The coaches were Robert Crouch and Mark Wilson. Their sponsor was Sandra Shapshay from the IU Department of Philosophy.

Teaching Research Ethics Workshop

The Poynter Center is expecting a full house for the Fifteenth Annual Teaching Research Ethics Workshop May 13-16, 2008. Of the 45 registrants, most will be from the US (including Puerto Rico), but we expect participants from Singapore, Kenya, and Canada.

Presenters at the workshop discuss ways to teach research ethics, using examples, lectures, discussion, breakout sessions, and case studies.

Returning presenters include Ken Pimple, director of Teaching Research Ethics Programs at the Poynter Center; Edward Goldman, Associate Vice-President and Deputy General Counsel at the University of Michigan Health System; C. K. Gunsalus, Office of University Counsel and College of Law, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign; David Wright, Professor of History of American Science and Technology, Community, Agriculture, Recreation & Resource

Studies, Michigan State University; Eric Meslin, IU Center on Bioethics; and Robert Crouch, Poynter Center.

New faculty include Michael Davis, Illinois Institute of Technology; Julie Hollowell, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University; Sandra Shapshay, Department of Philosophy, Indiana University; and Brian Schrag, Acting Director of the Poynter Center and Executive Secretary of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.

Association for Practical and Professional Ethics

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, which was founded in 1991 to foster practical ethical discourse in civic and professional life, is housed at the Poynter Center. Brian Schrag, the executive director, has shepherded the organization from a start-up organization to its current size of 906 members, including 35 inter-

national members in 14 countries and 158 institutional members.

In 2006-07 the Association worked with the Responsible Conduct of Research Education Consortium to incorporate their member institutions into the Association. The RCREC is hosting workshops this summer.

Association members also created the Ethics Bowl, an annual competition for undergraduates which has grown to the extent that regional competitions are held in the fall to determine the eligible teams for the national competition. The 2009 meeting will be March 4-8 in Cincinnati, Ohio. See <http://www.indiana.edu/~appe/> for more information about APPE.

Undergraduate Research Stipend Recipients

The Poynter Center created the Undergraduate Research Stipend Program in 2005-06 to provide small stipends (up to \$200) to assist students in completing major research papers in practical ethics. For 2007-08, we had five excellent students from five different disciplines. See the web site, http://poynter.indiana.edu/research_stipends.shtml for details of each presentation and photos of each student.

Jamie Lee Gunn, a senior in Religious Studies and French, looked at the environmental ethics of a number of theologians. Gunn's mentor was Lisa Sideris in Religious Studies.

A. J. Goldman, a senior in Biology and Religious Studies, conducted 20 interviews with faculty at a Research I institution to look at their experiences with and opinions about working with the Institutional Review Board. His mentor was Brian Powell in Sociology.

M. Tyler King, a senior in Biology and Philosophy, compared the health care proposals of Barak Obama, Hillary Clinton, and John McCain. His mentor was Sandra Shapshay from Philosophy.

Lisa Koers, a senior in the Kelley School of Business, looked at ways to improve the prenatal care of low income women and recommended an increased role for midwives. Her mentor was Laura Ginger from the Kelley School of Business. (see photo below)



Oliver McGraw, a senior in the School of Informatics, studied "Work and Duty in Design" in computer programming. McGraw studied graduate students who were designing ubiquitous computing systems to track the elderly in their homes. The goal is to maintain the older person's autonomy, but McGraw considered questions of privacy and autonomy when one is being monitored 24 hours a day. His mentor was Kalpana Shankar from the School of Informatics. (see photo above)

Healthcare Ethics Seminars

Where can you talk about a great variety of healthcare ethics topics in one semester? At the Poynter Center Healthcare Ethics Seminar.

We started the spring semester in January with "If Only the Doctor Had Said," led by retired ethicist Ginny Gremillion. Ms. Gremillion worked at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston. She looked at the ways physicians can assist families in decision-making in an effort to avoid confrontations about care, especially in end-of-life situations.

In February Helen Gremillion of the Department of Gender Studies spoke on using talk therapy and narrative to help people with anorexia. The goal is to help people see anorexia as separate from the person, to give it an identity separate from the person, and to create a new narrative or life story without anorexia.

Dr. Larry Cripe, from the Indiana University School of Medicine, spoke in March about "In the Shadow of Hope: Truth-telling in Oncology." He talked about the phases of care a patient may experience, depending on the situa-

tion and how the cancer progresses: treatment, palliative care, and end of life care.

Dr. Paul Helft, the director of the Charles Warren Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics at Clarian Health Partners in Indianapolis, spoke in April. He talked about the work the center is doing, including research, service, and education.

Those interested in attending can email Glenda Murray to be added to the listserv for Healthcare Ethics (glmurray@indiana.edu).



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Allida Black, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Human Rights, Past and Present

The Poynter Center was one of many sponsors for the National Women’s History Month Lunch speaker, Allida Black, who is research professor of History and International Affairs at The George Washington University and project director and editor of The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers.

Black is an eloquent and enthusiastic promoter of helping people understand the importance of human rights in the past and present. She used examples from Eleanor Roosevelt’s writings as a springboard for discussing human rights and democratic politics here and abroad. In addition to speaking at the annual lunch, Black gave four additional public lectures. Her visit was made possible

by the Organization of American Historians, whose national office is in Bloomington.

The photo below includes (left to right) Laurie Burns McRobbie,

First Lady of Indiana University; Allida Black; Liz Kirkland, winner of the Woman of the Year Award; and Charlotte Zietlow, a previous Woman of the Year Award winner.



Both Ms. Kirkland and Ms. Zietlow work at Middle Way House, a domestic violence shelter in Bloomington. Ms. McRobbie is chair of the Middle Way House capital campaign.