

*The Poynter Center*

# *Newsletter*

Indiana University/Bloomington

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## Fine Fellowship announced

Thanks to the generosity of Dorothy G. Fine, the Poynter Center is about to launch a new graduate fellowship program. The Jesse Fine Fellowship in Practical Ethics, named in honor of Mrs. Fine's late husband, will be awarded annually to a graduate student who is interested in practical ethics and is studying in a field other than philosophy or religious studies. Mrs. Fine's gift is the largest single private donation the Poynter Center has received since Nelson Poynter's founding gifts, which were awarded in 1972 and 1976.

At the time she announced her gift, Mrs. Fine commented, "I have very strong feelings about what's happening to the fabric of our society." She continued, "Young people get a warped view of rights and freedoms. They don't realize their decisions about those rights affect others, that they have responsibilities to others."

Jesse Fine was an alumnus of Indiana University, and Mrs. Fine has "adopted" the university as her own. A resident of Florida, she is a regular visitor to the Bloomington campus and a

faithful participant in each summer's Mini University, trekking to the IU campus from her home in Hollywood – often with recruits in tow. Her interest in ethics was honed through years of participation on a hospital Institutional Review Board, and she has been a dedicated supporter of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.

David Smith, Center Director, said, "Dorothy Fine's generous and imaginative gift will support the work of some of the most able of our graduate and professional school students. They are already interested in ethics; the Fellowship will allow them to hone that interest and better prepare them to make it part of their teaching and professional lives over decades. The immediate effect on the University and the long-range ripple effects will be remarkable. It is characteristic of Dorothy Fine to have made such a farsighted and yet practical gift."

The endowment fund for the Jesse Fine Fellowship in Practical Ethics will be administered by the Indiana University Foundation; the Poynter Center will name each year's recipient of the fellowship. The first award will be announced in the spring of 2003.

## APPE Annual Meeting

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics will head south for its Twelfth Annual Meeting, scheduled for February 27-March 2 in Charlotte, N. C.

Keynote speaker will be Dennis Thompson, Alfred North Whitehead Professor of Political Philosophy at Harvard University. The event will include a mini conference on "Research Ethics" with a keynote presentation by Eric M. Meslin, director of the Indiana University Center for Bioethics and former Executive Director of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, who will speak on "Research

Ethics as Social and Public Policy." A colloquium for ethics center directors will meet on February 27, as will the Ninth Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, featuring undergraduate teams from 36 colleges and universities.

The site will be the Hilton Charlotte University Place, located near the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The airport, a US Airways hub, is 20 minutes away.

Details will be announced in the call for papers and posted on APPE's web site, <http://php.ucs.indiana.edu/~appe.home.html>.

# Moral Issues in Doing Good

A grant from the IU Center on Philanthropy will fund research into ethical issues surrounding the practice of philanthropy. David H. Smith will convene a seminar of scholars in history, religious studies or theology, philosophy and the human sciences drawn from universities across the country. They will produce a collection of essays focused on some of the moral, ethical and social issues that arise when persons try to help each other.

The project will attempt neither a history of the concept of giving, nor a survey of traditions. Rather, it will focus on the moral questions that confront thoughtful American philanthropists – the salient issues surrounding givers' social and civic personas and the challenges to collective action. The group will identify and comment on a set of issues that may arise as institutions decide how to allocate resources. Thus the essays will be prescriptive; they suggest ways to think about the question, "What should we do to help?"

Following is a brief sketch of some of the potential issues.

What may I give or offer? What is mine to give? Resources come from somewhere, and the source may constrain their use. To what extent are donors' expectations controlling? When philanthropy is discussed, we are accustomed to thinking first of gifts of money, but that may not be the only or best form of giving. What about gifts of time?

Whose values should determine the goals of philanthropy –

the benefactor's or the beneficiary's? On the one hand, we have patronizing insensitivity; on the other, foolish indulgence. This issue may be at its most intense in missionary work, where the intention may be to alter the way persons perceive and relate to the world as a whole. Is the attempt to give one's best inevitably paternalistic? Can missionary activity be redeemed from a charge of cultural imperialism? If so, how?

What level of purity of heart should be expected of philanthropic givers? Gifts may be motivated by a desire to avoid social change, envy, a quest for status or guilt, as well as by genuine commitment to meet need. How much should this ambivalence trouble us?

What are the appropriate limits of altruism? Assuming that altruism is possible, how should we balance duties to self and others? What is the best way to understand the relationship between the Biblical love commandment and the social practice of philanthropy?

The possibility of collective action itself raises moral issues. Should the ideal act of love or gift be thought out or spontaneous? Is it important to rank responses to immediate and apparent need, on the one hand, with more sustained and structural emphases? Should we raise money for a transplant recipient, or campaign to increase participation in organ donation?

To what extent is genuine philanthropy voluntary? Service organizations and religious

groups exert real pressure on members. What forms of pressure or coercion are precluded, if an action is described as philanthropic? Should we simply assume that government action is not a form of giving or is somehow morally inferior?

To whom should one give? Should the recipients be friends or strangers? If philanthropy is essentially helping strangers, then the less the distance between a donor and a beneficiary, the less philanthropic the act. To what criteria might we appeal in trying to decide whom we should help?

At the seminar's first meeting in February, participants offered preliminary ideas about topics for their individual essays. At next February's meeting, they will read and comment on each other's drafts. A concluding conference planned for September will open the conversation to a broader audience.

Seminar participants are Elliot Dorff, University of Judaism; Judith L. Failer, Indiana University; David Hammack, Case Western Reserve University; Amy Kass, University of Chicago; John Langan, S.J., Georgetown University; Paul Pribbenow, Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts, Wabash College; Paul Schervish, Social Welfare Research Institute, Boston College; William Sullivan, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Philip Turner, General Theological Seminary (Emeritus); and Patricia H. Werhane, Darden School of Business Administration, University of Virginia.

# Judith Granbois Retires

When Judy Granbois retired July 31, Poynter Center Director David Smith spoke in tribute of Judy's years of dedicated service. We reprint part of his remarks here:

Judy Granbois began her work at the Poynter Center twenty-two years ago. In the interval both she and the Center have changed. Hired as an editor, Judy has performed every imaginable task at Poynter. She has washed dishes, directed grants amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, written countless press releases and more newsletter copy than anyone can calculate. She has managed the Center's budget with an unbending resolve to save money.

A full litany of stories and accolades would take hours, but there are two aspects of Judy's work at Poynter that call for special comment. The first is her work as editor.

I believe I speak for scores of colleagues when I say that having one's prose edited by Judy is an experience not to be forgotten. It was tough enough in the pre-word processing age when Judy had to utilize a short pencil. Word

## Judith Granbois

processing opened up whole new vistas for Judy. Not only could she make a (helpful) suggestion, she could do it in BOLD or red, or mauve. Most recently with the added ammunition of the "Comment" function and strikeout Judy has been able so thoroughly to immerse the author's prose in correction and commentary that the original black text seems little more than incidental to the enterprise.

Second, in addition to editing and everything else, Judy has performed an extraordinary, ill-defined and ad hoc — yet invaluable

— advisory function. This has included advising junior colleagues on affairs of the heart, commentary on deterring deer from one's plants (it's impossible), and insight into various local personalities.

This advisory role has involved untold hours of listening to the neurotic gripes of the center director — and frequent commiseration. More than one hare-brained idea has been shot down and countless disasters averted.

Many have said, and I am sure all of us feel, that the Poynter Center without Judy Granbois is nearly impossible to imagine. She has been more dedicated and willing to take on something new than any group of colleagues had any right to expect. She has brought a critical and wise intelligence, and incomparable wit and good humor, to everything she has taken on. Her editing and advice have elevated the current director's work into the level of the acceptable, and she has been a trustworthy, wise and stalwart friend in good times and bad.

We won't lose the friend, but we will all miss the daily contact.

## Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions

To help the work of the Poynter Center, I wish to contribute \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ My check is enclosed. \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer payroll deduction (Indiana University employees only).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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# Murray named Sims Lecturer

Hastings Center President Thomas H. Murray will present the second Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture in the spring of 2003. Before taking the helm at the Hastings Center, Murray served as Director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics, School of Medicine, Case Western University, and as Professor of Ethics and Public Policy at the Institute for the Medical Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Murray holds the BA from Temple University and the Ph.D. from Princeton University. His research has focused on ethics in medicine and science, including aspects of health policy, the care

of newborns and children, and genetics. He is the co-author of *Feeling Good and Doing Better: Ethics and Nontherapeutic Drug Use* (Humana Press, 1984) and the author of *Which Babies Shall Live?* (Humana Press, 1985) and *The Worth of a Child* (University of California Press, 1996). He has published widely in scholarly journals.

The Matthew Vandivier Sims Memorial Lecture series was established last year to honor the memory of Matthew Sims, who died in infancy. Intended to open a discussion of issues in responsible communication between patients and families and professional care givers, the series is a

collaboration between Matthew's family and friends and the Poynter Center. Its goal is to help inspire thoughtful reflection on the difficult issues that surround decision making about care for newborns, children and others.

The inaugural lecture in the series was presented by William F. May, Cary Maguire University Professor of Ethics Emeritus at Southern Methodist University. May's talk was entitled "Medical Futility and Staying the Course." May also met with students from the Honors College and the Wells Scholars Program.

Planning for next spring's lecture is underway, and the date will be announced later.

## Coming Attractions for Fall

The Poynter Center will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary this year with a series of lectures and presentations that are open to the public free of charge.

Robert A. Katz, IU Law School, Indianapolis, will launch the Poynter Center's 2002-03 lecture season on September 24. He will talk about the legal treatment of private disaster relief under state charity law and federal tax law, using charitable response to the September 11 disaster as a case study.

On October 15, the Poynter Center will cosponsor a major event with Union Board. "The Death Penalty: Two Views" will feature Sr. Helen Prejean, the author of *Dead Man Walking*, and Thomas Perkins, Indiana Deputy Attorney General and Section

Chief, Capital Litigation/Habeas Corpus. Former U. S. Congressman Lee Hamilton will moderate the discussion, which will take place in the Indiana University Auditorium.

Several events are scheduled in conjunction with this presentation, including an exhibit of Lucinda Devlin's "Omega Suites" in the SoFA Gallery, a showing of the film "Dead Man Walking" starring Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon, and a benefit concert at the John Waldron Art Center featuring Carrie Newcomer. For more information, see the web site at [www.twoviews.org](http://www.twoviews.org).

Dennis Thompson will discuss justice in voting in a public lecture on October 31. Thompson is Professor of Political Philosophy and Director of

the Center for Ethics and the Professions at Harvard University.

Celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of his seminal book, *Just and Unjust Wars*, Michael Walzer will join us for a lecture on December 4. Walzer is a faculty member in the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.

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### **PC Newsletter**

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

*Glenda Murray, Editor*

# The Ethics of Life Writing

Suppose that you are writing a memoir. What should you reveal about your children? your parents? your lovers? How should biographers handle confidentiality for sources? How much control over the finished project should be exerted by the subject of a biography? Does fiction ever have a place in the writing of biography or autobiography?

These questions and other issues related to life writing – biography and autobiography – will be the focus of a colloquium to be convened by John Eakin, English, and David Smith and jointly sponsored by the Poynter Center and the English Department. The project, “Ethical Issues in Life Writing,” is expected to produce a collection of essays that will be published by Cornell University Press; the volume is to be entitled “The Ethics of Life Writing: Acts and Contexts.”

Colloquium participants represent a wide variety of disciplines and are drawn from universities in the United States, Canada, Norway, Hong Kong and Australia. Drafts in hand, they will meet for the first time October 24-27 in the Distinguished Alumni Room of the Indiana Memorial Union.

In addition to Eakin and Smith, participants are John Barber, Religion, St. Olaf College; G. Thomas Couser, English, Hofstra University; Arthur W. Frank, Sociology, University of Calgary; Richard Freadman, English, La Trobe University; Marianne Gullestad, Institute for Social Research, University of

Oslo; W. Craig Howes, English, University of Hawaii at Manoa; Paul Lauritzen, Religious Studies, John Carroll University; Nancy K. Miller, English, City University of New York; Diane Middlebrook, English, Stanford University; Claudia J. Mills,

Philosophy, University of Colorado; David Parker, English, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Jeffrey Rosen, Law, George Washington University; and Alice Wexler, Center for the Study of Women, University of California Los Angeles.

## Arrivals and departures

The Poynter Center’s personnel roster is changing dramatically these days, as some staff members leave the scene and others come aboard.

Research Associate Julie Pedroni leaves Bloomington later this summer, headed for Massachusetts, where she and her husband Peter will be joining the faculty of Williams College. During her tenure in Bloomington, we shared Julie with the Philosophy Department. At the Poynter Center, among other responsibilities, she coordinated the Medical Studies Seminar and coached Indiana University’s first Ethics Bowl teams.

Administrative Secretary Kathy Jacobson departed in March for a new job at Cook Incorporated.

Program Associate Judy Granbois retired July 31 (see story, page 3).

Carlin Mills, Administrative Secretary for APPE, will return to graduate school in August. Carlin will begin work on a master’s degree and pursue a career in elementary education.

Carol Bland joined the staff as Administrative Secretary. Carol, a native of Bloomington, came to us from the School of

Continuing Studies.

Our new Program Associate is Glenda Murray. Glenda has a PhD in American history from the University of Kansas. She has taught history part-time at the University of Kansas, the University of Southern Indiana and the University of Evansville. Since moving to Bloomington in 1984, she has headed the City of Bloomington Redevelopment Department and the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, she served as Director of Professional Development for IU’s School of Continuing Studies.

Glenda serves on the board of directors of Bloomington Hospital and Healthcare Systems and chairs the Indiana Main Street Council, which works with downtown revitalization organizations statewide. She is also vice president of the Monroe County Historical Society.

Andrea Elliott will join the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics in mid-August as the new Office Services Assistant Senior, replacing Carlin Mills. Most recently, Andrea has held a position with the law firm of Wright, Shagley and Lowery, in Terre Haute, Indiana.

# Recent Monograph Titles

Richard T. De George explores the issues raised by internet communication in our most recent monograph, *Ethics, Business and the Internet*. De George addresses four themes: the myth of amoral computing and information technology; the technological imperative; the danger of the hidden substructure; and the acceptance of technological inertia. To illustrate, he uses the case of “cookies,” which are “strings of information that a Website places on a visitor’s hard drive, and that are sent back to the site on subsequent visits.” Cookies raise significant privacy issues, and he argues that increased user control will enhance public trust of information technology.

Other recent titles in the Poynter Center’s series include: *Alternatives to Physician-Assisted Suicide*: Roger B. Dworkin, “Introduction”; David H. Smith, “Key Issues in the Assisted Suicide Debate”; Maxwell J. Mehlman, “Dying to Save Money: Economic Motives for Physician-Assisted Suicide”; Courtney Campbell, “Give Me Liberty and Give Me Death: Assisted Suicide in Oregon”  
G. Thomas Couser, *The Cases of Oliver Sacks: The Ethics of Neuroanthropology*  
David Boeyink, *A Search for Meaning in the Media* and William J. Meyer, *Professing to Professionals: Clergy, Professionals, and the Critique of Culture*

Paul F. Camenisch, *Patient Trust in an Age of Institutional Health Care* and Richard B. Miller, *Love and Death in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit*  
Daniel O. Conkle, *Professing Professionals: Christian Pilots of the River of Law* and Louis E. Newman, *Beneath the Robe: Personal Values and Judicial Ethics*  
David Krueger, *Ethics and Values in Advertising: Professional Identities and Organizational Cultures* and David P. Schmidt, *Quilting Professional Identities in Business*  
Monographs may be ordered from the Poynter Center, and some titles are available at our website: <http://poynter.indiana.edu>.

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